



WestWord 2010

Boots on the Ground | Achieving Conservation Results



Shaping the Future of the West

SONORAN INSTITUTE OFFICES

7650 E. Broadway Blvd., Suite 203
Tucson, Arizona 85710
520-290-0828 Fax: 520-290-0969

201 S. Wallace Ave., Suite B3C
Bozeman, Montana 59715
406-587-7331 Fax: 406-587-2027

817 Colorado Ave., Suite 201
Glenwood Springs, Colorado 81601
970-384-4364 Fax: 970-384-4370

11010 N. Tatum Blvd., Suite D101
Phoenix, Arizona 85028
602-393-4310 Fax: 602-393-4319

FIELD OFFICES

PO Box 20665
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003
307-635-1973

Magisterio #627
Col. Profesores Federales
Mexicali, Baja California
C.P. 21370 Mexico
Tel: 011-52-686-582-54-31

1 East Alger St., Suite 211
Sheridan, Wyoming 82801
307-675-1970

c/o Joshua Tree National Park
74485 National Park Drive
Twentynine Palms, California 92277
760-367-5567 Fax: 760-367-6392

www.sonoraninstitute.org

Sonoran Institute Board Members

Phil Allsopp | Scottsdale, Arizona
Patsy Batchelder | Old Snowmass, Colorado
Kathy Borgen | Denver, Colorado; Norway
Fred Bosselman | Evanston, Illinois; Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania
Andrew Downs | Irvine, California
Chris Duerksen | Denver, Colorado
Exequiel Ezcurra | La Mesa, California
Louise Glasser | Lake Forest, Illinois; Tucson, Arizona
Martha Hunter | Phoenix, Arizona
Nyda Jones-Church (Treasurer) | San Diego, California
Joseph Kalt | Tucson, Arizona; Cambridge, Massachusetts
Dennis Minano (Vice Chair) | Tucson, Arizona; Bloomfield Hills, Michigan
Bill Mitchell | Vashon Island, Washington
Bryan Morgan (Chair) | Boulder, Colorado
Alan Nicholson | Helena, Montana
Laurinda Oswald | Amado, Arizona
Lollie Plank | Tucson, Arizona; Banner, Wyoming; Long Lake, Minnesota
Anna Hill Price | Tucson, Arizona; Clayton, New York
Karen Wade (Secretary) | Fortine, Montana
Marty Yenawine | Scottsdale, Arizona; Wellesley Island, NY

Sonoran Institute Leadership

Luther Propst, Executive Director
Don Chatfield, Deputy Director, Operations

Clark Anderson, Program Director – Western Colorado Legacy Program
Randy Carpenter, Land Use Planner
Nina Chambers, Director of Programs
Marjo Curgus, Director of Training and Community Leadership
Beth Frantz, Director of Finance
Jim Holway, Director, Western Lands and Communities
Joe Marlow, Land and Resource Economist
Cheryl McIntyre, Ecologist
Dave Richins, Program Director – Sun Corridor Legacy Program
John Shepard, Senior Adviser
Nina Trasoff, Interim Director of Development
Ian Wilson, Director of Communications
Francisco Zamora, Program Director – Upper Gulf Legacy Program



MISSION AND VISION

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.

Shaping the Future of the West

The Joy of Economics

How Emotion *and* Economics Help Conservation

Ask someone what drives them to do conservation work or support the Sonoran Institute, and the answer usually comes straight from the heart, with passionate responses arising from a love of place—of treasured landscapes and cherished memories of a West that we want our children and grandchildren to know and enjoy as we do.

Deeply personal emotions like these will always be the lifeblood of any conservation effort. But, especially in an economy that is struggling and a society desperate for prosperity, emotional attachment is not enough. To be truly workable and sustainable, the effort of saving a landscape from sprawling development or keeping a wildlife migration corridor clear or maintaining a healthy river ecosystem must be grounded in science, hard facts—and economics.

