



Arizona State Trust Lands Conservation Profile: State Trust Lands and State Parks

STATE PARKS – OUR BEST REASON FOR CONSERVATION

Sonoran Institute, in collaboration with conservation groups across Arizona and with funding from the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, has assembled state trust lands suitable for conservation into a single database. The resulting profiles focus on conservation values. Political values are left for another day.



Shaping the Future of the West

Arizona is blessed with a diverse and well loved park system of 30 parks throughout the state. Five parks in five counties have state trust land adjacent to their boundaries and have consistently been nominated for conservation. The state trust land areas share similar virtues; a pristine environment and a need for additional land to ensure their longevity for future generations.

Located in Mohave, Navajo, Pima, Pinal, and Santa Cruz counties respectively, the state parks with adjacent trust land in need of conservation are: Lake Havasu, Homolovi Ruins, Catalina, Oracle, and Patagonia Lake.

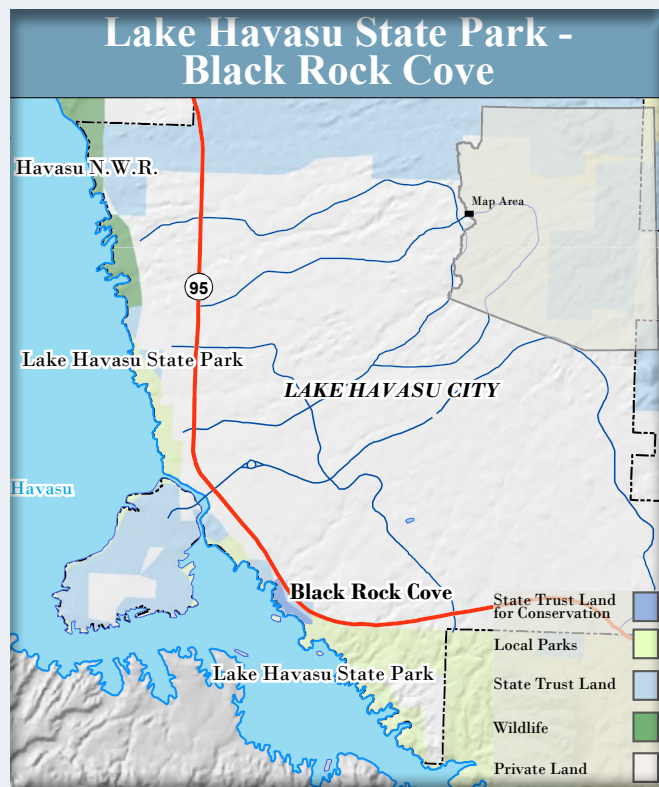


REASON FOR CONSERVATION

State Parks on State Trust Land

Although these state trust lands have similar merits for conservation worthiness, the distinct characteristics of each state park provide additional impetus for preserving the state trust land adjacent to their respective boundaries.

Located in Mohave County adjacent to Lake Havasu State Park is an area dubbed Black Rock Cove. It is known for its ease of access, beautiful beaches, nature trails, boat ramps, and convenient campsites; this spot is truly a water sport haven.



Pima County is blessed with many state parks and Catalina State Park is consistently mentioned as a showcase park and one that would benefit from conservation of adjacent state trust land. The 556 acres of state trust land adjacent to Catalina State Park, considered a haven for desert plants and wildlife and nearly 5,000 saguaros, would be best incorporated into the state park system.



