

City of Sierra Vista and Cochise County Environmental Issues Update

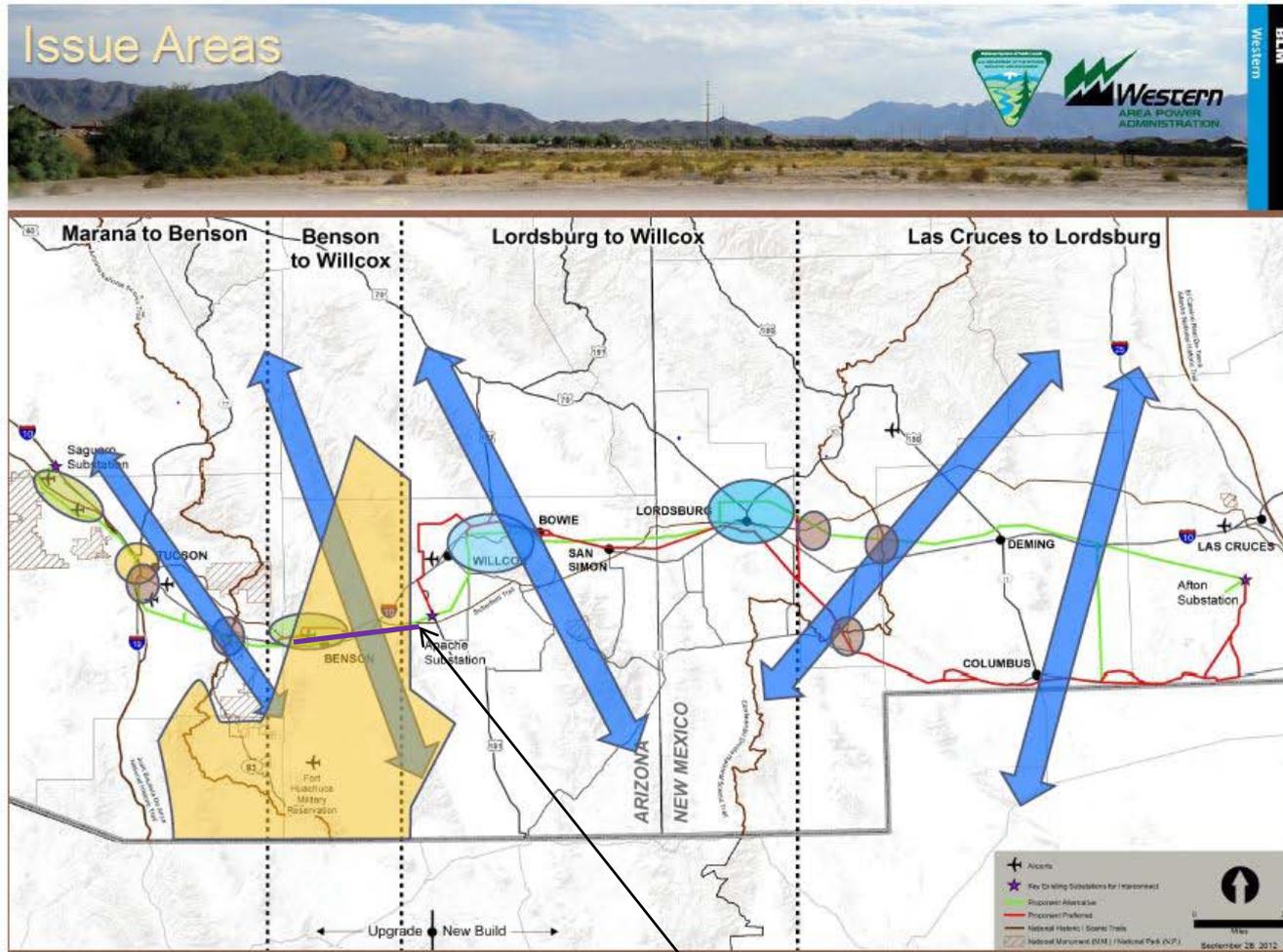


July 15, 2013

Major Federal Issues Affecting the City and County

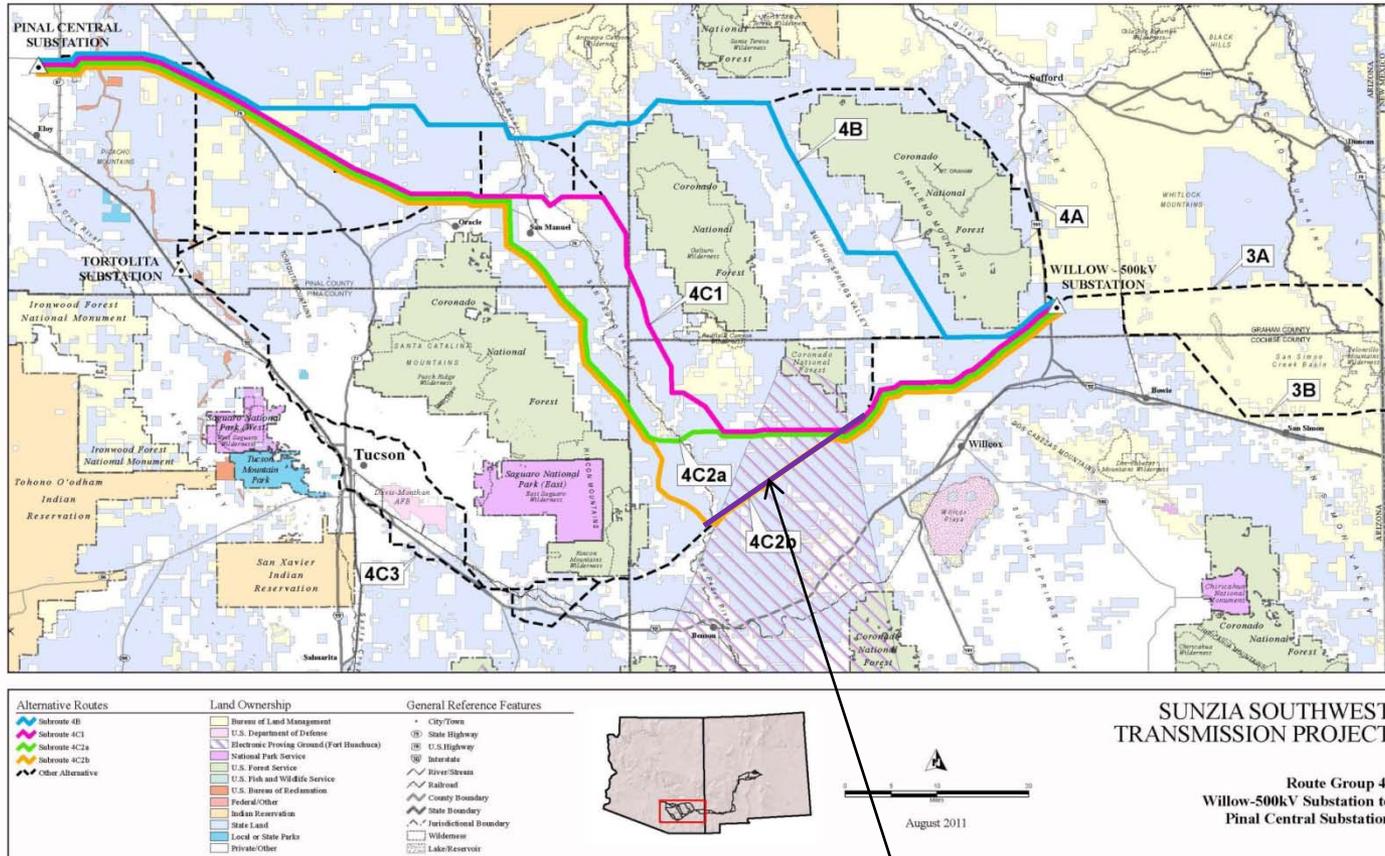
- ▶ Transmission Projects
 - Southline Transmission Project Update
 - SunZia Update
- ▶ Endangered Species Act
 - Mexican Wolf – Comments due Sept 11, 2013
 - Mex Garter Snake – Comments due Sept 9, 2013
 - Jaguar – Comments due August 9, 2013
- ▶ SPRNCA RMP/EIS