While it's not the science that typically gets a conservationist's heart pounding, economics is at the core of many of the Institute's most important projects across the West. To be most successful, we need to show how conservation can bring not only environmental but also economic health to our communities. As the initiatives highlighted in this issue of *WestWord* show, our capacity to provide research and understanding of conservation economics distinguishes the Institute and makes us more effective at what we do:

- Helping communities understand the economic value associated with open space, wildlife habitat, working ranches, and outdoor amenities and recreation opportunities (*Tucson Prosperity Report* and *San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico Interpretive Center stories*)
- Gauging the fiscal impacts (i.e., cost of providing municipal services) of sprawl-type development versus urban, in-fill-type development (*Teton County, Idaho story*)
- Determining the implications of growth, development, and road construction on the value of public lands and on the viability of wildlife corridors (*Crown of the Continent Report story*)
- Assessing the true value of water and a healthy river system (i.e., water filtration, native vegetation growth) for conservation and restoration planning (*Santa Cruz River Report story*)

The Institute is fortunate to have an excellent and experienced team of economists and policy analysts to help us achieve conservation outcomes, including Joe Marlow, our senior economist who specializes in resource economics; Dan Hunting, who specializes in the policy implications of economics, and Alison Berry, a research assistant with expertise in forestry and energy issues.

I don't expect or want numbers to ever replace feelings in our conservation work. Combining emotion with economics and sound analysis, however, may be powerful enough to transform how we—and others—work to preserve what we love so much about the West.

Sincerely,



Luther Propst | Executive Director



OUR BOARD

Welcomes:

- Phil Allsopp:
Scottsdale, Arizona
- Patsy Batchelder:
Old Snowmass, Colorado
- Andrew Downs:
San Diego, California
- Bill Mitchell:
Vashon Island, Washington
- Marty Yenawine:
Scottsdale, Arizona;
Wellesley Island, NY



Board members Laurinda Oswald, Anna Hill Price and Louise Glasser

We offer thanks and gratitude to:

- Jim Kaple:
Tucson, Arizona
- Robert Keiter:
Salt Lake City, Utah
- Richard Thweatt:
Helena, Montana

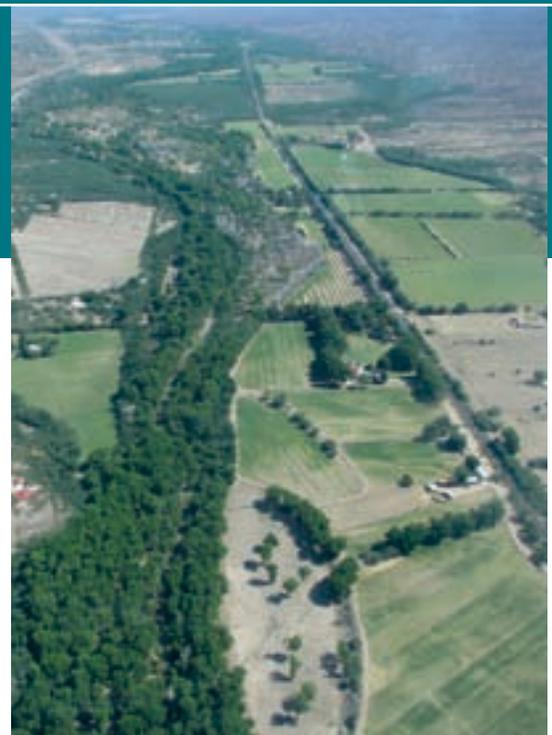
Conservation by the Numbers Charting the Health of a River

Crunching numbers and digging through mounds of data may not be the most visible or glamorous part of the Sonoran Institute's work, but providing sound data to policymakers and community leaders is vital to achieving meaningful conservation results.

Our annual *Living River* assessment series is a great example of how scientific research can inform and inspire efforts to nurture an important ecosystem. The report charts the health of a 20-mile stretch of the Santa Cruz River in southern Arizona, known locally as the Upper Santa Cruz. The first *Living River* report identified the essential components of river health and summarized monitoring efforts during the 2008 water year to establish a baseline understanding of the river's condition. Results indicated that poor water quality had degraded the health of the river.

