

THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

CONSERVING LAND FOR PEOPLE

Arizona

FALL/WINTER 2005

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FILL A NICHE

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TRIBAL LANDS PROGRAM
MAKES A DIFFERENCE

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PRESERVING WATERWAYS,
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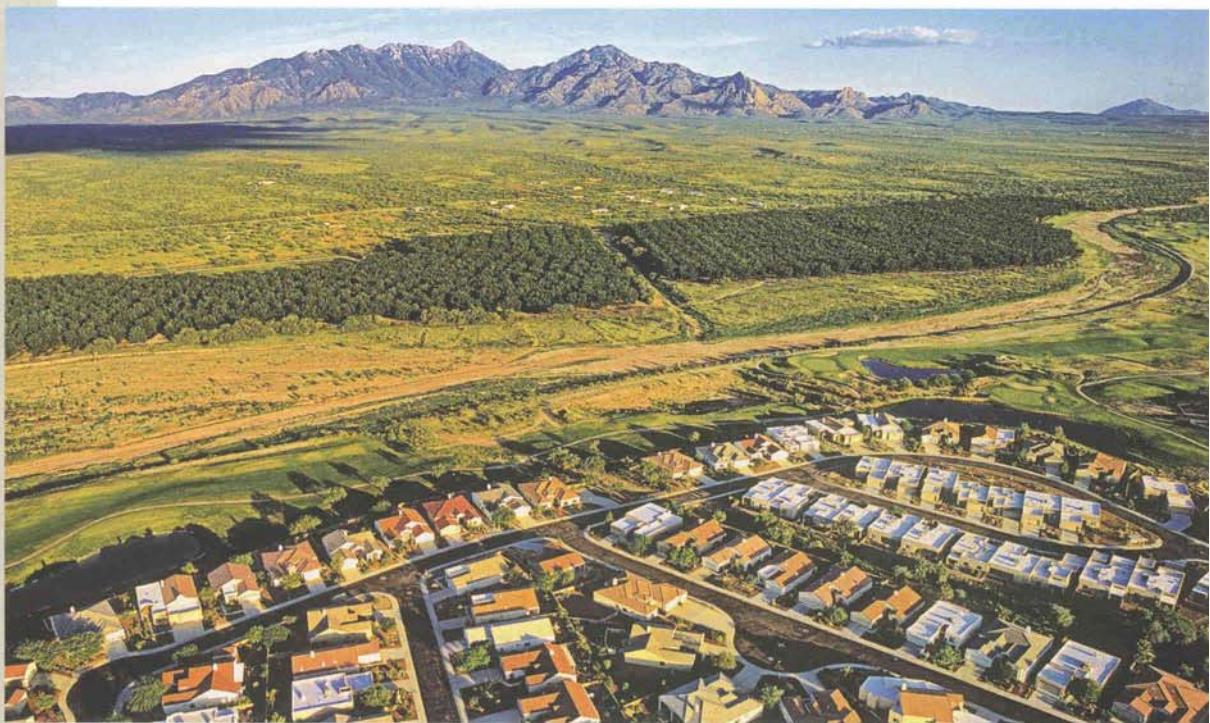
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PROACTIVELY PROTECTING
LAND IN ARIZONA

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TRAIL IN OAK CREEK
CANYON PROTECTED

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With the Santa Rita Mountains on the horizon, closely spaced homes press against the Santa Cruz River. AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY © ADRIEL HEISEY

PARTNERING TO PROTECT A LIVING RIVER

BY AMY MCCOY

Cool mornings, towering cumulus clouds, and thundering afternoon rainstorms signal monsoon season in the Sonoran Desert. Rivers come to life during the monsoon, recharging groundwater and sustaining the cottonwood and willow that in turn support hundreds of other species.

The Santa Cruz River is no exception. The upper Santa Cruz corridor extends north from the city of Nogales on the U.S.–Mexico border some 25 miles through Santa Cruz County in southeastern Arizona. As the distinguishing natural feature of the region, the river supports the area's ecology, culture, and people—a constant ribbon of life connecting grasslands to deserts, the U.S. to Mexico, and the past to the present. Adjacent to modern organic farms and stylish adobe homes, the Juan Bautista de

Anza National Historic Trail runs parallel to the river. Other evidence of human settlement along the river dates back 13,000 years.

