



Center For Biological Diversity

- **Mission Statement:**
 - "We believe that the health and vigor of human societies and the integrity and wildness of the natural environment are closely linked. Beyond their extraordinary intrinsic value, animals and plants, in their distinctness and variety, offer irreplaceable emotional and physical benefits to our lives and play an integral part in culture. Their loss, which parallels the loss of diversity within and among human civilizations, impoverishes us beyond repair. Combining conservation biology with litigation, policy advocacy, and an innovative strategic vision, the Center for Biological Diversity is working to secure a future for animals and plants hovering on the brink of extinction, for the wilderness they need to survive, and by extension for the spiritual welfare of generations to come.



Biodiversity

- “structural and functional variety of life forms at genetic, population, community, and ecosystem levels”
- A healthy Ecosystem needs diversity.
 - Human disturbance generally decreases diversity.
- The Sonoran Desert has unique diverse species.



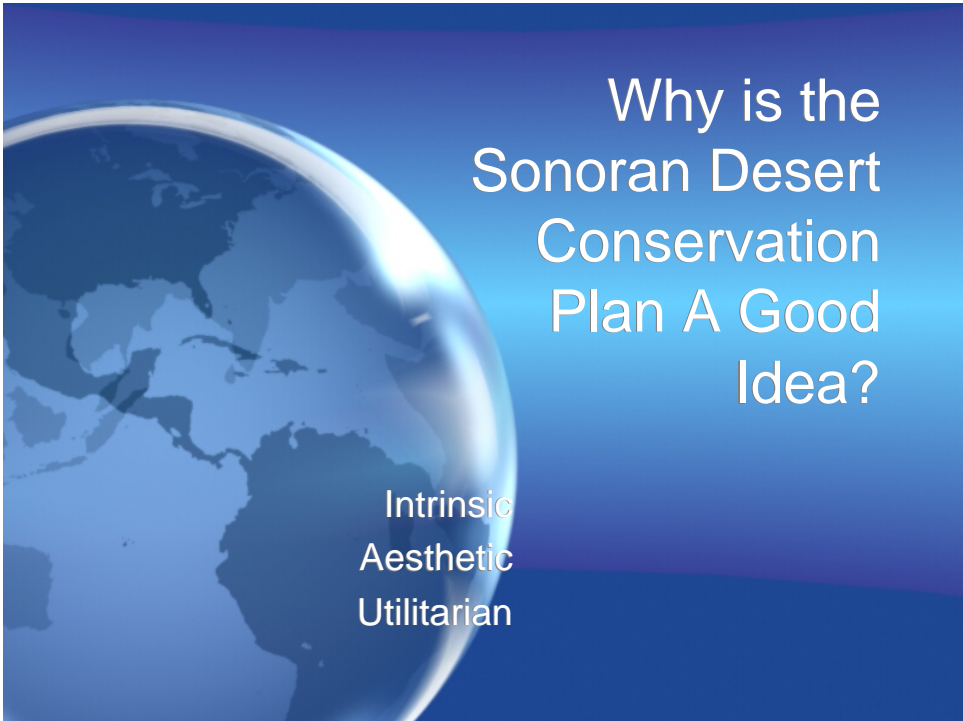
SDCP Diversity

- 9 mammals
 - 8 birds
 - 7 reptiles
 - 7 plants
 - 6 fish
 - 2 amphibians
 - numerous invertebrates
- These species are in immediate or inevitable danger of extinction if their habitat is not soon protected.



What will the SDCP Do?

- Covers 5.9 million Acres including the Sonoran desert, sky island ecosystems and the Tucson metropolitan area.
- Basic goals
 - To Protect key habitats with connecting corridors, by limiting growth.
 - This will promote immigration and gene pool variation, A.K.A. healthy viable populations
 - Bioplanning
 - natural resource assessment and planning. Protection of natural, cultural and historical resources.



Why is the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan A Good Idea?

Intrinsic
Aesthetic
Utilitarian

The Intrinsic and Aesthetic Value of Life

We value nature because we are inextricably linked to all life on the planet. Life is beautiful and this beauty is in itself a reason to preserve our environment and its diverse ecosystems.



Utilitarian

- Ground Water Use
 - increased groundwater pumping has destroyed streams and other riparian habitats, and is unsustainable .



Urban Sprawl

- "Most Urban areas have plans or programs that protect to some extent natural, historical and cultural resources and a different set of ordinances that regulate the built environment" SDCP as described by Pima County.

Pro's of the SDCP

- Greatest threat = habitat loss
 - SDCP is a habitat conservation plan & multiple species/systems protected .
- Protects species without federally designated critical habitat (pygmy owl)





Con's of the SDCP

- Habitat Conservation Plans not perfect
- Incidental take
- “No Surprises”



Questions?



resources

- <http://www.fws.gov/endangered/>
- <http://www.fws.gov/arizonaes/cactus.htm>
- <http://www.biologicaldiversity.org/swcbd/aboutus/index.html>
- <http://www.co.pima.az.us/cmo/sdcp/index.htm>
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