



Altar Valley Conservation Alliance

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



Conserving the Altar Valley for future generations



Dear Friends,

In 1995, seeds of hope were planted when Altar Valley ranchers and agriculturalists rallied together as neighbors with the same vision: conserving the Altar Valley for future generations. At the time, the chances of keeping the valley open seemed smaller and smaller. Development pressures loomed as Tucson sprawled outward and the watershed was stymied by resource management conflict. The desire to leave the next generation with an open, healthy working landscape provided the rich soil from which the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance sprouted.



Sixteen years later, the Alliance is a strong presence in the Altar Valley. The Alliance has enabled the watershed to evolve into a dynamic working landscape and laboratory. Funding is in place for a variety of restoration projects. A valley-wide prescribed fire plan is in place. Arroyo restoration and water harvesting from ranch road workshops are held regularly. The Alliance has launched an endowment to fund the Altar Valley Research Fellowship program, which is awarded annually.

Perhaps most importantly, the Alliance has given cowboys and conservationists common ground to pursue shared goals. With the Alliance's influence, relationships that either did not exist or were tenuous at best are now respectful and mutually beneficial. Pima County has become a key player in the valley landscape as over 200,000 acres of agricultural land that could have been sold into development have instead become part of the Maeveen Behan Conservation Lands System. The Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge has become a partner, rather than an adversary.

The Alliance as an organization has also seen incredible growth in the last sixteen years. The fall of 2010 saw the Alliance move from a low budget volunteer group to a professional organization with part-time staff. Additionally, the Alliance now has a presence on the Web. Please visit us at www.altarvalleyconservation.org.

When we look back on all that has been accomplished in the past sixteen years, we are amazed. It has taken a lot of perseverance and elbow grease, but we can't argue with the results. Your support has been critical to all of our achievements. We continue to count on your support, and we look forward to sharing our success with you in the future.

Patricia King
Patricia King
President

Mary Miller
Mary Miller
Vice-President



WHAT IS THE ALTAR VALLEY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE?

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance is a collaborative conservation organization founded in 1995, and incorporated as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization in 2000. The Alliance began in response to the realization that chances of keeping the Altar Valley open for agriculture in the next generation seemed slim.

From the beginning, the newly formed alliance of neighbors reached out to land and resource agencies with responsibilities in the watershed. People gradually became acquainted, found common ground, and worked to respect differences. Finally, these concerned parties agreed to take on collaborative watershed restoration and enhancement projects to protect the land and lifestyles they loved. Today, the Alliance is organized to deliver programs facilitating on-the-ground stewardship projects, education and scientific research.

Altar Valley partners have transcended late 20th century conflict between grazing and environmental protection. Cowboys, conservationists and bureaucrats have joined forces to create 21st century history that celebrates and practices the best of the old and new ways of taking care of land, wildlife, and people.

OUR MISSION

The Alliance mission is to have “ranchers and other agriculturalists work collaboratively as the AVCA with our partners to leave the next generation with an economically and biologically productive watershed, a thriving agricultural community, and rural life enriched by the culture and history of the Altar Valley.”

TIMELINE

- 1995 Altar Valley Conservation Alliance formed by neighboring ranchers
- 1997 Watershed Resource Assessment launched with partners
- 2000 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization status granted
- 2000 Scientific foundation for work established when Resource Assessment completed
- 2001-2005 Alliance Board members serve on Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Steering Committee
- 2005 Restoration experts Bill Zeedyk & Steve Carson instruct on watershed restoration
- 2007 David Seibert becomes the AVCA Restoration Coordinator
- 2007 Environmental Stewardship Award from Pima County and Arizona Farm Bureau
- 2008 US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners program grants fund arroyo habitat conservation
- 2009 Landmark Watershed Fire plan completed
- 2009 National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grants to prepare five prescribed fire plans
- 2010 Science Advisory Board established and 1st Scientific Research Fellowship awarded
- 2010 Launched www.altarvalleyconservation.org
- 2010 Received The Quivira Coalition’s Burch Award for collaborative conservation
- 2011 Completion of three burn plans of 8,000 acres on three ranches
- 2011 Completion of over 600 arroyo restoration structures, which has positively affected 12,000 acres on individual ranches throughout the watershed and on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge.

