



Conserving Working Landscapes

State Parks Board

Wednesday, March 18, 2015





Overview

- **Importance of Working Landscapes**

- Economic Contribution
- Food Supply/Security
- Open Space Benefits

- **Arizona Land and Water Trust**

- Who we are
- Conservation Tools
- Funding Partners

- **Two Potential Projects**





Why are Working Lands Important?

Economic Contribution

- 2011 Agriculture contributed \$17.1B to state sales (indirect and direct effects)¹
- Agriculture provides more than 88,000 full and part-time jobs¹

¹"Agriculture in Arizona's Economy: An Economic Contribution Analysis," Department of Agricultural and Resource Economics Cooperative Extension, The University of Arizona, by Ashley Kern and George Frisvold, 2014.



Why are Working Lands Important?

Food Supply/Food Security

- 17.5M households were food insecure in the US in 2013¹
- Maintain vital, disappearing irrigable lands and large open ranges



¹USDA Economic Research Service, Rpt. NO. ERR-173, 2014



Why are Working Lands Important?

Open Space Benefits

- Natural hazard mitigation (fires, floods)
- Helps reduce urban heat island effect and keep energy costs low (*pavement increase night temps, evaporation*)





Why are Working Lands Important?

Open Space Benefits

- Prevent unregulated lot splits – keeps emergency and infrastructure costs low
- Increase property values (\$190M in '09, *resulting increase property tax revenue of \$2.7M*)¹



ALWT conservation easement near Sonoita

¹Trust for Public Land, Economic Benefits of Open Space and Trails in Pinal County, 2012



Why are Working Lands Important?

Open Space Benefits

- Maintains Western Heritage
- Un-fragmented wildlife corridors
- Scenic views and outdoor recreation opportunities



ALWT conservation easement near Sonoita



Why are Working Lands Important?

Open Space Benefits



- Scenic views and outdoor recreation opportunities

ALWT conservation easement at Oracle State Park



Arizona Land and Water Trust

- A 501(c)(3) founded in 1978 (non-advocacy)
- Mission:
Conserve Arizona's heritage of working landscapes (farms/ranches), wildlife habitat and water resources
- Subsists on Grants and Donations
- Governed by Board of Directors





Arizona Land and Water Trust

- Only work with willing landowners
- Work with local governments to identify, create, secure and implement funding for conservation
- Primary Focus Area: Pinal, Pima, Graham, Greenlee, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties





Arizona Land and Water Trust

- Nearly 45,000 acres of working and other important lands protected





Tools in the Toolbox

- 1) Facilitate Conservation Easements
- 2) Facilitate Full Fee Acquisition by Conservation Buyer
- 3) Desert Rivers Program (water conservation)
- 4) Education/Outreach (Ranching into the Future Workshops)





Conservation Easements

- Selling/donating development rights to maintain conservation values (wildlife, riparian, cultural resources, ranch/farm)
- Landowner retains ownership of property
- Contract with terms negotiable

ALWT conservation easement along Sonoita Creek



Conservation Easements

- Allows status quo to continue (e.g., farming/ranching)
- Generally perpetual in nature
- Compensation based on appraisal

ALWT conservation easement along Santa Cruz River



Full-Fee Acquisition

- Voluntary sale/donation to conservation buyer
- Compensation based on qualified appraisal

ALWT facilitated full-fee acquisition on the Lower San Pedro River



Arizona's Only Water Trust Desert Rivers Program

- Initiated in 2007 to conserve water resources to sustain rural livelihoods and riparian habitat
- Work with farmers with temporary forbearance and other water use agreements
- Focus areas: San Pedro and Gila Rivers plus major tributaries





Education/Outreach

- Since 2007, put on 35+ workshops in partnership with U of A Cooperative Ext.
- Topics: Estate Planning, Water Law/Hydrologic Cycle, Range Management, Ecosystem Services, etc.
- Transitioning to the Next Generation, May 6th, Pima County (Vail)





Funding Partners

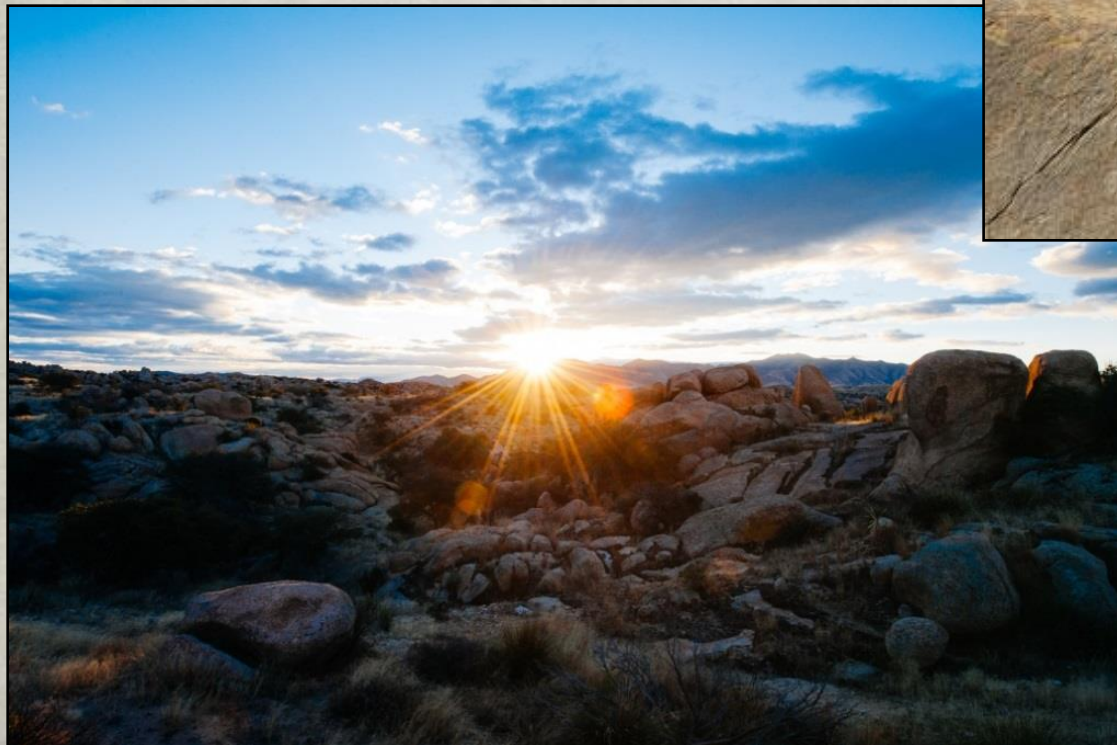
- Landowners
- Private Foundations and Donations
- Other Conservation Organizations
- Federal, State and Local Governments





Two Potential Projects

1. Approx. 700 Acres
(near Stronghold)



2. Approx. 1,000
Ranch (near
Dragoon)



Approx. 700 Acre Property

- Cochise County
- Foothills of the Dragoon Mountains (Coronado NF)
- Historical, biological, recreational significance
- Active Nature Retreat





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Approx. 1,000 Acre Ranch



- Cochise County
- Dragoon Mountains - adjacent to popular I-10 rest stop



Approx. 1,000 Acre Ranch





Questions???



ALWT conservation easement in the San Rafael Valley