This year's "report card" on the 2009 water year showed signs of improvement—and continued concern. There was an increased presence of fish, lower concentrations of nutrients, and higher levels of the dissolved oxygen critical to supporting life in the river. As anticipated, much of this progress occurred after a major upgrade of the Nogales International Wastewater Treatment Plant in Rio Rico, Arizona, completed in March 2009. However, levels of *E. coli* bacteria and concentrations of metals continued to pose risks to humans and aquatic wildlife. Research to identify the sources of these contaminants is already underway. ■

Read both Living River reports, and learn more about our work on the Santa Cruz River by visiting our website at www.sonoraninstitute.org



Emily Brott Project Manager, Sun Corridor Legacy Program



Emily Brott always wanted to do environmental work. She first earned an undergraduate degree in Biology at Harvard and then an M.S. in Environmental Sciences from Lund University in Lund, Sweden. By the time she completed her master's thesis through an internship at the University of Arizona's Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, she knew what shape this work would take: "I knew I wanted to focus on community-based conservation and U.S. – Mexico transboundary water issues," she says.

Now living in Tucson and working at the Sonoran Institute, Emily has been doing exactly that. As project manager for the Sun Corridor Legacy Program, she leads the Institute's engagement in innovative water harvesting and water conservation programs in the Upper Santa Cruz and Tucson basins. She can be found most days bicycling to meet with community partners, or at the office writing reports or developing grant proposals. Other times she'll don her waders to conduct water-quality monitoring on the Santa Cruz or lead river tours to elevate awareness about the plight of our water resources.

Working with nontraditional conservation partners and building consensus around a common vision for the future are what Emily considers two of the Sonoran Institute's greatest strengths and the best part of her chosen career. "I get to learn something new about cities, rivers, wildlife, international relations, public policies, etc., EVERY SINGLE DAY! And to think that on top of all that, we are making a difference in the world—what better job can you hope for? ■

Claire Zugmeyer and Emily Brott from the Sonoran Institute gather data from the Santa Cruz River, Arizona.



In Teton County, only one in four rural lots is developed. VARD photo

Calculating a Brighter Future for Teton County

Teton County, Idaho, is a small, rural county surrounded by world-class natural amenities: stunning mountains and landscapes, robust wildlife populations, and abundant outdoor recreation opportunities. In the real estate boom, it had all the ingredients for huge growth and development. With the bust, it was a recipe for financial disaster.

From 2000 to 2009, county officials approved enough residential housing lots to quadruple its population. The housing collapse left an estimated 75 percent of these lots vacant, and almost \$250 million in real estate foreclosed. “This backlog of ‘zombie subdivisions,’ combined with a state law limiting new property taxes, has the county in a fiscal straightjacket that threatens its ability to provide core services to its residents for years to come,” says Sonoran Institute land use planner Randy Carpenter. Determined to find its way out of this debacle, Teton County’s hard work has become an inspiring story of local resolve, partnership, and collaboration.

Randy and Sonoran Institute partner, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, joined the Valley Advocates for Responsible Development to provide the ideas, tools, and resources necessary to help the county recover. They brought in Colorado-based RPI Consulting, who developed the Fiscal Impacts Planning System (FIPS), a calculator that allows the county to more accurately estimate cost impacts associated with all types of development and to compute more realistic impact fees.

“Once we know the costs, we can get creative about mitigation options,” says Angie Rutherford, Teton County planner. By enabling officials to link land-use planning with financial impacts, FIPS has put Teton County back in the driver’s seat.

As Teton County begins a 20-year comprehensive land-planning effort, it will use FIPS to more accurately project the costs of various build-out scenarios for the zombie subdivisions and to calculate more realistic impact fees to charge developers. ■

“This backlog of ‘zombie subdivisions,’ combined with a state law limiting new property taxes, has the county in a fiscal straightjacket that threatens its ability to provide core services to its residents for years to come.”

- Randy Carpenter,
Sonoran Institute Land Use Planner

Randy Carpenter Land Use Planner



Randy Carpenter provides assistance with growth management and land conservation to local governments and concerned citizens in the Northern Rockies. An avid outdoorsman living and working in Bozeman, Montana, he has had extensive experience in helping protect rural landscapes and wildland ecosystems from poorly planned development. What is keeping his phone ringing these days, though, is often more about what is not being developed than what is.

