

# AZ Sportsmen For Wildlife Conservation GRANT COMPLETION REPORT

Use tab or arrow keys to move between fields and shift-tab to go back  
Fillable Fields will expand as you type.

Project Title: South Legunita Grassland Restoration Project

Organization: Altar Valley Conservation Alliance

Event/Project Completion Date: July 1, 2021

Project Location (Include info such as event center, hunting unit, etc.): 36C in Region V

Submitted By: Sarah King

E-mail: sarah@altarvalleyconservation.org

Phone #: 520-820-5337

**Today's Date:** 7/9/2021

AZSFWC Recognition:

**AZSFWC Logo and Link to AZSFWC on organization's website?** (attach screen print image) Yes  No

License Plate Image w/link to MVD **on organization's website?** (attach screen print image) Yes  No

AZSFWC Logo displayed at event? (attach photo(s)) Yes  No

AZSFWC recognized in all marketing materials & post event articles? (attach all samples) Yes  No

The project and AZSFWC's support are featured on the AVCA website and were featured in AVCA's Annual Report.

List any social media recognition of AZSFWC (include all screen print images)

Was there any media or press coverage? (attach copies if available) Yes  No

List any other recognition?

Summarize Project Accomplishments :

The South Legunita Grassland Restoration Project is a 1,100-acre habitat restoration area of semi-desert grassland in the southern portion of the Altar Valley. Five phases of habitat restoration have been completed through mechanical clearing of mesquite. Mesquite overgrowth had decreased the extent and patch size of grassland habitat and outcompeted native grasses that provide food for grassland obligates. The project is located on the Santa Margarita Ranch, on private and Arizona State Trust Land that borders the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. The project benefited wildlife, ranchers, non-profit partners actively engaged in collaborative conservation, hunters and recreationists who enjoy the healthy, open landscapes of the Altar Valley, and the neighboring Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR). The project extended a corridor of treated areas from the BANWR onto private and State lands.

This funding from the AZSFWC completed Phase 4 of the South Legunita Grassland Restoration Project. A contractor grubbed out the mesquite trees with an excavator, and brush was then then piled. Trees and brush were left in the drainages as cover for mule deer and other wildlife, and thinning tapered as uplands transition to drainages. The AGFD Landowner Relations Program matched funding on Phase 4; their program's \$25,000 portion was paid in February 2021.

Since AVCA's **initial** application to AZSFWC funding program for Phase 4, the project received funding for Phase 5, which was also recently completed by the contractor. The funding for phase 5 came from the landowner (\$12,500) and the AGFD's **Habitat** Partnership Committee program. Previous investment and work in this project include:

- Archaeological Surveys on 1,300 acres: \$30,000 Santa Margarita
- Phase 1: \$35,000 AGFD HPC and \$23,000 Partners USFWS
- Phase 2: \$15,000 AGFD Landowner Relations Program (LRP)

- Phase 3: \$50,000 AGFD HPC and \$51,723 ADEQ

Additionally, in the spring of 2021, AGFD funded cultural resources clearances for another 1000 acres adjacent to the original 5 phases that will be part of future brush clearing phases. In February 2021, AVCA and a hydrology team related to the Altar Valley Watershed Working Group visited the site, and is working on a project that would engineer the tank located at the site to better hold water, and allow water from the spillway to flow onto the landscape and increase grass growth following clearing.

Measurable Results (Fill in all that are applicable):

Attendees (If project was an event, list total # of participants, excluding staff, visiting parents, etc): N/A

Visitors (If the project is an interpretive display, list total # of annual visitors): AVCA has had approximately 70 people out to visit this site. It is not an interpretive display, but the AVCA does hold tours of project sites throughout the Altar Valley, and this site has been used on several field trips to talk about brush management.

Brochures, Pamphlets, etc. (If the project is a brochure, publication, poster or video, list the total produced and distributed): N/A

Other (please explain): Phases 4 and 5 completed: *100 acres cleared via AZSFWC funding*, 100 acres cleared via LRP funding, 50 acres cleared via HPC funding, and 50 acres cleared via landowner funding.

