



Arizona's Wildlife Linkages Assessment

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Arizona Wildlife Linkages Workgroup

- n Forming Partnerships
- n Identification of Common Goals
- n Identification of Funding Sources
- n Early Buy-in
- n Investment of Staff & Resources = Commitment



Purpose

- n To identify and prioritize broad linkage zones that will facilitate movement for Arizona's diverse array of wildlife species
- n To promote safe passage for wildlife and people



Collaborative Pro-active Approach



- n Local and Regional Expertise
- n Comprehensive (more than just roads)
- n Science-based
- n Emphasis on Improving (not just mitigating threats to) Connectivity

The Assessment

- n Outlines the processes used to define and map the locations of important wildlife linkage zones
- n Explains the criterion used to prioritize these areas for further analysis



ARIZONA'S MISSING LINKAGES WORKSHOP

Coarse Identification of Habitat Blocks and Their Associated Potential Linkage Zones

Data Compilation/Digitizing of Map

Delineation of Habitat Blocks and Linkage Zones

Reconciliation of Datasheets with Drawn Habitat Blocks and Linkages

Exclusion of Private and State Land Within Habitat Blocks

Riparian Areas Classified as both Habitat Block and Linkage Zone

Development of Prioritization Matrix: Threats/Opportunities versus Biological Value

Criteria Identification and Definition

Weighted Percentage Determination

FOLLOW-UP WORKSHOPS

Re-evaluation of Identified Habitat Blocks and Potential Linkage Zones

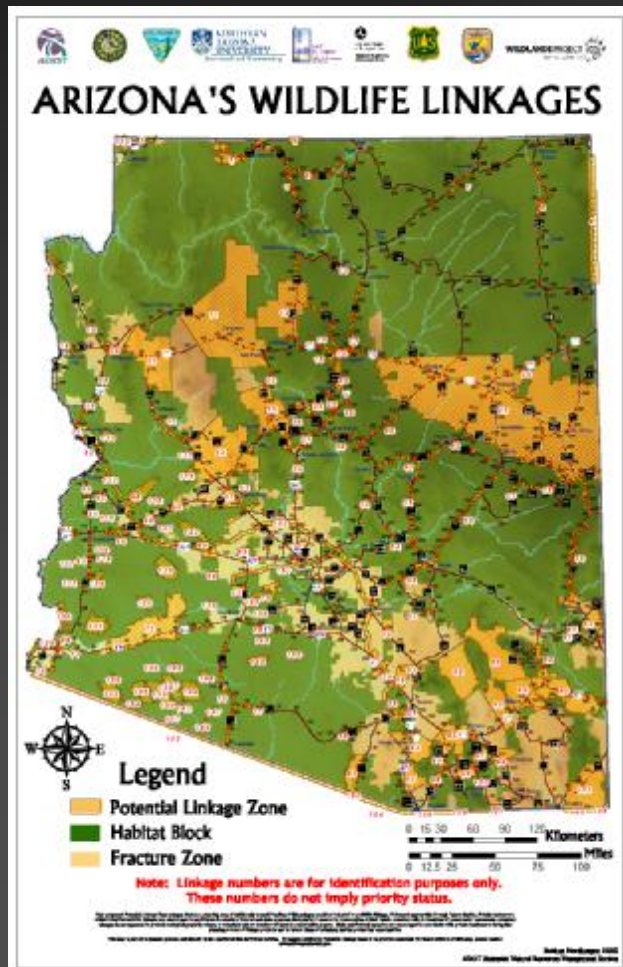
Modification/Addition of Identified Habitat Blocks and Potential Linkage Zones

Verification of Inclusion of Existing Wildlife Connectivity Plans

Preliminary Prioritization of Potential Linkage Zones

Linkage Designs

Arizona's Wildlife Linkages Map



- n All Linkages Identified to Date
- n Continuing Process of Revisions and Additions

