

Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Pinal County: Today's and
Tomorrow's Treasures

November 8, 2007



**“We will be known for
the tracks we leave
behind.”**

-Dakota Proverb

Pinal County Outdoors



Today's and Tomorrow's Treasures

Why plan for Parks, Trails and Open Space

- Did you know?
- Growth projections
- The importance of parks, trails and open space



Did You Know?

- **Pinal County is home to:
3 National Monuments**



Did You Know?

- **Pinal County is home to:**
 - 3 National Monuments**
 - 2 National Forests**



Did You Know?

➤ Pinal County is
home to:

3 National Monuments

2 National Forests

5 State Parks



Did You Know?

➤ **Pinal County is home to:**

3 National Monuments

2 National Forests

5 State Parks

4 Wilderness areas



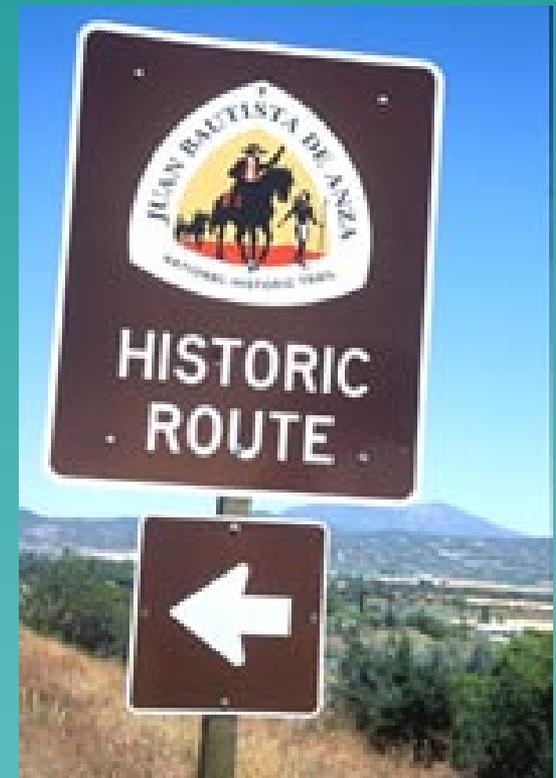
Did You Know?

- **Pinal County is home to:**
 - 3 National Monuments**
 - 2 National Forests**
 - 5 State Parks**
 - 4 Wilderness areas**
 - 1 State Scenic Trail**



Did You Know?

