



SKY  
ISLAND  

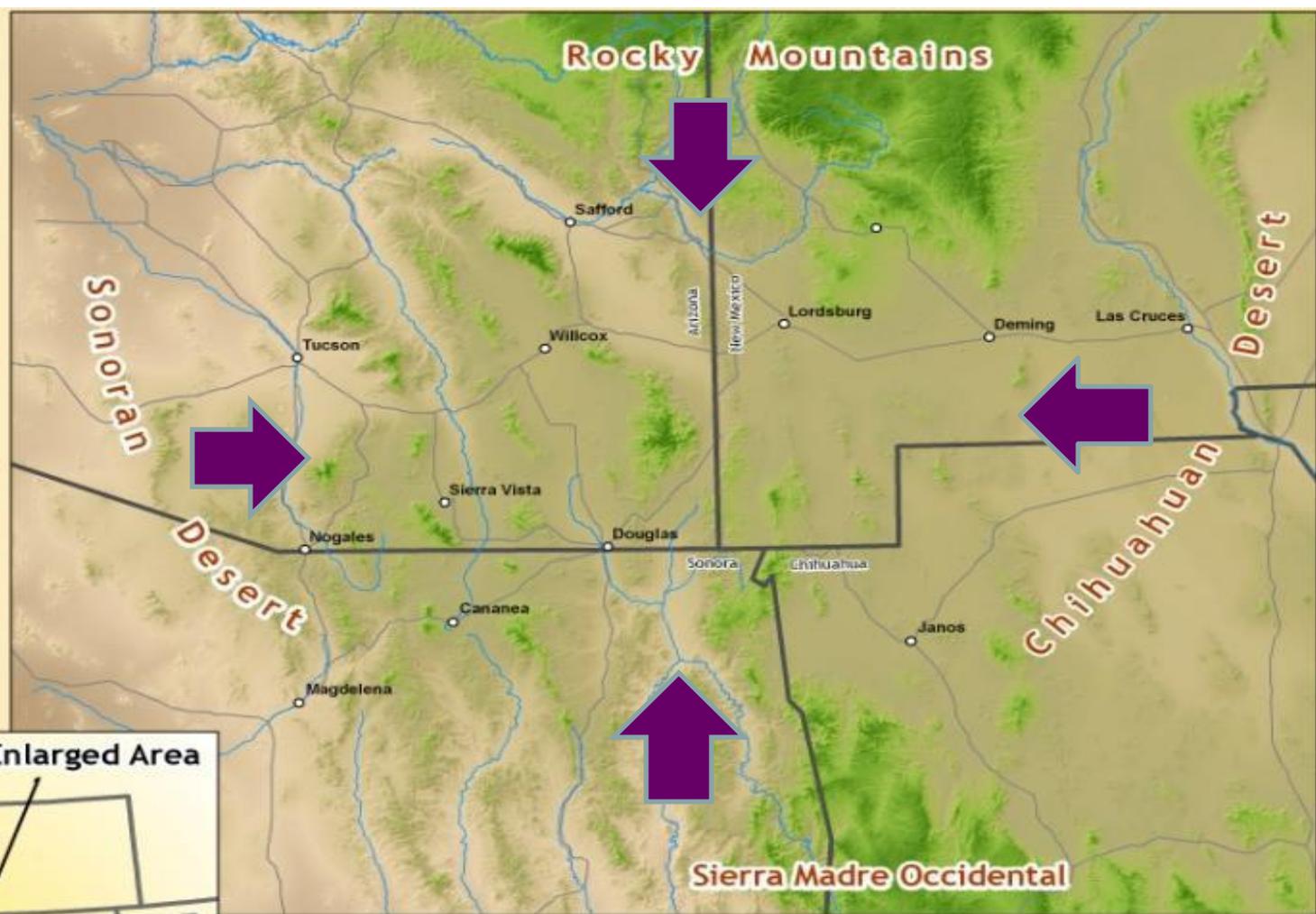
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ALLIANCE

