



Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection

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For Immediate Release

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Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest
Arizona League of Conservation Voters Education Fund
Arizona Native Plant Society
Bat Conservation International
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Environmental Connections
Center for Environmental Ethics
Defenders of Wildlife
Desert Watch
Drylands Institute
Environmental and Cultural Conservation Organization
Environmental Law Society
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Friends of Tortolita
Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association
Neighborhood Coalition of Greater Tucson
Northwest Neighborhoods Alliance
Oro Valley Neighborhood Coalition
Protect Land and Neighborhoods
Safford Peak Watershed Education Team
Save the Scenic Santa Ritas
Sierra Club-Grand Canyon Chapter
Sierra Club-Rincon Group
Silverbell Mountain Alliance
Sky Island Alliance
Sky Island Watch
Society of Ecological Restoration
Sonoran Arthropod Studies Institute
Sonoran Permaculture Guild
Southwestern Biological Institute
Tortolita Homeowners Association
Tucson Audubon Society
Tucson Herpetological Society
Tucson Mountains Association
Wildlands Network
Women for Sustainable Technologies

Pima County and Regional Transportation Authority Highlighted in New Book on Road Ecology and Wildlife Linkages

Tucson, AZ – The Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection is excited to announce the recent publication of *Safe Passages: Highways, Wildlife, and Habitat Connectivity* (Island Press, 2010). Coalition staff members, Executive Director Carolyn Campbell and Program Associate Kathleen Kennedy, contributed a chapter entitled “The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and Regional Transportation Authority: Citizen Support for Habitat Connectivity and Highway Mitigation” to this new book on road ecology.

According to publisher Island Press, “*Safe Passages* brings together in a single volume the latest information on the emerging science of road ecology as it relates to mitigating interactions between roads and wildlife. This practical handbook of tools and examples is designed to assist individuals and organizations thinking about or working toward reducing road-wildlife impacts.”

“*Safe Passages* is an important contribution to our growing awareness that roadways have significant and long-lasting impacts to wildlife habitat and native species. As transportation networks continue to expand, we must find creative solutions that mitigate the impacts to wildlife habitat,” stated the Coalition’s Carolyn Campbell. “Pima County is a leader in this area, as shown in this book. The voters, elected officials and transportation professionals throughout the region demonstrate that it is possible to integrate wildlife-friendly crossings into roadway projects and create protected wildlife corridors through smart land-use planning.”

As described in the chapter contributed by the Coalition, Pima County has greatly benefited from citizen support for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and Regional Transportation Authority Plan (which included a dedicated funding source for wildlife linkages projects). Campbell and Kennedy not only describe what went in to both of these planning processes and how they have benefited Pima County wildlife linkages, but also lessons learned that can be applied to other communities attempting similar planning efforts.

In addition to the chapter written by Campbell and Kennedy, another Arizona transportation project was spotlighted. The chapter, written by Norris Dodd (retired) and Jeff Gagnon, both of Arizona Game and Fish Department, outlines the elk crossing structures implemented on a 17-mile stretch of State Route 260, east of Payson. This project has garnered national attention and, as Dodd and Gagnon note, showcases the benefits of integrating “transportation and ecological objectives into highway construction, yielding benefits to highway safety, wildlife permeability, and economics.”

Copies of *Safe Passages* will soon be available locally from the Tucson Audubon Nature Store, 300 E. University Blvd. or Antigone Books, 411 N. 4th Avenue.

For more information on Sonoran Desert wildlife linkages, visit:
www.sonorandesert.org/learning-more/wildlife-linkages

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