



- Locked Gate - Access by Permit Only
- ⊗ Locked Gate - No Public Access
- ▭ County-Owned Land Boundary
- ▭ County Boundary



EMPIRITA RANCH



HISTORY

Welcome to Empirita Ranch Headquarters. The Empirita Ranch was founded in 1941 after the breakup of the Empire Ranch. It was family-owned for many years before being sold off and a portion acquired by Pima County. Empirita is a historical cattle ranch that continues today as a working ranch landscape.

ACQUISITION

The 358-acre headquarters property was acquired by Pima County between 1988 and 1990. In 2009, as part of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, the County acquired an additional 2,700 acres of the Old Empirita Ranch near the north end of the Whetstone Mountains. Protecting Empirita Ranch provides an unfragmented, natural habitat for wildlife as well as allowing sustainable cattle ranching. By acquiring a portion of the Empirita Ranch, Pima County is slowing urban sprawl and protecting important environments, such as riparian areas which are considered areas of high biological importance.

WILDLIFE

A diversity of wildlife can be seen throughout the year on Empirita Ranch including the lesser earless lizard, black-tailed jack rabbit, rock squirrel and the Vermilion flycatcher. Other potential wildlife that can be seen includes Couch's spadefoot toad, regal horned lizard, black-tailed rattlesnake, Merriam's kangaroo rat, mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, white-throated woodrat and the horned lark.

ACCESS

Access to the property is along the designated route on the map on the backside of this notice. At the present time the ranch headquarters is closed to public use. Access through the Empirita Ranch requires a permit made possible by an agreement with AZ Game and Fish. To receive a permit, contact Pima County Natural Resources Parks and Recreation at 520-877-6158.

REPORTING PROBLEMS OR VIOLATIONS

- For Law Enforcement Emergencies, please call 911
- For Property Violations, call Pima County NRPR: 520-877-6000 M-F 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
- For Vandalism or Wildlife Violations, call AZ Game and Fish OGT Line: 1-800-352-0700

RULES

- Stay on the designated roads and trails; all off-road travel is prohibited.
- Please keep all gates closed unless wired open.
- Do not discharge firearms within a ¼ mile of occupied buildings or posted areas.
- Do not camp near water holes or livestock waters.
- Do not cut firewood.
- Do not remove or disturb any natural or cultural resources.

Thank you for respecting Pima County's Empirita Ranch.

For more information and complete Park rules, please see the NRPR website at: www.pima.gov/nrpr



PIMA COUNTY
NATURAL RESOURCES
PARKS AND RECREATION
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