Budget (specifically describe how AZSFWC funds were used; e.g. program promotion, type of equipment, materials and/or supplies, etc.) **ATTACH COPIES OF ALL RECEIPTS:**

Budget Item	Planned	Actual
Excavator Contractor Payment for 100 acres of mesquite clearing	\$25,000	\$25,000

Project Cooperator(s) (please include any in-kind contributions):

Cooperator (no abbreviations)	Amount Contributors \$
Altar Valley Conservation Alliance (staff time - coordination and field trips)	\$1000
Santa Margarita Ranch (Phase 5 funding)	\$12,500
AGFD Landowner Relations Program (Phase 4 funding)	\$25,000
AGFD Habitat Partnership Committee (Phase 5 funding)	\$12,000

\*\*\*The cooperators noted above only reflect Phase 4 & 5 of the full project, which were completed in June 2021.

# Photographs

*Visuals are critical to effectively communicating project accomplishments and are a requirement of AZSFWC project reporting*

Following are a few photo guidelines:

- Submit photos (digital & prints are all welcome) in their original format. No photocopies please.
- Include information regarding photo credits.
- Email to [info@azsfwc.org](mailto:info@azsfwc.org) is our preferred method of receiving digital photos, but large files can submitted via CD/DVD/Flash Drive, or uploaded to an online dropbox.

Please return this completed form and supporting documentation and send along with photos to: AZ Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation Grant Program PO Box 75731 New River, AZ 85087 or e-mail to [info@azsfwc.org](mailto:info@azsfwc.org). Phone: 602-361-6478.



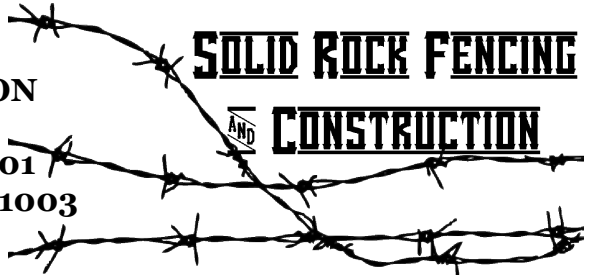












**LOWELL ROBINSON**  
**PO BOX 185**  
**ARIVACA, AZ 85601**  
**PHONE # 520-955-1003**  
**DUNS# 830173899**

**SOLID ROCK FENCING**  
**AND CONSTRUCTION**

# Invoice

Date	Invoice #
7/1/21	83

Bill To

Santa Margarita Ranch

Due Date	Project
7/15/21	

Description	Per Ft. / Item	Rate	Amount
Los Encinos Mesquite Grubbing Phase 4 Excavator with thumb for brush and mesquite clearing	100	250.00	25,000.00
Los Encinos Mesquite Grubbing Phase 5 Excavator with thumb for brush and mesquite clearing Pushed brush into piles using Loader	98	250.00	24,500.00