One of Randy’s project areas is Teton County, Idaho, a community where an estimated 75 percent of its approved home lots lie vacant in the wake of the real estate collapse. He is working with citizens there to explore how to undo some of the failed subdivisions, and how to chart a smarter course for the future. “It’s exciting,” Randy says, “because it gives me the opportunity to really delve into the economic foundations of the real estate boom/bubble/bust, and to understand what the ‘new norm’ in real estate is likely to be, and how we can influence that in a positive way.”

A graduate of the University of Iowa, with a B.A. in History and an M.A. in Urban and Regional Planning, Randy enjoys the Sonoran Institute’s community-based approach to conservation because it is embedded in three key concepts: 1) it is empathetic; 2) it is data-driven; 3) it offers constructive solutions for communities. “The Sonoran Institute is much more than a think tank,” he says. “It takes the best, most practical ideas and helps communities make them happen.” ■



“We now see preservation of our desert landscape as a driver of prosperity, not an impediment.”

- Luther Propst, Executive Director of the Sonoran Institute and Co-Author of the report

“Tucson has unique competitive advantages in the region, and its natural, outdoor lifestyle positions it to attract highly educated, high-wage workers. But to realize its economic potential it must reform its governance structures and develop connectivity within the region.”

- Joe Kalt, Sonoran Institute Board Member and Co-Author of the report

“This is more than a marketing ploy. It’s a change of perspective. Instead of simply “come to Tucson,” we need to be saying “come to Tucson, the best part of the Sun Corridor.”

- Arizona Daily Star

Getting Big While Staying Small Tucson’s New Prosperity

A pleasant but unremarkable runner-up in the race for growth and power in Arizona, or a key player and “place to be” in one of the country’s largest economic markets? Tucson may not realize it, but the latter is its true identity, according to a new Sonoran Institute report, entitled *Tucson’s New Prosperity: Capitalizing on the Sun Corridor*.

Describing the city’s role in the Sun Corridor region, the report presents a new framework for thinking about conservation, growth, and economic development in Tucson. Rather than a free-standing city, competing with dozens of smaller U.S. cities, Tucson should embrace its reality as a gem in the Intermountain West’s largest economy. With this vision shift, Tucson’s best strategy is not to compete with Phoenix, but to treat that economic powerhouse as an asset to advance its own economy.

Arizona’s two largest cities have had a complex, competitive relationship since territorial days. In terms of growth, Phoenix won, but at great cost to its environment and quality of life. Tucson is smaller but has preserved its natural beauty, access to outdoor recreation, and relaxed desert lifestyle. Tucson should play to these strengths, the report says, and establish its own niche in the Sun Corridor by finding ways to benefit from Phoenix while preserving what is unique and desirable about the city. Since its environment is Tucson’s prime competitive advantage, it becomes clear that conservation and smart growth policies will spur—not impede—economic growth.

The report recommends two additional areas for action: run the city and county well (e.g., maintain infrastructure, revise governance structures to receive a more equitable share of state funds) and work with other Sun Corridor players to promote each other and the region. This includes steps as simple as including links to each other’s economic development websites, and as major as building an intercity rail system.

The report’s lessons apply to many communities in the West. By taking a wider view of our economies and connections to our neighbors, we can identify our strengths and begin developing economies that are prosperous and truly sustainable. ■

Diane Snyder to Lead Northern Rockies Regional Program

Diane Snyder is taking the reins as director of the Institute’s Northern Rockies Program starting October 12, 2010. From Wallowa County, Oregon, Diane has extensive experience in land-use planning and an absolute passion for bringing disparate groups together for the health of the environment, the economy, and the social structure of rural communities.



“Diane has a deep understanding of the complex issues facing natural resource-dependent communities, and an amazing amount of creativity and energy driven by her sense of hope for the future,” says Luther Propst, executive director of the Sonoran Institute.

Diane comes to the Institute from the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, where she served as vice president for community development. This foundation was created to support educational, charitable, public interest, and forest sustainability projects in forest-reliant communities. Prior to this assignment, Diane spent more than a decade as the founding executive director of Wallowa Resources, a local nonprofit organization that promotes sustainable community development and natural resource conservation. She also is the former director of the Land Use Planning and Building Department for Wallowa County. Diane grew up on a ranch that had been part of her family for four generations in Wallowa County.