Southline Transmission Project



— Area of Conflict w/ EPG

SunZia SW Transmission Project



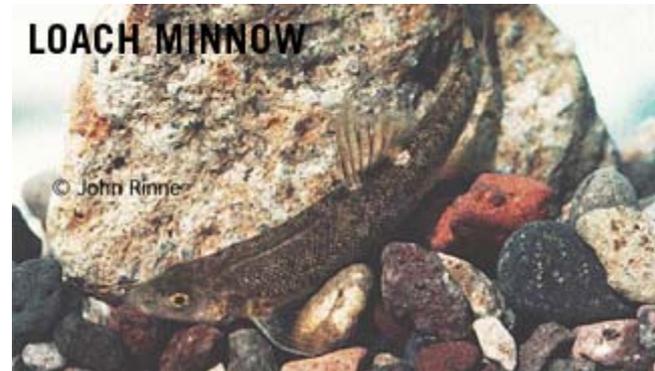
Area of Conflict w/ EPG

City and County Opportunities

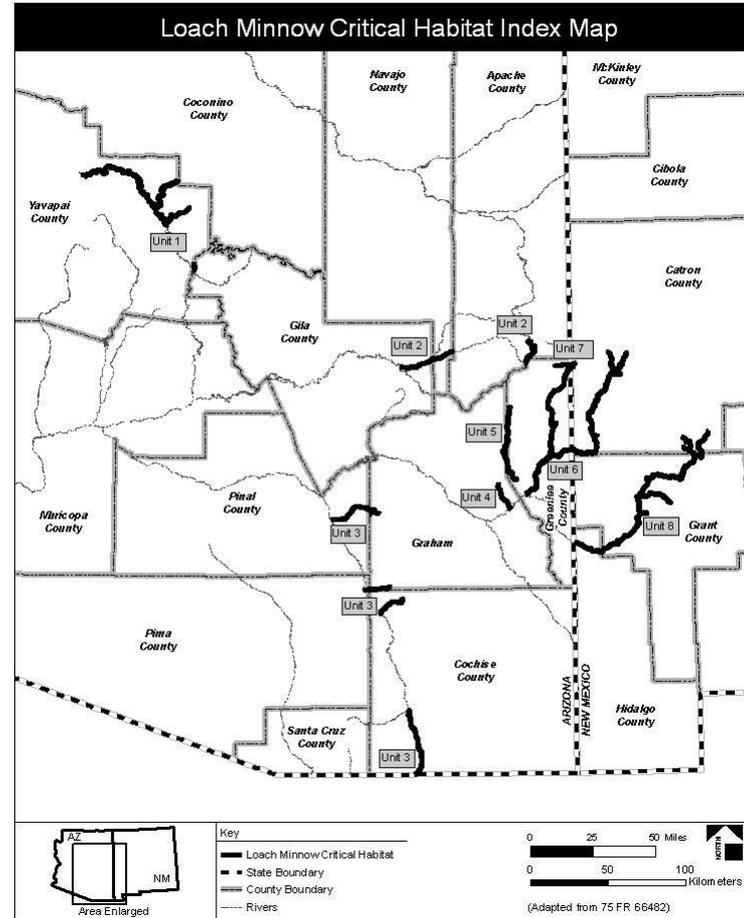
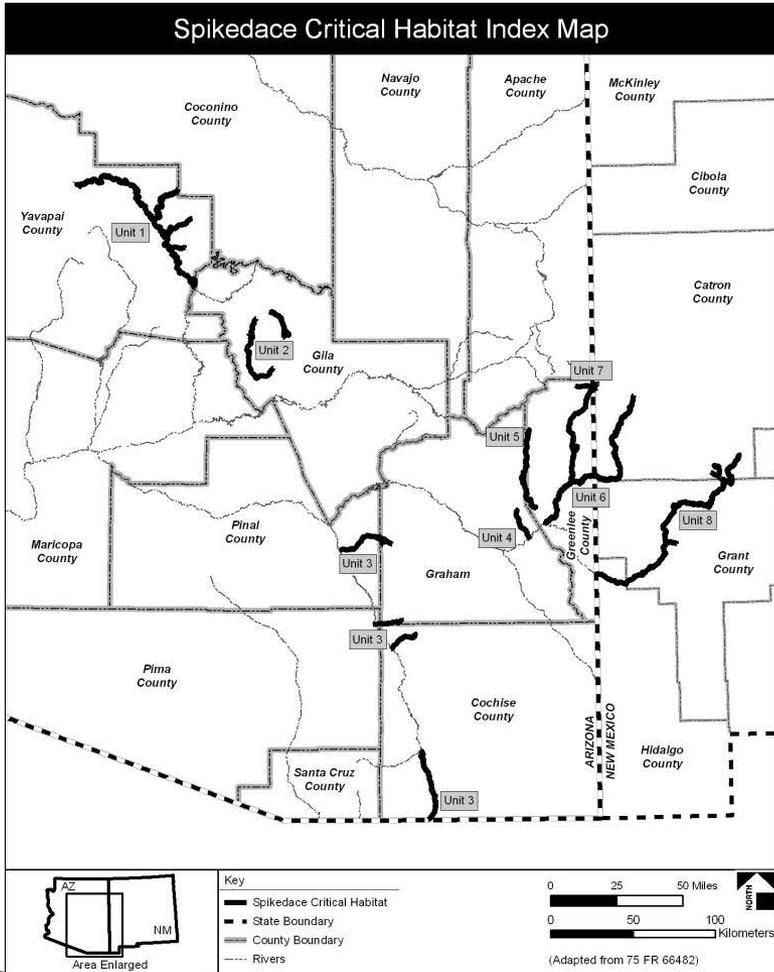
- ▶ Both transmission lines are within the County but not the City.
 - ▶ Cooperating agency status required federal agencies to address local plans
 - ▶ Cochise County is a cooperating agency and can make a difference on the SunZia and Southline projects by requesting protection of the Buffalo Soldier Electronic Test Range which benefits the City and County economic interest in Fort Huachuca
 - ▶ BLM and Western Power Assn are aware of the County position on the Test Range because of the cooperating agency process
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Endangered Species Act

