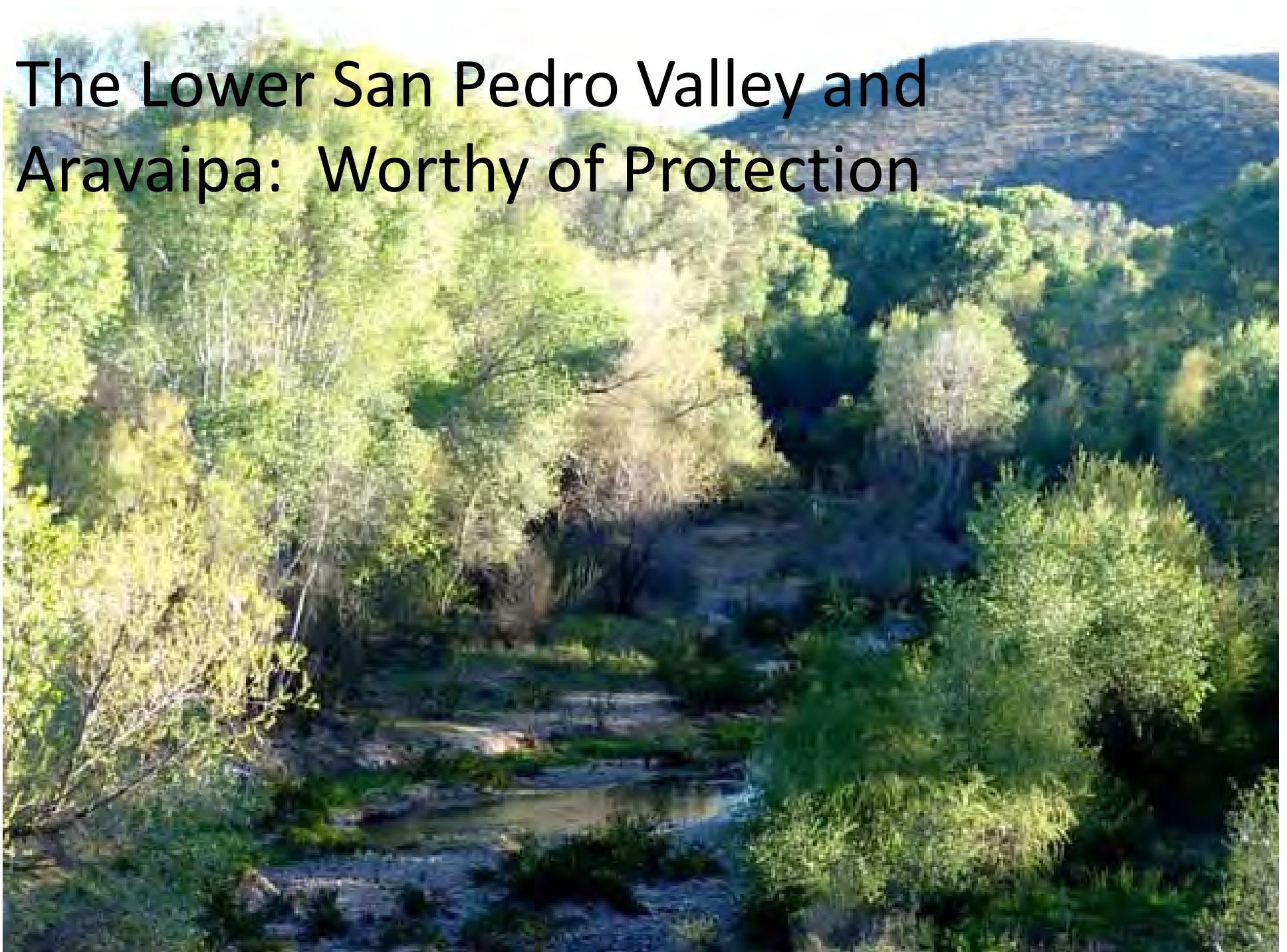


# The Lower San Pedro Valley and Aravaipa: Worthy of Protection



# The Cascabel Working Group

- The Cascabel Working Group (CWG) is composed of residents and landowners of the Lower San Pedro Valley who voluntarily joined together to successfully oppose routing of an I-10 bypass through the San Pedro Valley.
- The CWG works to educate governmental organizations, non-governmental organizations, and the public about environmental, archaeological, cultural, recreational, agricultural, economic and other features of the San Pedro River Valley and its tributaries with a focus on the Lower San Pedro River Watershed.