Protecting our Mountain Islands  
and Desert Seas

# Mountain Islands Surrounded By Desert Seas





# SKY ISLAND REGION

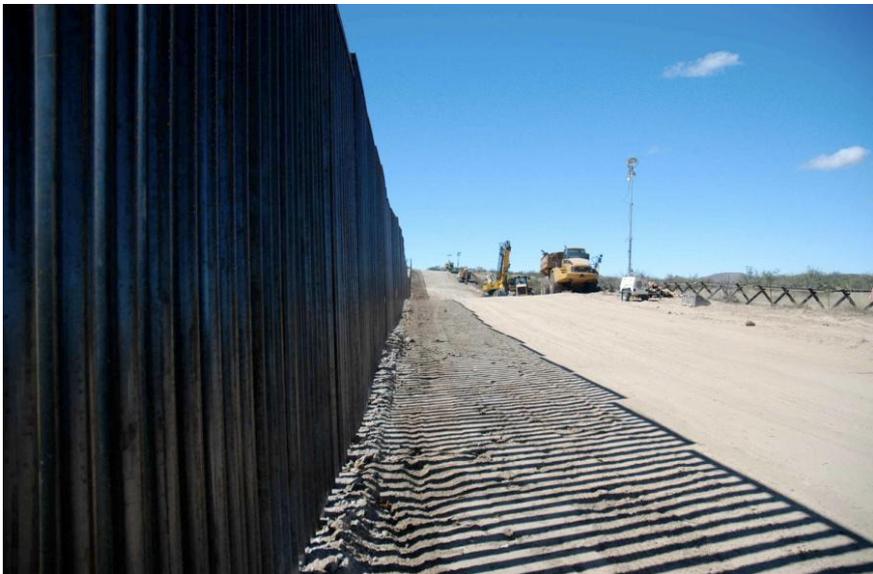








# Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge



## The REAL ID Waiver

*Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to waive all legal requirements such Secretary, in such Secretary's sole discretion, determines necessary to ensure expeditious construction of the barriers and roads under this section.*  
*8 U.S.C. 1103 n. (emphasis added).*

## Existing Waivers

- 1. Sept. 2005: 8 laws** waived along **14 miles** in CA
- 2. Jan. 2007: 7 laws** waived for **37 miles** in AZ
- 3. April 2007: 21 laws** waived for **approx. 5miles** in AZ
- 4. April 2008: 36 laws** waived for **over 470 miles** in CA, AZ, NM & TX
- 5. April 2008: 27 laws** waived for a **22-mile TX** project





**3 July 2008 Smuggler's Gulch from top of Spooner's Mesa--looking east**



**Dec 7, 2008  
Border Patrol access road across Smuggler's Gulch  
From top of Spooner's Mesa, looking east  
Photo by Nathan Trotter**



# Are Border Walls Worth It?

**Taxpayers have invested over \$4.2 billion in border infrastructure since 2006; each new mile of barrier costs an average of \$8 million.**

*Government Accountability Office (GAO), Sept. 2009.*

**Fencing was breached over 4000 times in FY2010, costing \$7.2 million to repair. GAO,**

*March 2011.*



**Maintenance on existing infrastructure for the next 20 years will cost \$6.5 billion. Congressional Budget Office, August 2006.**