Spikedace and Loach Minnow

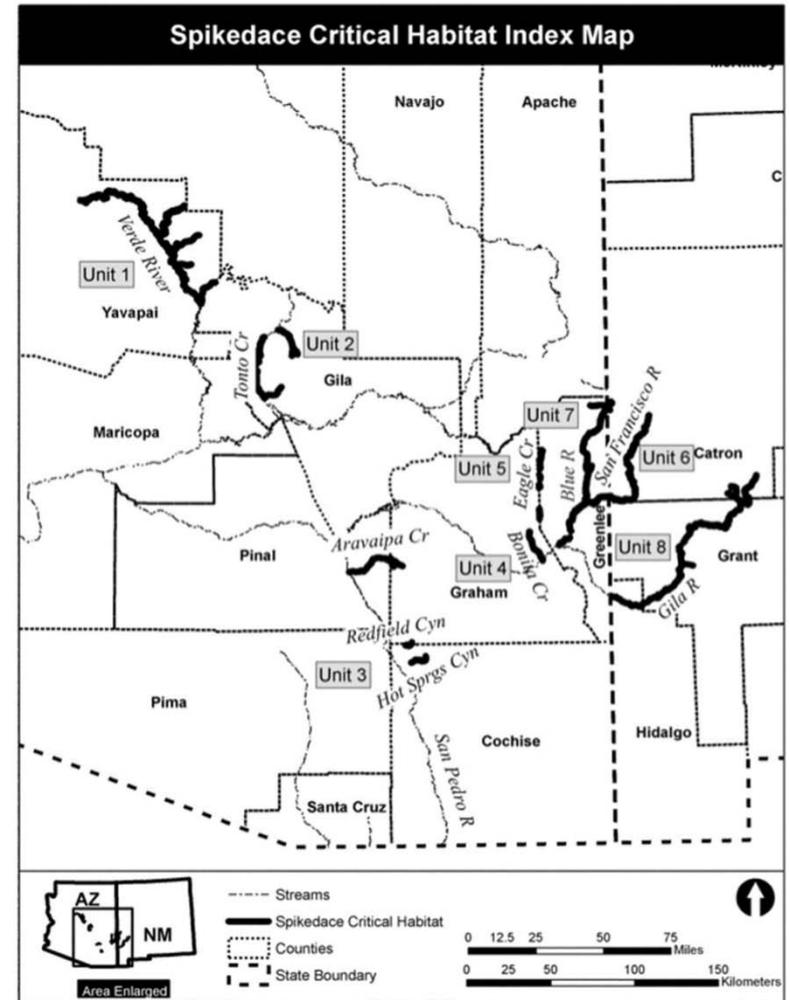


USFWS 2011 Spikedace and Loach Minnow Proposed Critical Habitat Included Upper San Pedro River