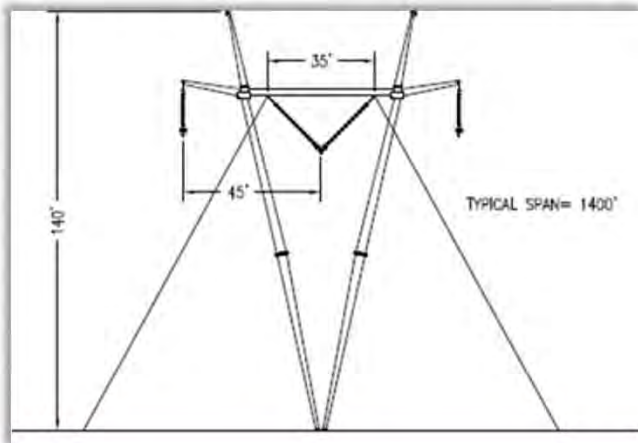


# **SunZia – Today's Challenge**

# SunZia Project Description



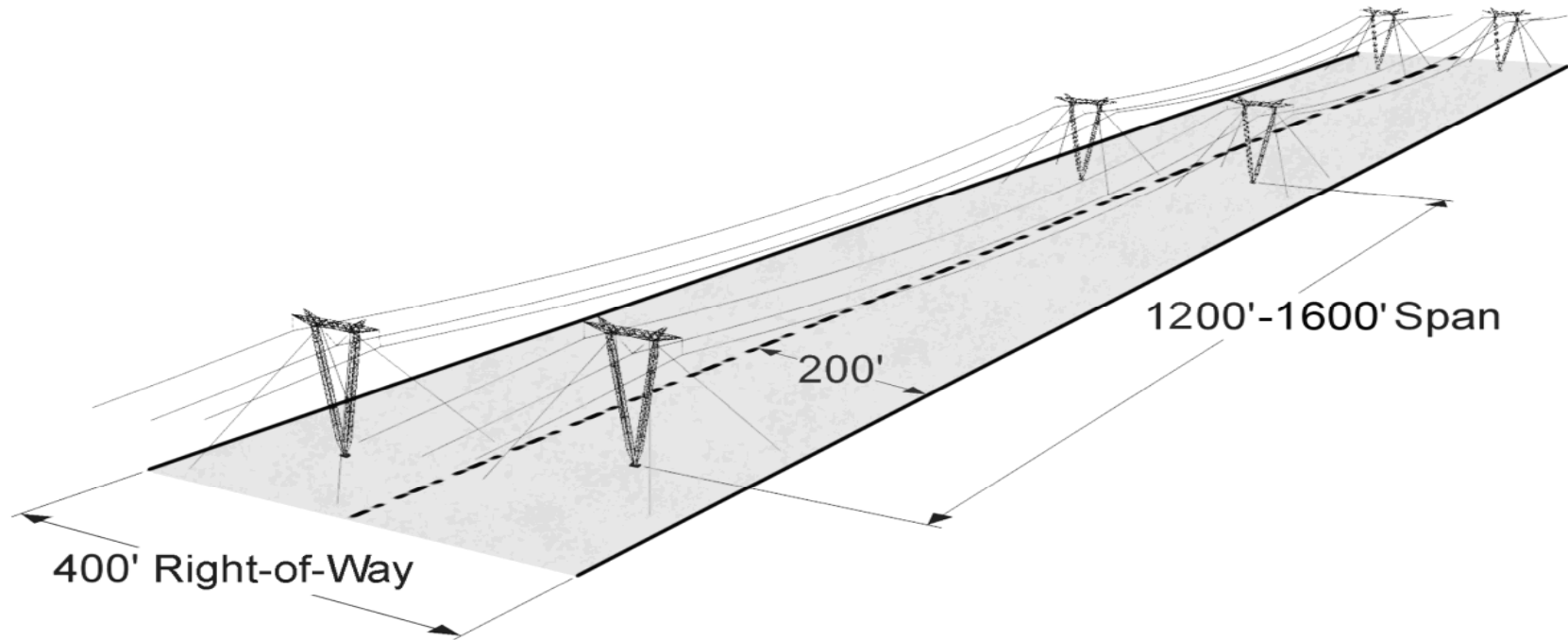
SWIP Project 500kV AC Guyed-V



- ⚡ Proposed Route Length is 460 miles
- ⚡ Proposed Route is primarily on public lands
- ⚡ Typical right-of-way width is 200 ft per line and up to 1,000 ft for both lines
- ⚡ Typical span between structures is 1,400 to 1,600 ft (3 -4 structures per mile)
- ⚡ Typical tower heights are 100 to 170 ft, depending on span and terrain



