



Coalition for
Sonoran Desert
Protection

Welcome!



Bill Lesch

Dear Pamela,

Thank you so much for joining us at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival this past Wednesday! We hope you had a great evening and enjoyed all the films. It was wonderful to meet so many new people, like you, and have a chance to share about our work protecting the Sonoran Desert in our backyards.

In the next week, you'll be receiving two more emails from us with information about our projects and ideas on how you can get more involved as a volunteer and citizen supporter. Our volunteers and supporters are essential to our success and we have a lot of exciting projects currently underway.



www.sonorandesert.org

5/8/2015 12:18 AM

We'd also love to hear from you!

Are there any special places in the Sonoran Desert that are close to your heart? Do you have any news or events you want to share? [Please be in touch.](#)

This mountain lion photo was captured from one of our remote wildlife cameras along Oracle Road in Catalina State Park.

Again, **thank you for coming out to the Wild & Scenic Film Festival!** We look forward to getting to know you more and are grateful for your support of our beautiful Sonoran Desert home.

For the desert,



Carolyn

Carolyn



Kathleen

Kathleen



Hannah

Hannah

P.S. If you want the most up-to-date information about Coalition projects, event announcements, and other fun links about the Sonoran Desert, please [connect with us on Facebook](#) too!

Donate Now



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Welcome!



Bill Lesch

Dear Pamela,

We're still thinking about all the wonderful films shown at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival last week. Are you? Thanks again for coming out and showing your support for environmental films!

Did you know the Sonoran Desert is the most biologically-rich desert in North America? *It is also one of the most threatened.*



An artist rendition of the vegetated wildlife bridge currently under construction over Oracle Road! This structure will provide a safe passage for wildlife over this busy roadway.

With the invaluable support of our donors and volunteers, we are working hard to protect and re-connect the Sonoran Desert in Pima County for both people and wildlife.

Your involvement is critical to our success. And we hope to get to know you more in the future. We thought we'd start the conversation by sharing more about what we do and all the exciting projects we are currently working on.

As a coalition, we aim to leverage the expertise, experience, and knowledge-base of our [member groups](#) (40 strong!), individual citizen supporters, and other environmental partners into long-lasting positive change for Sonoran Desert conservation in Pima County, Arizona.

We primarily focus on:

- [Conservation of connected open space](#) – Pima County currently owns or manages over 200,000 acres of open space. **The Coalition has been involved for over 15 years in the creation and expansion of this preserve system, which includes riparian areas, grasslands, and upland desert.** We also work with local landowners, developers, and home builders to integrate open space into new developments.

This November, we encourage you to **vote YES on Proposition 430** in Pima County's Bond Election. Prop 430 includes \$95 million for new open space purchases, allowing Pima County to continue "connecting the dots" between existing preserves.

- **Protecting and re-connecting wildlife linkages** – We coordinate and advocate for **the construction of wildlife crossings across our roadways and the preservation of connected open space** and important habitat between our local mountain ranges.
- **Protecting wildlife habitat and vulnerable wildlife species** – We partner with Pima County and other local governments on the creation of Habitat Conservation Plans that **protect threatened wildlife species and their habitat.**

All of our work falls under the umbrella of [Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan](#), a visionary regional conservation plan that was adopted in 1998. We are also involved with water resources protection, renewable energy, opposing the Rosemont Mine, and reforming Arizona's State Trust land system.

We're working on a lot of exciting projects and we'd love for you to become more involved!

If you want to know more about any of these projects, please [visit our website](#) or feel free to call us. We'd love to hear from you!

Thanks so much again.

For the desert,



Carolyn

Carolyn



Kathleen

Kathleen



Hannah

Hannah

P.S. Next week you'll be receiving one more "Welcome" email from us describing all the ways our citizen supporters can be involved in our work, from volunteering for our wildlife camera project to using your voice at public meetings. See you then!

Donate Now

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





Bill Lesch

Dear Pamela,

Here we go! Our final “Welcome” email to you. So far, we’ve introduced ourselves and given you a brief run-down of our main projects. We also want you to know about all the ways [you can be involved](#) in protecting the Sonoran Desert.

These generally break down into volunteering, using your voice, and your financial support.

VOLUNTEER

- **Wildlife Linkages Camera Project Field Crew** – This [volunteer-driven project](#) documents wildlife in nearby wildlife linkages. Volunteers take regular hikes to our



wildlife linkages. Volunteers take regular hikes to our cameras, swapping out memory cards and doing any necessary camera maintenance. They also get the first peek at all the wildlife photos! Our camera volunteers are an inclusive and dedicated group of people. **We are currently recruiting volunteers for new cameras being placed in the Tucson-Tortolita Mountains wildlife linkage.**



Volunteers enjoying the outdoors and installing a wildlife camera to collect valuable data.

[Please let us know if you're interested.](#)

- **Wildlife Linkages Camera Project Office Crew** – After the wildlife photos are uploaded to a secure website, volunteers come into our office and help us sort the photos by wildlife species. This allows us to analyze the photos, create fun graphs and graphics, and use the information to influence and inform policy decisions.
- **Mailing Parties** – A few times a year, we get together with a core group of volunteers at our office and assemble fundraising packets to send to our supporters. We provide food, drinks, and lively conversation. It's a lot of fun – we promise!

USING YOUR VOICE: SPEAK UP FOR THE SONORAN DESERT

Much of our work involves working with local governments to advocate for strong environmental policies, the protection of open space, and protecting local wildlife species. We often ask our supporters to write letters, attend public meetings, or call their elected officials in support of our positions and recommendations. It makes such a big difference!

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Please consider joining us as a [donor](#). We are grateful for every single one of our donors, no matter how often or much you give. One great option is becoming a member of our [Desert Champions](#), our recurring donors who give regularly (usually monthly). There are special perks and benefits and we'd love to have you join the club!

Thank you again for coming out to the Wild & Scenic Film Festival at The Loft. **We look forward to getting to know you more and we'll be in touch soon!**

For the desert,



Carolyn

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Kathleen

Kathleen



Hannah

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P.S. For the most up-to-date information about our projects, member groups, and other news, head to our [Facebook page](#).

Donate Now