

Dear <name of organization>-:

THIS THREAT IS REAL AND HUGE. WE NEED YOUR HELP

This letter is an urgent appeal for help in preventing irreparable damage to one of the earth's most biologically diverse and important ecosystems, the San Pedro River. The **Arizona Department of Transportation** is studying the feasibility of constructing an interstate bypass that would allow trucks and other regional traffic to avoid the Phoenix and Tucson metropolitan areas. The vast majority of the proposed routes (see attached map) would funnel traffic, and eventually sprawl, along the San Pedro River, the largest undammed naturally functioning desert river in the United States.

The San Pedro River is a national and international treasure. According to the **Center for Biological Diversity** it supports **400 species of birds (nearly half of the U.S. total), 100 species of butterflies, 83 species of mammals, and 65 species of amphibians and reptiles.** It has the highest diversity of vertebrate species in the inland U.S. and the second highest diversity of land-mammals in the world. Several of these species are federally endangered. In recognition of its value as a key migration corridor, The **American Bird Conservancy** designated it the first “globally important bird area,” and **The Nature Conservancy** selected it as one of the northern hemisphere's eight “Last Great Places.” In 1988 **Congress** recognized the supreme importance of the river and designated 45 miles of the upper San Pedro as the nation's first Riparian National Conservation Area. The middle and lower San Pedro segments are of even greater ecological significance because they serve as a critical stopover in east-west migration between the Galiuro Mountains wilderness areas and the sky islands of the Rincon and Catalina Mountains.

Accordingly, a grassroots organization of concerned citizens, the **Cascabel Working Group** (<http://i10bypassinfo.us/>) is soliciting help in an attempt to halt further consideration of the ill-advised routes. It is of utmost importance to intercede at this study stage when objections raised by environmentalists will have the greatest impact. Please make your voice heard with ours by contacting those on the attached page.

When you write these people, please send us a copy for our files.

Yours truly,

Contact Name 1
Address

Contact Name 2
Address