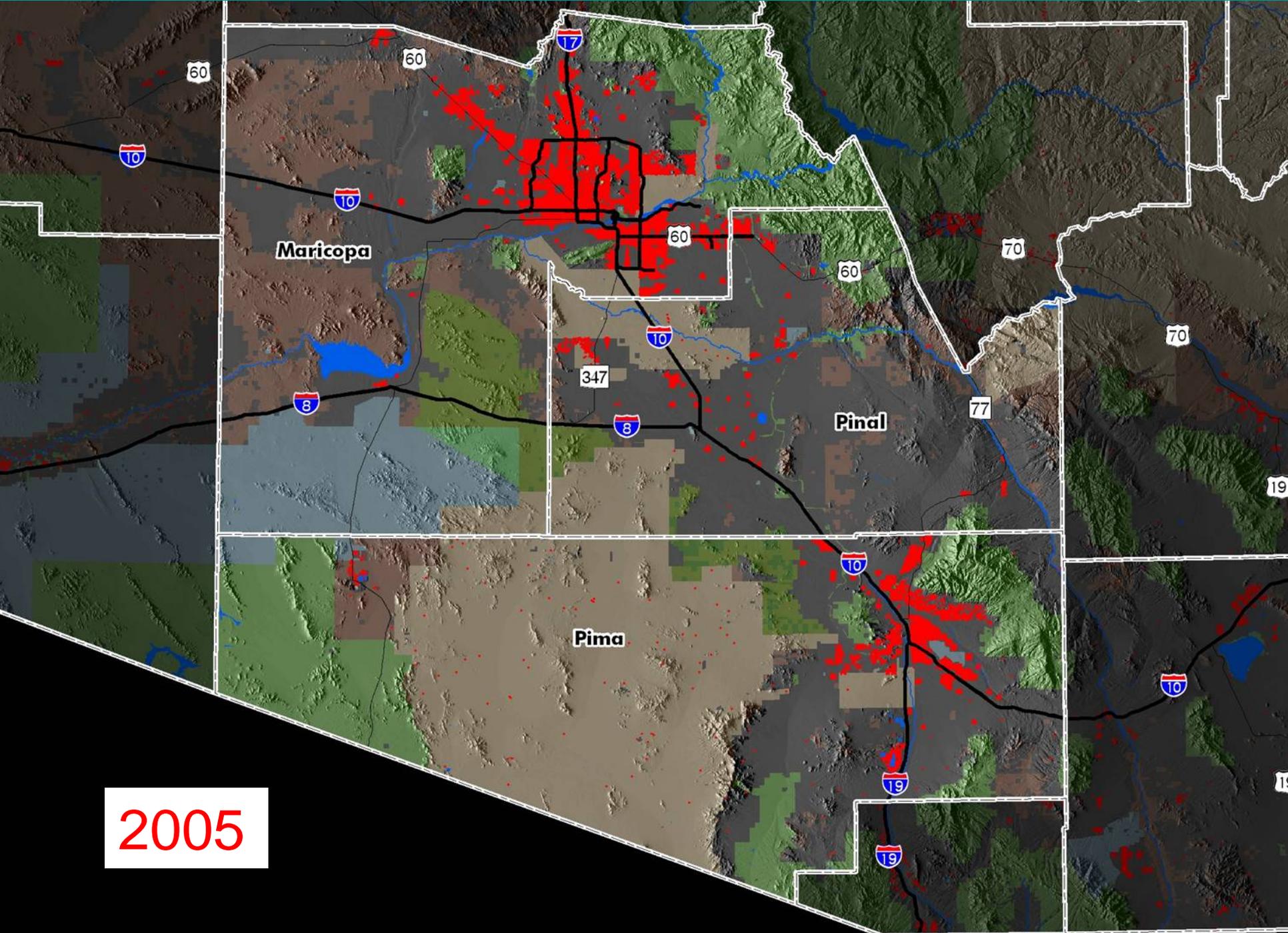
- **Pinal County is home to:**
 - 3 National Monuments**
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 - 1 State Scenic Trail**
 - 1 National Historic Trail**
-
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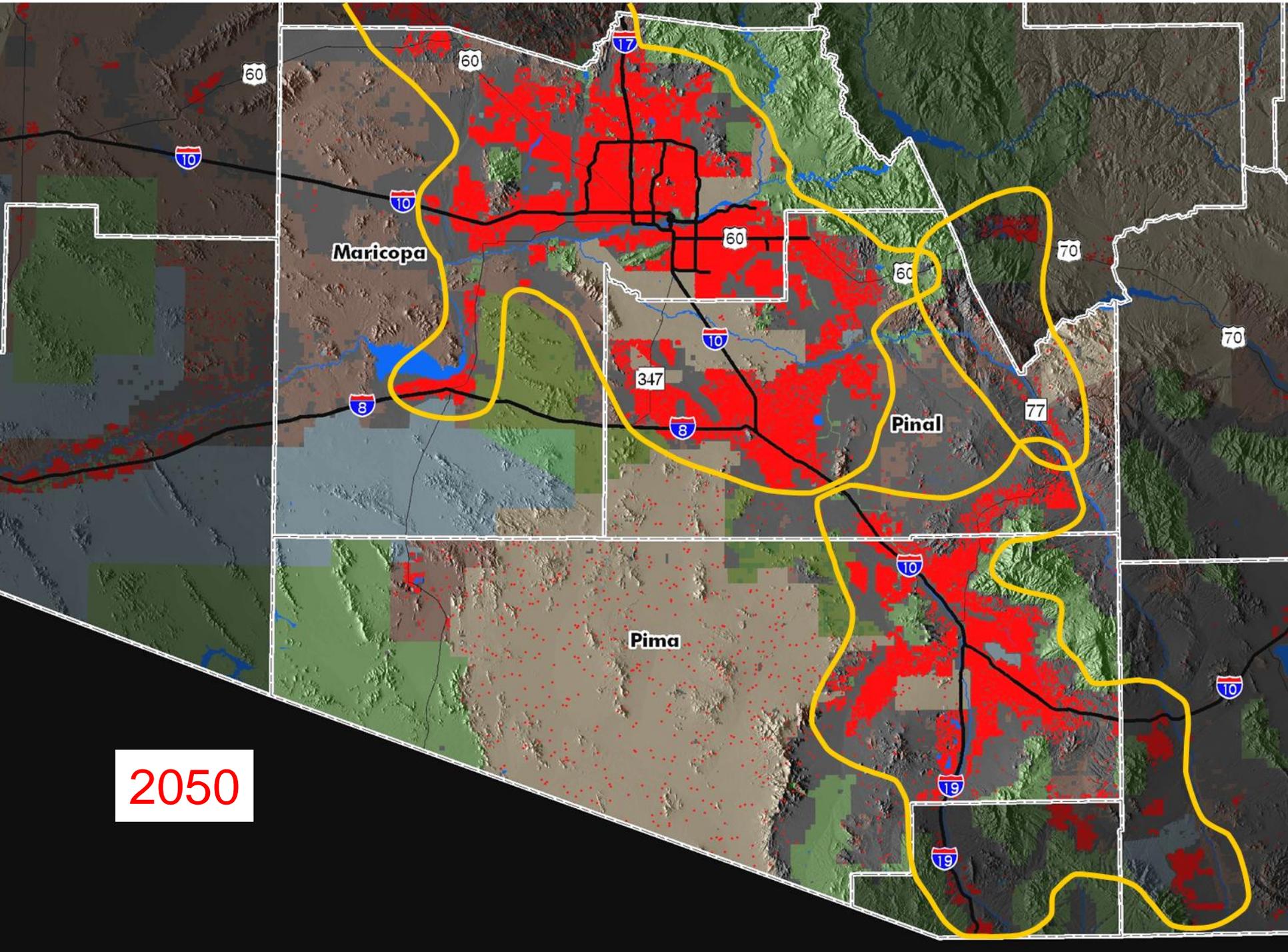
Did You Know?

- Pinal County is home to:
 - 3 National Monuments
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 - 1 Ore Cart Trail