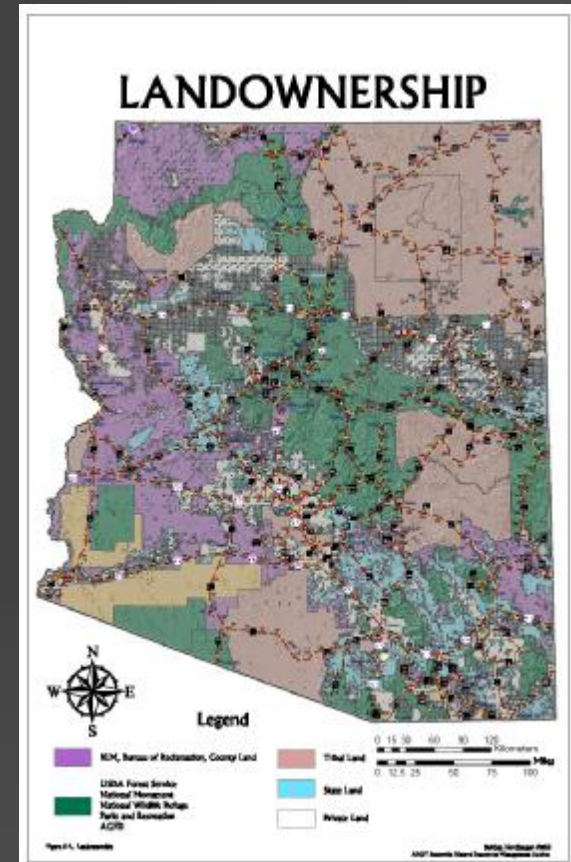


Linkage Zone Information



Land

- n Agency Jurisdictions
- n Ownership



Threats and Opportunities

- n Roads
- n ADOT, USDA Forest Service, County Transportation Plans



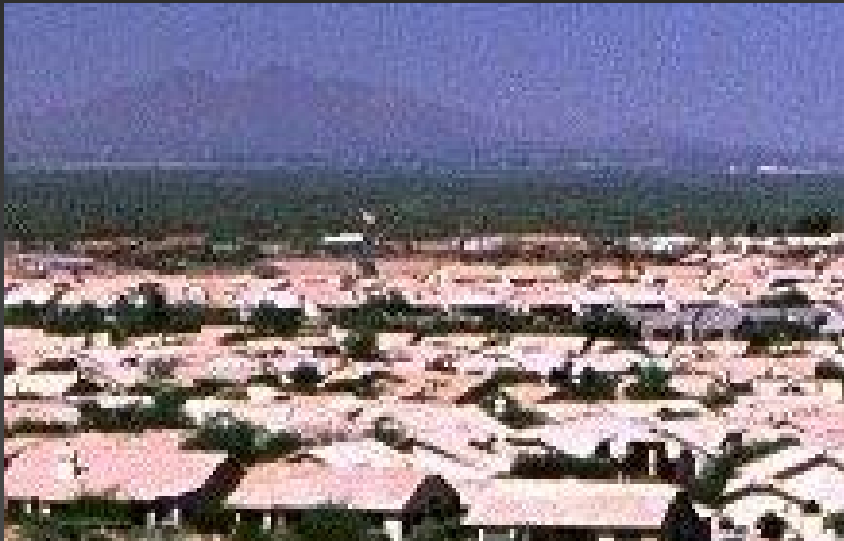
A topographic map of Southern Arizona, showing the state's outline and major geographical features. The map is overlaid with a grid of roadways, represented by thin green lines. The terrain is shaded in light gray, indicating elevation. The Colorado River is visible on the right side of the map. The text "2,000,000 More People in AZ by 2020" is written in large, bold, red letters in the upper right quadrant. The text "ROADWAYS IN SOUTHERN ARIZONA" is written in large, bold, black letters in the lower left quadrant.

**2,000,000
More People
in AZ by
2020**

**ROADWAYS IN SOUTHERN
ARIZONA**

Threats and Opportunities

n Urbanization



Threats and Opportunities

n Canals

- n Less than a handful of wildlife crossing currently exist



Threats and Opportunities



n Railroads



Threats and Opportunities

- n Border Security
- n Military Activities



Species

n No Species Left Behind!



Hydrology

- n Riparian Areas
Function as both
Habitat and
Linkages
- n Migratory Birds
- n Native Fishes



Biotic Communities

- ✓ Sonoran Desert Lower Colorado Subdivision
- ✓ Sonoran Desert, Arizona Uplands
- ✓ Chihuahuan Desert
- ✓ Mohave Desert
- ✓ Great Basin Desert scrub
- ✓ Semi desert Grasslands
- ✓ Madrean Evergreen Woodlands
- ✓ Interior Chaparral
- ✓ Great Basin Conifer Woodlands
- ✓ Plains & Great Basin Grasslands
- ✓ Petran Montane Conifer Forest
- ✓ Sub alpine Conifer Forest
- ✓ Sub alpine Grasslands



Biotic Communities



- n Dovetails into the CWCS
- n CWCS utilized a threat matrix based on biotic communities within the Nature Conservancy's ecoregion designations

This is Just the First Step

- n Initial “Catch All” Approach
- n 152 Broad Linkage Zones Identified to Date
- n There is still much work to be done!



Currently Providing Guidance



- n Pima County
 - n Bond Initiatives
 - n Green Space Planning

- n Contractors & Consultants

- n Planners

- n Governor's Growth and Infrastructure



Future Directions

Future Linkage Zone ID and Refinement

- n Identification of Additional Linkage Zones within Habitat Blocks
- n Previously Undisturbed Areas



Linkage Zone Analysis



- n Provides the Basis for Determination of Best Linkage Placement
- n Fundamental to Planning for Wildlife Crossings
- n Increases the Likelihood of Creating Effective Wildlife Crossings

Linkage Designs

- n **Site Specific Analysis for use by Planners, Land Managers and Engineers**
 - n Currently 8 Designs Funded by AGFD
 - n Northern Arizona University School of Forestry
 - n Overseen by the Arizona Wildlife Linkages Workgroup
 - n Linkage 66: Superior – Miami US 60
 - n Linkage 79: Ironwood – Desert Peak
 - n Linkage 93: Tumacacori – Santa Ritas
 - n Linkage 94: Galliuro – Winchester – Dragoons
-

Integration of Transportation and Regional Planning

- n Ensure that Connectivity Needs are Addressed Upfront in Project Planning Efforts
- n Starting Point for Detailed Consultation and Coordination among the Stakeholders



Development of Web-based Tool

The screenshot shows the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) website. The header includes the ADOT logo, the slogan "Working Together We Can Make A Difference", and a search bar. A navigation menu on the left lists various services such as Aviation, Highways, and Public Transportation. The main content area features a news article titled "Grand Avenue Reopens in Glendale" with an image of a construction site, a list of "Online Services" including driver license and vehicle registration, and "Quick Links" to various ADOT programs. There are also sections for "Maricopa County Freeway & Ramp Closures" and "News Releases" with dates.

n Available Information on Linkage Zones

n Updated on an Annual Basis

n Public Accessibility

In the Long Term

Statewide vision for protecting and restoring habitat connectivity, which is vital for maintaining healthy populations of native species

