

PIMA COUNTY DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BIOLOGICAL IMPACT REPORT GUIDELINES

(April 2003)

With the Board of Supervisors' approval of Ordinance No. 2001-103 in July 2001, Chapter 18.91 of the Zoning Code was amended to require that a Biological Impact Report be included as part of the documentation submitted for rezoning applications, Type 2 and Type 3 conditional use permits, zoning plan plat waivers, modification to or waiver of rezoning conditions, and requests for rezoning time extensions. The Biological Impact Report is a tool which staff will use to facilitate an assessment of the proposed project's potential to impact sensitive biological resources. A project's design should, to the greatest extent possible, seek to conserve these important resources. The Biological Impact Report should, at a minimum, include responses to all the questions set forth below.

A significant amount of the information requested below is available on Pima County's MapGuide. To access the MapGuide version that displays the appropriate SDCP information, go to www.dot.co.pima.az.us/gis/maps and click on the Preliminary Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Maps under the Maps From Others section. Then activate the View Interactive MapGuide Map. If you don't readily find the data layer referenced in the following questions, continue to zoom in until the desired data layer appears in the menu box.

Should you have specific questions about compiling the Biological Impact Report or any of the information being requested, please contact Sherry Ruther, Environmental Planning Manager, at 520/740-6800.

Landscape Resources

1. Identify whether the proposed project site occurs within any Conservation Lands System (CLS) Category or contains any portion of an Important Riparian Area or any wash with a discharge of 250 cubic feet per second or greater. (NOTE: Any wash with a discharge value of 250 cubic feet per second or greater, regardless of whether the wash is designated as an Important Riparian Area or lies within or outside the CLS boundaries, is considered to be part of the CLS. Such washes have an associated conservation level of 95% as identified in the Comprehensive Plan.)
2. For each CLS Category identified in the response to Question No.1, explain how the proposed project accomplishes the associated level of conservation per the Comprehensive Plan.

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(CLS Category information is viewable on MapGuide; information on the discharge of a wash is not viewable on MapGuide. Discharge information is available from Floodplain Management. Call 243-1800 or visit their offices at 97 E. Congress St., 3rd Floor.)

NOTE: If you are preparing a Biological Impact Report in support of a rezoning application that must comply with the Site Analysis Requirements, you must depict any area(s) to be set aside for conservation purposes on your Preliminary Development Plan.

3. Identify any Special Elements that may occur on or in the immediate vicinity of the project site. Explain the nature of any impacts to these resources and any mitigation measures taken to reduce these impacts.

"Special Elements" are a definitive list of certain landscape features and vegetation communities that make significant contributions to retaining our biodiversity. These resources are identified and discussed in a March 18, 2002 report titled Special Elements that was prepared by Pima County as part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan planning process. (A copy of this report is available from Pima County Graphic Services – 520/205-8300. Special Elements are also viewable on MapGuide.)

4. Identify whether the proposed project occurs in the vicinity of any of the six general areas identified as Critical Landscape Linkages. (Critical Landscape Linkages are not viewable on MapGuide. Textual descriptions of these 6 general areas can be found on a hardcopy of the Conservation Lands System Map and are included as Attachment A.)

Federally Listed Threatened/Endangered Species

Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl:

1. Does the proposed project site occur within Survey Zone 1 for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl?
2. In 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed Critical Habitat and draft Recovery Areas for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl. Does the proposed project site occur in an area identified as Proposed Critical Habitat (11/27/02) or Draft Recovery Area for the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl? Please specify which area(s) the proposed project site occurs in. (Proposed Critical Habitat -11/27/02 and Draft Recovery Areas are viewable on MapGuide.)

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3. Has the proposed project site been surveyed for pygmy-owls?
 - a. If yes, disclose the dates when surveys were done and provide a summary of the results.
 - b. If no, are surveys planned in the future?
4. If your proposed project occurs within Survey Zone 1, Proposed Critical Habitat, or a Draft Recovery Area, please explain how your project design conserves resources important to the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl's nesting habitat and dispersal activities.

Pima Pineapple Cactus:

1. Does the proposed project site occur within Modeled Potential Habitat for the Pima pineapple cactus? (This information is viewable on MapGuide.)
2. Have Pima pineapple cactus been found on the proposed project site?
3. Has the proposed project site been surveyed for Pima pineapple cactus?
 - a. If yes, disclose the date when surveys were done and provide a summary of the results.
 - b. If no, are surveys planned in the future?

ATTACHMENT A

Conservation Lands System Critical Landscape Linkages

By definition, Critical Landscape Linkages are areas where habitat loss and fragmentation by roads and other infrastructure pose major challenges to wildlife movement.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 1. Across the Interstate 10/Santa Cruz River corridors in the northwest.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 2. Through Oro Valley, between the Catalina and Tortolita Mountains.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 3. Across the Interstate 10 corridor along Cienega Creek in the east.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 4. Across the Interstate 19 and Santa Cruz River corridors in southern Pima County.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 5. Across the Garcia Strip extension of the Tohono O'odham Reservation.

Critical Landscape Linkage No. 6. The CAP Canal in Avra Valley.