

JOB OPPORTUNITY - Tucson Office



COME WORK FOR THE Sun Corridor LEGACY PROGRAM

The Sun Corridor's desirable climate, affordable housing, and relatively low cost of living are reasons why this area continues to attract new residents. The area's future quality of life, environmental quality, and economic prosperity will be determined by how well growth is managed. Going forward, regional solutions that comprehensively address conservation, development, and transportation, water, and energy issues will be critical to a sustainable future.

OUR VISION & GOALS

SUN CORRIDOR

Sonoran Institute believes that both prosperity and environmental sustainability can be achieved in the Sun Corridor of Arizona. Communities, with care and foresight, can implement pragmatic approaches to position themselves for sustainable prosperity. Local and regional decisions lay the groundwork for projects and policy reforms that will enhance our built environment while creating an urban framework that makes it easier to conserve our cherished natural environment, protect and sustain our water supplies, and make wise economic investments for our future, including the addition of a robust portfolio of renewable energy and the development of smart infrastructure corridors.

The Sonoran Institute's Sun Corridor Legacy Program encourages healthy community design, new and smarter infrastructure and land conservation through the following goals:

- Advance the availability of clean and secure energy for the Sun Corridor.
- Balance continued urban growth by protecting appropriate landscapes throughout the region.
- Encourage state policies to protect and restore Arizona's rivers.



Shaping the Future of the West



Sun Corridor Legacy Program

Southern Arizona Initiatives

Vision: Sustainable Prosperity

The Sun Corridor Program will empower a future megapolitan region in central and southern Arizona that grows and prospers in a way that is respectful to limited natural resources, responds to the need for increased quality of life, and is inclusive of diverse cultures and points of view.

To achieve this ambitious vision, we are applying our efforts on three main goals including:

1. Envision a healthy and prosperous Sun Corridor region;

Our current economic engine is based on a model that cannot be sustained in an uncertain future and many of our cities provide an environment that is unhealthy and provides a low quality of life. Through focused efforts we will enable a new economy based upon a robust renewable energy program, smart and efficient trade corridors, and a new vision for Arizona's urban communities.

2. Engage diversity and collaboration in environmental issues and decision-making;

Real solutions that would bring change toward sustainability and economic opportunity have been suppressed in favor of partisan politics and rhetoric; meanwhile, Arizona's most vulnerable populations suffer for lack of action. We will focus on bringing people together who will think collaboratively about solutions to the problems we face.

3. Enhance the community by promoting strategic conservation initiatives.

We can no longer ignore the fragility of Arizona's environment in the face of an uncertain climate future, prolonged drought, and the slow degradation of the beautiful setting that harbors our natural heritage and enhances our quality of life. For a quarter century, the Sonoran Institute has promoted pragmatic thinking and win-win solutions that can achieve the conservation of our incredible heritage and achieve prosperity.

Living River Reports

Healthy rivers provide many benefits to adjacent communities. The Sonoran Institute developed and produced the Living River report series to chart the health of the upper Santa Cruz River from Rio Rico to Amado. The report uses scientific data to communicate current conditions, explains the benefits of a healthy river system, and ultimately helps inspire river stewardship. This successful model is currently being adapted for the lower Santa Cruz in northwest Tucson, thus creating a sister report to chart the health of another effluent-dependent stretch of the river. We need to continue tracking change on the upper Santa Cruz, as recent observations point toward a drying river. This change is a concern for the resurgent fish population documented in earlier reports.

Conserve 2 Enhance, Tucson

The Sonoran Institute and the University of Arizona are leading an innovative water efficiency program known as "Conserve to Enhance," or C2E. Participants in this Tucson program reduce water consumption and donate the value of their water savings to local wash restoration projects. If brought to scale (just 5% of Tucson Water customers), donations would bring in half a million dollars per year to restore local waterways.

Santa Cruz River Research Days

The Sonoran Institute and partners organize an annual event that has become a valuable forum for those interested in conservation efforts in the watershed. Initially focused solely on the natural resources along the upper Santa Cruz River, the event has expanded in both geography and scope to include both natural and cultural resources along the entire river corridor. The purpose is to spur greater impact by increasing synergies across the natural and cultural conservation sectors.

Securing Water for the Environment

In 2016 the Sonoran Institute kicked off an ambitious project that aims to protect and supplement existing flows in the Upper Santa Cruz River as it flows through key historical landscapes like the Tumacácori National Historical Park. Over the past few years, improvements to water quality have changed the rate of groundwater percolation thereby reducing the distance that water flows from the International Wastewater Treatment Plant near Nogales, AZ. This project aims to implement several strategies that will improve the quantity and distribution of water resources through the river system, thereby ensuring that this important component of Southern Arizona history is sustained for the enjoyment of future generations.