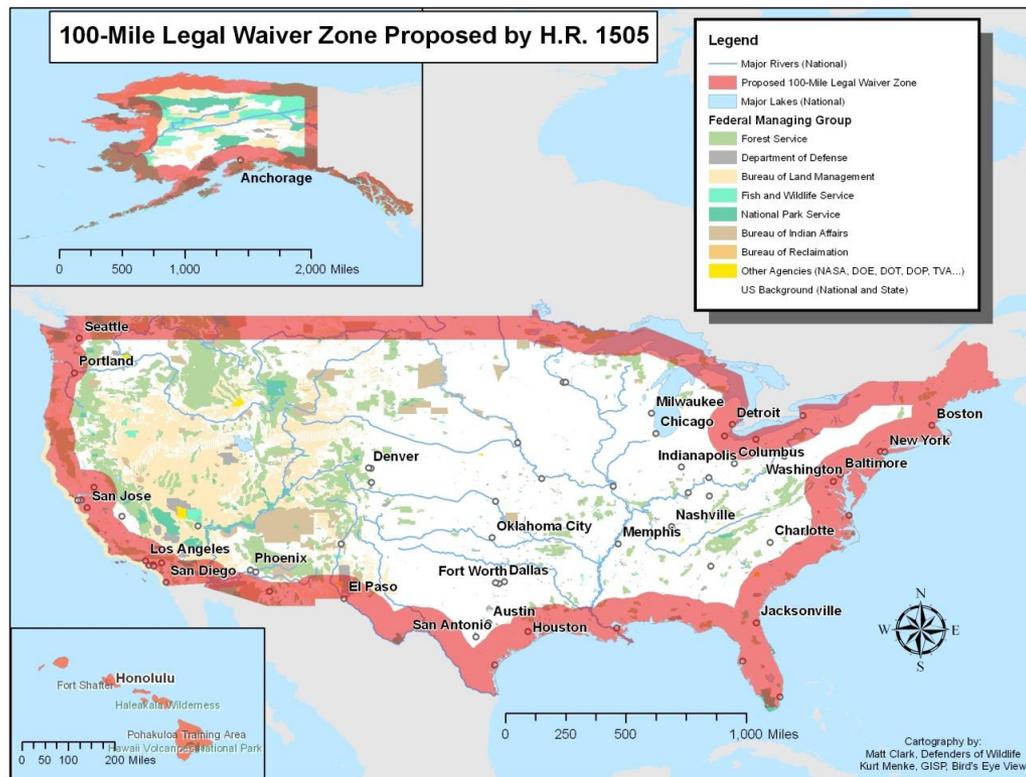
**The effectiveness of border walls has never been evaluated...those wanting to breach it routinely go over, under, around and through it.**

*GAO, Sept. 2009.*

**Border Patrol spokesman Mike Scioli described the border fence as merely "a speed bump in the desert." Arizona Republic, February 2008.**

# H.R.1505: National Security and Federal Lands Protection Act

- Permanently exempts border-enforcement activities from 31 environmental and cultural resource laws within 100 miles of all U.S. borders and coasts.
- Gives the Department of Homeland Security veto power over environmental and cultural resource protections on all public lands across the nation.



# Waiving Laws is Unnecessary for Border Security

**“Border security and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive... Customs and Border Protection is fully committed to continuing our cooperative relationships with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.”** — *U.S. Border Patrol Deputy Chief Ronald Vitiello, April 15, 2011.*

- **2006 Memorandum of Understanding**
- **September 2010 Report on Interagency Cooperation**
- **October 2010 Government Accountability Office (GAO) Report**

# **Congressional Testimony of U.S. Border Patrol Deputy Chief Ronald Vitiello April 15, 2011**

**“Customs and Border Protection is fully committed to continuing our cooperative relationships with the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. We respect the missions of these agencies and we recognize the importance of the preservation of the American landscape.”**

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**“[T]he relationships and partnerships that we have fostered with [Dept. of Interior], as well as other federal state local and tribal agencies have enabled us to better execute our border security mission in these areas will minimizing the impact to the environment.”**