# Right of way plan



# Service Road

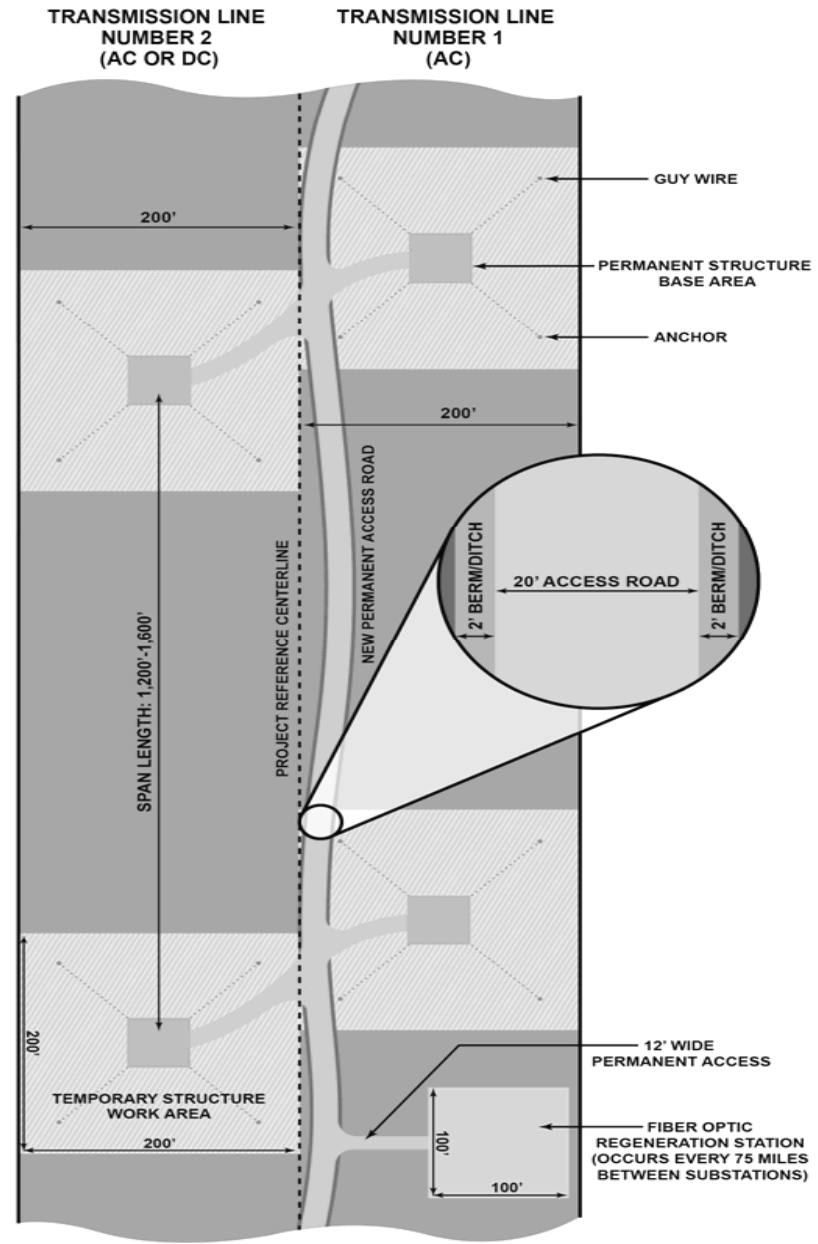
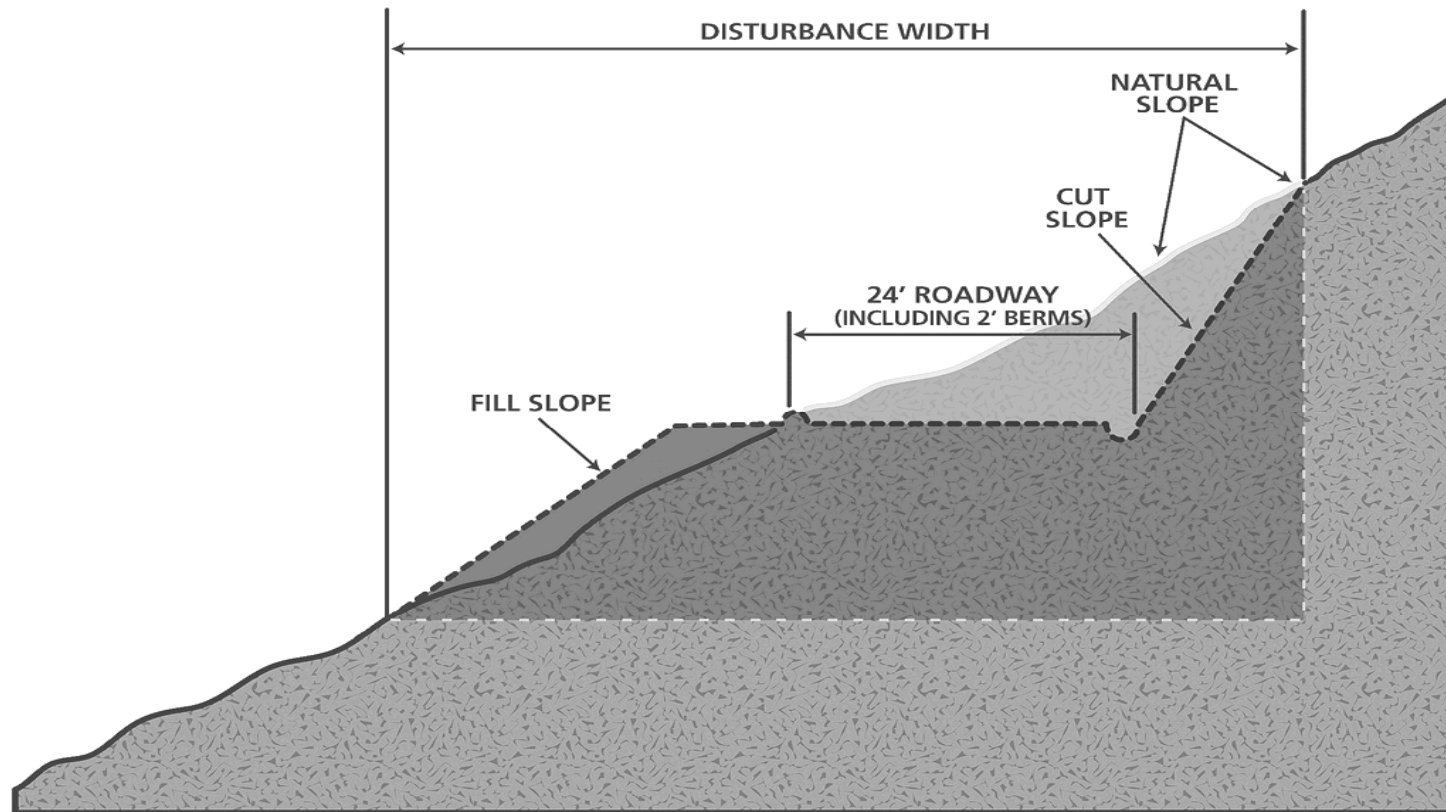


ILLUSTRATION SHOWS CONDITION WHERE NEW ACCESS IS REQUIRED.

