

# 2020 Annual *Gratitude* Report



Photo: Demi Deherra-Ujisipash

Advocacy + Education + Collaboration



The Coalition's mission is to protect the biodiversity of the Sonoran Desert in southern Arizona through science-based advocacy, education, and collaboration.

We work to create a community where: ecosystem health is protected; nature and healthy wild animal populations are valued; and residents, visitors, and future generations can all drink clean water, breathe clean air, and find wild places to roam.



## Letter from the Board President

I'll get right to the point—2020 sucked! It turns out that pandemics are really hard. BUT, thanks to you, our supporters and partners, the Coalition conserved, focused, persevered and, most importantly, we sustained our advocacy and programmatic work. We even grew our volunteer base, thanks to you!

While we socially distanced and worked remotely, we expanded our wildlife camera photo analysis as volunteers contributed their time at their convenience, from the safety and comfort of their homes. Camera monitors continued changing photo cards and maintaining cameras outside. Staff met virtually, and supported one another as we attended meetings and kept in touch with you, our community, remotely. Adaptability and creativity were our watchwords and, as a result of your ongoing love of and concern for our Sonoran Desert, we carried on.

As we contemplate recovery from the pandemic, let's continue to reach out to each other and keep up the good work!

*Christina McVie*

Weekly  
Monitoring of **7**  
elected bodies in Pima  
County, City of Tucson,  
Town of Oro Valley,  
and Town of  
Marana

*Your voice and  
time made a  
difference —  
Thank you!*

**1,028**  
total volunteer  
hours among  
**59**  
volunteers

## Advocacy

Our collective advocacy for a healthy, protected, and connected Sonoran Desert remains a constant focus of our work. **Your voice makes a difference and positively influences the policies and laws that guide the conservation goals of our local governments, along with state and federal projects. Thank you!**

In 2020, we continued to watchdog seven local governments and various state and federal agencies. This involved submitting science-based comment letters on development projects, rezonings, and annexations, along with projects related to climate change, water conservation, and more.

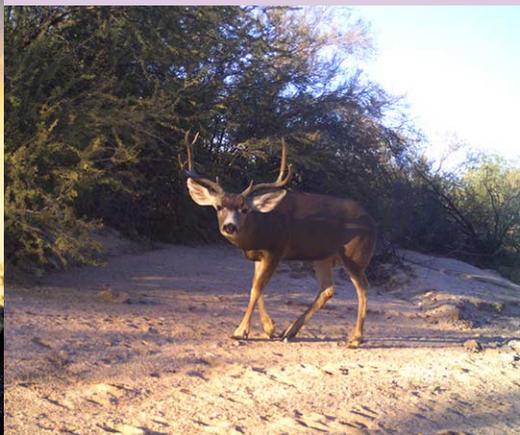
Coalition staff also maintained membership on 13 advisory committees, providing guidance on transportation planning, wildlife linkages protection, water conservation, and other issues.

Finally, we worked in partnership on specialized projects such as the Community Water Coalition of Southern Arizona and the Tucson Mountains – Avra Valley Wildlife Connectivity Working Group.

## Volunteers

Our volunteers are the heartbeat of our work. Despite the many challenges of transitioning to virtual trainings and events because of the Covid-19 pandemic, our volunteer base grew substantially in 2020 from 46 to 63 volunteers. **Thank you for your flexibility and passion for our natural world and all the volunteer hours you contributed in 2020!**

- + Critter Cam for Kids **60** hours **10** volunteers
- + Desert Advocates **54** hours **4** volunteers
- + Desert Monitors **683** hours **33** volunteers
- + Desert Identifiers **158** hours **9** volunteers
- + Desert Roadies **14** hours **1** volunteer
- + Desert Mailers / Mailing on Tour **28** hours **13** volunteers
- + Other / Unspecified **31** hours **7** volunteers



# Events & Education

The first two months of 2020 were “business as usual” for events, with a successful Environmental Lobby Day, two Critter Cam for Kids Field Days, and a Highway Clean-up. Starting in March, we transitioned to virtual events and outreach presentations, along with one-on-one field days. **The transition to virtual outreach presentations allowed us to reach a broader audience and collaborate with new groups and communities.**

## Events

- + **1** Environmental Lobby Day with **2** Training Events prior
- + **2** Critter Cam for Kids Field Days

## Volunteer Trainings and Field Days

- + **10** Field Days to place wildlife cameras with volunteers
- + **1** Highway Clean-up