“We were looking for a dynamic and capable leader to direct the Northern Rockies Program, someone who could provide strategic leadership, program planning and management, and outreach. Diane is a perfect fit for the Institute,” says Nina Chambers, director of programs for the Sonoran Institute.

Diane will be based in the Sonoran Institute’s Bozeman, Montana, office. ■

Read the full report on our website: www.sonoraninstitute.org

Collaboration

The Jewel in the Crown

It is a landscape of profound beauty, and an ecological crossroads where plant and animal communities from the Pacific Northwest, eastern prairies, southern Rockies, and boreal forests mingle. Its spine of glacier-carved mountains is the headwaters for North America, where pristine rivers originate and flow to the Pacific Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, and Hudson Bay. It is one of the last places on the continent that still hosts all of its native large predators, a sign of a landscape that remains remarkably intact.

“The Crown’s abundant resources and inspiring landscapes have drawn people to the region for many generations.”

- Sarah Bates, Senior Fellow, Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy at the University of Montana, Lead Author

Appropriately named the Crown of the Continent, this extraordinary 18-million-acre region also connects nations and cultures; it is a treasure shared by Canada, the United States, First Nations, and Native American tribes. At its core are Waterton Lakes and Glacier national parks, designated by the U.S. Congress and Canadian Parliament in 1932 as the world’s first international peace park.

This rare and special place has long inspired stewardship by committed individuals and forward-looking organizations. More than 21 federal, Tribal, First Nations, state, and provincial agencies strive to cooperatively manage the Crown’s wildlands, wildlife, timber, minerals, oil and gas, recreation, and other resources. How can these various groups work together most effectively to shape the Crown’s future? By collaborating across human-drawn, artificial boundaries to focus on healthy landscapes and communities, says a new report, *Remarkable Beyond Borders: People and Landscapes in the Crown of the Continent*.

“There is a great opportunity for conservation to happen at a larger scale in this region. Our report builds on the foundational work of many groups, and consolidates their goals into a regional framework that can bring people together and spark new ideas.”

- Nina Chambers, Director of Programs, Sonoran Institute, report Co-Author

Prepared jointly by the Center for Natural Resources and Environmental Policy at the University of Montana, the Sonoran Institute, and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the report tells the story of the Crown and highlights some of the challenges and opportunities facing its residents today and tomorrow. It celebrates the collaborative groups working in the Crown, and presents ways to strengthen, link, and expand their initiatives for the long-term welfare of the landscape they call home.

“At the conference, participants shared ideas about what it means to think and act as a region, exchanged stories about diverse collaborative initiatives on both sides of the international border, and looked ahead to consider options for addressing common challenges in a more unified manner.”

- Sarah Bates, Lead Author

Remarkable Beyond Borders provided a starting point for dialogue at the first annual Conference on the Crown of the Continent in Waterton Lakes held on September 23-24, 2010. ■



Read the full report on our website: www.sonoraninstitute.org

Karen Wade | Board Member

Karen Patten Wade married into the National Park Service (NPS), and then made it her own. Married to NPS employee Bill Wade, she would move with him—and their son Michael and daughter Mylea—to several parks across the U.S. and eventually to New Zealand, where he trained New Zealand park rangers. When their marriage ended in 1976, Karen’s own remarkable NPS career began. Starting in 1978 as a planner acquiring rights-of-way for the Appalachian Trail, she became management assistant for Shenandoah National Park five years later. Between 1985 and 1999, she worked as superintendent at four different parks, spanning from the East Coast to Alaska: Fort McHenry and Hampton, Guadalupe Mountains, Wrangell-St. Elias, and finally Great Smoky Mountains. By 1999, she had risen all the way to regional director of the Intermountain Region, retiring in the fall of 2003.



Having worked for years with Luther Probst on land-use issues in communities near national parks, Karen joined the Institute’s board when she retired.