# Service Road Detail



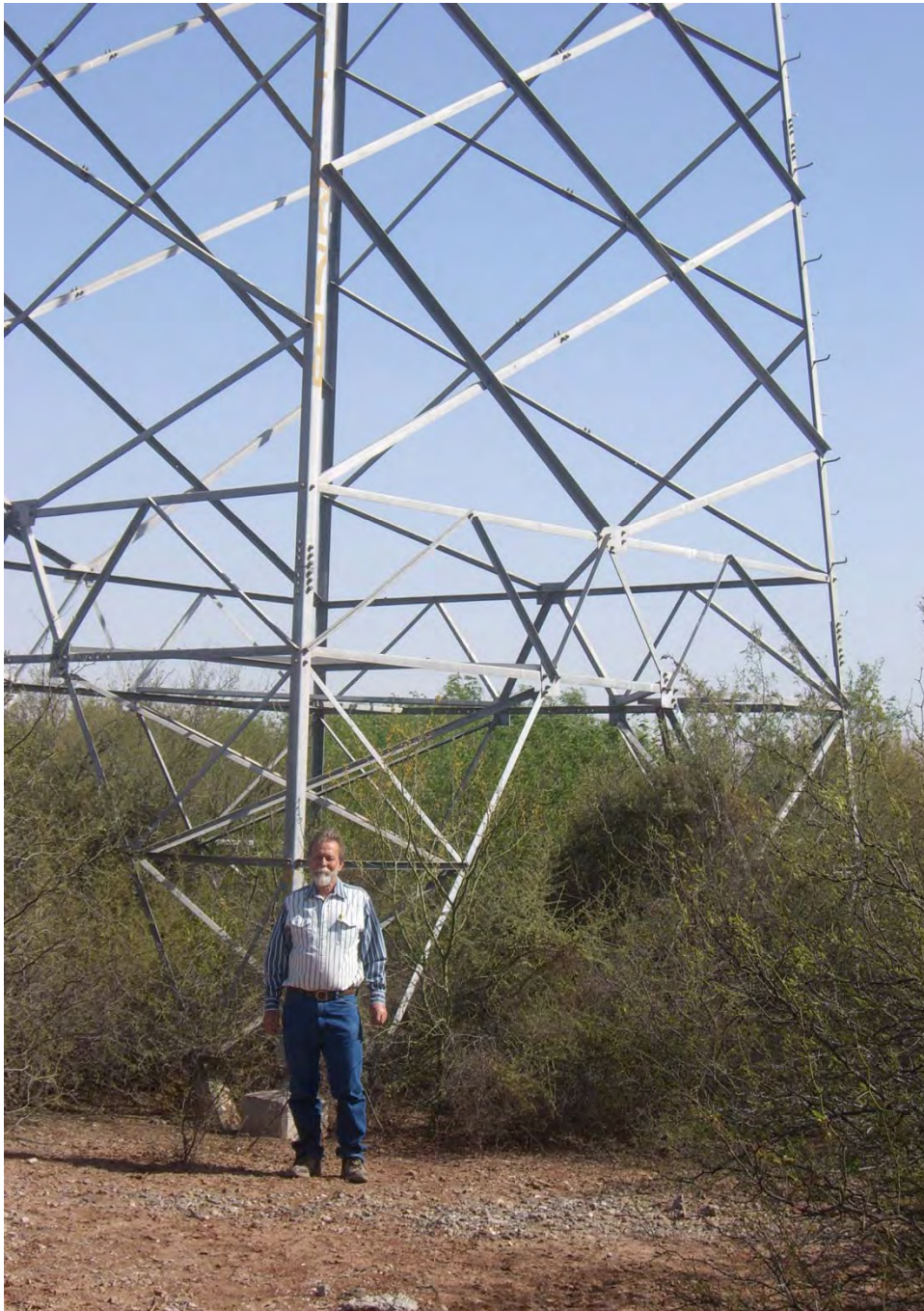




Erosion from much smaller power lines.



- Person standing next to transmission line.



- There really is a person there!

# Original Project Description



SunZia Southwest  
Transmission Project



Regional Planning Project Report

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## II. Project Description

Construction of approximately 150 miles of 500kV line from the proposed 600 MW IGCC Bowie Power Station near Bowie Arizona, to the proposed Pinal South substation, located near Coolidge Arizona.

Construction of approximately 185 miles of 500kV line from the proposed Bowie Power Station to the existing Newman substation near El Paso, Texas

*That  
was  
then ...*

# 2007 SunZia Purpose and Need

SunZia is initially envisioned to provide an additional interconnection opportunity for the proposed Bowie Power Station (proposed as a 600 MW IGCC) as well as significant renewable energy resource potential.



# 2009 SunZia Purpose and Need

As stated at the beginning of the Scoping period in 2009, the purpose “..is to transport electricity generated from power generation resources, including primarily renewable resources, to western power markets.”



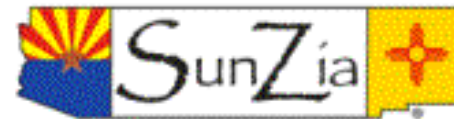
*And  
in  
2009*

# DEIS SunZia Purpose and Need

The purpose of the proposed project is to transport electricity generated by power generation resources including renewable resources to western power markets and load centers.