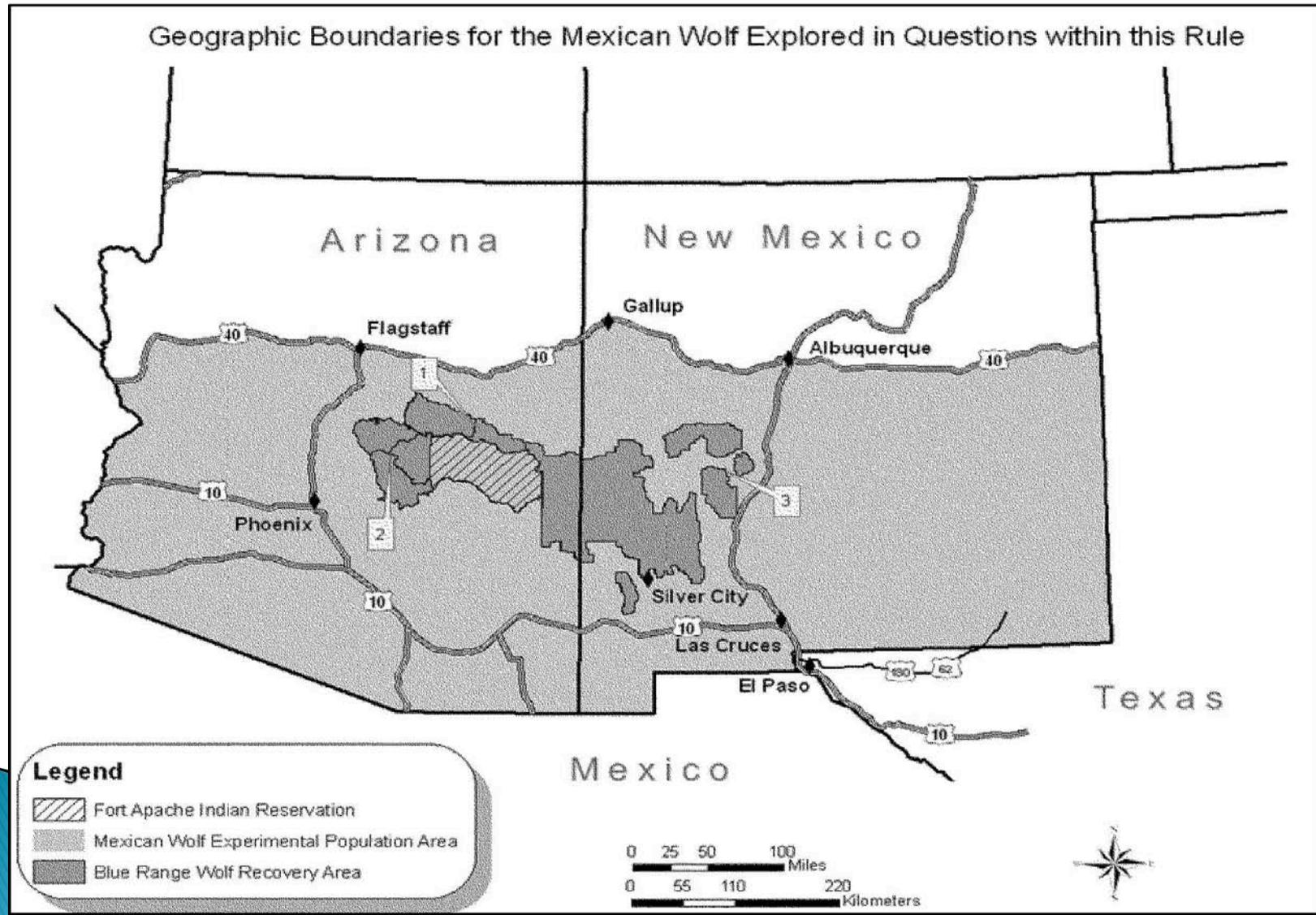


2011 Final Spikedace and Loach Minnow Critical Habitat Map did not Include Upper San Pedro River

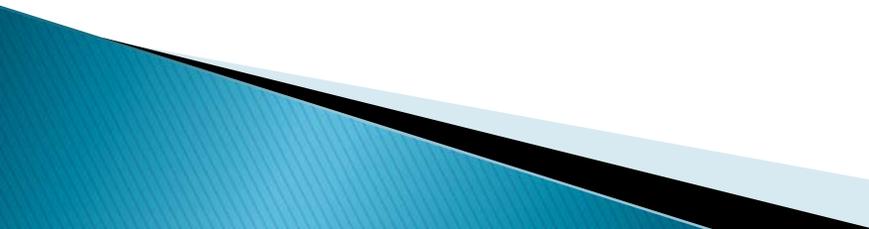
- Example of the City, County and Hereford NRCDD working together to meet with USFWS, submit comments, document lack of spikedace and loach minnow populations in the Upper San Pedro River, and update the record
- USFWS did not include the upper San Pedro River in its final critical habitat designation for these two species of fish



Mx Wolf 2013 Proposed Experimental Population



Mexican Wolf

- Mexican Wolf (formerly Mexican Gray Wolf) – July 2013 proposed endangered status and experimental population within all of Cochise County.
 - Cooperators meeting in Albuquerque August 8–9, 2013
 - The County is working to update the existing MOU with USFWS
 - Comments due to USFWS September 11, 2013
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Mexican Garter Snake



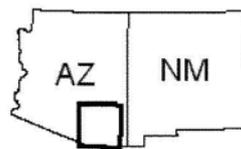
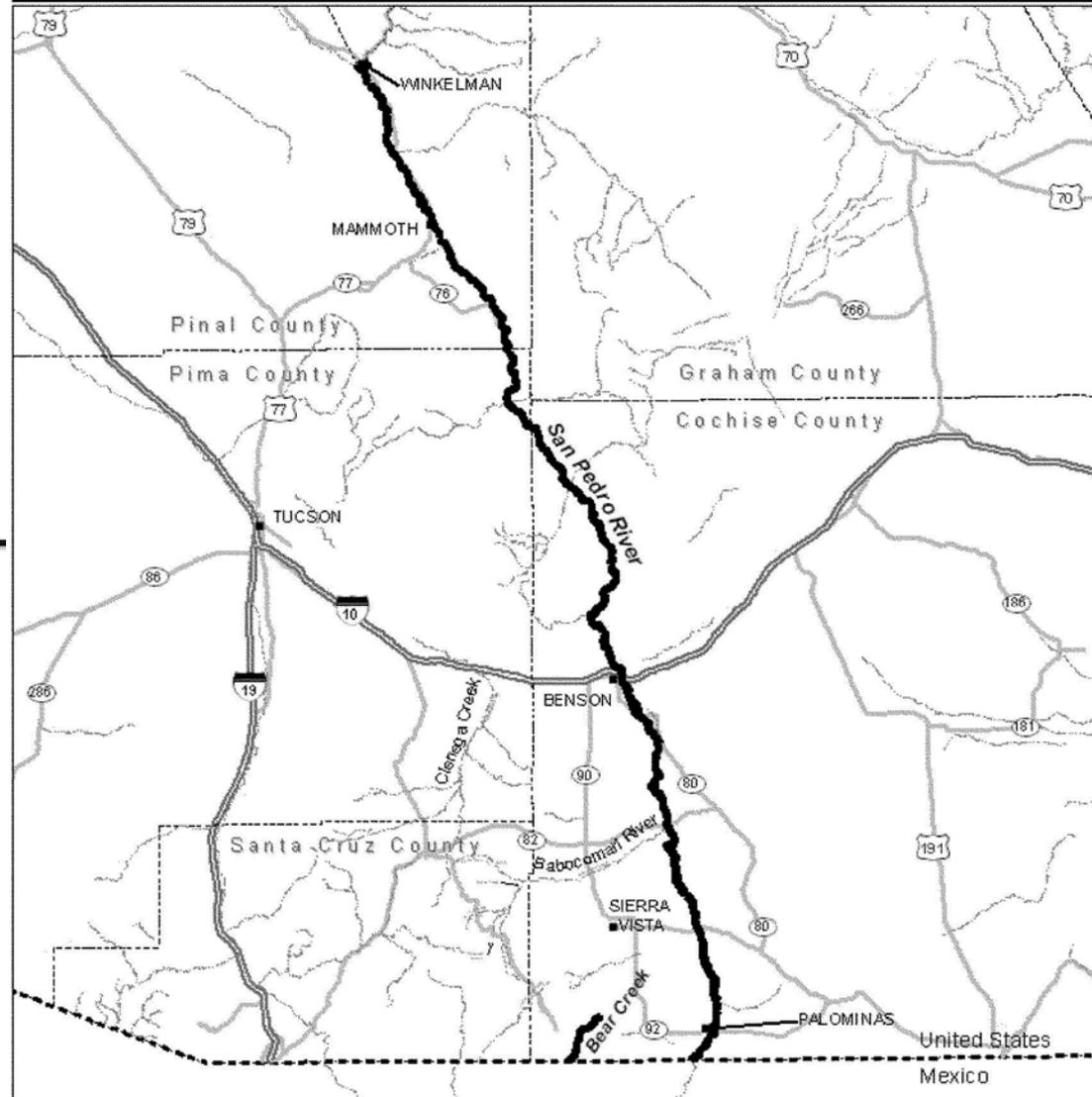
Mexican Garter Snake

