



Forest Service News Release

Media Contact: Celena Soto
(520) 388-8320
SM.FS.CNFpressbox@usda.gov
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/coronado>

Southern Arizona Resource Advisory Committee Announces Final Selection for Secure Rural Schools Funding

Tucson, AZ, November 24, 2021— The Southern Arizona Resource Advisory Committee (SA-RAC) announces selection of projects for funding under the authority of Title II Special Projects of the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self Determination Act of 2000.

A total of 23 proposals were submitted across Maricopa, Pinal, Pima, Cochise and Santa Cruz Counties for available Secure Rural Schools appropriated funds from 2017 - 2020. Over \$1.9 million of projects from Forest personnel, non-profit organizations, and private entities were submitted while only \$881,880 was available and all of the funding was applied towards projects.

The Resource Advisory Committee recommended a diverse suite of projects to improve ecosystem health, restore watershed conditions, and enhance wildlife habitat. These projects will promote community engagement, partnerships, and collaboration both on National Forest System lands and on non-federal land.

Projects and award recipients by county include:

MARICOPA County	
Project Title	Applicant
Building a future with saguaros post Bush Fire	Tucson Audubon Society
Bush Fire Replanting Project	Natural Restoration
PINAL County	
Project Title	Applicant

Building a future with saguaros post Bighorn Fire	Tucson Audubon Society
Arizona Trail Remote Rainwater Collector	Arizona Trail Association
SANTA CRUZ County	
Project Title	Applicant
Wild Chile Botanical Area Native Vegetation Restoration	Borderlands Restoration Network
Pyeatt Ranch Erosion Control for Babocomari Watershed Health	AZ Land and Water Trust
Enhancing the Connectivity of the Coronado National Forest Through Watershed Restoration and Community Engagement	Borderlands Restoration Network
New Generation of Fremont Cottonwoods on Sonoita Creek	Tucson Audubon Society
PIMA County	
Project Title	Applicant
Enhancement of Santa Catalina Mountain Water Sources for Wildlife	Sky Island Alliance
Sabino Canyon Recreation Area Erosion Control and Enhanced Infiltration Project	Watershed Management Group
Santa Catalina Cobblestone WUI Invasive Treatment	Forest Service/National Forest Foundation
COCHISE County	
Project Title	Applicant
Enhancing Wildlife Habitat and Water Source Security in the Huachuca Mountain Foothills	Sky Island Alliance

Youth Harvest the Rain Across Cochise County	Borderlands Restoration Network
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“The implementation of these projects will add to the conservation efforts we all seek to achieve,” said SA-RAC Designated Federal Officer and Acting Deputy Regional Forester Kerwin S. Dewberry. These projects contribute towards restoring and enhancing resilient landscapes in the 21st century. Together we strive to be stewards of our public lands. Thank you to all applicants who submitted proposals.”

If you would like to learn more about Secure Rural Schools or would like to become a member of the Resource Advisory Committee, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/coronado/workingtogether/advisorycommittees>.

For more information, please contact SA-RAC Coordinator Dana Backer at dana.backer@usda.gov.

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