# Pictures speak louder than words.



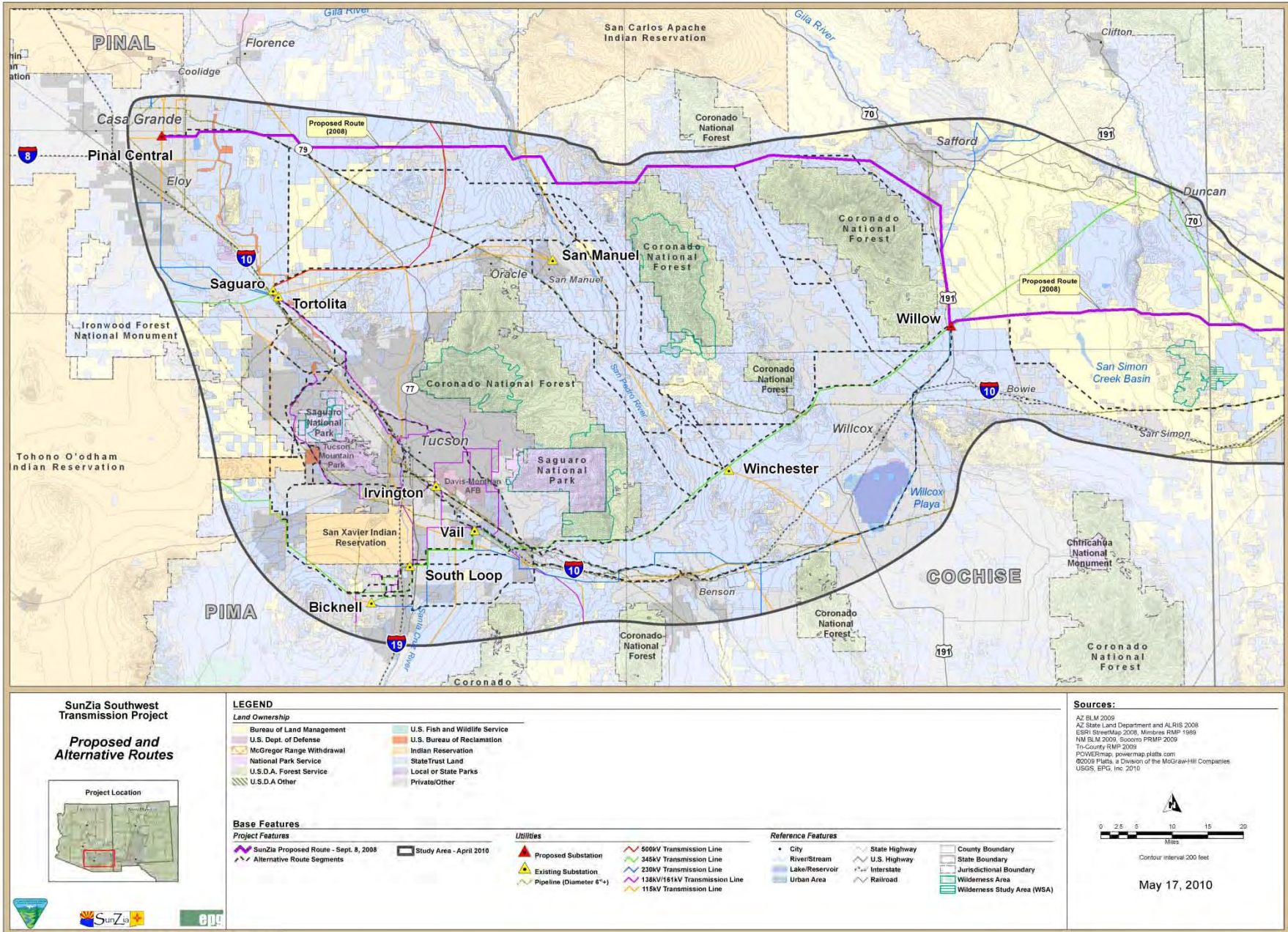
[www.sunzia.net](http://www.sunzia.net)

“including primarily renewable resources,”

