

Need to have a link to the plan. Get the documents from the old site.

Plan Study

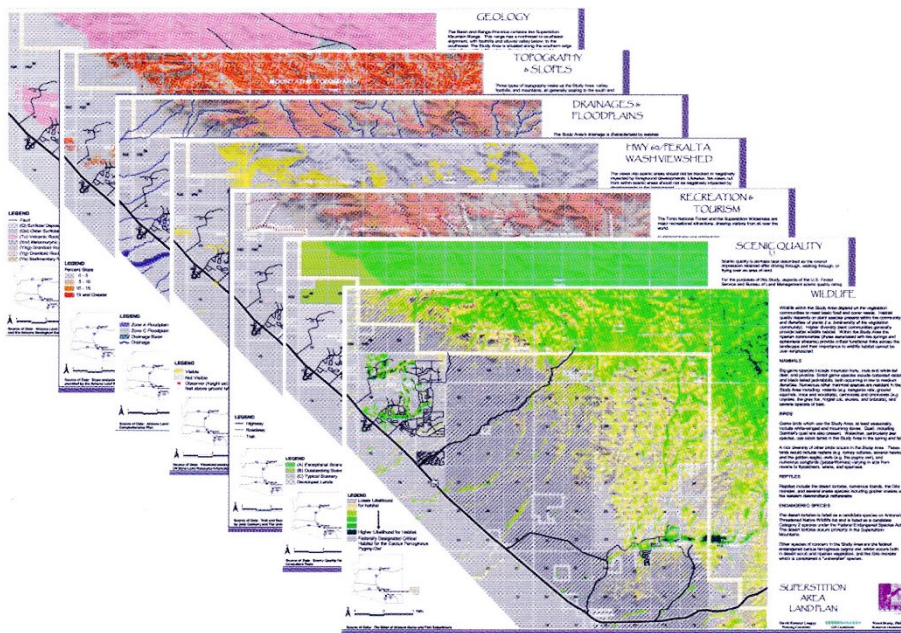
In order to determine which lands should be designated for development and which lands should be conserved as open space for future generations, The Superstition Area Land Trust (SALT) commissioned a Land Plan Study in 2000 that encompassed approximately 105 square miles of state trust, federal and private land.

Study Intent

The study was developed to provide Pinal County, State and local decision-makers and the people of Arizona with definitive data to aid in land use planning of the lands that lie at the base of the superstition wilderness. The inventory and analysis is based on quantitative, physical data with some qualitative elements based on interdisciplinary consensus. The report presents a balance based on this analysis to help make rational decisions as to which lands may be appropriate for development and

which should be conserved as open space for future generations.

Insert Picture: Inventory Maps



Inventory Maps

The planners first searched public records and historical and scientific data to develop an inventory of regional resources. Then, using the latest in GIS technology, detailed maps were created to aid in determining the best landuse for the study area.

Inventory maps include:

- | | |
|--|---------------------------|
| Current land ownership and development | Soils |
| Grazing and mining leases | Streams and Springs |
| Existing roads and trails | Drainages and Floodplains |
| Utilities and services | Vegetation and Wildlife |
| Topography and slopes | Archaeology and History |
| Scenic features | Scenic Quality |
| Geology | Recreation and Tourism |