“So many places in the West have grown so rapidly that communities are struggling to retain the qualities and values that make them special,” she says. “The Sonoran Institute is practical enough to acknowledge that change is going to occur, but strong-willed about the fact that this change can be directed for the benefit of the community. I like that we provide resources enabling local decision-making, but without a vested interest. We come in, help, and then move on—taking the lessons learned to assist others.” ■

2010
 ROUNDUP OF
 WESTERN DISPATCHES

August 2010

Dancing with Zombies – Teton County, Idaho, Learns New Moves in Coping with a Mountain of Vacant Building Lots

July 2010

Poking and Prying with a Purpose – The Vital Role of Research in Community-Based Resource Conservation

June 2010

A Tale of Two Cities – How to Act Local and Think Regional

May 2010

Colorado Leaders Inspire “New Energy Economy” Statewide

April 2010

Smart Growth Strategies to Avoid the Line of Fire

March 2010

Climate Change. Think Global. Act Local

February 2010

Watersheds – Connecting People, Communities and Landscapes

January 2010

What Do We Do with All These Unbuilt Subdivision Lots?

Read all of our Western Dispatches online: www.sonoraninstitute.org

2010 Report Roundup

- 2009 Annual Report
- *In the Line of Fire – Managing Growth at the Forest’s Edge*
- *Planning for Climate Change in the West – A Policy Focus Report Completed in Collaboration with the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy*
- *Arizona’s Solar Energy Future – A Series of Fact Sheets on Commercial Solar Development in Arizona*
- *Living in Balance with the Land – Inspirational Conservation Stories from Mexico to Montana*
- *A Living River – Charting the Health of the Upper Santa Cruz River: 2009 Water Year*
- *Tucson’s New Prosperity – Capitalizing on the Sun Corridor*
- *Partnership for Wyoming’s Future – An Enduring Commitment to the Lands and People of Wyoming*

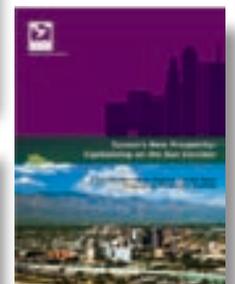
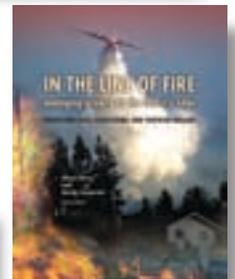


Photo Credits – Acknowledgements:

Cover – Red Rock Canyon – Courtesy of Joe Pohl
 Cover – Boot on the Ground – Courtesy of Lorne Matalon
 Photo of Empty Home in Teton County, Idaho – Courtesy of VARD
 Other photos are the property of the Sonoran Institute.

Writing and Editing: Ian G. Wilson, Audrey L. Spillane
 Design: Theresa Reindl Bingham
 Printing: Arizona Lithographers

October 2010/2k

To download these reports, please visit our online library at www.sonoraninstitute.org



San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico

Celebrating the Uniqueness of San Felipe, Mexico

Discovered in the early 1900s because of its abundance of shrimp, the quaint port city of San Felipe, Baja California, Mexico, is located in a unique ecosystem—where the desert meets the sea. Home to a 1,000-year-old reserve of the world’s largest cactus species (Cardon Cactus), and touted as the second sunniest place on earth, San Felipe is a five-hour drive from San Diego and attracts as many as 250,000 American and Canadian visitors annually. Tourism is now San Felipe’s top industry, followed by shrimping and fishing.

The Sonoran Institute has its boots on the ground in Baja California, and is helping boost San Felipe’s tourism economy by assisting with design plans for a major new visitor center for the community, the Upper Gulf of California Interpretative Center. The Institute is working with Baja California’s Office of Tourism on the project.

“The Center will likely be a combination of a visitor center and a museum with live animals,” says Francisco Zamora of the Sonoran Institute. “The idea is for the Center to be a focal point for visitors to learn and be inspired by the natural and cultural resources of the region, which, we believe, will increase visitation to other unique areas of the San Felipe–Mexicali corridor.” Francisco, who is director of the Sonoran Institute’s Upper Gulf of California Legacy Program, indicates that the world-famous Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum located in Tucson, Arizona, is a model for their work in San Felipe. “Similar to the Sonoran Desert region, the ecosystem that surrounds San Felipe is large, diverse, complex, and sensitive,” says Francisco. “This unique crossroads of ecosystems—desert, coastal, river and marine—deserves celebration and protection.”