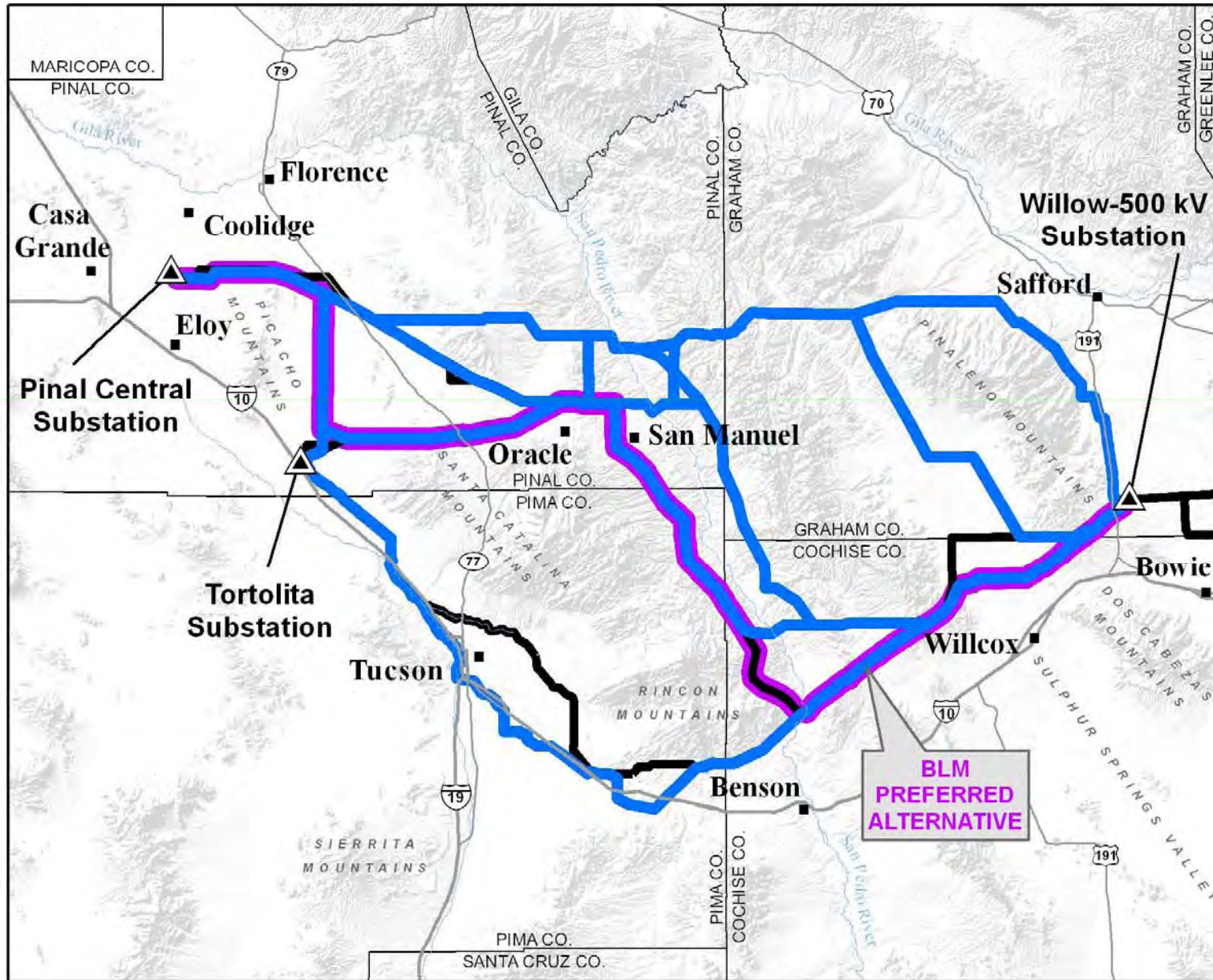
“development of renewable energy resources,”