2005



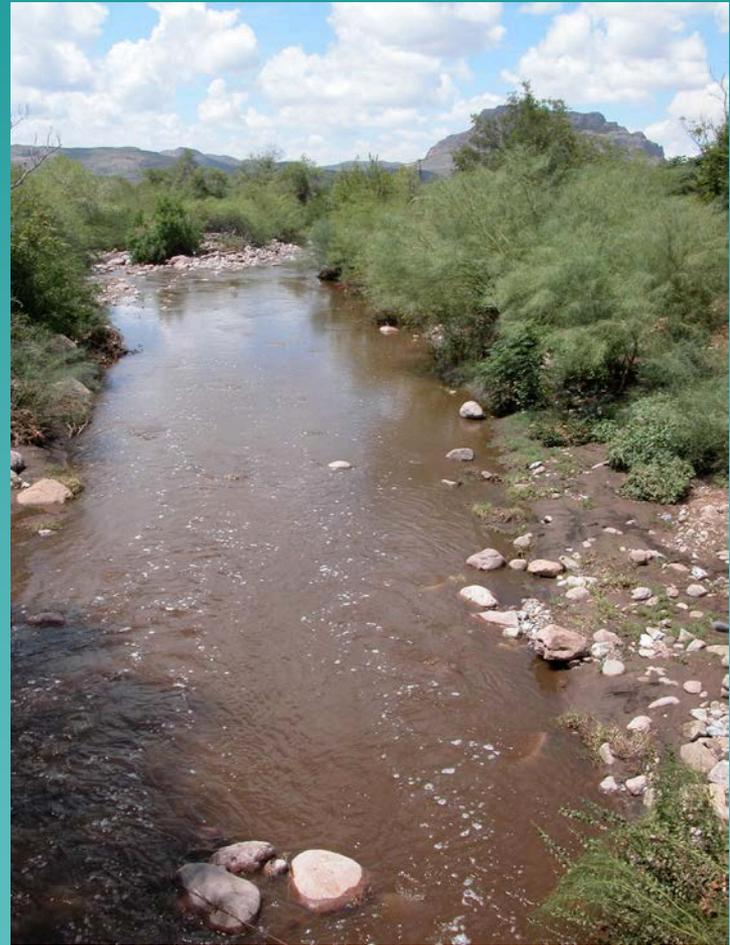
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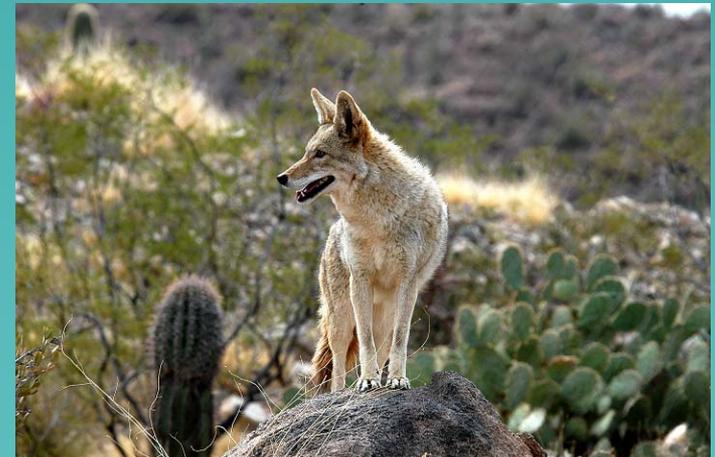
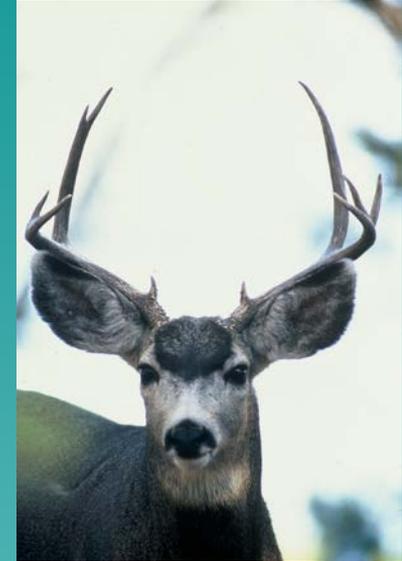
The Importance of Parks, Trails and Open Space!

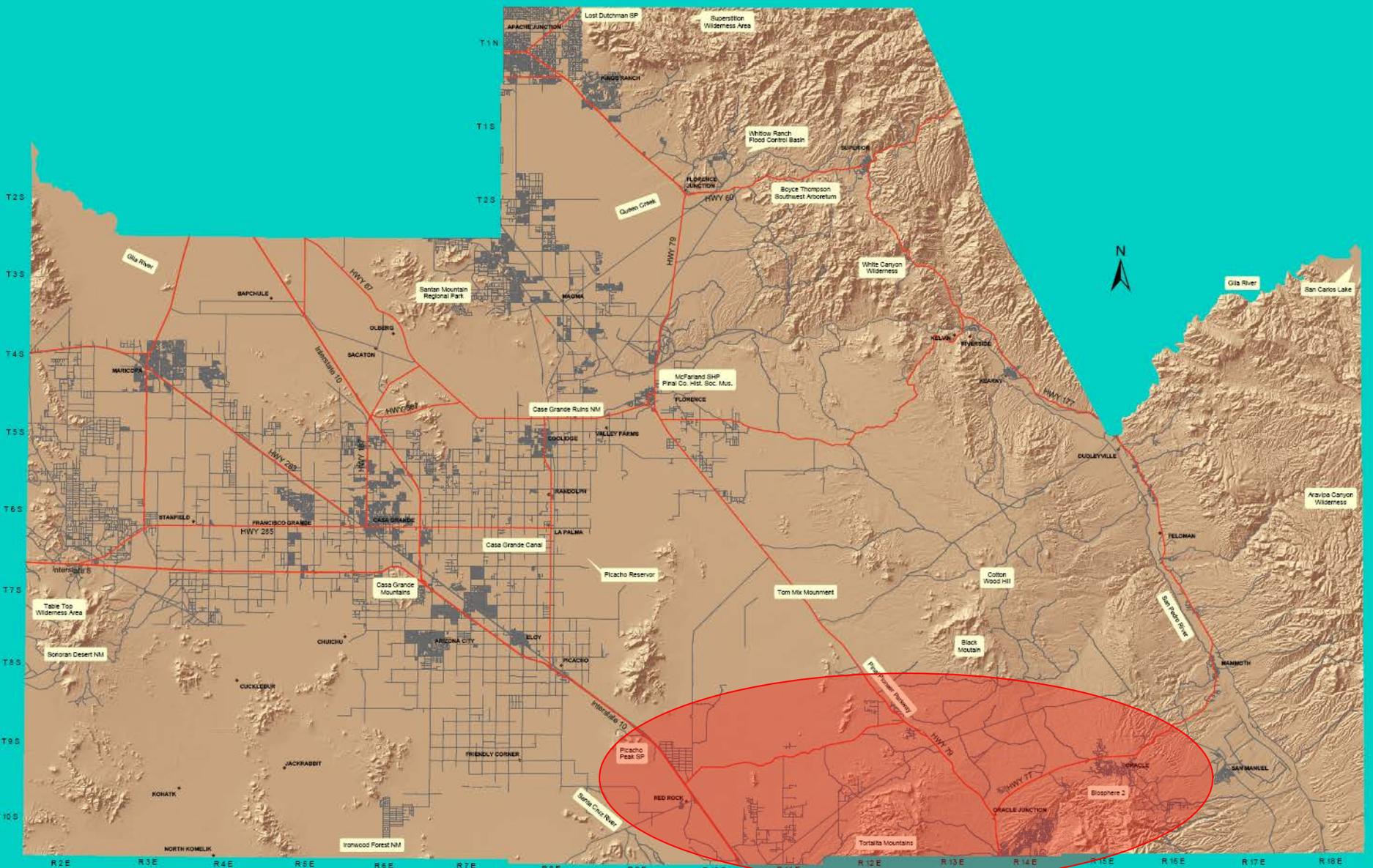
- Air and Water Quality
 - Large open spaces help filter water for the aquifer
 - Trees, plants and shrubs clean the air that we breathe



