

The Lower San Pedro River: Past, Present and Future

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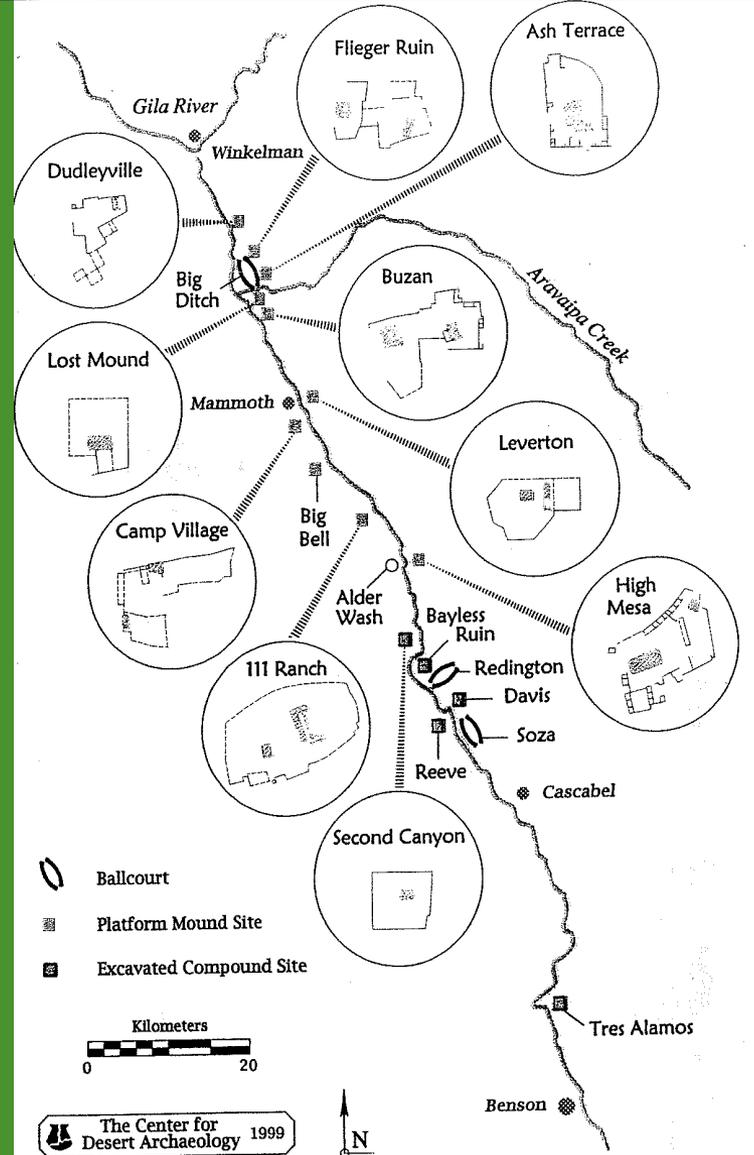


our mission

To **preserve** plants, animals, and natural
communities that represent the **diversity of life** on
Earth
by protecting the lands and waters they need to
survive.