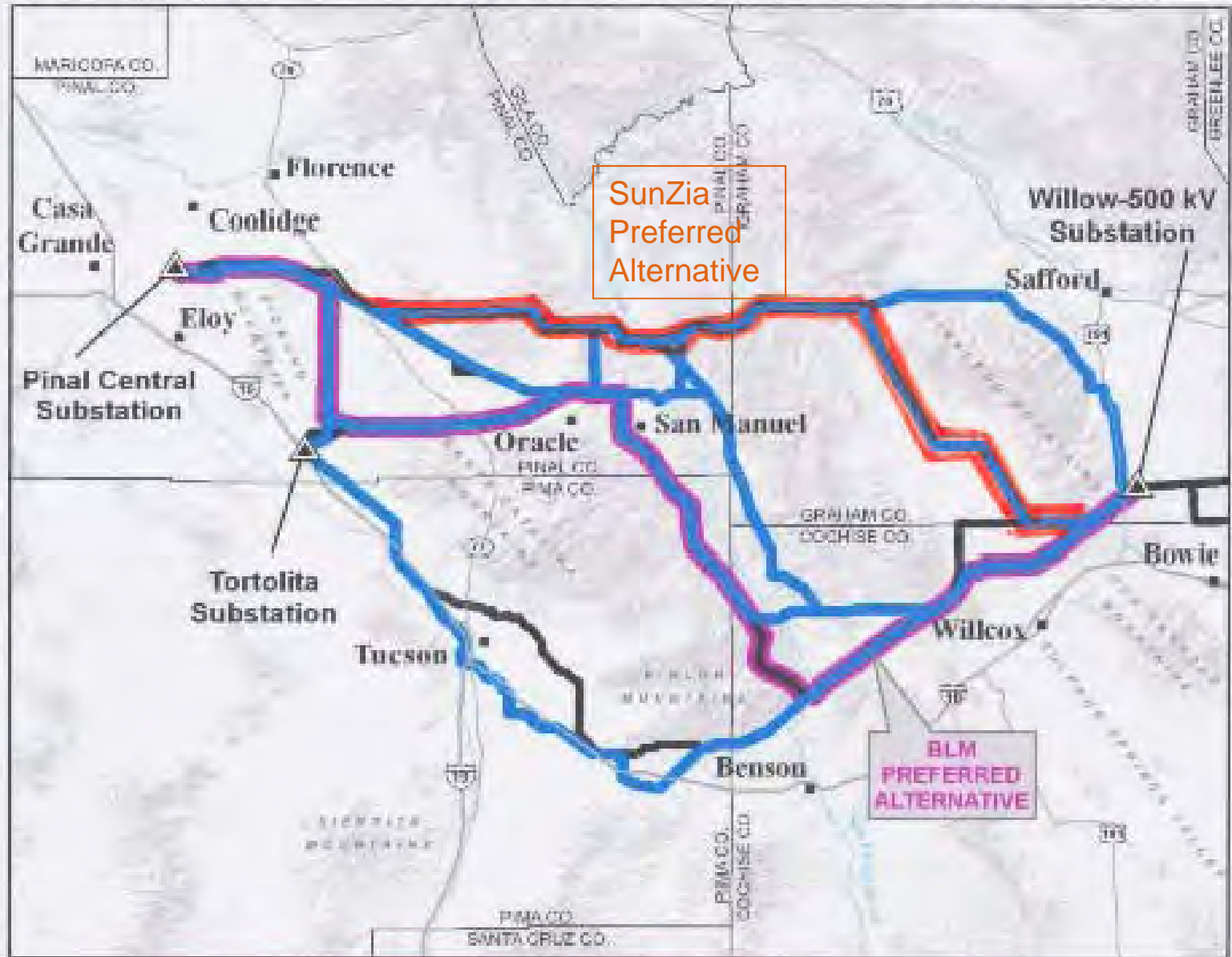




# ROUTE GROUP 4: Willow-500 kV Substation to Pinal Central Substation

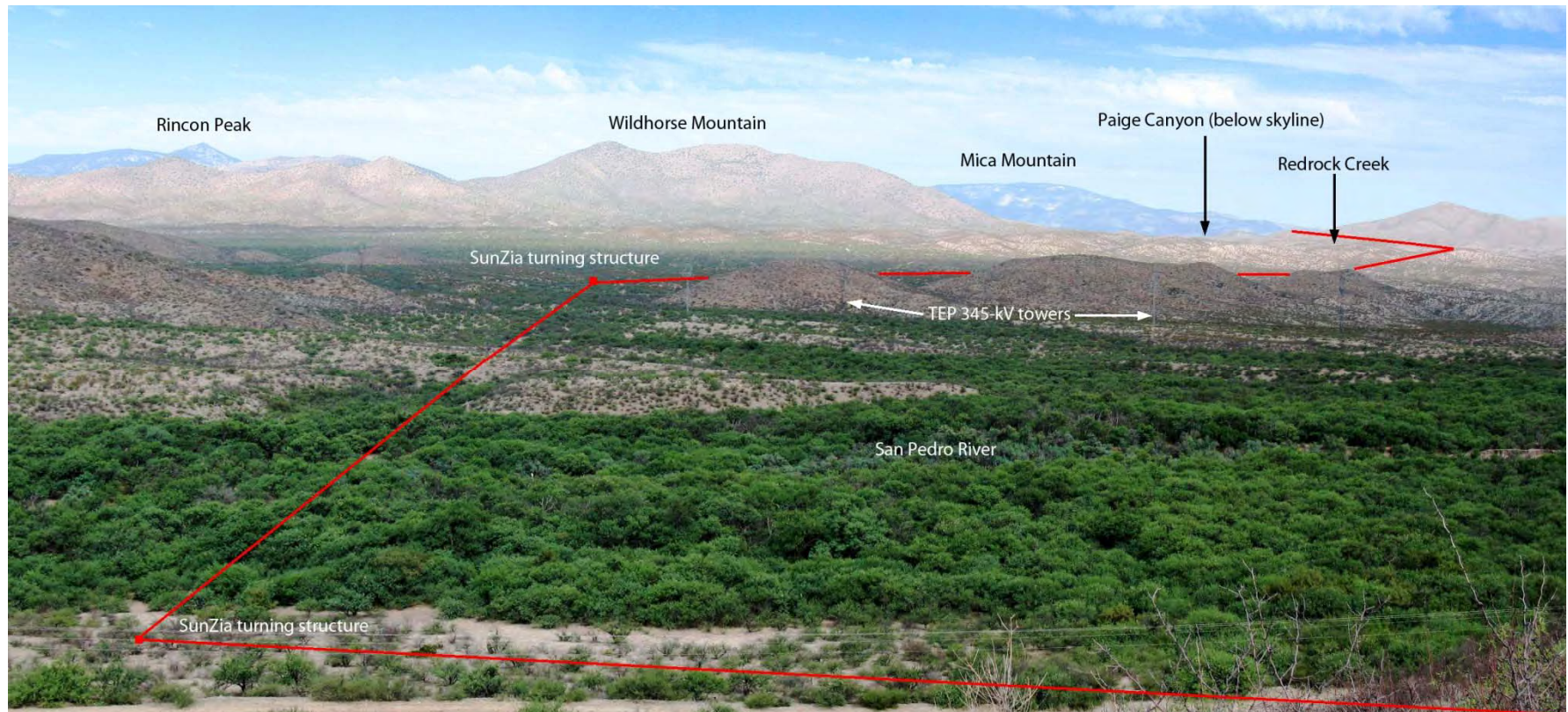


# ROUTE GROUP 4, Willow-500 kV Substation to Pinal Central Substation

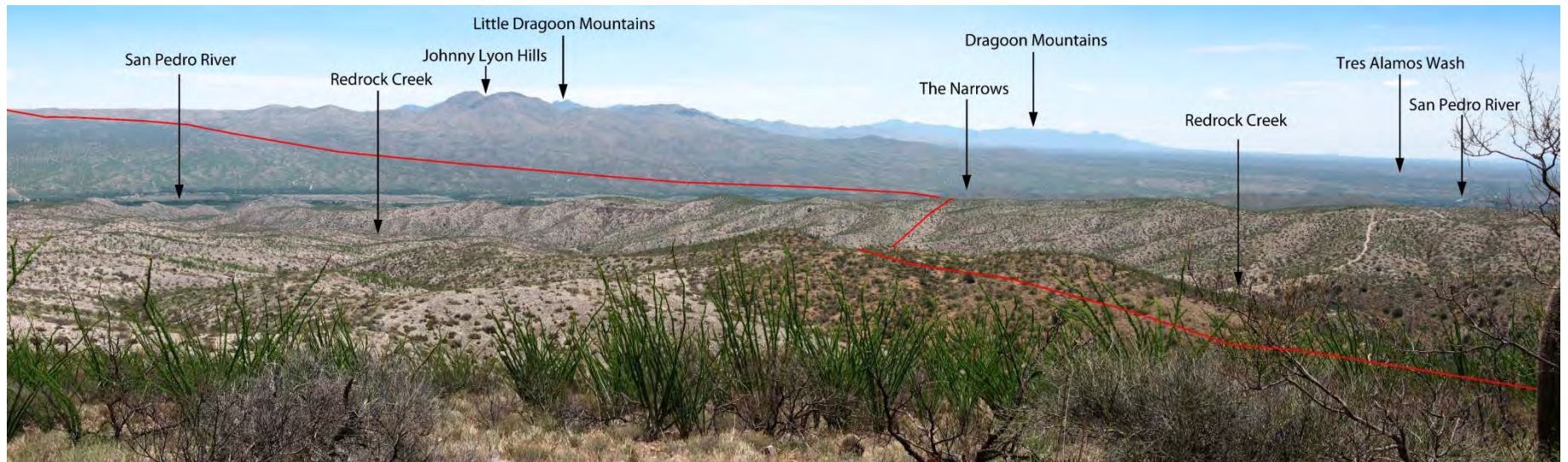




# San Pedro River Crossing



# Looking southeast from Redrock Creek



# Lower San Pedro River Valley Environmental Values

- One of the Nature Conservancy's **“Last Great Places”**
- **Last free-flowing river** in the Desert Southwest
- Part of the largest **unfragmented landscape** in Arizona outside the Grand Canyon region
- One of the three **principal desert life corridors** in the Southwest (along with Colorado and Rio Grande Rivers)
- **Exceeds the Rio Grande River** Valley in biological richness

# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

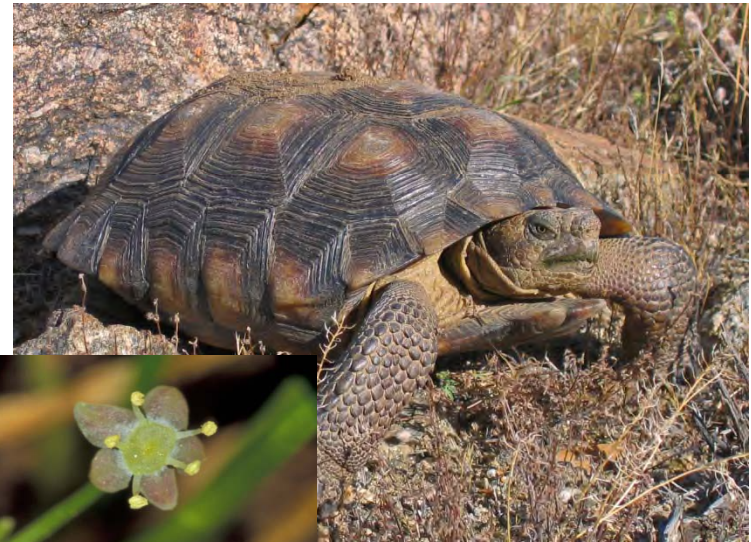


Wildlife and Wild Lands  
Birds: Southwest willow  
flycatcher, yellow-billed cuckoo,  
along with 305 other species.  
Mammals: 87 species





# BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES



- **Fish: loach minnow, spikedace,**
- **Reptiles/Amphibians: Sonoran Desert Tortoise**
- **Native Plants and Invasives**
- **Highly Erodible Soils**
- **Large, unfragmented landscape**
- **Strong national & local support for conservation & conservation easements**



- Hosts the **largest mammal species diversity** in North America
- Recognized as a **Globally Important Bird Area** by the American Bird Conservancy
- **Principal north-south migration corridor** for Central and South American birds
- Habitat for numerous **threatened and endangered species**
- Hosts one of the largest remaining **intact mesquite forests** in the world
- **Rich archaeological history**  
