

## **CCA Conservation Committee Activities April-August, 2023**

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**

--Pearl and David serve on the Legal Committee 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 Maricopa Superior Court in May, and the Reply Brief in June, as well as Oral Arguments, which took place on August 18.

--Set up special fund to support Peter's legal action. Edith Robinson and Marissa Katz built and maintain a [GoFundMe site](#) in support of this fund, which currently stands at about \$44,000.

--Case update: Maricopa Superior Judge handed down a decision on August 29 denying Peter's petition for a Remand back to the ACC. Peter will be appealing this decision in the coming months. The attorneys feel that he has a better chance of prevailing at the appellate level.

### **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 such as jaguarundis, 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.

Yellow-Billed Cuckoo surveys

--We were unable to do the official Yellow-billed Cuckoo surveys this year because no one with the required training could be found to do it. Some local citizen birders have, however, collected more informal data that may be useful.

### **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. Pearl and

Alex have been on the Connectivity Work Group, but this group has not met since early this year because of retirements and health problems of some key members. We are hoping it will be reactivated soon.