2011 STEWARDS

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance would like to express our very sincere thanks to those individuals, businesses and organizations that have partnered with us to help keep the Altar Valley an open, healthy and agriculturally productive landscape.

Individuals

Kacee Adams
Stewart Aitchison & Ann Kramer
Kristina Allen
Savanna Anglin
Mark Arns
Kerry Baldwin
Fern & Jim Barushok
Cathy Blodgett
JoJo Bradford
William & NancyBell Burke
Thomas Burkett
Steve & Nansy Carson
Holly & Jason Cathcart
Faya Causey
Jack & Anna Childs
Jim & Sue Chilton
Jan & Mike Cochran
JT & Gay Coe
Gordon Darby
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Diana Freshwater
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Marijean Holland
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Kathy Maynard
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Kate McCarthy
Michael & Kay McCarthy
Sharon McDonough-Means
Andrew & Micaela McGibbon
Charley & Mary Miller
Bob & Jan Miller
I. George Miller
Don E. Moseley
Jim Murphy
Walter & Isabel Nash
Ken & Barbara Newman
Dale & Jennifer Nunn
Cherry Provost
Jim Reimann
Dan Robinett
Dan Rusk
Barbara Seibert
Robert Sharp
Tom Sheridan
Steve & Sue Sidles
Charlie & Elaine Silverson
Fred & Ellie Silverstein
Britta Simmons
Marcy Smith
Sherie Steele
Ann Stevens
Pat & Hud Stoddard
Jocelyn & Jim Stoller
Karri & Robert Stowe
Tom Sullivan
Beth Sullivan
Robert & Virginia Swain
Susan Tanner
Walt & Nancy Taylor

Frank & Becky Toupal
Gene & Charly Tucker
Deanne & Tom Urmy
Raul & Lorenia Vega
Ruth Venable
Hedda Windisch von Goeben
Dick & Jan Walden
Nancy Waldrop
Laura Lee Walker
Peter & Gail Wilson
Ronell & Clark Woolston
Bill & Mary Zeedyk

Businesses

Arbuckles
AZ Land & Water Trust
The Bill Ganz Band
Carol Brooks Parker Photography
Caterpillar Inc, Tinaja Hills
Chad’s Steakhouse
Cindy Lou’s Restaurant
CNA Foundation
Coronado RC & D
Elkhorn Ranch
The Family Tree
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Mines, Inc.
Sierrita Operations
Green Valley Pecan Co.
Hush Salon
IBM Matching Program
Jonathan’s Cork
Kingfisher American Grill
Newmans’ Design Mine
Pastiche Modern Eatery
Quivira Coalition
Rangeland Hands, Inc.
Schnittker & Davidson
Shooters
The Three Points Restaurant
Tierra Viva
Tubac Golf Resort & Span
Tucson Trap & Skeet Club
Zeedyk Ecological Consulting
Zocalo

If your name was omitted from this list or misspelled, please accept our sincere apology and notify us so that we may correct our records. These lists reflect only donations received between November 1, 2010 and October 31, 2011.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW: November 1, 2010 – October 31, 2011

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance's 2011 revenue between November 1, 2010 - October 31, 2011 totaled \$163,166 plus \$195,000 in matching gifts. This included \$23,166 in donor contributions, along with awards and grant payments. During that time period, project expenses, operating expenses and deposits to our endowment totaled \$122,945, leaving \$40,221 to carry forward.

In November 2010, the Alliance was the recipient of the \$20,000 Clarence Burch Award from The Quivira Coalition, which launched the Altar Valley Research Fellowship Endowment. The award "recognizes individuals, organizations and others who have led by example in promoting and accomplishing outstanding stewardship or private and/or public lands."