- Mexican garter snake proposed threatened status and critical habitat within Cochise County
 - City and County submitted comments on earlier proposal to list this species
 - Comments on the proposed critical habitat and listing are due to USFWS September 9, 2013
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Northern Mexican Gartersnake Critical Habitat
San Pedro River Subbasin Unit

San Pedro River

Mex Garter Snake - Proposed Critical Habitat w/in Cochise County



Area Enlarged

- Critical Habitat
- County Boundary
- International Boundary
- Highway
- Stream
- Town

0 10 20 30 Miles

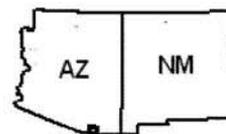
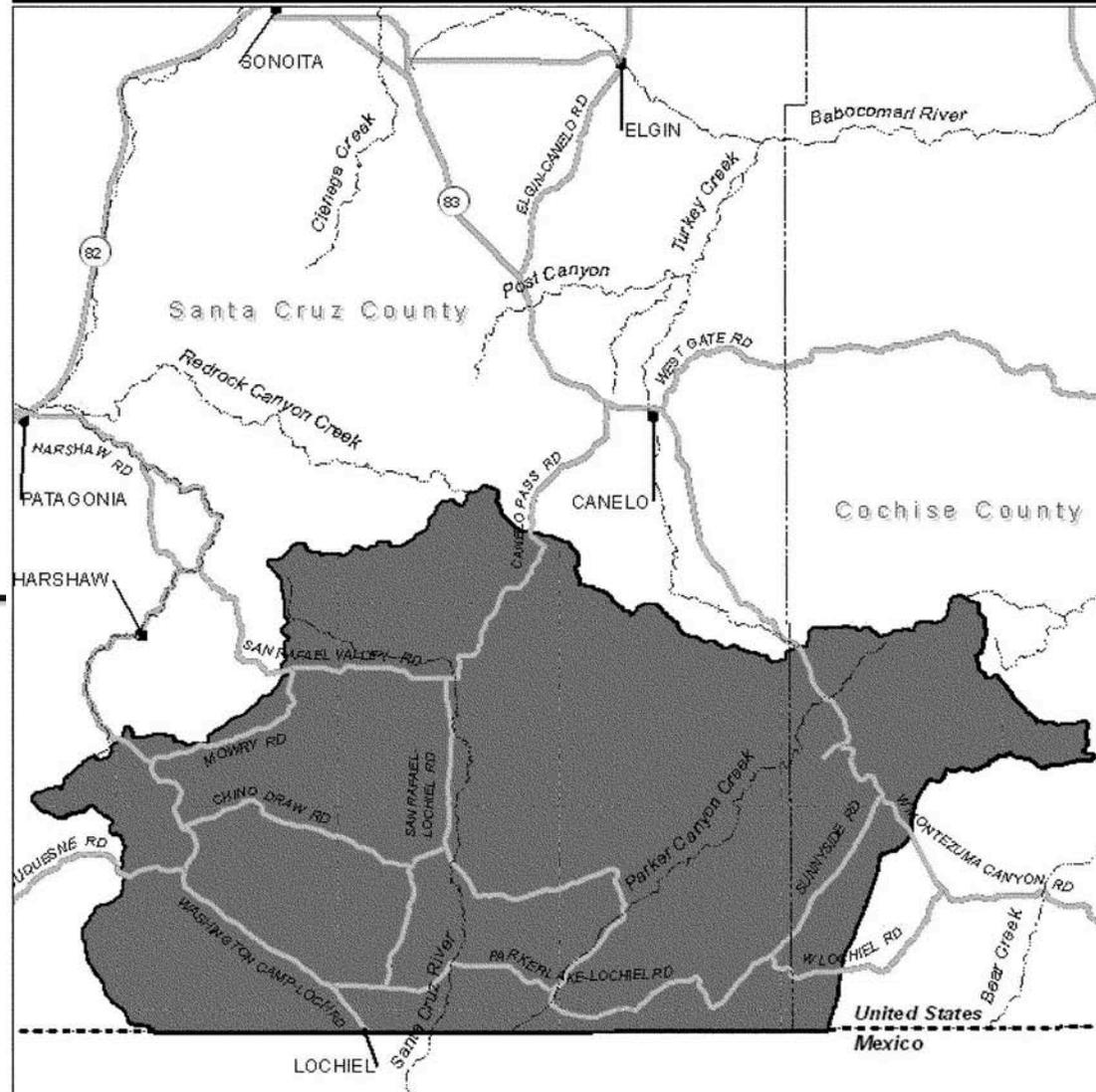
0 10 20 30 Km



Upper Parker Cyn Creek

Mex Garter Snake Proposed Critical Habitat w/in Cochise County

Northern Mexican Gartersnake Critical Habitat Upper Santa Cruz River Subbasin Unit