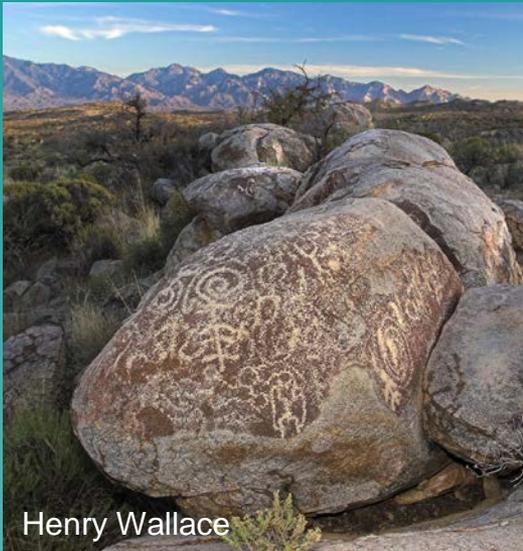
The Importance of Parks, Trails and Open Space!

- Wildlife and Native Plant Habitat
 - Large open spaces are important to native wildlife and vegetation
 - Provide corridors for movement between significant resource areas





The Importance of Parks, Trails and Open Space!



➤ Protection of sensitive lands and natural resources

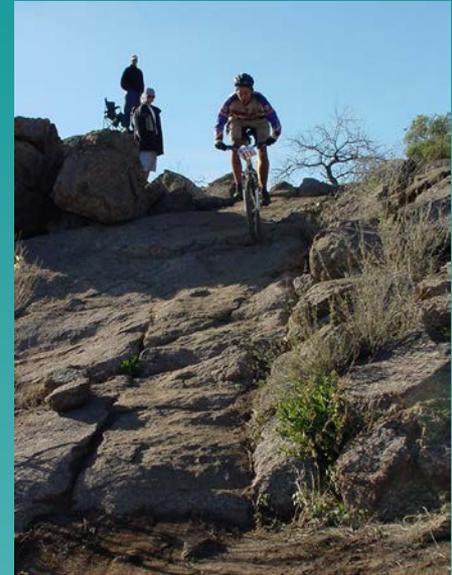
- Mountains and hills
- Large rock formations
- Archeological or historical sites
- Significant washes



The Importance of Parks, Trails and Open Space!

➤ Recreation

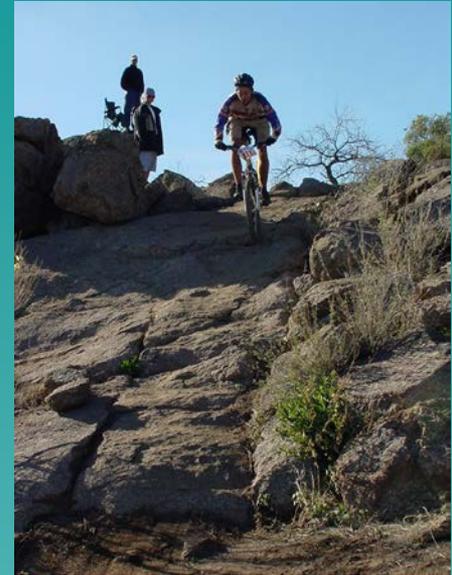
- Hiking,
- horseback riding, hunting,
- fishing,
- camping, bird watching



The Importance of Parks, Trails and Open Space!

➤ Education

- Functional areas for learning about ecology and the environment
- A tool to fight “Nature Deficit Disorder”



The Importance of Parks, Trails and Open Space!

➤ Health Trends-Adults



- One in three Americans is obese, one in 5 in Arizona
- If the rate of obesity continues at this pace, by 2015, 75 percent of adults will be overweight or obese.
- Obesity related deaths are the #2 cause of death in the U. S.

The Importance of Parks, Trails and Open Space!