As of October 31, 2011, endowed funds related to the Altar Valley Research Fellowship and reserve funds totaled \$44,374.29. The Pima Pineapple Cactus mitigation funds total \$30,388.

The Alliance received \$120,567 in grants that went to work in the field. The Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department also pledged to contribute up to \$50,000 in a matching grant for a road restoration project scheduled for January 2012.

2011 GRANTS & AGREEMENTS

Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge Challenge Cost-Share Grant
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department
Pima County Regional Flood Control District
Tucson Habitat Partnership Committee
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Service Provider Grant

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT

The Altar Valley Fire Management Plan (completed in 2009) continued to set the stage in 2011 for conducting prescribed fires on private, State School Trust and leased federal land throughout the watershed. This plan complements ongoing prescribed fire treatment on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. Fire is a natural part of grassland ecology. It encourages diversity in plant species and a healthy balance between deep rooted woody species and grasses and forbes. Thanks to major support from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and generous partner matches, three site specific plans have been completed for prescribed fire projects in the Sierrita Mountains (Signal Peak Fire) and on private ranches on the west side of the watershed (West Mill and Pig Mountain Fires). Planning is currently underway for a fourth fire on Pima County land near Arivaca, and one more site is still to be determined for work in 2012. These projects bring together landowners, wildlife and resource management officials, along with range management and fire experts - a demonstration of collaborative conservation at its best!

Alliance Partners

Altar Valley Agricultural Operations:

Arivaca Ranch
Baboquivari Peak Ranch and Palo Alto Ranch
Buckelew Farms (Pima County)
Chilton Ranch - Arivaca
Diamond Bell Ranch (Pima County)
Elkhorn Ranch
Jarillas Ranch
King Anvil Ranch
Kings 98 and Old Hayhook Ranch (Pima County)
Marley Ranch (Pima County)
McGee Ranch and Sierrita Mining and Ranching
Noon Ranch
Rancho El Mirador
Rancho Seco (Pima County)
Santa Lucia Ranch (Pima County)
Santa Margarita Ranch
Sierra Vista Ranch
Southern Arizona Rangeland Honey
Stockwell Honey Company

Partner Organizations:

Altar Valley School District (AVSD)
Arivaca Fire District (AFD)
Arivaca Watershed Education Task Force (AWET)
Arizona Antelope Foundation, Inc. (AAF)
Arizona Cattle Growers Association (ACGA)
Arizona Farm Bureau (AFB)
Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD)
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Tucson Habitat Partnership Committee
Arizona Land and Water Trust (ALWT)
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (ASDM)
Arizona State Land Department (ASLD)
Coronado Resource Conservation & Development Area (Coronado RC&D)
Friends of Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
Freeport-McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation
Pima County Regional Flood Control District
Pima County Farm Bureau (PCFB)
Pima Natural Resource Conservation District (Pima NRCD)
Quivira Coalition
RangeLand Hands
Robinett Rangeland Resources, LLC
San Fernando School District
Seibert Ecological Restoration, LLC
Sky Island Institute Volunteers
Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association (SACPA)
Southwest Coordination Center (SWCC)
The Nature Conservancy, Arizona (TNC)
Three Points Fire District
University of Arizona, FROG Conservation Project
University of Arizona, School of Anthropology
University of Arizona, School of Natural Resources and the Environment (SNRE)
University of Arizona, Southwest Center (SWC)
University of Arizona, Tierra Seca Club
U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
U.S. Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
Arizona Ecological Services Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR)
U.S. Forest Service, Coronado National Forest
U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona
WestLand Resources, Inc.
Zeedyk Ecological Consulting, LLC

Sister Collaborative Conservation Organizations:

Diablo Trust
Malpai Borderlands Group (MBG)
Quivira Coalition





Altar Valley Conservation Alliance
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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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www.altarvalleyconservation.org