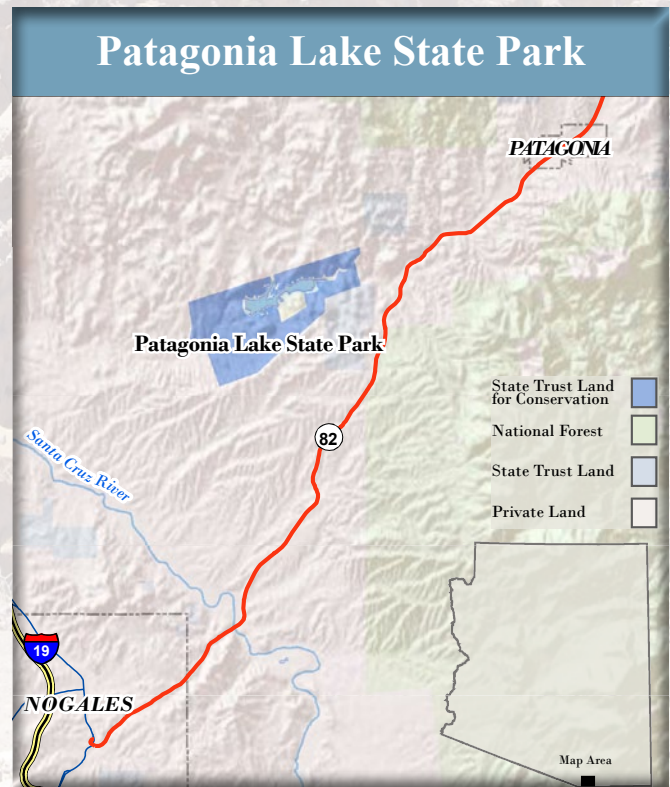


In Santa Cruz County and enormously popular with outdoor enthusiasts lies Patagonia Lake State Park with over 3,000 acres of adjacent trust land in need of conservation. Hikers can stroll along the beautiful creek trail and see a variety of birds such as the canyon towhee, Inca dove, vermillion flycatcher, black vulture, and hummingbirds galore.



Homolovi Ruins State Park in Navajo County is a research center for the late migration period of the Hopi from the 1200s to the late 1300s. Located near Winslow, the park and 3,000 acres of adjacent state trust land are considered by the Hopi as part of their homeland.

North of Mount Lemmon and near the town of Oracle sits 320 acres of state trust land adjacent to Oracle State Park. It is known as a wildlife refuge and environmental learning center, which offers groups a chance to learn more about human's impact on nature.





ARIZONA STATE TRUST LAND

In 1912, the federal government gave 10.5 million acres of state trust lands to the new state of Arizona. These lands are not owned by the state, but are held in trust for the benefit of the state's school system and several other beneficiaries.

Proceeds from the sale or lease of these lands generated about \$50 million for the beneficiaries in 2010. The Arizona State Land Department, in its role as trustee for the beneficiaries, is constitutionally obligated to seek maximum financial return for trust lands.

This requirement has complicated efforts to preserve state trust land for recreational use and environmental protection. The state cannot simply turn a parcel of trust land into a park or nature preserve since it is required to receive full market value for the land. All state trust land is subject to sale or lease to the highest bidder. Preservation of trust land requires sustained community input coupled with legislative action.

STATE TRUST LAND CONSERVATION Collaborating Partners



NINA MASON PULLIAM
CHARITABLE TRUST

Building a Legacy of Community
Grantmaking since 1998

The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust seeks to help people in need, especially women, children and families; to protect animals and nature; and to enrich community life in the metropolitan areas of Indianapolis and Phoenix.

The Sonoran Institute inspires and enables community decisions and public policies that respect the land and people of western North America. Facing rapid change, communities in the West value their natural and cultural resources, which support resilient environmental and economic systems. Founded in 1990, the Sonoran Institute helps communities conserve and restore those resources and manage growth and change through collaboration, civil dialogue, sound information, practical solutions and big-picture thinking. The Sonoran Institute is a nonprofit organization with offices in Tucson and Phoenix, Arizona; Bozeman, Montana; Glenwood Springs, Colorado; Sheridan, Wyoming; Twentynine Palms, California; and Mexicali, Baja California, Mexico.

CONTACT:

Dave Richins, Director
Sun Corridor Legacy Program
11010 N. Tatum Blvd, Ste D101
Phoenix, AZ 85028
(602) 393-4310 x 309
drichins@sonoraninstitute.org



Shaping the Future of the West