Thank you for your business

**Total** \$49,500.00

E-mail  
 solidrockfencingaz@gmail.com

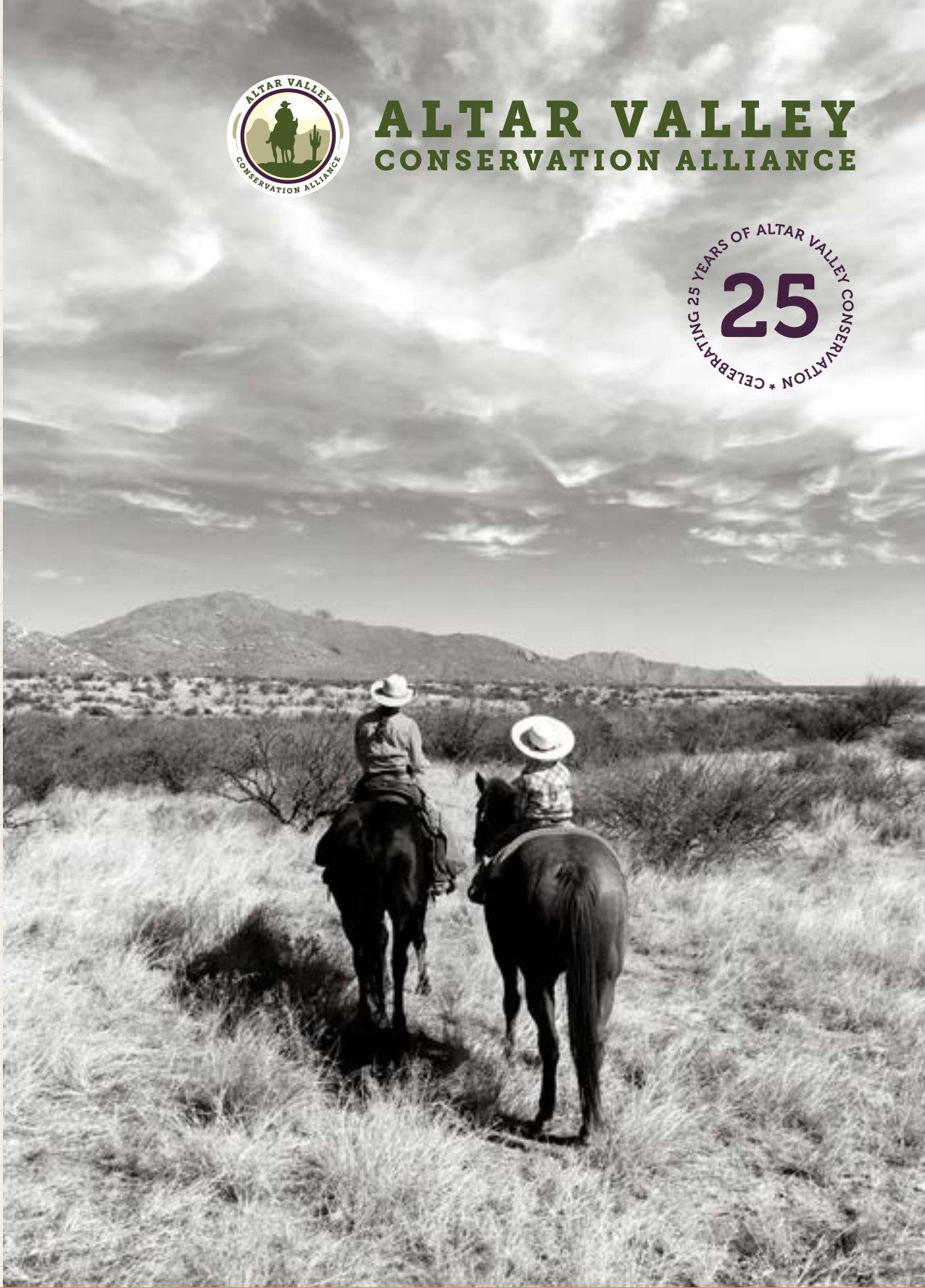
**Payments/Credits** \$0.00

**Balance Due** \$49,500.00

# Annual Report 2020



**ALTAR VALLEY**  
**CONSERVATION ALLIANCE**



Conserving the Altar Valley  
for future generations

# The Alliance's Mission & Vision

The Altar Valley Conservation Alliance is a collaborative conservation organization founded in 1995, and incorporated as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

## THE ALLIANCE'S MISSION STATEMENT

We work through a strongly collaborative, science-based, community driven and integrated approach to:

**CONSERVE** healthy and productive working landscapes, including soil and water conservation, wildfire management, habitat conservation and protection of native species, and other environmental initiatives.

**PROMOTE** a thriving agricultural economy by encouraging improved ranching and farming practices, diversification and innovation, and by supporting programs and policies that support more effective, long-term economic development.

**SUSTAIN** a resilient rural community by retaining and renewing the cultural and historical traditions of the Altar Valley.

## THE ALLIANCE'S VISION

Ranchers and other agriculturalists work effectively with our partners to conserve healthy and productive working landscapes, promote a thriving agricultural economy, and sustain a resilient rural community enriched by the culture and history of the Altar Valley.

Dear Friends,

Well, I think we can safely say that 2020 was not the year that we thought it was going to be back in January. It has been a year that has taught us to be flexible, think creatively, and not to take our daily routines for granted.