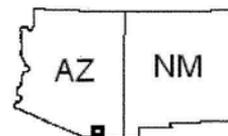
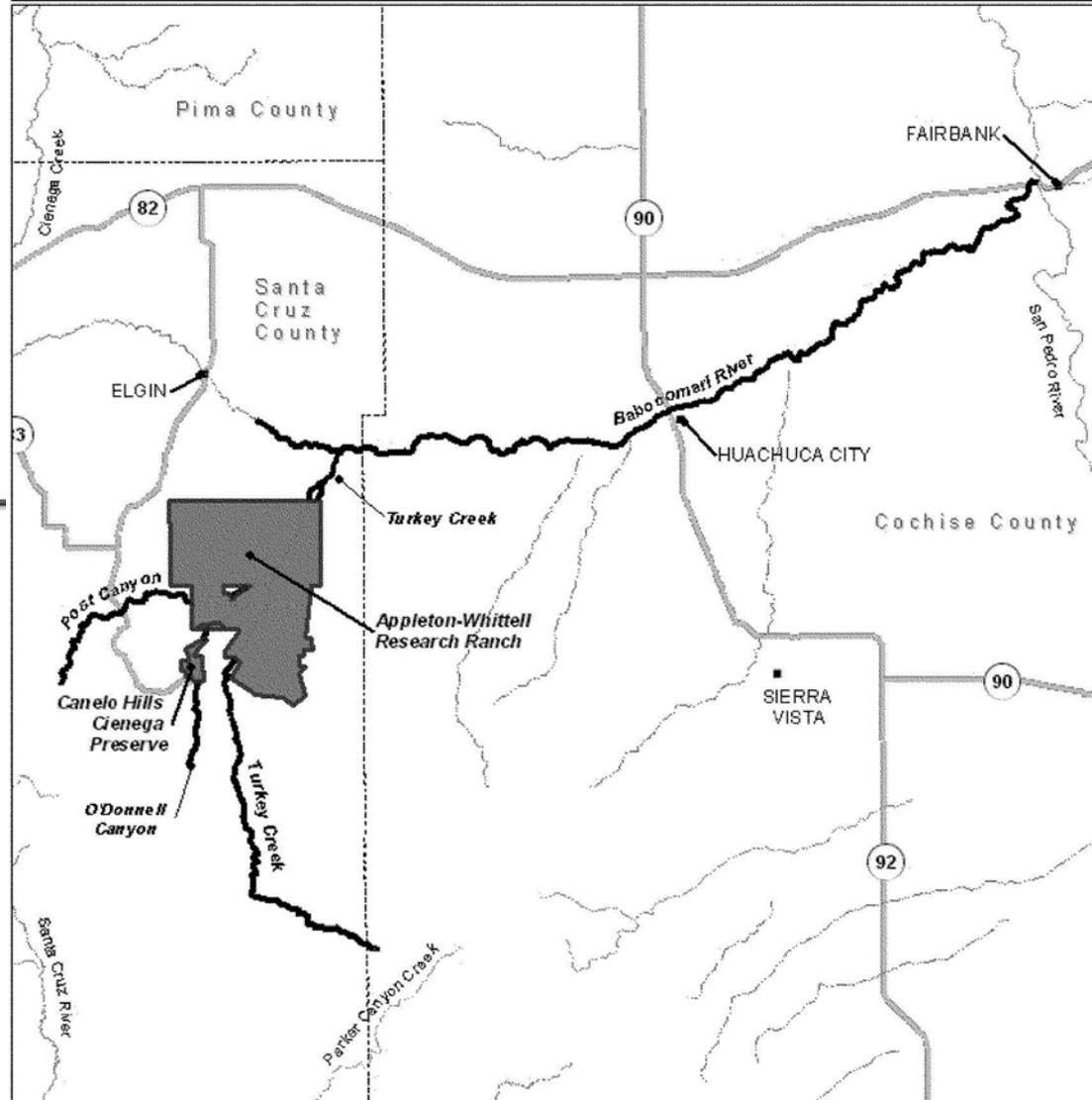
Area Enlarged



Northern Mexican Gartersnake proposed Critical Habitat
Babocomari River Subbasin Unit

