

## **1. NAME/ORGANIZATION**

Town of Sahuarita

## **2. PROJECT TITLE**

Initial Assessment of Pima Mine Road, Old Nogales Highway, Nogales Highway, and Quail Creek Crossing Extension

## **3. INTRODUCTION**

### **Proposal purpose**

The purpose of this proposal is to request RTA Wildlife Linkages funding for initial wildlife assessment of Pima Mine Road, Old Nogales Highway, Nogales Highway, and Quail Creek Crossing Extension. These roads will be undergoing improvements in the next 3-5 years and it would be extremely useful to begin monitoring the animals that are crossing, their traveling patterns, and accounting for animal-vehicle collisions (AVC). This information would in-turn be used and incorporated into the planning, design and construction of structures that will promote and enhance the survivability of the local wildlife. The location of these roads are shown on exhibit 1.

### **Project background**

The Sahuarita area has never had a wildlife study performed. These roads proposed are some of the heaviest traveled roads in the area and some of the most likely to have AVC collisions, a particular concern due to the increasing rate of commercial and residential development that is expected to occur within the next several years. A study of these roads at this time would be helpful for planning purposes. It would be extremely helpful to know the type, number, and location of animals utilizing these corridors to install appropriate mitigation structures, as well as design additional mitigation measures that could facilitate use of existing structures.

### **Ramifications of no action**

These studies are crucial to understand the distribution, behavior, and movement patterns of wildlife in this area. The Town of Sahuarita can plan and design projects to alleviate and curb the mortality rate of animals in these areas. This information can be shared with other jurisdictions in the area to establish a county-wide information database.

#### 4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this project are to:

- Determine the types of animals in the area
- Identify travel patterns to build structures suitable for animal use
- Identify areas within Pima County that warrant the placement of wildlife permeability structures
- Establish techniques for identifying current wildlife pathways across roadways for multiple wildlife species and/or guilds of wildlife
- Determine the necessary corridor width needed to pass wildlife safely to and from roadway wildlife crossings

#### 5. FINAL DELIVERABLES

The final deliverable for this project is to accomplish the objectives set in this proposal. This information will then be shared with engineering designers to take into construction/planning consideration.

#### 6. TIME TABLE

The schedule listed in the table below is a tentative schedule.

Phase	Schedule
Initial Permeability Analysis	Late 2009-Early 2010
Initial Studies anticipated completion date	Mid 2010-Early 2011

#### 7. BUDGET SUMMARY

Initial Permeability Analysis (Pima Mine Road, Old Nogales/Nogales Highway, & Quail Creek Extension)	\$100,000
<b>Estimated Costs for Studies:</b>	<b>\$100,000</b>

##### Permeability Analysis

*Pima Mine Road, Old Nogales Highway, and Nogales Highway*

Project Manager: 56 hours	\$5,320
Biologist II: 162 hours	\$8,910
Biologist III: 106 hours	\$9,010
GIS Specialist: 56 hours	\$3,640
Technical Writer/Editor: 48 hours	\$4,080
Administrative: 8 hours	\$440

Travel: mileage, fuel	\$3,500
Copies, datasheets, printing materials	\$100
<i>Quail Creek Crossing Extension</i>	
Project Manager: 92 hours	\$8,740
Biologist I: 328 hours	\$14,760
Biologist II: 208 hours	\$11,440
Biologist III: 66 hours	\$5,610
GIS Specialist: 20 hours	\$1,020
Technical Writer/Editor: 12 hours	\$680
Administrative: 8 hours	\$440
Travel: mileage, fuel	\$4,969
Supplies: remotely-triggered digital cameras and accessories, tracking supplies, and sampling equipment and materials	\$17,111
Copies, datasheets, printing materials	\$230
<b><i>Total Cost</i></b>	<b><i>\$100,000</i></b>

**8. LIST OF COOPERATORS**

The project is located in both Pima County and the Town of Sahuarita. The Town of Sahuarita will be taking the lead on this project for the design and construction.

Pima County Department of Transportation  
201 N. Stone Ave., 3rd Floor  
Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

SWCA Environmental Consultants  
343 West Franklin St.  
Tucson, AZ 85701

# Exhibit 1 – Location Map