Here at the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, it has also confirmed that our organization is strong and adaptable. During a recent interview, I was asked about the status of the Alliance in 2020 and what we have had to change and scale back in response to Covid-19. For AVCA, there has been very little that we have had to scale back. We were fortunate that going into this global event, we were already working remotely, had minimal overhead, a lean staff, and had spent years cultivating relationships with partners that were well established during this shift. But I also think that our attitude as a team has been important. We focused on opportunities, adapting to current limitations, and finding positives while navigating the infamous "2020 pivots."

We continued to convene the Altar Valley Watershed Working Group and are on the home stretch of finishing up the multi-year, innovative Altar Valley Watershed Plan, which is a stakeholder-driven, collaborative plan that will facilitate the implementation of complex projects in the Altar Valley. We recently cemented a name for continuation of the workshop series that we've hosted over the last few years - Rangeland Resilience - and are working on launching the 2021 series on seeding. Despite the challenges of being together face-to-face this year, we gained new partners and worked together to solve new challenges. We have sought new funding opportunities, while working on our current commitments. The Alliance is doing more work than ever.

2020 marks the Alliance's 25th anniversary as an organization. A quarter-century after neighboring ranchers gathered with a vision for the future, their foresight has created a valley where conservation conversations and landscape management solutions are happening on-the-ground. The spirit of conservation led by the AVCA in the Altar Valley provides a much needed example of the benefits of finding common ground, rather than allowing differences in experiences and jurisdiction to divide us.

In a year that often highlighted division among people and places, it is more important than ever to bolster the work being done by the AVCA to facilitate partnerships, to foster a love of place, and care for large landscapes. We appreciate your past support of AVCA's vision of conserving the Altar Valley for future generations, and we hope you will consider giving again.

Thank you and Happy Holidays to you and yours!



Sarah King,  
Executive Director, On behalf of the Altar Valley Board of Directors, Science Advisory Board and Staff

## Altar Valley Conservation Alliance's 2020 Grants in Review

**Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation:** This summer, the Alliance was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation to continue work begun by the Santa Margarita Ranch and the Arizona Game and Fish Department on the South Legunita Grassland Restoration Project. The project borders the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, and the integration of this project with grassland enhancement projects on the Refuge enhances the functionality of ecosystems for grassland obligate species, including masked bobwhite quail and pronghorn. This funding, along with matching funds from the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Landowner Relations Program, will fund the completion of phase 4 of the project.

**Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART - Cooperative Watershed Management Program:** Over the past two years, the Alliance has convened the Watershed Working Group to work on an innovative, forward-thinking plan for the valley. This plan, called the Altar Valley Watershed Plan, describes the projects partners collectively decided to work on in the near future, as well as a live, interactive library of tools for implementing complex projects. The project was funded by a 2-year grant from the Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART program, awarded to the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance and matched by the Pima County Regional Flood Control District. Currently, the Alliance is in the final phases of gathering stakeholder input for the plan and editing the plan. The Watershed Working Group meetings take resources and strong commitments from partners, but yield results that are community oriented and landscape-driven.

**Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation:** The Elkhorn/Las Delicias Watershed Restoration Demonstration Project (Elk/LD Demo Project) has been supported by the Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation since 2012. The project showcases planning, installation, and monitoring of watershed restoration practices in ephemeral arroyos and associated uplands and tributaries in a flash flood dominated landscape of the Altar Valley. During this past year, the AVCA conducted annual monitoring at the site, toured the project with interested parties, and completed a thorough assessment of project impacts.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Cooperative Agreement:** This agreement partners with the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge to complete work both on and off of the Refuge. This past year, the agreement has helped to support the Alliance's work on the Masked Bobwhite Quail Safe Harbor Agreement for the Altar Valley, an exciting step toward helping the masked bobwhite quail population expand their habitat, while helping landowners.

**U.S. Fish & Wildlife Partners Program:** The Alliance hosted the "Regional Watershed Restoration Practitioners Workshop" in February at the Noon Ranch project site. The workshop was taught by Steve Carson of Rangeland Hands, and brought together practitioners from the Southwest borderlands region to design and implement treatments for drainages at the project. It also included discussion regarding aligning professional restoration approaches and strategies specific to our region. The Alliance is currently working on planning a second project via this grant.