Past: 12,000-year record of life on the river

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An undammed, living river

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The Nature
Conservancy



Protecting nature. Preserving life.™

Habitat connections

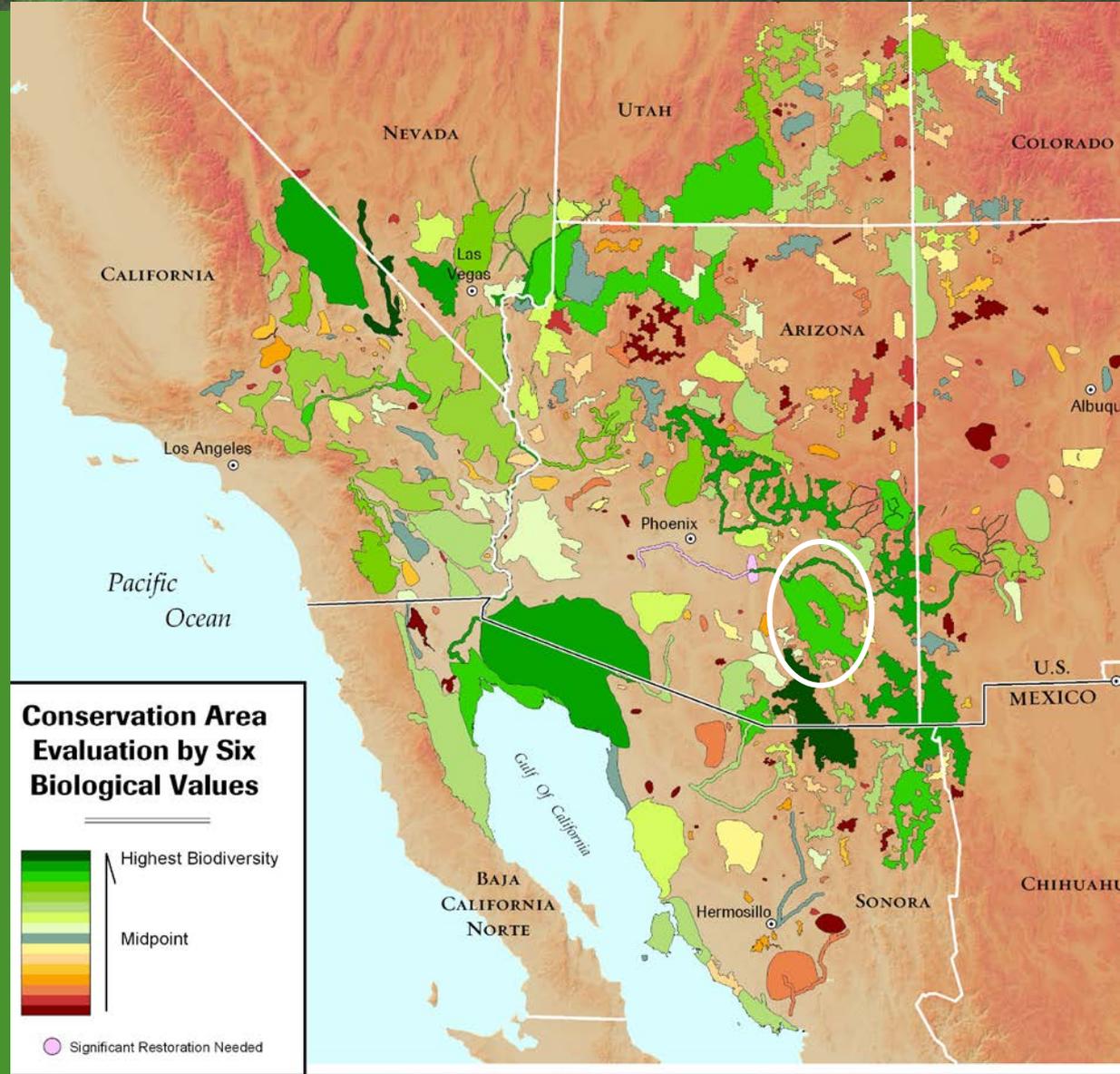
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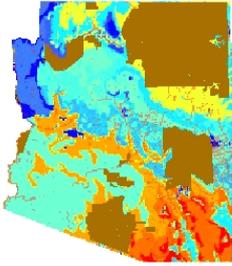
Lower San
Pedro/Aravaipa site
ranks in the top 5% for
biodiversity of 391 areas
in the Southwest