- Health Trends-Youth
 - 16 percent of children 6-19 are considered overweight
 - In 2003-2004, 34 percent are at risk of becoming overweight.
 - Since 1980 childhood obesity has doubled, adolescent obesity has tripled



The Planning Process-An Overview

- Project goals
- Inventory and analysis
- Public participation
- Related planning projects



Open Space and Trails Master Plan- Project Beginnings

- Create a Plan that addressed:
 - Protection and preservation of rivers and washes
 - Protection and preservation of mountains and hillsides
 - Regional Parks
 - Trail Connectivity



Open Space and Trails Master Plan- Project Beginnings

- Lay the groundwork for:
 - Open Space Acquisition and Preservation element of the Comprehensive Plan
 - Ordinances and design manual for recreation areas in PAD's



Inventory and Analysis

- You have to know where you are, before you can determine where you want to go!
- Collaboration with municipalities, state and federal agencies and neighboring communities

“To learn something new, take the path you took yesterday.”

John Burroughs, American essayist and naturalist

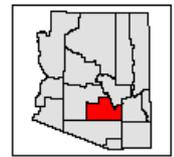
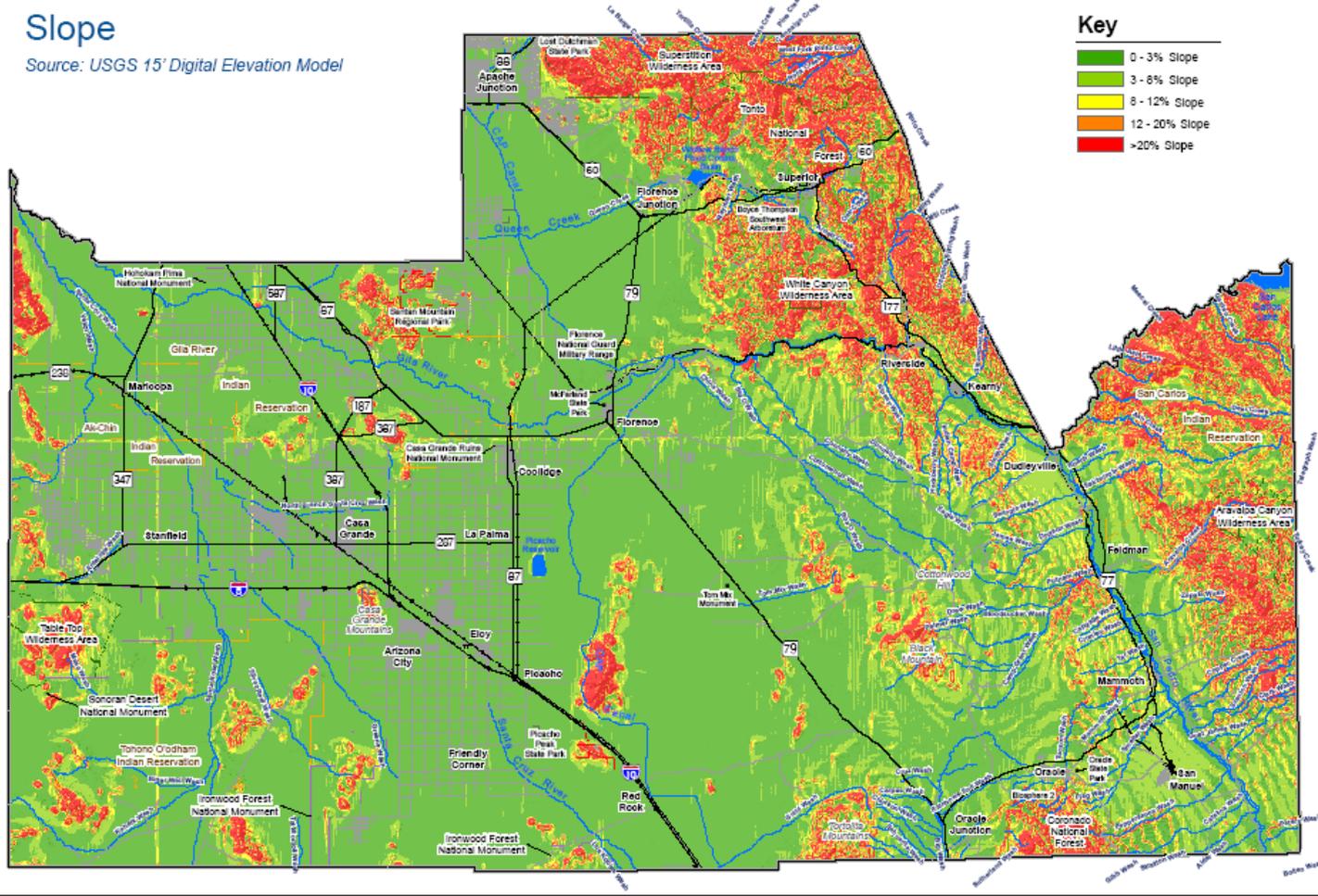
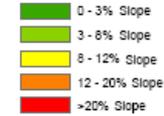


Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan

Slope

Source: USGS 15' Digital Elevation Model

Key



Public Participation

- Seven Public Open Houses 2006/2007
- Four Stakeholder Group meetings.
- Board of Supervisors Presentations
- P&Z presentations
- Comp Plan Citizen Advisory Commission
- Pinal County Outdoors Summit
- Website