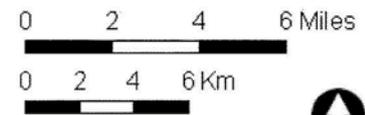
Babocomari River

Mex Garter Snake Proposed Critical Habitat w/in Cochise County



Area Enlarged

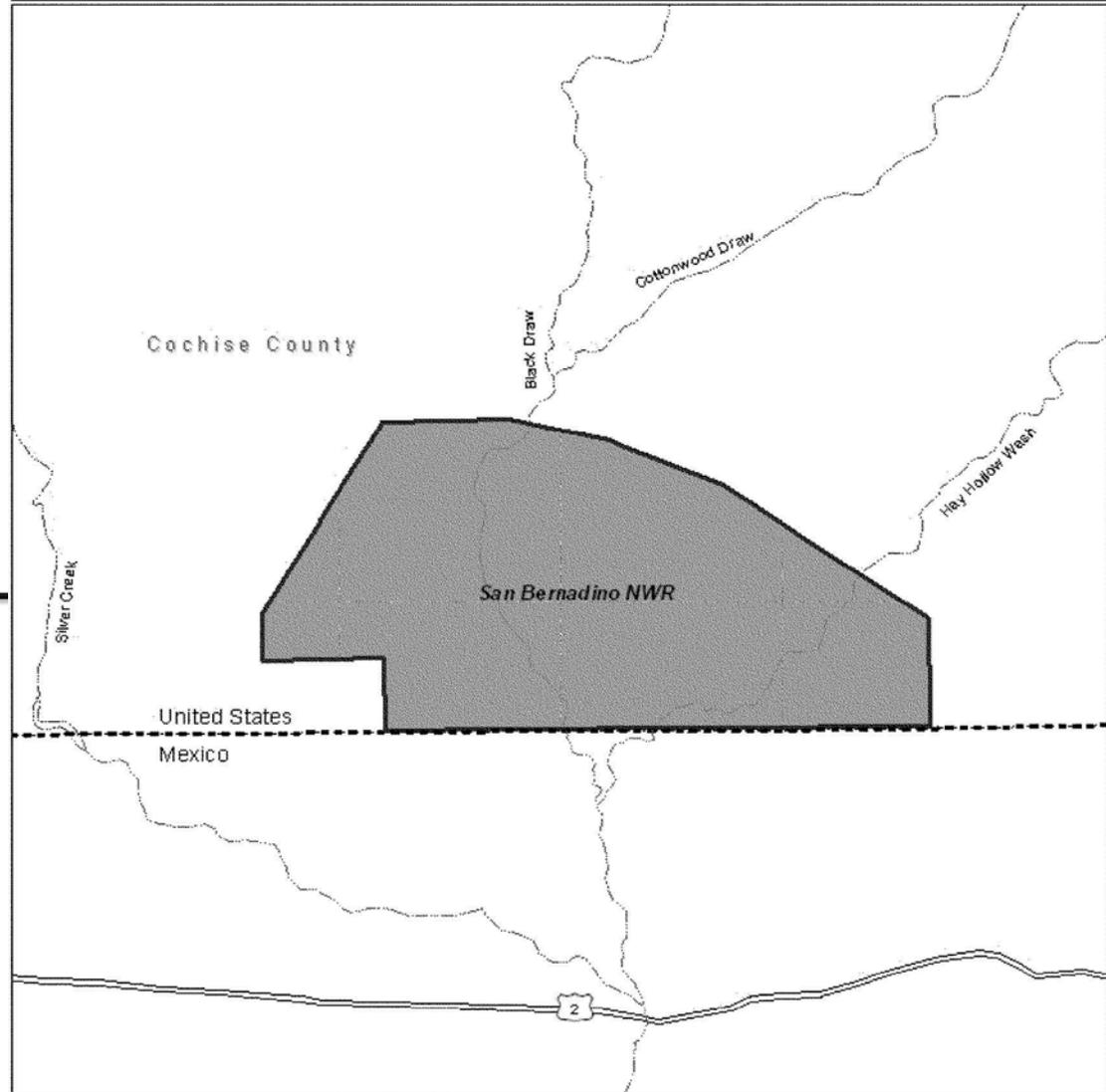
- Critical Habitat
- Critical Habitat
- County Boundary
- Town
- Stream
- Highway



San Bernadino NWR

Mex Garter Snake Proposed Critical Habitat w/in Cochise County

Northern Mexican Gartersnake Critical Habitat
San Bernadino National Wildlife Refuge Unit



Area Enlarged

- Critical Habitat
- Stream
- Highway
- County Boundary
- International Boundary

0 0.5 1 1.5 Miles

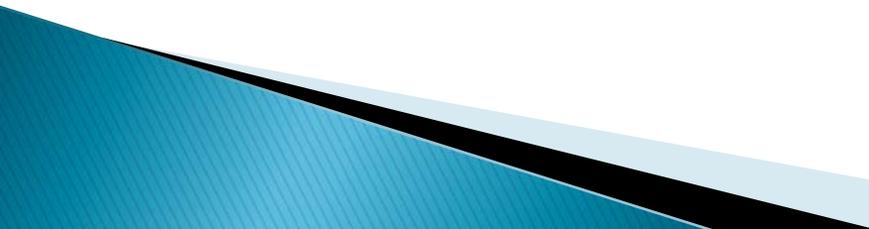
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Jaguar



Jaguar

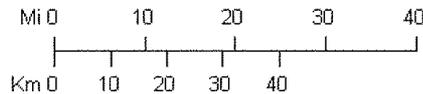
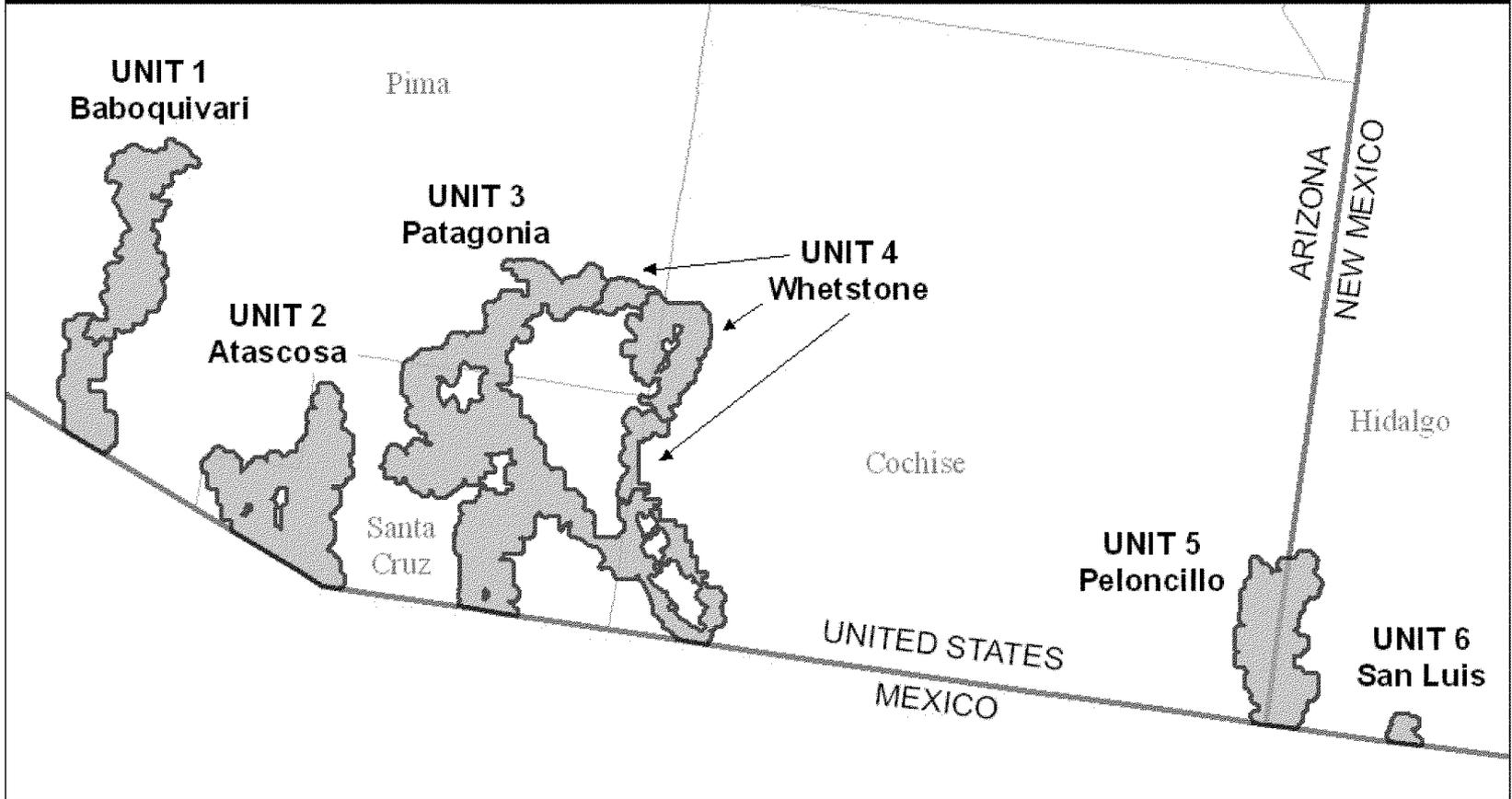
- ▶ USFWS is reopening the comment period for its proposed designation of critical habitat for the jaguar
 - ▶ Additionally, the Service is announcing revisions to the proposal and the availability of a draft economic analysis and draft environmental assessment of the proposed critical habitat designation
 - ▶ City and County submitted joint comments on the jaguar listing in 2012
 - ▶ Comments are due August 9, 2013
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Jaguar (continued)