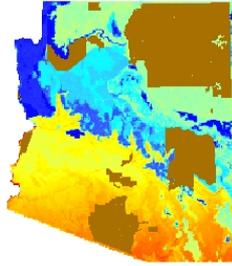


Statewide Conservation Model

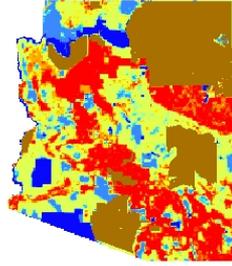
Species Index



Threat Index



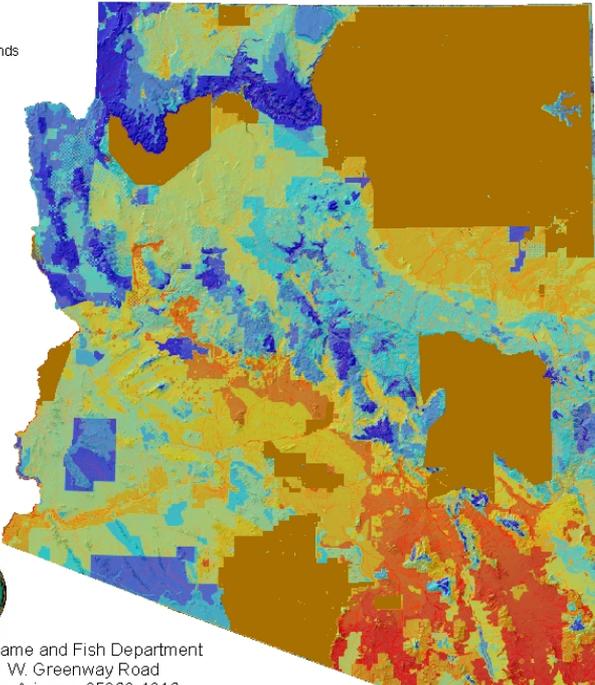
Vulnerability Index



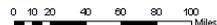
Legend

- Tribal Lands
- High : 3
- Low : 0

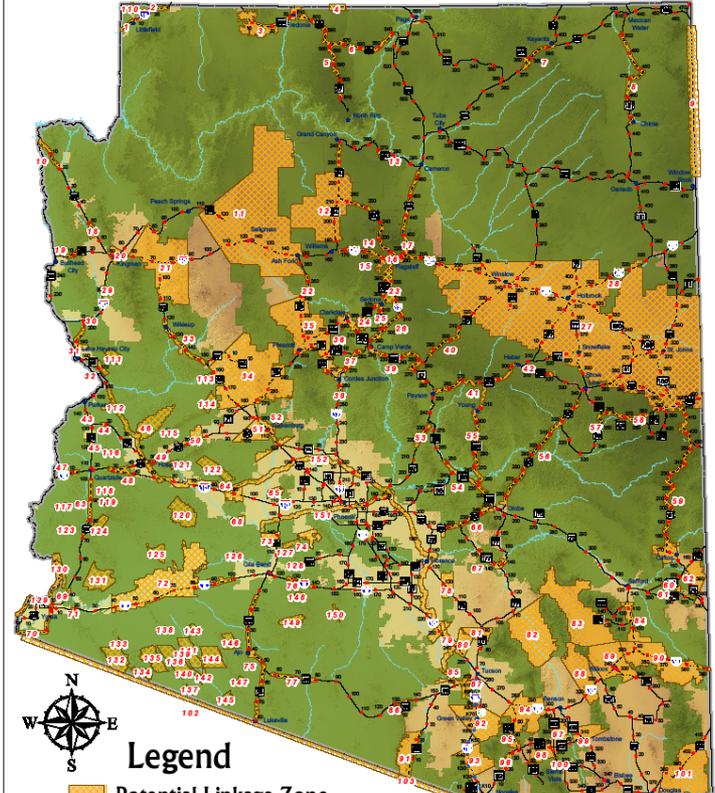
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Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 W. Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4312



