

Lower San Pedro Collaborative Connectivity Working Group Goal Statement

The goal of the Connectivity Working Group of the Lower San Pedro Collaborative is to maintain and enhance a landscape of connected and resilient lands and waterways within the Lower San Pedro Watershed that will allow nature to flourish and adapt to rapidly changing conditions. Landscape connectivity, in this context, refers to cross-basin corridors from the Rincon, Santa Catalina and Galiuro Mountains to the San Pedro Valley bottom, as well as linear connectivity along the riparian corridors and aquatic habitats on the main stem of the San Pedro River and its tributaries, that allow for and facilitate species movement. Given the complex mosaic of land-ownership and diversity of stakeholders across the watershed, the connectivity group is committed to an inclusive and collaborative approach.

We are evaluating multiple strategies including enabling site-level habitat management, enhancement, and restoration projects; supporting land protection and existing conservation plans* and activities of the Lower San Pedro Collaborative; as well as contributing to research and policy initiatives. Through this approach we hope to achieve outcomes that span ownership boundaries, yield multiple benefits for diverse stakeholders across the watershed, and increase the resiliency of the Lower San Pedro Watershed.

* Relevant plans include BLM's *Aravaipa Ecosystem Management Plan and Environmental Assessment*, TNC's *San Pedro River Basin Conservation Plan*, the *Catalina-Rincon and Galiuro FireScapes*, and *Coronado Forest Plan*