Proposed Conceptual Area Plan

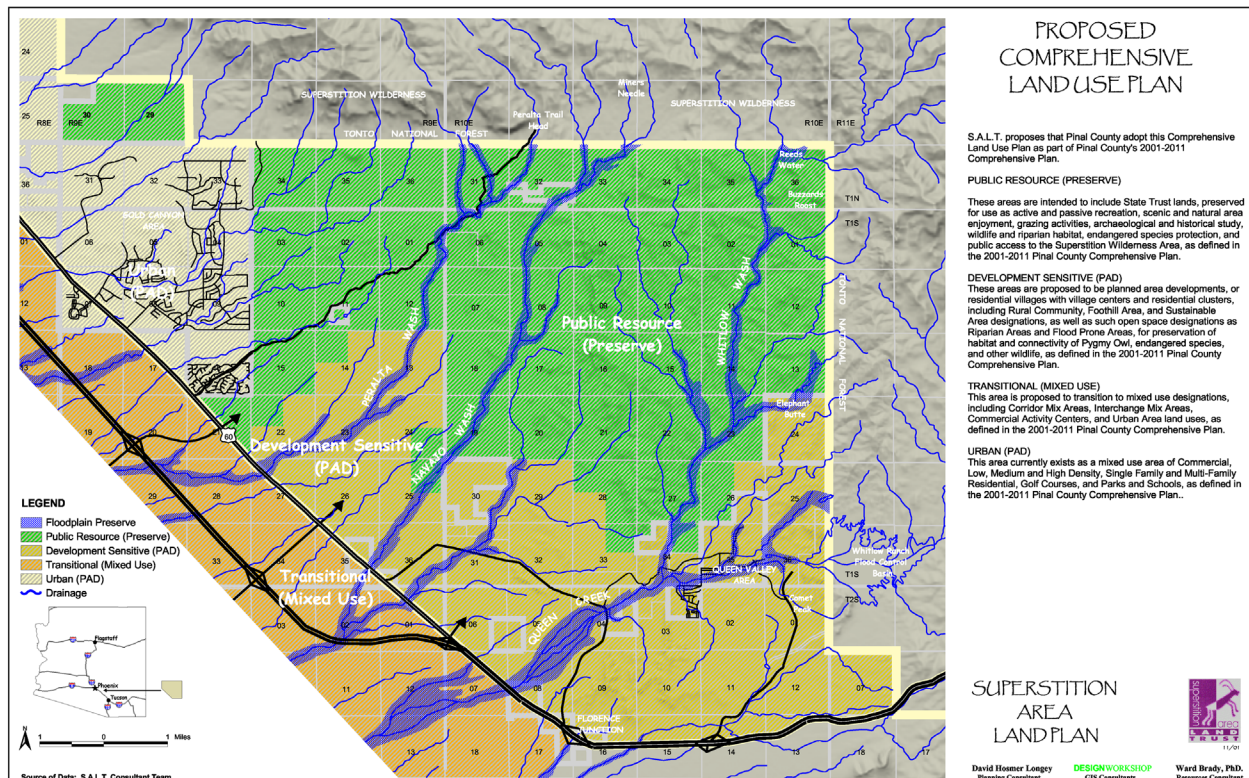
The study concluded about 50% of the state trust Lands in the planning area meet the Arizona State Land Department's criteria for reclassification and suitable for conservation. The Superstition Area Land Trust proposes that 45 sections (43% of the planning area (Green) be preserved. This includes a three-quarter section of Bureau of Land Management property and one-half section of private land.

The Yellow area indicates state trust land that may be suitable for limited development. Gray areas are privately owned parcels. The gold area south of US Highway 60 is state trust land that is most suitable for higher-density residential, commercial or light industrial development. SALT also proposed moving a planned extension of the Superstition Freeway (US 60) to the south to encourage development growth outside the scenic Sonoran desert north of the existing highway. We propose declaring the existing US 60 corridor as a Scenic Highway (pale green along highway alignment) to preserve panoramic viewscapes of the Superstition Wilderness and enhance lower-density residential and small business development.

Realizing the plan

SALT proposes that Pinal County and the Arizona State Land Department utilize this conceptual Area Plan to guide the conservation of State Trust and private lands.

Insert graphic: Proposed Comprehensive Land Use Plan



Analysis Maps

A Subcommittee consisting of the planners and SALT board members visited city, county, state and federal officials to solicit input and discuss the data.

The maps were overlaid, and new analysis maps were developed to determine which areas were most suitable for development and which should be preserved.

Insert graphics(make it so you can read the text): Topography and Slopes, Drainage and Flood Plains, Vegetation and Grazing and Mining.

What is needed Now

SALT has identified the land most in need of conservation, but little can be done to preserve it without public and government action. 140 acres in the proposed preserve area are under private ownership. One of SALT's priorities is to buy or obtain conservation easements on that land, a project that may cost more than \$1,000,000.

Pinal County has identified the recommended preserve area in its Comprehensive Plan. However, under current Arizona Law, State trust lands can still be sold or leased by the State Land Department for development. SALT is working with other groups to change state law to allow preservation of state trust land not possible under current Arizona statutes. Until changes to state law allow for preservation of state trust land without expending tens of millions of dollars for even small parcels, the rapidly vanishing Sonoran desert will continue to disappear under asphalt and rooftops.

THIS IS WHERE YOU CAN HELP!

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