

# Arizona Ecological Functions Strategy 01.26.11

## Data Integration

Integrate interagency and public data to create a statewide assessment of ecological conditions, trends and risks on BLM managed lands in Arizona; gather information and conduct inventory and monitoring of the public lands.

- Conduct Eco- Regional assessments in the Sonoran Desert, Mojave Desert, Colorado Plateau and Madrean Archipelago in conjunction with State, Federal and private partners
- Identify critical ecological issues within the state that require immediate and short term attention
- Focus and prioritize research questions with other agencies and organizations such as USGS and CESUs

## Priority Habitats

Prioritize conservation and restoration actions on areas with critical habitat issues as determined through coordinated assessments.

- Align actions with partner priorities such as the Arizona State Forest Assessment, Arizona State Wildlife Action Plans and Natural Resources Conservation Service and Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
- Focus action on projects which meet the goals of other Arizona Strategies
- Promote landscape scale actions that maintain, restore or enhance riparian and sensitive species habitats, and connectivity between habitats.

## Community and Partner Engagement

Utilizing eco-regional assessments engage communities and partners in development and implementation of landscape scale conservation and restoration projects.

- Identify partner agencies, organizations and communities to assist in development of regional approach and application of projects for protection and restoration

- Use community and landscaped based priorities to determine most effective areas for project development and implementation.
- Collaborate with partners to identify and obtain project funding sources.

## **Evaluate Effectiveness**

Evaluate the effectiveness of our actions and develop adaptation strategies as needed.

- Identify partners in academia, the community and in partner agencies to provide integrated monitoring of success of projects and issue resolution
- Focus research on questions arising from monitoring of projects