Job Opportunity: Project Manager

Tucson Office

The Project Manager will be primarily responsible for overseeing a stakeholder-led conservation planning initiative for the Upper Santa Cruz River. In that capacity, s/he will facilitate the stakeholder process, ensuring substantive participation of stakeholder interests and a transparent decision-making process. This will be a bi-national project, involving Sonoran Institute staff working in the US and Mexico.

The Project Manager will either directly provide or ensure these stakeholders and staff are provided the planning, GIS, or other technical support needed to carry out their tasks. S/he also will participate in a bi-national process that will seek to secure a permanent dedication of Mexico's treated effluent for in-stream flows in the Upper Santa Cruz, in return for funding directed toward water or wastewater infrastructure in Nogales, Mexico. The Project Manager also will coordinate monitoring and communications activities on the health of the Upper Santa Cruz as part of our "Living River" reports. Lastly, s/he may support other community and stakeholder processes the Sonoran Institute is facilitating around riparian restoration in Arizona, including Maricopa County.

For the past 20 years, the Sonoran Institute has worked on various reaches of the Santa Cruz, from its headwaters in Arizona's San Rafael Valley, in ejidos and communities in Mexico, along the upper reach from the US-Mexico border all the way to the lower stretch extending from Tucson northward. Our work has helped protect and restore both the river and adjacent lands, engaged local stakeholders and leaders in these conservation efforts, and elevated the river's profile among local, state, and federal officials.

QUALIFICATIONS

Education & Experience

A Master's degree in Urban or Regional Planning, Ecology, Landscape Architecture, Architecture, Sustainability, Political Science, or Environmental Sciences; or similar, with at least three years relevant work experience; or a Bachelor's Degree with five or more year's work experience required.

Required

- Demonstrated experience in leading or supporting community or stakeholder processes
- Demonstrated experience managing projects, including budgeting and financial reporting, and managing consultants, vendors, or other outside service providers
- Demonstrated experience in proposal and report writing
- Demonstrated public speaking experience in diverse settings
- Proficiency in GIS and Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, and Power Point)
- Basic understanding of riparian restoration, water policy, and federal, state, and local land-use issues affecting water resources.
- Ability to travel locally and regionally, including overnight trips
- Current, valid driver's license

Desired

- Experience in using Microsoft Project and Adobe Suites
- Experience in personnel management
- Experience in individual donor cultivation
- Ability to comprehend written and spoken Spanish



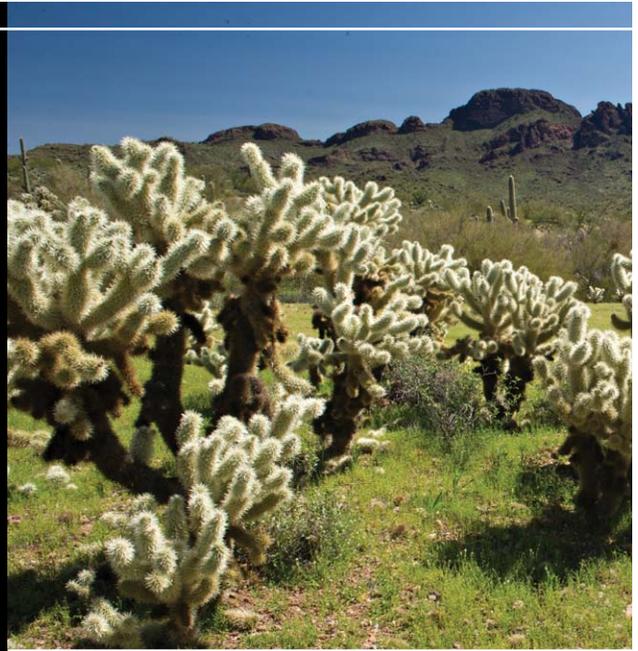
Sonoran Institute offers a competitive benefits package including: 100% paid health and dental insurance for employees, 13 vacation days per year, a 401k with employer match, generous paid time off, and sick days. Additional benefits are available.

THE SANTA CRUZ RIVER

The Santa Cruz River has drawn people to its life-giving waters for what is believed to be over 12,000 years. Rain coursing down mountainsides replenishes the river and its groundwater, supplying drinking water, irrigating crops, and fueling industry and commerce. Those living along the river also enjoy the respite and spiritual renewal provided by shade-giving trees and roaming wildlife.

The Santa Cruz River Initiative focuses on restoration of watershed health with an aim to improve local water supplies. Efforts to restore water systems must consider many strategies that encompass conservation of mountains, rivers, and underground water aquifers. Our overall goals are to:

1. secure river flows;
2. improve water quality;
3. protect and raise groundwater levels;
4. reduce runoff by increasing the amount of water that soaks into the ground;
5. and bring the successful model to other communities.



The Sonoran Institute inspires and enables community decisions and public policies that respect the land and people of Western North America.

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