

## **CAC Agenda Item 6B – To move Northern Altar Valley properties & Double xx Ranch from Community Open Space to Habitat Protection Priorities**

**Issue:** Commissioner Wilson questioned why these properties were designated as Community Open Space when they were so far from the urban area. Staff agrees that they don't fit the community open space category. They also do not fit the Wildlife Corridors category under HPP Associated Lands. At the August 2014 Commission meeting, the Commission decided to postpone action on this item until staff could run the change by Rob Marshall (Nature Conservancy) and Diana Freshwater (AZ Land & Water Trust) as they were the original creators of the Habitat Protection Priorities (HPP).

### **Analysis:**

#### AOLT/TNC Conservation Goals and Selection Criteria for Original Habitat Protection Priorities

- Northern Altar properties - CLS Special Species Management Area for Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl
- Double XX Ranch – CLS Biological Core
- Northern Altar properties would expand existing protected areas.
- Double xx Ranch - Does not expand an already conserved area, but does connect to other HPPs
- Neither contains SDCP special elements.
- Both are over 10 acres in size.

#### Priority Conservation Areas

##### Northern Altar Valley Properties:

- Lowland leopard frog
- Cactus ferruginous pygmy owl
- Lesser long nosed bat
- Pima pineapple cactus
- Giant spotted whiptail

##### Double XX Ranch:

- Lowland leopard frog
- Swainson's hawk
- Lesser long nosed bat
- Mexican long tonged bat
- Western red bat