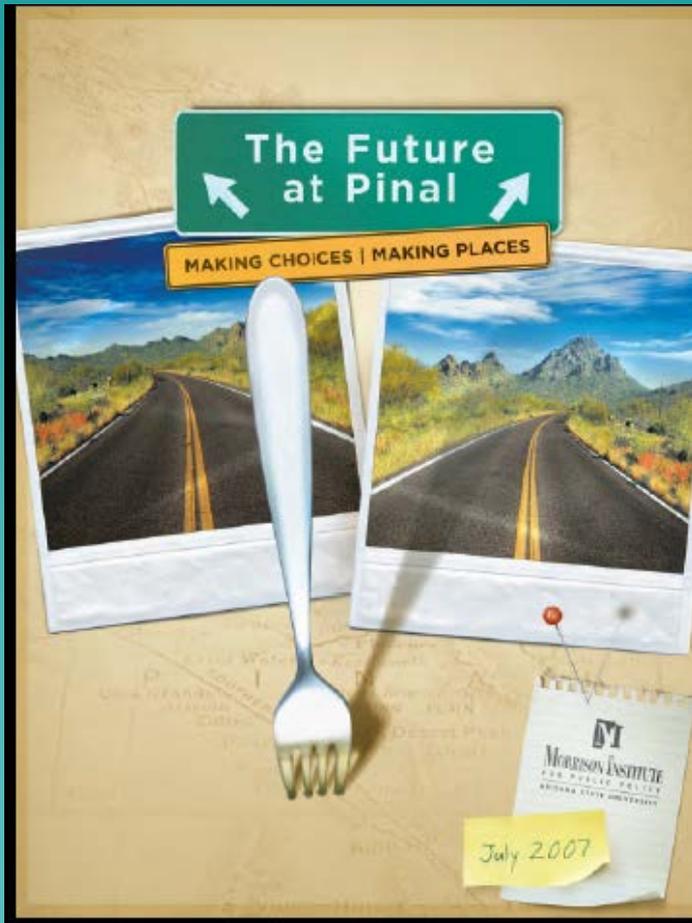


What We Heard

- Key points:
 - Conservation/Preservation of the our rural and open space character.
 - Identify areas for recreational opportunities.
 - Open Space linkages for both human and wildlife benefit.
 - Quality of Life



The Future at Pinal

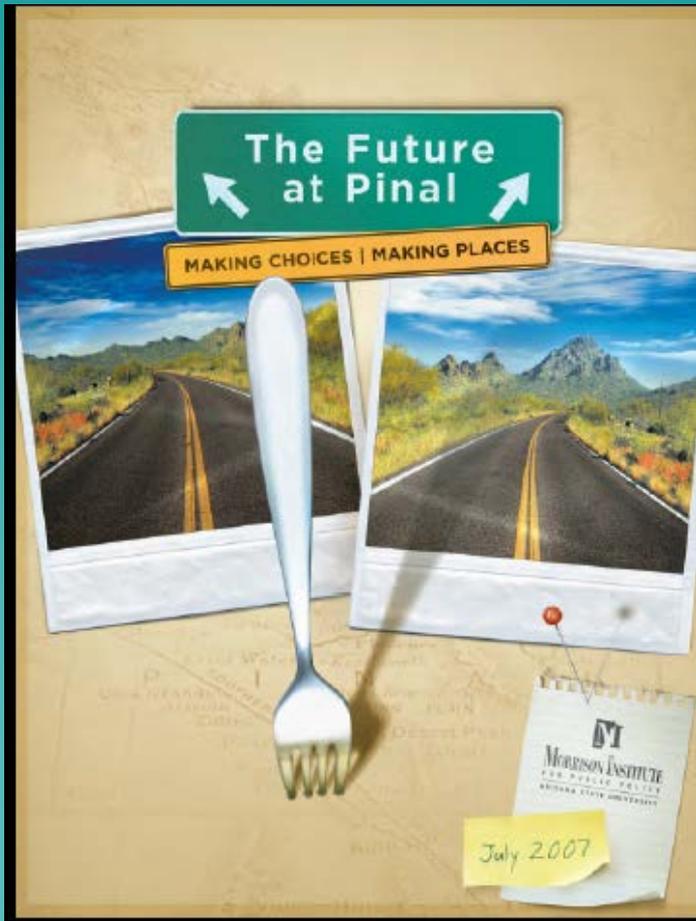


- “Pinal as a place that not only protected huge sections of land for preservation and recreation.....”.
- “...connected open spaces for wildlife & recreation”
- “...preserving just the mountains in eastern Pinal would be insufficient”.

The Future at Pinal

Placemaking Goals=

Protect miles of desert
and open land



2008 Comprehensive Plan Update Comments



- What **One** thing do you value most about Pinal County?
 - **Open Space**
 - **Rural atmosphere/environment**
 - **Natural Beauty**
 - **History and Heritage**
 - **Night sky**

2008 Comprehensive Plan Update Comments



- What **One** thing do you not want to lose in Pinal County?
 - **Open Space**
 - Diversity
 - Sense of Community
 - **Agriculture**
 - Uniqueness
 - **Clean**
air/water/environment