“The Santa Cruz River is the cradle of civilization in this region,” says Sherry Sass, a founder of the Friends of the Santa Cruz River, a locally based conservation group. “People have lived, farmed, and traveled alongside Arizona's rivers for thousands of years, and history has been made along their banks. Furthermore,

continued inside ...

*The Trust for Public Land conserves
land for people to enjoy as parks, gardens,
and other natural places, ensuring livable
communities for generations to come.*

Field Notes



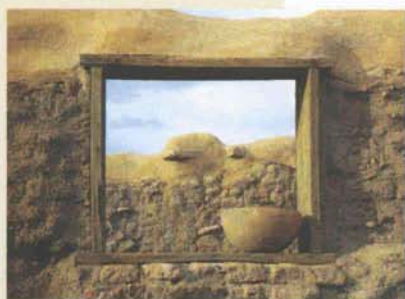
ECO SAVINGS

The Trust for Public Land Western Region's newsletters use 100 percent recycled paper made with 50 percent post-consumer waste and bleached without the use of chlorine or chlorine compounds. Through our commitment to use this paper, every year, TPL saves:

- ♣ 78 trees,
- ♣ 16,744 gallons of water, and
- ♣ 34 million BTUs of energy in addition to not producing:
 - ♣ 3,664 pounds of solid waste,
 - ♣ 14 pounds of air emissions,
 - ♣ 150 pounds of hazardous effluent,
 - ♣ 6,190 pounds of greenhouse gases.

(Environmental benefits courtesy of New Leaf Paper. Calculated based on research done by Environmental Defense, members of the Paper Task Force, and Conservatree.)

(Top of page) Visitors explore the 13th century Honankí Cliff Dwellings near Sedona. PHOTO BY SUZANNE CLEMENZ (Below) Clay pot made in a traditional style on display at Tumacácori National Historical Park in the Upper Santa Cruz River Valley reflects the long heritage of this area. PHOTO BY BRIAN P. ANDERSON



TRIBAL LANDS PROGRAM MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Alvin Warren, the director of TPL's Tribal Lands Program, understands how important land is to the tribes of the Southwest. "Land is our life, our sovereignty, our home. It feeds us, sustains us, enables us to keep alive our culture for the next generation," he says.

Together with Associate Director Milton Bluehouse, Jr.—a member of the Navajo Nation who grew up in Ganado, Arizona—Warren helps TPL build collaborative partnerships with tribes to help them regain and conserve land.

"In the U.S., we are gifted to have 562 federally recognized tribes," says Warren. "Many tribal cultures are still vibrant, but many are at risk. By listening to and working in conjunction with tribal leaders and staff, we have an opportunity to restore tribal land to maintain these land-based cultures, and retain the richness of who we are as a country."

Warren hopes that, through the national Tribal Lands Program, TPL volunteers, supporters, and staff will gain a "sense of urgency, and a commitment to this important and long overdue work." ♣

For more information about TPL's national Tribal Lands Program, or to find out how you can help, please contact Alvin Warren, director, at (505) 988-5922 ext. 11 or email alvin.warren@tpl.org.



Alvin Warren (left) and Milton Bluehouse, Jr., from TPL's Tribal Lands Program

PHOTO BY LAUREL SAVING

PRESERVING WATERWAYS, HISTORY, AND CULTURE

For millennia, people have traveled, traded, settled, and explored along Arizona's rivers. From 1775 through 1776, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza—on orders from the viceroy of Nueva España—led 200 people from Culiacán, Mexico, along the Santa Cruz and Gila Rivers and across the Colorado River to California to settle the port of San Francisco. The immigrants, almost all born on this continent with mixed European, African, or Indian ancestry, brought with them their languages and traditions. Their passage shaped the future of the American West and changed the lives of the indigenous peoples they encountered, including the Tohono O'odham, Cahuilla, Chumash, Esselen, Ohlone, and Bay Miwok peoples.

TPL—Arizona works to preserve evidence of America's diverse heritage by protecting landscapes that sustained and carried our predecessors, especially those along Arizona's waterways. ♣

In 1990, the U.S. Congress authorized the creation of the Juan Bautista de Anza Historic Trail, which is administered by the National Park Service in partnership with other federal, state, and local agencies as well as nonprofits and private landowners. For more information about the trail, visit www.nps.gov/juba/.