## Outreach Presentations

- + **5** In-person and **10** Virtual Outreach Presentations

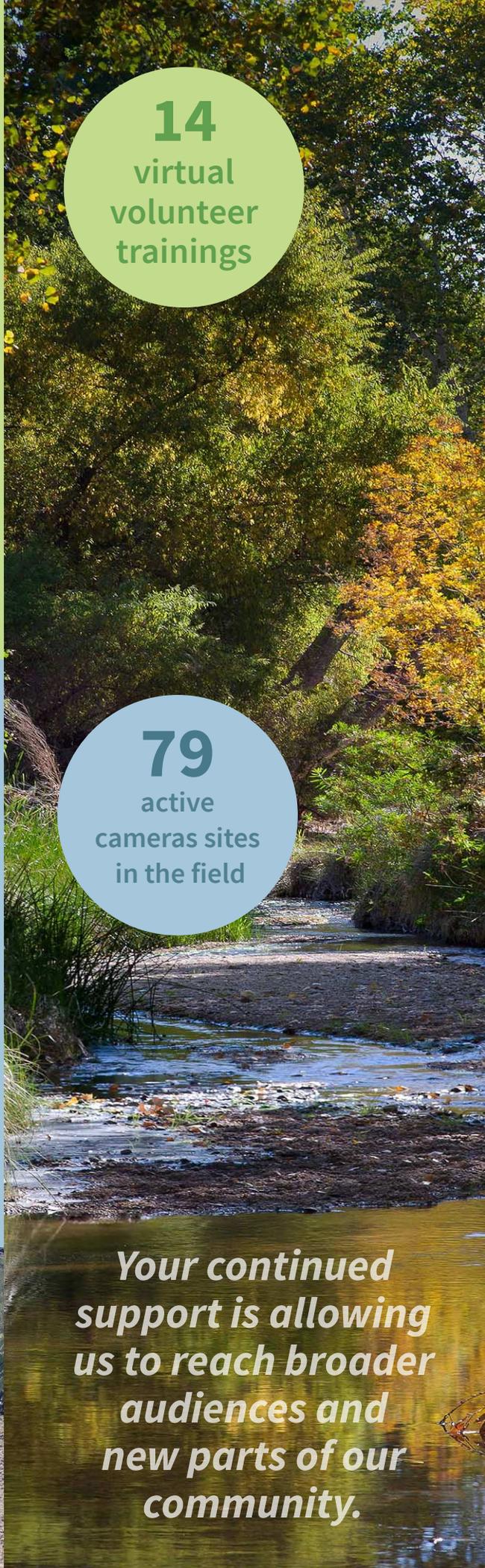
**14**  
virtual  
volunteer  
trainings

# Wildlife Camera Program

79 cameras collected data about wildlife presence and diversity in three main project areas: the northern Tucson Mountains, the Santa Catalina-Tortolita Mountains wildlife linkage, and I-10 East/Davidson Canyon. **Because of our amazing volunteers and your support, this data is being used to advocate for more protected open spaces, new wildlife crossings and wildlife fencing, and improvements to existing culverts and bridges to make them more wildlife friendly.**

- + **3** Wildlife Linkage Project locations:
  - + Tucson – Tortolita Mountains Wildlife Linkage
  - + Santa Catalina – Tortolita Mountains Wildlife Linkage and the Oracle Road Wildlife Crossings
  - + I-10 East/Davidson Canyon and the Rincon – Whetstone – Santa Rita Mountains Wildlife Linkage

**79**  
active  
cameras sites  
in the field



*Your continued support is allowing us to reach broader audiences and new parts of our community.*

# Get Involved!

Interested in donating, volunteering, or using your voice to advocate for a protected Sonoran Desert? Head over to [www.sonorandesert.org](http://www.sonorandesert.org) and learn more!



**Coalition for  
Sonoran Desert  
Protection**

Advocacy + Education + Collaboration

Arizona Center for Law in the Public Interest \* Arizona Native Plant Society \* Bat Conservation International \* Cascabel Conservation Association \* Center for Biological Diversity \* Center for Environmental Ethics \* Defenders of Wildlife \* Desert Watch \* Environmental Law Society \* Friends of Cabeza Prieta \* Friends of Ironwood Forest \* Friends of Madera Canyon \* Friends of Saguaro National Park \* Friends of Tortolita \* Gates Pass Area Neighborhood Association \* Genius Loci Foundation \* Great Old Broads for Wilderness–Tucson \* Native Seeds / SEARCH \* Protect Land and Neighborhoods \* Safford Peak Watershed Education Team \* Save the Scenic Santa Ritas \* Sierra Club – Grand Canyon Chapter \* Sierra Club – Rincon Group \* Sky Island Alliance \* Southwestern Biological Institute \* Tortolita Alliance \* Tortolita Homeowners Association \* Tucson Audubon Society \* Tucson Herpetological Society \* Tucson Mountains Association \* Wildlands Network



Don Broomall and Virgil Swadley check the CARACARA wildlife camera in the El Rio Preserve as part of our Tucson Mountains monitoring project.



SonoranDesertProtection



SonoranDesertProtection

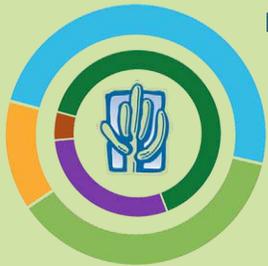


@ForTheDesert

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**Thank you for supporting a protected and connected Sonoran Desert in 2020!**  
*We are grateful for all of our donors—gifts of all sizes make a difference and an impact.*



**Net Income FY 2020 \$69,435\***

**Total Revenue \$308,922**  
 Individual Donors 49.5%  
 Foundations (unrestricted) 36.9%  
 Restricted Grants & Contracts 13.6%  
**Total Expenses \$239,487**  
 Program 65%  
 General Operations 29.5%  
 Fundraising 5.5%



**Thank you to  
our foundation  
and grant funders!**

Wilburforce Foundation  
 MET Foundation  
 Deupree Family Foundation  
 Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation  
 Arizona Game & Fish Heritage Fund  
 Paycheck Protection Program Loan (forgiven)

\*This was an unusual fiscal year, largely due to a drop in our program expenses related to the Covid-19 pandemic, our PPP loan, and being very fiscally conservative due to the pandemic. Because of these factors, we had a larger than normal net income in 2020.