**Arizona Department of Environmental Quality:** ADEQ funded a brush treatment for grassland restoration, conducted in 2019. This experimental aerial herbicide occurred on 2000 acres of Altar Valley land and is being rigorously monitored for its effects on mesquite, grasses, and sediment transport. This grant concludes this year.



# 25 YEARS OF THE ALTAR VALLEY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE



While 2020 has been a very different year, it was no less important to celebrate exciting milestones. While we wish we could have celebrated our 25th anniversary with a full, in-person party, we moved our celebration into a virtual format. The silver lining to this format is that it is available to share with you all, both near and far. You can find it by opening your camera, and hovering over the QR code square on the picture, and it will take you there. Thank you for celebrating with us!



Brett Myers

“The success of landscape conservation involves voluntary participation, and the Altar Valley brings the stakeholders together to allow the success of landscape conservation.”



Charley Miller

“Something that struck me that had to do with the forming of the Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, was that when properly motivated, people from different walks of life can actually work together to make things happen. That was kind of a revelation.”

“I think that the Alliance has a really critical role in maintaining the integrity of the valley, both as a natural and a working landscape. There’s tons of history in the valley for ranching, and for wildlife, and tons of native plants and pollinators. To maintain the integrity of all that, it doesn’t really happen by itself. So you need a group of committed people to make sure that people can continue to live and ranch in the valley.”



Elise Gornish

“The Alliance has really helped different individuals in the Altar Valley to look at the landscape as a whole, and not just at their place, or the land that they own or managed. So the Alliance has helped people to find common ground to look at the larger picture and say what are the commonalities across the landscape that one place can have a positive effect for the other people in the valley.”



Julia Sittig

# 25 YEARS OF THE ALTAR VALLEY CONSERVATION ALLIANCE

“

We are working on a Watershed Plan that will guide projects and management out here into the next several decades. And we're also taking responsibility as an organization to pass on the torch, to get younger people engaged. I'm really proud of what we're doing – we're looking toward the future.”



Mary Miller



Pat King



“

What I remember most was there was tension in the valley, not necessarily between the ranches but between the ranches and there were environmental issues. The one thing the Malpai had told us, was concentrate on what you are concerned about, not what you are upset about. And that was a big help.”



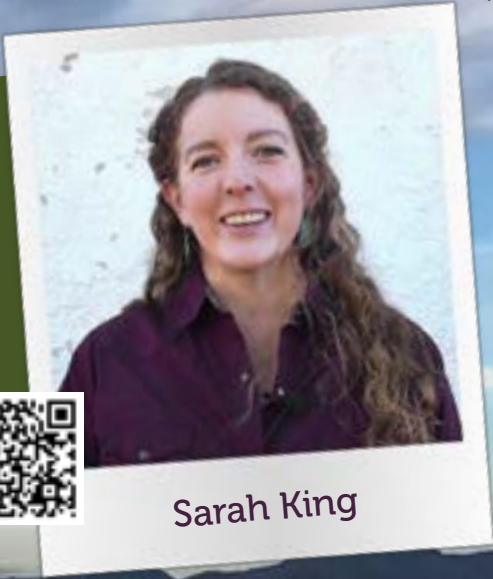
Robert Davis



“Tobler's first law of geography is that everything is connected, those things that are near are connected more.”

“

The future of the Altar Valley will benefit from all of the groundwork being laid now by folks that are doing the work to bring collaborative conservation to the forefront to work together for the benefit of the landscape.”



Sarah King



Walter Lane



“

I have hope for the future of the Altar Valley because I think that we've got a bunch of very interested landowners and ranchers here that want to preserve and protect what we're doing.”

## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020, the Alliance received \$25,205.90 in cash contributions. In the same time frame, the Alliance administered \$110,504.92 of grant money that went to work in the Altar Valley. The Alliance invested \$34,617.94 in grant funds from the Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation, matched by monitoring time donated by the University of Arizona Tierra Seca Club at the Elkhorn/Las Delicias Demonstration Project. The Alliance's grant from the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality put \$3,652.85 to work monitoring an experimental brush management project spread across three different ranches. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Partners Program provided \$3,791.28 that funded completion of an erosion control project, via a special workshop aimed at watershed restoration practitioners. Finally, the Alliance received \$17,308.84 from the U.S. Department of the Interior - Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart grant that is supporting preparation of the Altar Valley Watershed Plan. A cooperative agreement between the US Fish and Wildlife Service/Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge and

AVCA brought \$26,134.01 to work in the watershed, spread between a riparian habitat project, ongoing coordination (particularly related to the Masked Bobwhite Quail Safe Harbor Agreement project), and volunteer support. A new partnership with the Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation brought \$25,000 for brush management work on a ranch neighboring the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. The Alliance was a new recipient of a Catchafire grant from the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona that included \$8,000 in donated services.

Grants and donations give us the financial resources to further our mission. However, no amount of money can substitute for the collaborative, cooperative spirit of mutual respect and support that is demonstrated among our many partners, stewards and friends. Below is a list of the wonderful groups and persons that share our mission and our vision for the Altar Valley, and continually put their resources and time into conserving the Altar Valley for future generations.

## ALLIANCE STEWARDS



Amazon Smile	Gregory & Lorraine Harper	Mitch McClaren	Santa Margarita Ranch
Joseph & Sally Barber	Linda Hatton	Sharon McDonough-Means	Nathan Sayre
Gerard & Deborah Bast	Lisa Haynes	George & Nancy Melling	Cecil & Carol Schwalbe
Margaret Boggeln	Ben Hufford	Clara Miller	Thomas Sheridan & Chris Szuter
Broken Arrow Crop Insurance	Peggy & George Hunt	George Miller	Charlie Silversen & Elaine Elnes
William Burke & Nancy Bell Coe Burke	Anne Husted	Janet D. Miller	Fred & Ellie Silverstein
Jason & Holly Cathcart	Janell Jelliffe	Mary & Charley Miller	Southern Arizona Home Builders Association
Gay Chanler	Louisa & Steve Kessel	Karen Moriah	Susan Speers, in honor of Mary Miller
JT & Gay Coe	Susan Kiltie	Joellen O'Neil	Sherie Steele
Richard & Diane Collins	Delores Kimmel	David Parnell	Walter & Nancy Taylor
Rachel Darché & Victor Laurion	Mark Klingensmith	Eva Patten	Gretchen Theobald
Cynthia & Kevin Devine	Judith S. King	Cindy Perin	Kathryn Thomas
Elkhorn Ranch	Sarah & Joe King	Presidio Wealth Group	Vicki Treherne
Steve Engel & Susan Saidman	King's Anvil Ranch	Cherry Provost	Trico Electric Company
Sally Flatland	John Koprowski	Sarah Putnam	Tom and Deanne Urmy
Alden Freed	Ann Kramer	William & Marcia Radke	Robert Vance
Sue Gerry	Mary Lamy, in honor of Charley and Mary Miller, Elkhorn Ranch	Anne Richards & John Coolidge	Hedda von Goeben
Barbara Giesen	Kenneth Langton	Dan Robinett & Linda Kennedy	Peter Warren
Mary Gilbert	Lisa Haynes	Jon & Peggy Rowley	Patricia Wheeler
Ilse Gudehus	Aaron Lien	Mick Rusing Family Philanthropic Fund	Stephen Williams
Thomas Hall and Margaret Weatherly Fund	Katherine McCarthy	Reta Rutledge	Chris Zeoli & Charlotte Tate
	Michael & Kay McCarthy	George Ruyle & Wendy Vanasco	

## ALLIANCE PARTNERS

Altar Valley School District  
Archaeology Southwest  
Arivaca Fire District  
Arivaca Boys Ranch  
Arivaca Watershed Education Task Force  
Arizona Antelope Foundation  
Arizona Association of Conservation Districts  
Arizona Department of Agriculture  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management  
Arizona Farm and Ranch Group  
Arizona Farm Bureau  
Arizona Game & Fish Department  
Arizona Game & Fish Department, Tucson Habitat Partnership Committee  
Arizona Land & Water Trust  
Arizona Revegetation & Monitoring Co.  
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum  
Arizona State Land Department  
BKW Farms  
Buckelew Farm  
Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge  
Bureau of Reclamation WaterSmart: Cooperative Watershed Management Program  
Cascabel Conservation Association  
Catchafire  
Chilton Ranch  
City of Tucson Water Department  
Community Foundation for Southern Arizona  
Coronado National Forest  
Cross-Watershed Network  
Cuenca Los Ojos Foundation  
Desert Archaeology, Inc.  
Diamond Bell Ranch  
Elkhorn Ranch

Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold Foundation  
Friends of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge  
Global Rangelands  
Jarillas Ranch  
JE Fuller Hydrology & Geomorphology, Inc.  
King's Anvil Ranch  
King's 98 Ranch  
Brad Lancaster  
Larry Humphrey  
Lower San Pedro Watershed Alliance  
Malpai Borderlands Group  
Marley Ranch  
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation  
Noon Ranch  
Old Hayhook Ranch  
Palo Alto Ranch and Baboquivari Peak Ranch  
Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation  
Pima County Office of Sustainability and Conservation  
Pima County Regional Flood Control District  
Pima Natural Resource Conservation District  
Quiet Creek Corporation  
Quivira Coalition  
Rancho de la Osa  
Rancho Santa Lucia  
Rancho Seco  
Rangeland Hands, Inc.  
Robinett Rangeland Resources, LLC  
Safari Club International, Arizona Chapter  
San Fernando School District  
Santa Margarita Ranch  
Robert Schmalzel  
Sierrita Mining & Ranching Co.  
Sky Island Alliance  
Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association  
Southern Arizona Quail Forever

Southern Arizona Rangeland Honey  
Southwest Decision Resources  
Stockwell Honey Company  
The Loft Cinema  
The Nature Conservancy  
The Rangelands Partnership  
Three Points Fire District  
Tohono O'odham Nation Fire Department  
Tucson Interagency Dispatch Center  
U of A CALS Communications and Cyber Technologies  
U of A CALS Cooperative Extension  
U of A James E. Rogers College of Law, Natural Resource Use & Management Clinic  
U of A Little Chapel of All Nations  
U of A School of Anthropology  
U of A School of Natural Resources and the Environment  
U of A Southwest Center  
U of A Student Chapter for the Society for Range Management: Tierra Seca  
U of A Wild Cat Research and Conservation Center  
US Border Patrol  
US Bureau of Land Management  
USDA Agricultural Research Service - Southwest Watershed Research Center  
US Fish and Wildlife Service Arizona Ecological Services  
US Fish and Wildlife Service - Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program  
US Forest Service  
US Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Volunteers for Outdoor Arizona  
Watershed Management Group  
Western Landowners Alliance  
Western Sustainable Agriculture Research & Education  
Westland Resources, Inc.  
Wildvisions Arizona  
Zeedyk Ecological Services

If your name was omitted or misspelled, please accept our sincere apology and notify us so that we may correct our records. These lists reflect donations, services and partnerships occurring between November 1, 2019 and October 31, 2020.







Altar Valley Conservation Alliance  
14990 S. Sasabe Road  
Tucson, AZ 85736

## SAVE THE DATES

Rangeland Resilience  
Workshop Series:  
Virtual Seeds Workshop  
February 2, 2021

Annual Altar Valley  
Community Meeting  
May 26, 2021



[www.altarvalleyconservation.org](http://www.altarvalleyconservation.org)

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat King, President  
Peggy Rowley, Vice-President  
Walter Lane, Treasurer  
Paul Bear  
Sue Chilton  
Heather Fox  
Mary Kasulaitis  
Dee Lusby  
Charley Miller  
Mick Rusing  
Tom Sheridan  
Stephen Williams

### SCIENCE ADVISORY BOARD

Kerry Baldwin, Co-chair  
Larry Fisher, Co-chair  
William Doelle  
Elise Gornish  
Chuck Hutchinson  
Scott Jones  
Walter Lane  
Charley Miller  
Brian Powell  
George Ruyle  
Tom Sheridan  
Priya Sundareshan  
Peter Warren

### STAFF

**Sarah King**  
Executive Director

**Julia Sittig**  
Conservation & Science  
Director

**Mary Miller**  
Operations Director

Conserving the Altar Valley  
for future generations