- ▶ On July 30, 2013, the Service will hold a public information meeting from 3:30–5:00 p.m. followed by a public hearing for recording comments from 6:30–8:30 p.m at Buena High School Performing Arts Center, 5225 Buena School Blvd., Sierra Vista, Arizona 85615

Jaguar (Continued)

General Location of Critical Habitat For Jaguar Overview

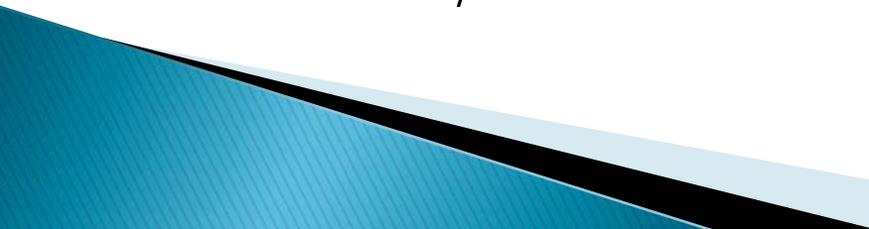


- Critical Habitat Unit
- State Boundary
- County Boundary

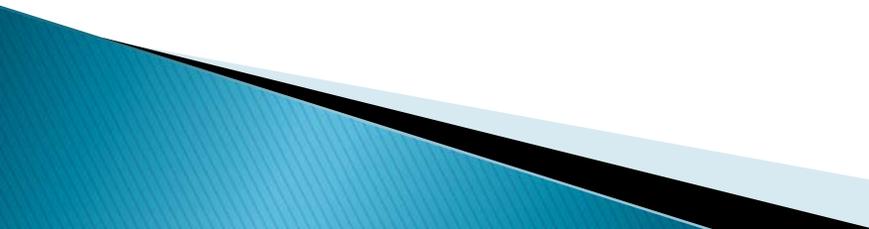
**San Pedro River National
Resource Conservation Area
Resource Mgmt Plan (RMP)
Environmental Impact
Statement (EIS)**



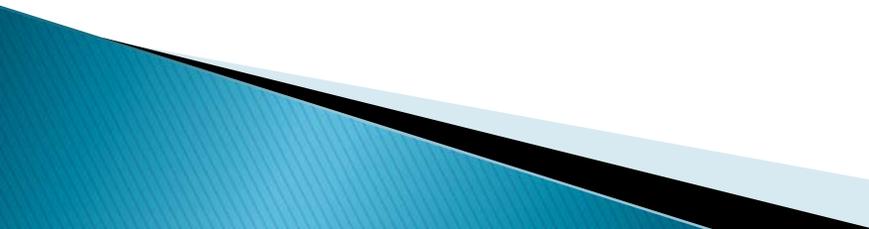
San Pedro River National Resource Conservation Area

- ▶ 2013 – Resource Mgmt Plan and NEPA Process Started by BLM
 - ▶ County/City requested Cooperating Agency Status while preserving Coordination Status
 - ▶ NEPA and BLM Planning Processes are merged to create a single Resource Mgmt Plan (RMP) /Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)
 - ▶ County and City plans, policies and other resource guidance will be provided to BLM
 - ▶ County and possibly the City, if they sign the MOU, will work with BLM on administrative drafts of NEPA/RMP documents
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2013 SPRNCA RMP/EIS Educational and Scoping Forums 9 am – noon

- ▶ July 20, Water and Riparian Issues – Cochise College, 901 S. Colombo Ave., Sierra Vista
 - ▶ July 27, Watershed and Range Management – UA south, 1140 North Colombo Ave., Sierra Vista
 - ▶ August 10, Wildlife and Threatened and Endangered Species – UA South, 1140 North Colombo Ave., Sierra Vista
 - ▶ August 17, Cultural Resources and Recreation – UA South, 1140 North Colombo Ave., Sierra Vista
 - ▶ August 24, Socio-economic Issues in Sierra Vista – UA South, 1140 North Colombo Ave., Sierra Vista
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2013 SPRNCA RMP/EIS General Scoping Meetings

- ▶ August 13, 6–8:30pm meeting – Benson Fire Station, 375 E 7th St, Benson, AZ 85602
 - ▶ August 15, 6–8:30pm meeting –Tucson Association of Realtors, 2445 N Tucson Blvd Tucson, AZ 85716
 - ▶ August 21, 6–8:30pm –UA South, 1140 North Colombo, Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
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Summary

- ▶ The City and County have effectively provided joint comments on a large number of federal projects where their common interests are at stake
- ▶ The City and County have the opportunity to become cooperating agencies on any federal projects that affect their respective jurisdictions
- ▶ Cooperating agency status provides an opportunity to comment earlier in the process
- ▶ With or without local City and County input, the federal government will continue to act on issues affecting the City and County
- ▶ The City and County have many interests in common with Fort Huachuca and Fort Huachuca can benefit from the City and County comments to federal projects and federal rule making