dating from earliest North American human occupation (Clovis)

# Major Impacts

- **Opens entirely new corridor** for 30 miles parallel to the river, 45 miles total
- **New road** the full length of the project
- **Access roads** to each transmission tower
- Multiple San Pedro River **tributary crossings**
- Future co-location of **additional utilities**
- Collision hazard for **migratory birds**
- Bisepts Pima County's **A-7 Ranch**



Erosion from much smaller power lines.

# Issues to Consider

- Impact upon a unique and sensitive environmental resource
- Misleading statement of purpose and need
- Use by renewable generation is speculative



# More Issues to Consider

- Conflicting government aims
- Lack of consideration of better alternatives
- Insufficient project partners
- Lack of financial viability and high financial risk
- Lack of a market for the power

# Even More Issues to Consider

- Lack of sufficient transmission capacity to deliver power to California
- Unquestioned endorsement of the project by Obama administration officials
- Economic damage to current residents ignored, inflated estimates of economic good from the project.
- Remote power lines inherently vulnerable to easy sabotage.

# **BLM needs to hear from you!**

**DEIS comments are due August 22 and go to:**

Adrian Garcia, BLM SunZia Project Manager

P.O. Box 27115, Santa Fe, NM, 87501

[NMSunziaProject@blm.gov](mailto:NMSunziaProject@blm.gov)

**Contact the Secretary of the Interior:**

Secretary Ken Salazar, Dept. of the Interior

1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240

[Feedback@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Feedback@ios.doi.gov)





Please join the many organizations and agencies in protecting the Lower San Pedro River Valley and the Aravaipa Watershed.