ARIZONA'S WILDLIFE LINKAGES



Legend

- Potential Linkage Zone
- Habitat Block

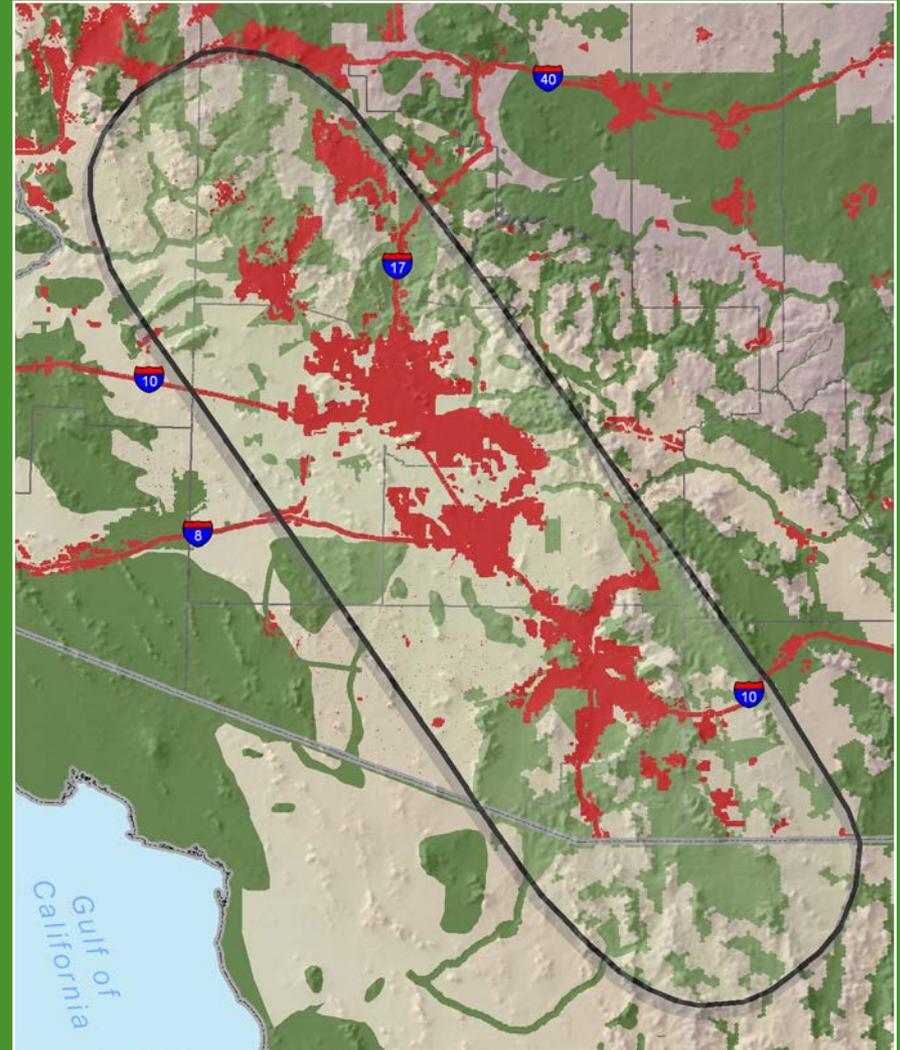
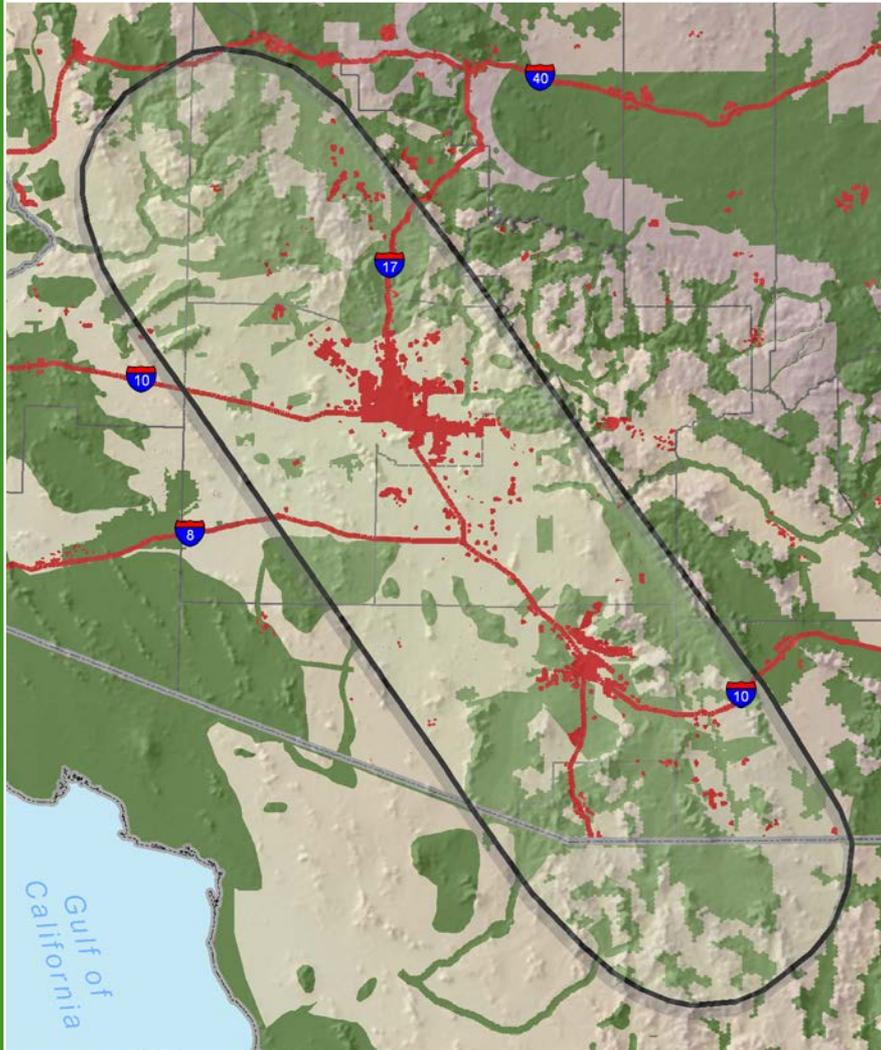


