

Conservation Area Master Plan SPUR CROSS RANCH

Newsletter 1

June 2002



History of Spur Cross Ranch

The Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area (SCRCA) is rich with history. From petroglyphs to Hohokam ruins, there are signs of ancient civilizations throughout the region. Many local Native American tribes consider SCRCA a sacred place.



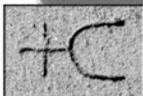
Old mines are also prevalent at SCRCA. During the Gold Rush, SCRCA was a popular place to try to strike it rich. Its natural beauty was a draw for many prospectors. By the early 1900s, the mines had been abandoned, leaving scars across the region.

The Spur Cross Dude Ranch is also part of SCRCA history. Established by Edward M. Joyce and Philip K. Lewis in 1928, with subsequent owners through the years, the dude ranch was a popular attraction for visitors who wanted to experience the Old West into the 1950s. Only a few foundations from these buildings remain at this time.

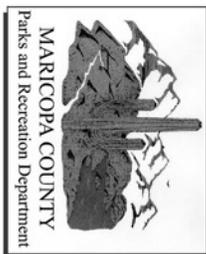
In 1997, the Town of Cave Creek annexed SCRCA, in opposition of development of the site. A unique partnership between the State of Arizona, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department, and Town of Cave Creek was formed, and Spur Cross Ranch was designated a Conservation Area.

Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area Master Plan Process

The goal of the SCRCA Master Plan is to protect and preserve the natural resources in the area including native plants, animals, and archaeology, while providing for daytime recreational activities for the public.



Conservation Area Master Plan
Spur Cross Ranch



Contact Information

For more information about the SCRCA Master Plan process or if you would like to be added to the project mailing list, please contact the public involvement coordinator at:

Peggy A. Flandaca : 480/816-1811

psapsa@worldnet.att.net

Or visit the Maricopa County web site at:

www.maricopa.gov/parks/spur_cross

The SCRCA Master Plan process began with the first meeting of the Joint Planning Committee (JPC). The JPC is composed of the project sponsors and is responsible for overseeing the master planning process. During the JPC kick-off meeting, the following issues were identified:

- Interim management of SCRCA
- Future of Spur Cross Road
- Current and future permittees
- Protection of environmental resources
- Long-term management of SCRCA
- Recreational uses (e.g., equestrian, hiking, mountain biking, bird watching, jeep tours, hunting, etc.)
- Educational opportunities at SCRCA
- Connectivity of SCRCA to other regional systems (e.g., Cave Creek Recreation Area and Tonto National Forest)

Joint Planning Committee

The multi-jurisdictional JPC was formed to oversee the master planning and management of the SCRCA Master Plan. The purpose of the JPC is to identify issues through member's constituency base related to SCRCA. The JPC will meet at least six times during the master planning process to discuss critical issues and other key concepts that will be used to provide the foundation for the planning process. The members of SCRCA JPC are as follows:

- Mr. Jay Ream*Arizona State Parks
- Ms. Lu Cartharius*Desert Foothills Land Trust; Cave Creek
- Mr. Ralph Mozilo*Cave Creek Vice-Mayor
- Mr. Ken Mouw*Maricopa County Parks & Recreation
- Ms. Roxana Rojo*Maricopa County Parks & Recreation

Your Input is Important!

Public involvement is a critical component to the success of the SCRCA Master Plan. Four community open houses will be conducted between now and December 2003 when the SCRCA Master Plan will be completed.

The first community open house is scheduled for:

- When:** Monday, June 24, 2002 from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.
- Where:** Town of Cave Creek Council Chambers
37622 North Cave Creek Road.
- Why:** To hear your opinions and ideas!

The purpose of the first community open house is to address the following objectives.

- *What is important to you about SCRCA*
- *Explain the master planning approach and timeline*
- *Uncover issues, views, and current or desired uses of SCRCA*

Currently a user survey is being conducted on SCRCA. Copies are available at the entry gate. Please take the time to answer the questions when you visit. This input will assist in identifying issues or concerns about SCRCA.



Location Map

