

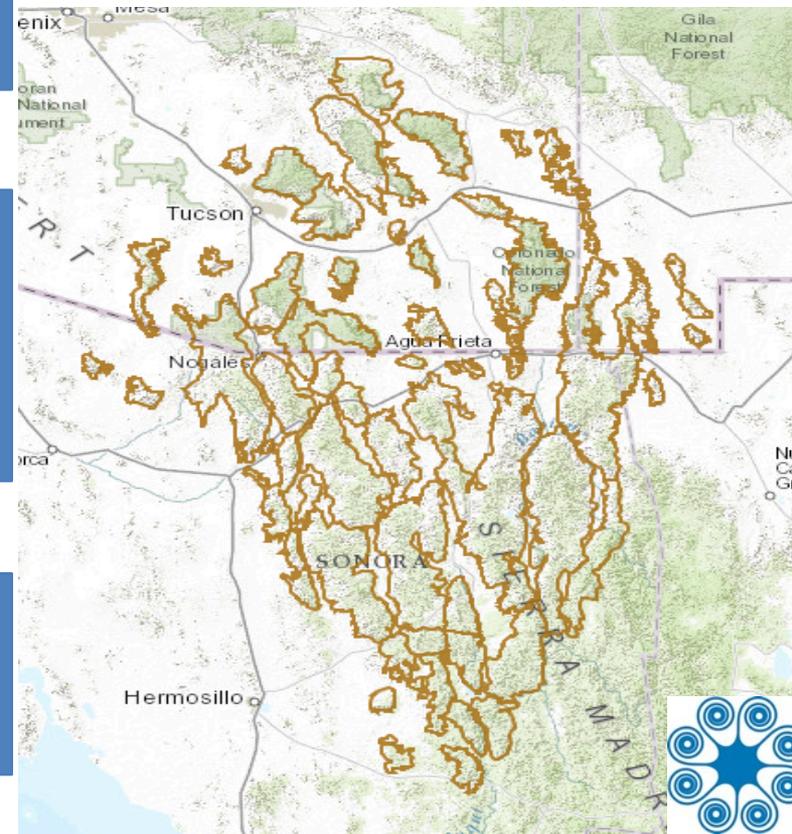
# Sky Islands

**Survey of Potential Participants**  
Identify most pressing regional threats

**Workshop 1**  
Consider regional climate vulnerabilities, explore potential adaptation strategies

**Workshop 2**  
Assess specific vulnerabilities and develop strategies by habitat (Madrean forest, semi-desert grassland, desert, riparian)

**Workshop 3**  
Develop practical adaptation strategies, actions, and implementation plans for landscape-scale topics



# Landscape-Scale Issues and Strategies

- Cross-cutting, landscape-scale issues: drying springs, fire, connectivity
- *Springs*: Maintain and improve (where possible) spring integrity to support hydrology and biodiversity in a changing climate
- *Fire*: Manage public lands for healthy ecosystems by restoring fire regimes
- *Connectivity*: Preserve and increase (where possible) connectivity to support ecosystem resilience in a changing climate



# Landscape Connectivity Project

- Wildlife connectivity key for migration (i.e. travel between habitats, move in response to disturbance events)
- **On-the-Ground Project Goal:** Maintain and improve wildlife connectivity
- **Pressures:** Habitat fragmentation (i.e. roads, border wall infrastructure), human population growth...and climate change





# Implementation Plan

<b>Overarching Adaptation Strategy</b>	Preserve and increase (where possible) connectivity to support ecosystem resilience in a changing climate
<b>Adaptation Strategy</b>	Synthesize data, methodologies, and best available science related to climate change and connectivity in the Sky Island region
<b>Adaptation Actions</b>	<p>Create working group and write grant proposal(s) that incorporates the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Compiling models, tools, programs, and approaches already in use</li> <li>• Revising existing statewide connectivity maps to include climate connectivity modeling</li> <li>• Interpreting data and identifying, evaluating, and prioritizing important areas</li> <li>• Creating and implementing a communications strategy in order to foster stewardship around climate change and connectivity in the region</li> </ul>
<b>Lead(s)</b>	Sky Island Alliance • Arizona Game and Fish Department
<b>Partner(s)</b>	Arizona Department of Transportation • Arizona Land and Water Trust • Borderlands Habitat Restoration Initiative • Center for Biological Diversity • Cuenca Los Ojos • Defenders of Wildlife • Naturalia
<b>Funding Source(s)</b>	Desert Landscape Conservation Cooperative • Southwest Climate Science Center • State Wildlife Grants • U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Recovery funds • Department of Homeland Security mitigation funds
<b>Resources Needed/Resources In Hand</b>	Spatial data (Center for Biological Diversity) • GIS expertise (Western Regional Partnership) • Stakeholder engagement and buy-in (e.g., Arizona Department of Transportation)
<b>Schedule/Milestone for Activities</b>	<p><b>Short-term</b> • Sky Island Alliance staff will work to reinvigorate Arizona Wildlife Linkages Workgroup • Use Desert LCC as vehicle for getting partners on board</p> <p><b>Long-term</b> • Create a local networking event similar to Wildlinks • Work to increase engagement of stakeholders (e.g., public, decision makers, energy developers, Department of Homeland Security) with the goal of changing behavior and perception of the importance of climate change and connectivity</p>
<b>Additional Strategies &amp; Actions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Map high value areas with climate data layers and use to inform community and land managers</li> <li>• Compile models that examine high value lands without considering land ownership first and provide management recommendations o Look at land ownership to develop specific recommendations for each landowner/jurisdiction; increase outreach and identify incentives</li> <li>• Advocate for integrating wildlife movement corridors and crossing structures into road projects</li> <li>• Increase education around the climate adaptation role of riparian areas for facilitating species movement and ecosystem functions of riparian areas</li> </ul>