Present – and Future?

© Hal Malde

2000

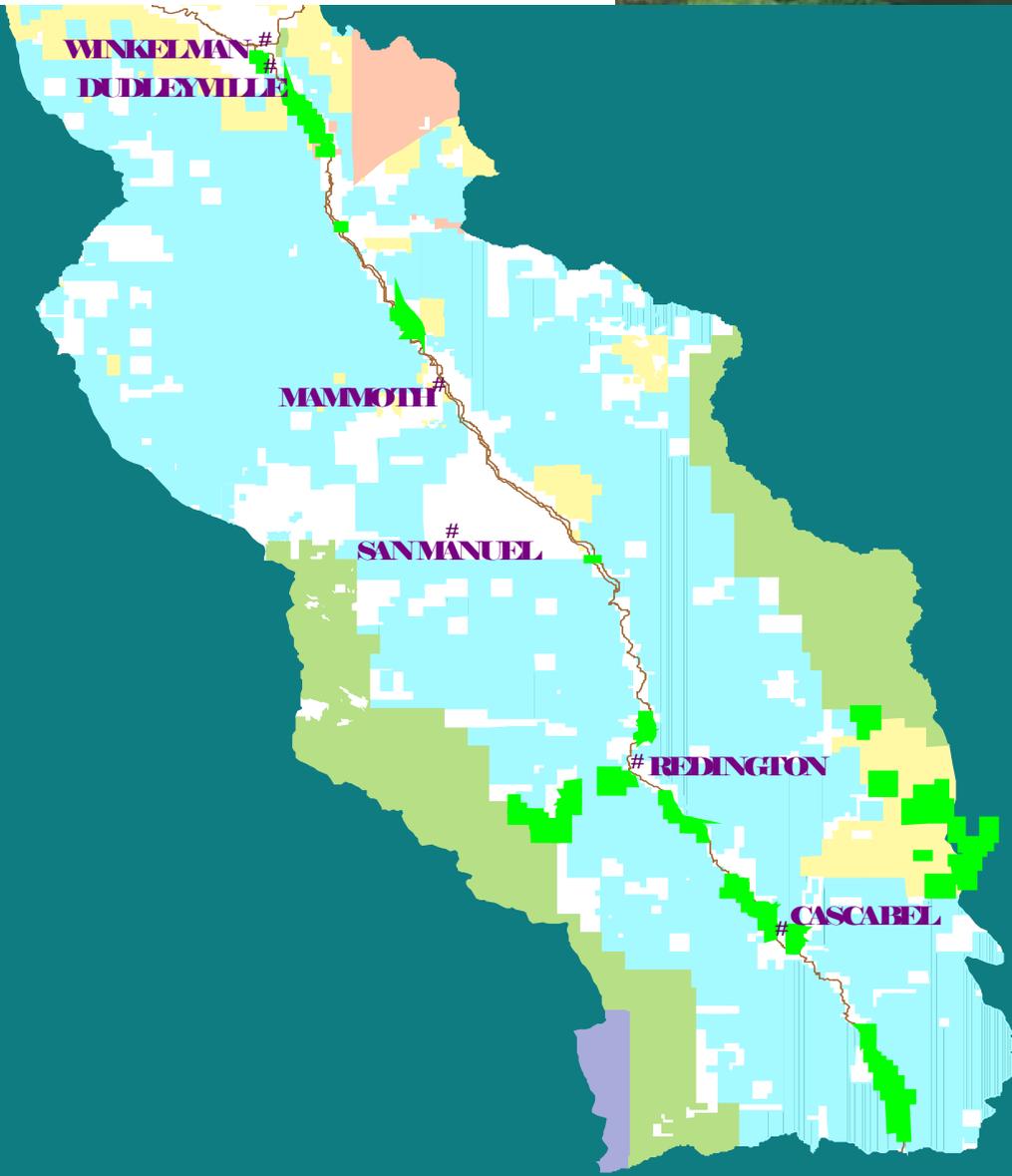
2050





San Pedro River

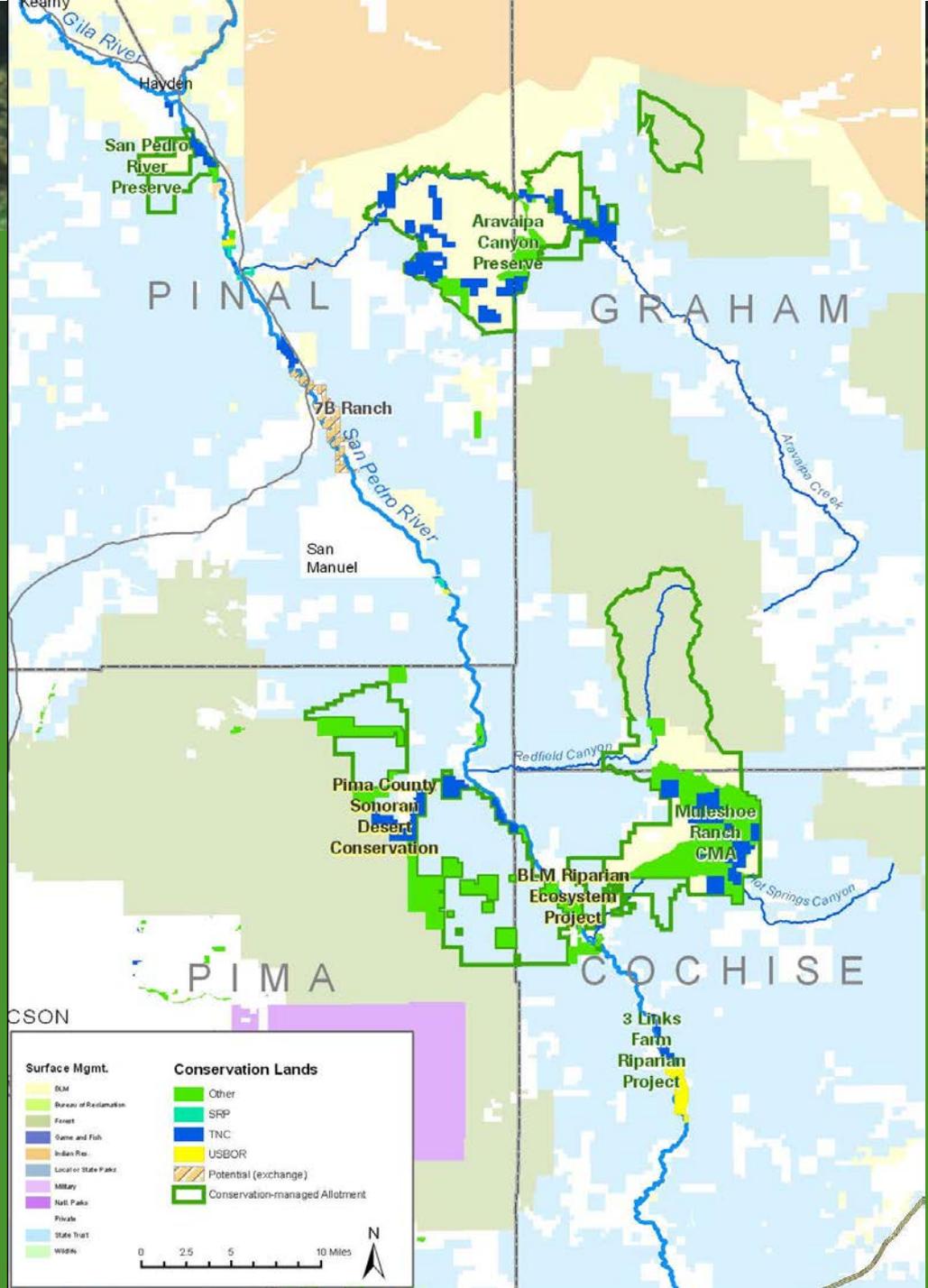
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- 1980s
- 1990s
- 2000s

Almost one
third of the river
corridor
protected

© Hal Malde



58,000 acres to date
 acquired or designated for
 biological conservation

140,000 acres of lease lands
 managed for conservation

- TNC
- BLM
- Pima County
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Salt River Project
- Saguaro Juniper Coalition
- Resolution Copper

Endangered species stronghold

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The lower San Pedro supports about 40% of the state's population of Southwestern willow flycatchers and is one of the largest breeding concentrations.