Francisco indicated that the Institute will be involved in all aspects of design development for the Center, including determining the size of the facility, what types of exhibits to stage, and landscaping. The construction and operation of the Interpretative Center will be a partnership between the Baja California Office of Tourism and Mexico’s National Commission for Natural Protected Areas. The Center is expected to start construction in 2011 and be open to the public in 2013. ■



A Cardon Cactus dwarfs Francisco Zamora



CEFI Shows the Way

In the best cases, building environmental leadership is about showing the way to those who already have the will to act. This certainly proved true at the Sonoran Institute’s second Community Energy Futures Institute (CEFI), held last February in Grand Junction, Colorado. More than 40 participants, representing six Colorado counties and the cities of Grand Junction and Rifle, gathered to learn how to reduce their community’s carbon footprint, develop renewable energy, and incorporate energy efficiency into local land-use and transportation planning.

Many of the teams attending CEFI received support from the Colorado Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) to write a community energy plan and hire a local sustainability coordinator. Every group left the three-day program with a complete action plan to direct next steps, advice on how to communicate it to the broader community, and a peer network of others who share their goals or who have experience implementing the types of initiatives included in their plan.

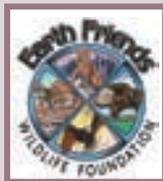
“Communities around the West want to be more efficient, to become less dependent on cars, and have walkable streets,” says Clark Anderson, the director of the Sonoran Institute’s Western Colorado Legacy Program. “But, often, they don’t know how to start or how to combine lots of related efforts into a comprehensive program. CEFI gives them the push they need to take their efforts to the next level.” ■

For more information on CEFI and to learn about our follow-up support to the city of Rifle, visit our website at www.sonoraninstitute.org.



Inspiration from Within

Help Us Meet the Earth Friends Challenge!



Your gift to the Sonoran Institute will go even further, thanks to a generous challenge grant from Earth Friends Conservation Fund. Please consider a gift now, knowing your dollars will help the Institute and help us bring in additional dollars from the Earth Friends Challenge.

Earth Friends is a public foundation committed to using its resources to support the work of more than 100 conservation and wildlife protection groups.

Founded in 1994 by Rick Flory, Earth Friends recognizes the need for partnership among the concerns of business, wildlife interests, and of those who will inherit the quality of life we create on this earth.

Earth Friends carries a message of hope, of our connectedness, of dignity for all life forms, and of a great and urgent need. Together, we can make a world of difference.

Visit Earth Friends at:
www.earthfriends.com

When I came earlier this year to serve as its Interim Development Director, I thought I knew what the Sonoran Institute was:

- A strong voice in the conservation world.
- A unifier whose intelligent approach to conservation brings together disparate groups to develop well-reasoned solutions to today's challenges.
- A steward of the West whose balanced perspective understands that sustainability must not only focus on conservation and land-use planning, but also on growth and economic vitality.



Jessica Ristow, Development Manager – Tucson, and Nina Trasoff

And all of this is true.

But what has truly touched me about this organization is that at the heart of the Institute's great work is a group of incredible people—striking not just for their intelligence, education, creativity and drive, but also for their passion: for their work, their colleagues, their families, and the communities where they live. And it is this passion that informs everything they do!

Each time I learn about another Institute program, and each time I hear a program director speak of the promise that program holds, I understand why our Board of Directors is so committed to our work, why foundations and other agencies reach out to partner with us, and why organizations and individuals so generously support what we do.

This is because the passion at the Institute is contagious, and—as you've seen reading this issue of *WestWord*—it also produces tangible conservation results.

Every word of achievement written in this publication was made possible by the organizations listed on the opposite page and by all the individual donors who contributed to the Sonoran Institute this year (individual donors are listed in our annual report). It is your gift that keeps us going between grants; that helps us plan for the next important project; and that allows us to envision the next partnership that will sustain a landscape, a watershed, a working ranch, a native people, or a critical habitat.

Thank you for your support!