The Final Result

- Goals
- Policy and implementation tools



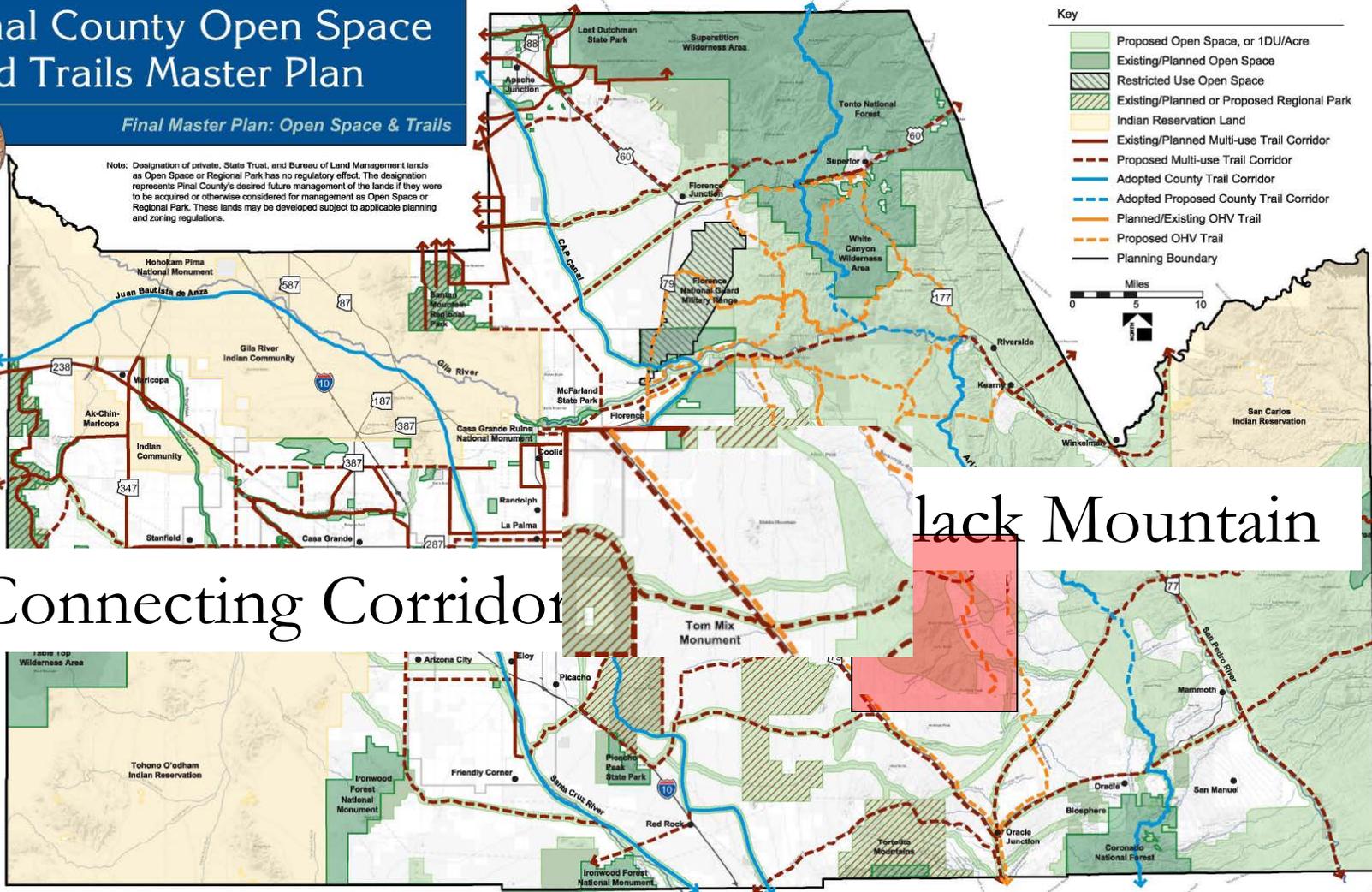
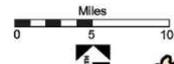
Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan



Final Master Plan: Open Space & Trails

Note: Designation of private, State Trust, and Bureau of Land Management lands as Open Space or Regional Park has no regulatory effect. The designation represents Pinal County's desired future management of the lands if they were to be acquired or otherwise considered for management as Open Space or Regional Park. These lands may be developed subject to applicable planning and zoning regulations.

- Key
- Proposed Open Space, or 1DU/Acre
 - Existing/Planned Open Space
 - Restricted Use Open Space
 - Existing/Planned or Proposed Regional Park
 - Indian Reservation Land
 - Existing/Planned Multi-use Trail Corridor
 - Proposed Multi-use Trail Corridor
 - Adopted County Trail Corridor
 - Adopted Proposed County Trail Corridor
 - Planned/Existing OHV Trail
 - Proposed OHV Trail
 - Planning Boundary



Black Mountain



Connecting Corridor

October 2007

resources.



Goals

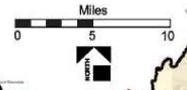
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Picacho

Westside
Paloverdes

Goals

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San Tan

Open Space or
Trails Planning

Santan Mountain Regional Park

Arizona Trail

Goals

Goal 4: Develop park, open space, and trail guidelines for planned area development (PAD) and subdivision development that supports long-term sustainability.



Policy and Implementation Tools



- Comprehensive Plan additions
- Ordinance Recommendations
- Open Space%
- Recreation space