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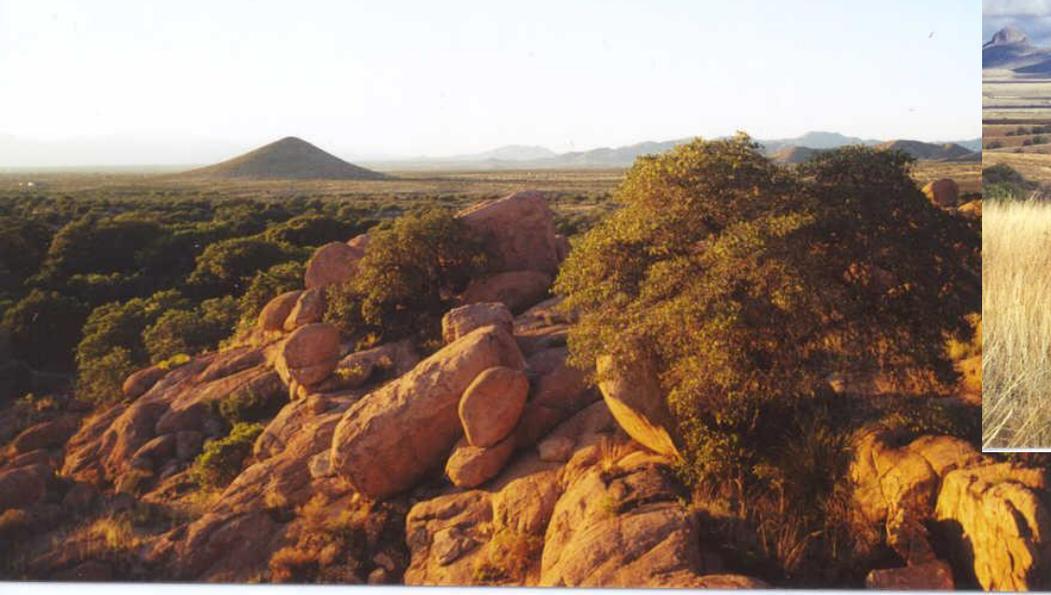
**“Border Security and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive.”**



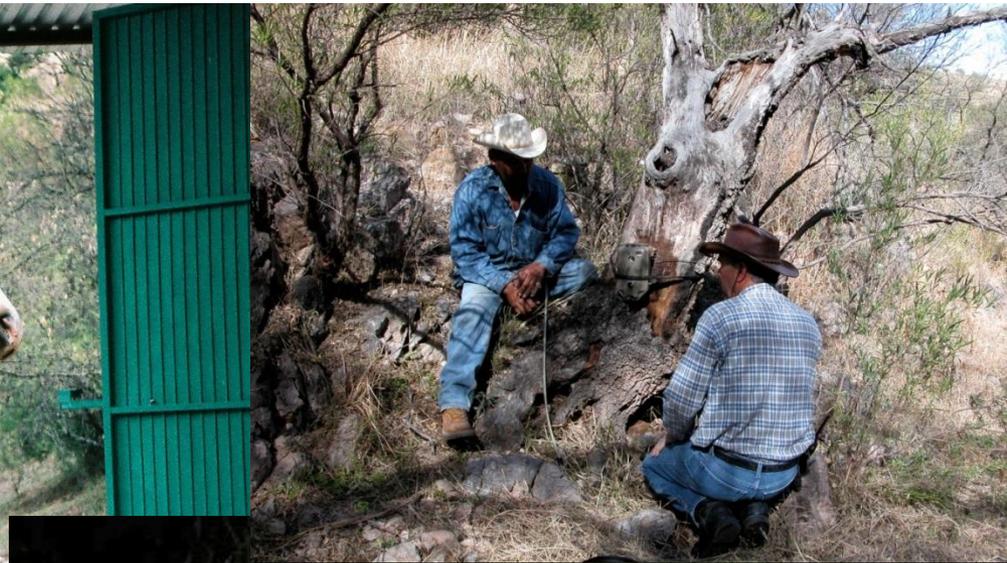
# Restoring Lands & Monitoring Wildlife



# Protecting Cores & Corridors



# Building Partnerships





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Ocelots in Arizona!



# Get Involved!

**\*Sign up to receive our E-news\***

**\*Become a Member\***

**\*Volunteer\***

Find out more at

**[www.skyislandalliance.org](http://www.skyislandalliance.org)**

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