But, please contribute again. I ask you to not put *WestWord* down until you've taken out the donation envelope inside and made a gift in whatever amount works for you. The Institute needs your help to continue its amazing work. Encourage your friends, colleagues, neighbors, and anyone else who cares about the future of the West to support us as well.

In addition to the donation envelope, you can quickly and easily donate online at our website, www.sonoraninstitute.org. You can also call Jessica or me at 520-290-0828. We're very grateful for your support.

Corporate, Foundation, Government & Nonprofit Support*

Thank You

BUSINESS/CORPORATION

Allstate Giving Campaign
Ameriprise Financial
Arizona Lithographers
Arizona Power Service
Artisan LLP
Black Diamond Equipment Ltd.
Clarion Associates of Colorado
Colorado College
Green Giants Consulting
Import Warehouse
Mercury CSC
New Belgium Brewing Company
Onondaga Commons LLC
Partners for Strategic Action, Inc.
Resolution Copper Company
Sargent Management Company
The Temp Connection
Thread Rolling Inc.
Western Land Group
WGM Group, Inc.

FAMILY FOUNDATIONS

Adelante Foundation
Arie and Ida Crown Memorial
Denison Family Foundation
Evo-Ora DeConcini and Thu Family Foundation
George B. Storer Foundation
Ishiyama Foundation
Jade Tree Foundation
LEK Foundation GLB Share
LP Brown Foundation
Norwell Fund
Orton Family Foundation
Stanley Family Fund
Steven C. Leuthold Family Foundation
The Fanwood Foundation
The James Huntington Foundation
Willow Springs Foundation

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Arizona State Forestry Division
Arizona State Land Department
Border Environment Cooperation Commission
(Comisión de Cooperación Ecológica Fronteriza)
Bureau of Land Management
Community by Design – LaPlata
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
National Park Service
National Park Service-CESU
State of Baja California
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
U.S. Institute for Environment Conflict Resolution
University of Arizona – Geosciences Department

FOUNDATIONS

Clarks Fork Foundation
C.W. and Modene Neely Charitable Foundation
Earth Friends Wildlife Foundation
Energy Foundation
Environment Foundation
First Interstate BancSystem Foundation
Harder Foundation
High Stakes Foundation
Homer A. & Mildred S. Scott Foundation
Intuit Foundation
John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
Kenney Brothers Foundation
Linda D. Campbell Fund at the Denver Foundation
Liz Claiborne & Art Ortenberg Foundation
M.J. Murdock Charitable Trust
Macy's Foundation
Mattlin Foundation
The Bullitt Foundation
The Christensen Fund
The Community Foundation Serving Riverside
and San Bernardino Counties
The Community Foundation – Wild Spaces
The David and Lucile Packard Foundation
The Kendeda Fund
The New York Times Company Foundation
The Prudential Foundation
The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The Wyss Foundation
Thomas R. Brown Family Foundation
Western Conservation Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation
Wyoming Community Foundation

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Arizona State Employees Charitable Campaign
Citizen Advocates for a Livable Missoula
Cottonwood Resource Council
Environmental Fund for Arizona
Lincoln Institute of Land Policy
Local Initiatives Support Corporation
Montana Association of Conservation Districts
Montana Environmental Information Center
Montana Human Rights Network
Plan Helena
Pronatura
Santa Lucia Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
Tisbest Philanthropy
United Way - Valley of the Sun
United Way Of Mesa
United Way of Tucson & Southern Arizona
Wyoming Wilderness Association

Donate Now! www.sonoraninstitute.org

* March 2009 thru July 2010



7650 East Broadway Blvd., Suite 203
Tucson, AZ 85710

Shaping the Future of the West

NON PROFIT
US POSTAGE
PAID
Permit #1454
Tucson AZ 85710

www.sonoraninstitute.org

This report was manufactured with wind-generated electricity to conserve resources and emissions and has had this impact on the environment:

- **189 lbs. of greenhouse gas emissions not generated**
- **1,577 cubic feet of natural gas not burned**

The Sonoran Institute's contribution to the environment as a result of the wind-generated electricity used in printing *WestWord* is equivalent to:

- **Planting 13 trees or not driving 187 miles**



Printed with 100% New Wind Energy