Bureau of Reclamation and Salt River Project have invested millions in protecting and managing habitat as a condition of modifying Roosevelt Dam to store more water.

Sever and transfer of historic surface water rights sought to maintain habitat values.



© Rick & Nora
Bowers

Restoring flow and habitat

© Hal Malde



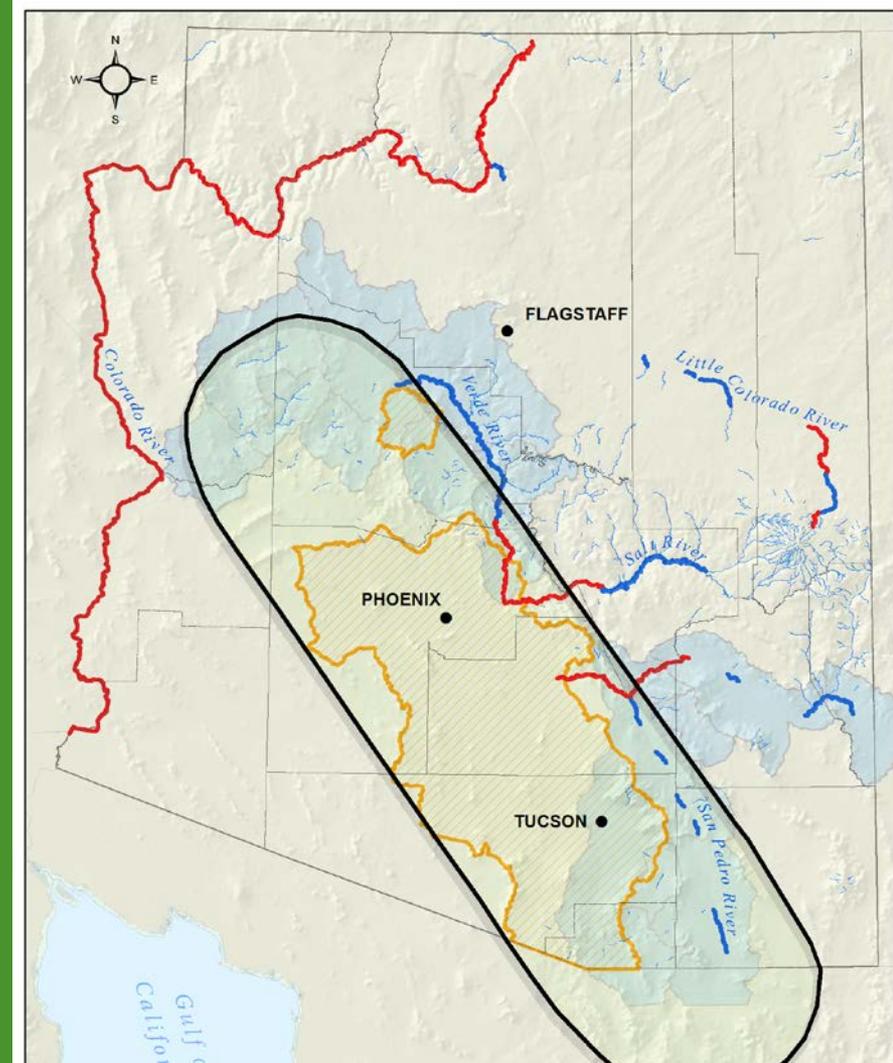
Over 10,000
acre-feet/year of
pumping retired

Modeling and
monitoring show
restoration of
surface flow and
riparian habitat

Three Links Farm

Historic

Current



Aravaipa Canyon

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Outstanding opportunities for Wilderness solitude

© Hal Malde



Water-dependant habitats

© Hal Malde



Two of Arizona's
only wooded
swamps:

