

# Tortolita Reserve

1 Properties acquired in the Tortolita Mountains

2 Properties that contribute to the Reserve

3 Wildlife Corridors

Pinal County

-  Riparian
-  Grassland
-  Mountains



*Ironwood Cochise Canyon – Photo by EPG*

## Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy Owl

At 6 to 7 inches tall, the listing of this small bird as an endangered species in 1997 is often cited as an impetus for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.



## Ironwood Trees

Ironwoods can live for hundreds of years and serve as nurse plants to over 600 species of plants, such as saguaros and barrel cactus.



*Ironwood tree flowers. Photo by Bill Singleton*



Photo by Bev Showalter

### Recreation

The bajada of the Tortolita Mountains are popular areas for hiking, mountain biking and all terrain vehicle use. The area gets intensive evening and weekend use during the cooler months by all types of outdoor recreation users. Tortolita Mountain Park has developed and undeveloped hiking trails for the more experienced hiker and is still a popular hunting area close to the Tucson metropolitan area.

### Marana Mound Community Site

Marana Mounds is a unique 272-acre site that represents the last Hohokam occupation of the northern Tucson basin, and the greatest prehistoric population and organizational complexity in the area. The site includes a platform mound ceremonial and residential center and an enormous range of other archaeological features.



Photo by Arizona State Museum

The Tortolita Reserve includes the Tortolita Mountains along the Pima/Pinal County line, and large swaths of undeveloped State Trust land east and west of the mountain range. The area contains the region's best examples of Saguaro-Palo Verde-old growth Ironwood plant community. The Tortolita Alluvial Fan and its washes, much of which is located within this reserve, plays an important role in the area's natural flood control and groundwater recharge capabilities. The lands along Oracle Road are capable of linking the Catalina and Tortolita mountains to facilitate the movement of wildlife between the Coronado National Forest and Tortolita Mountain Park. The lands along Interstate 10 are similarly capable of linking the Tucson and Tortolita mountains to facilitate the movement of wildlife between Tucson Mountain Park, Saguaro National Park West and Tortolita Mountain Park. The area also boasts sought after scenic views, as well as important cultural and archaeological sites such as the Marana Mound Community.

