

CCA Conservation Committee Activities September 2023 to January 2024
For more detailed information about any of these activities inquire of Pearl.

Conservation Committee members:

Pearl Mast, chair, Barbara Clark, Bob Evans, Daniel Baker, David Omick, Lynn Smith-Lovin, Nancy Ferguson, Sue Newman

I. Advocacy

SunZia

--Serve on the Legal Committee (Pearl and David) that supports Plaintiff Peter Else in challenging the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) for their approval of Amendments to SunZia's Arizona permit. As such, they helped develop the Opening Brief to the Arizona Court of Appeals. It was filed in December, ahead of schedule, with Reply briefs from the ACC and SunZia due in mid-February.

--Continue special fund to support Peter's legal action, with ~\$34,000 available to pay attorneys for the on-going appeals. Marissa Katz maintains a [GoFundMe site](#) in support of this fund, which has generated about \$50,000 to date.

--Signed on to letter from local organizations thanking and supporting Tohono O'odham Nation, the San Carlos Apache Tribe, the Hopi Nation, and the Zuni Nation for their challenge to the way the Bureau of Land Management has failed to fulfill their responsibilities for coordinating with Native American tribes regarding cultural resources. The TO Nation and San Carlos Apache, along with our partner organization Archaeology Southwest and the Center for Biological Diversity have filed suit against the BLM for these failures.

--Represent CCA on a new working group that formed to pursue research and outreach activities in the fight against SunZia through the San Pedro Valley.

--Meet regularly (usually monthly) with Pattern Energy representatives in forum for questions from community and for updates on their construction plans and schedule.

II. Monitoring/Data Collection

Wildlife Cameras

--Cameras continue to be serviced by Joe Page when he is in Cascabel. Objectives at this time are: Watch for T&E species, maintain large data set (which can serve as a rally point in defense of public action even if the data is not useful in a court of law), document presence/absence of species at a given point, track movements of feral pigs in the Valley, document illegal or undesirable activities.

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

--Submitted (Barbara Clark) to the BLM annual report of data collection on BLM lands in Cascabel. Included report from Joe Page of wildlife seen on cameras, plus observations from

other residents.

III. Collaboration

Lower San Pedro Collaborative

--Continue to participate in the Collaborative, which includes over 20 organizations and agencies focused on sharing information and working together on non-controversial projects.

--Continue to participate in the Collaborative's Connectivity Work Group (Alex and Pearl), which met again in November after a hiatus through much of 2023. The Fence Removal subgroup hopes to map current conditions in the Hot Springs/Paige Canyon Corridor and remove more un-needed fencing in 2024. A Meader Conservation Endowment Fund grant was approved for up to \$500 for the mapping project.