Bingham Cienega

Cook's Lake



Mammoth mesquite bosque

© Hal Malde



3,000-acre Seven B
Ranch property acquired
by Resolution Copper
for land exchange

- Old-growth mesquite forest
- 7 miles of river channel
- Artesian well

Native fish restoration

© Hal Malde



10 native fish found only in the desert Southwest persist and are being recovered in the streams of the lower San Pedro

Gila topminnow



San Pedro River Preserve

© Hal Malde



- Former fish farm and pecan orchard
- Mitigation for Roosevelt Lake
- Willow flycatcher recovery
- Ponds now rear endangered fish

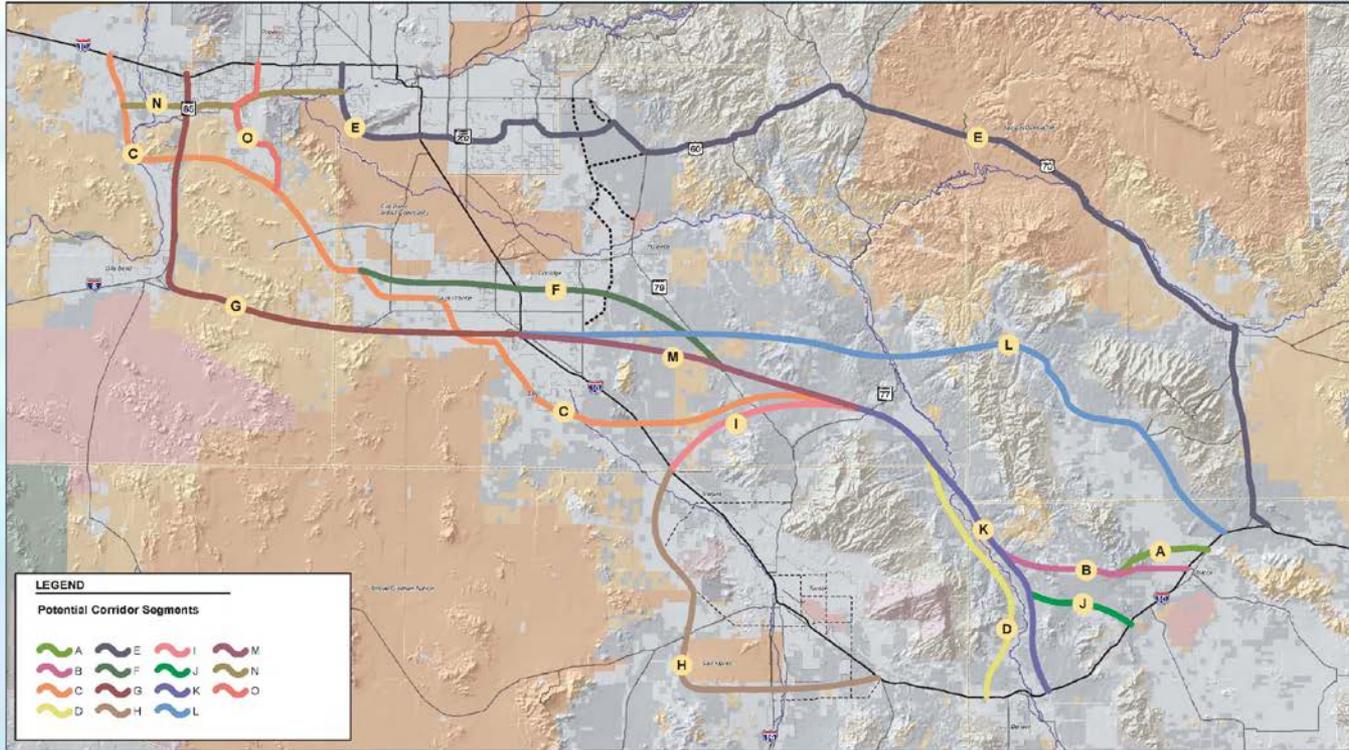
Choosing a new future

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POTENTIAL CORRIDOR ALTERNATIVES



DRAFT
May, 2007



Data Sources:
ALRS 1997 - 2005, Bureau of Land Management; ADOT RTIS 2005, ADOT HPMS 2005, USGS, Bureau of Transportation Statistics



I-10 Phoenix-Tucson Bypass Study

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