Policy and Implementation Tools



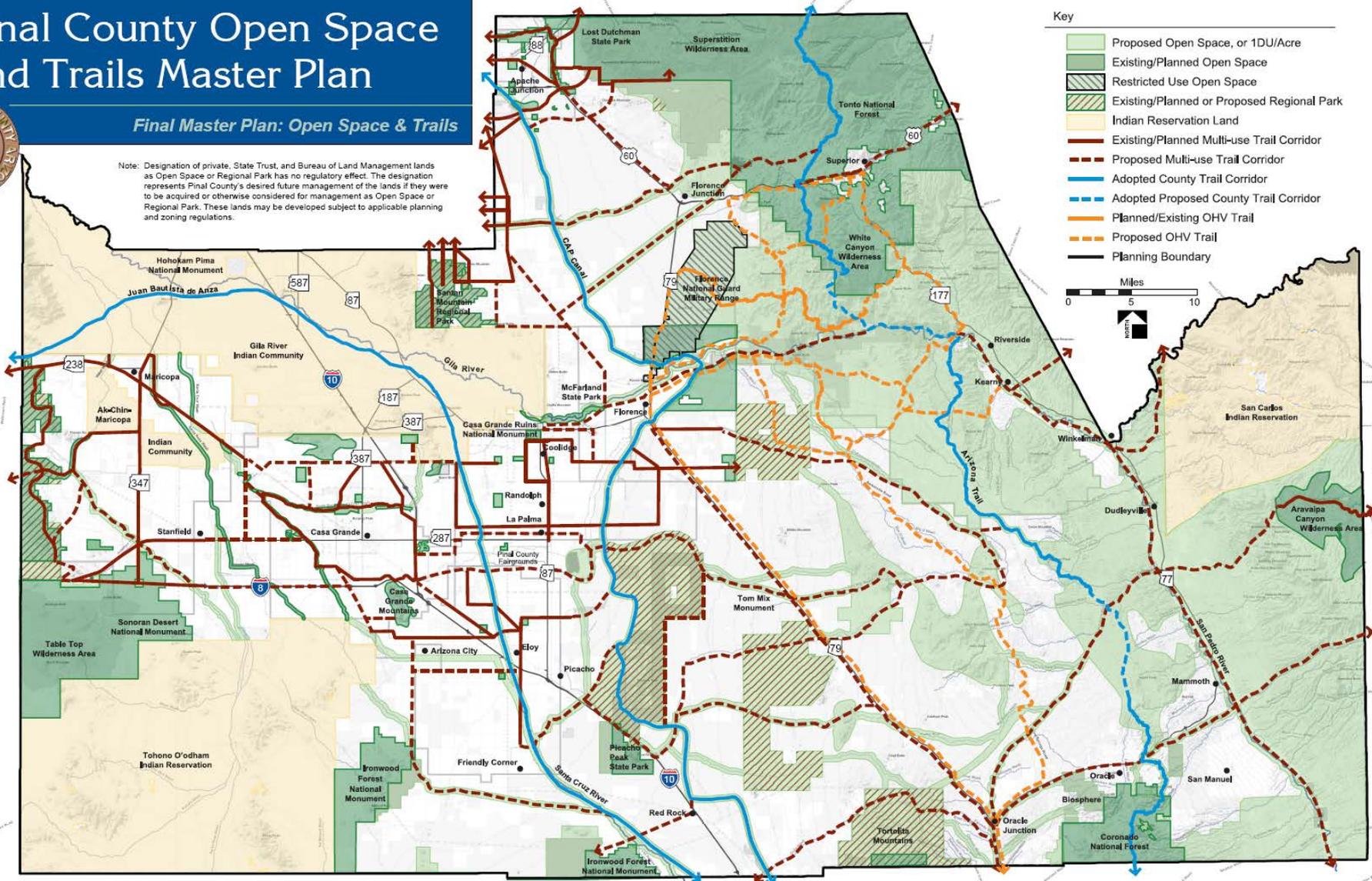
- Required recreation amenities
- Requirements for trails, trail corridors
- Design guidelines for open space, including retention/detention areas



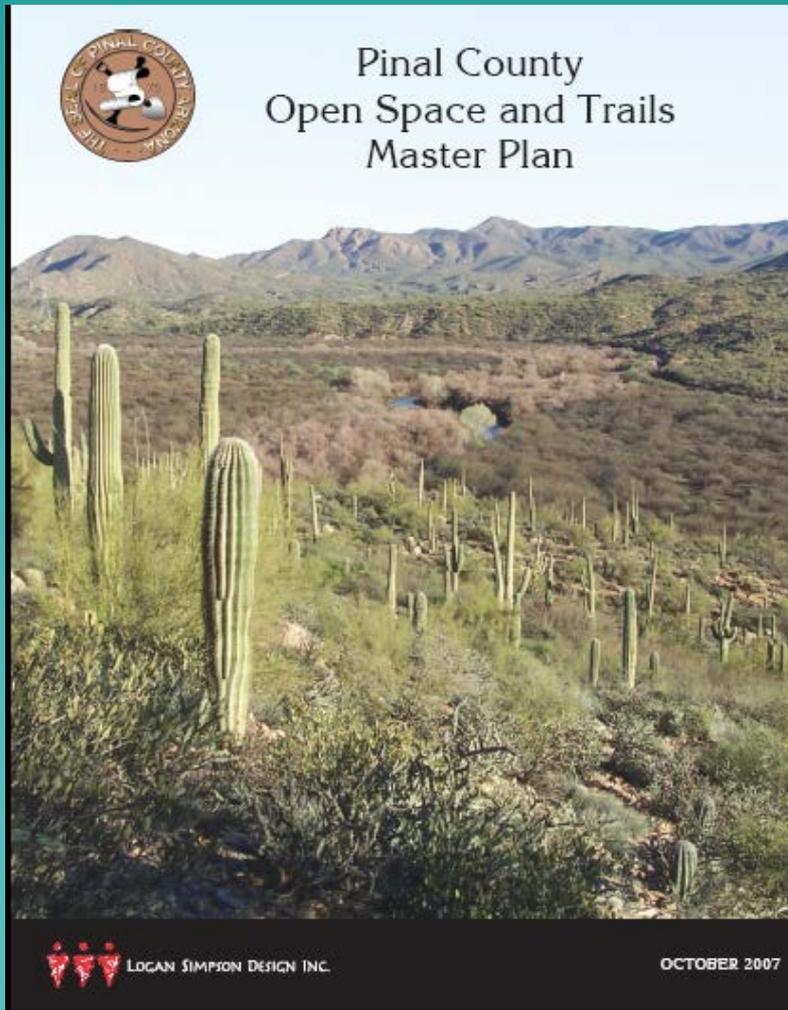
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Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan



- Blueprint/framework
- Implementation
- Partnerships and Collaboration



**Beginning is easy–
continuing is hard.**

–JAPANESE PROVERB



Thank You
Questions?

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