



# News Release

Public Affairs Office  
PO Box 1306  
Albuquerque, NM 87103  
505/248-6911  
505/248-6915 (Fax)

**Southwest Region (Arizona • New Mexico • Oklahoma • Texas)** [www.fws.gov/southwest/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/)

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**Contacts:** Jose Viramontes 505/248-6404 [jose\\_viramontes@fws.gov](mailto:jose_viramontes@fws.gov)

Jeff Humphrey 602/242-0210 ext.222 [jeff\\_humphrey@fws.gov](mailto:jeff_humphrey@fws.gov)

## **Agency Provides Additional Time for Input on Proposed River Initiative**

*Public Comment will be accepted until October 12.*

*Lower San Pedro River Valley, AZ* – The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) recently initiated a public scoping process as part of a collaborative conservation initiative along the Lower San Pedro River (San Pedro). The purpose of scoping is to work with the public to identify issues and opportunities for such a project. Public Comments as part of this process were originally solicited for 60-days from June 6 through August 6.

In an effort to solicit meaningful public information, the Service is providing additional time for citizens' input. Comments will now be accepted until Friday, October 12, 2012.

Written comments can be sent to: Jeannie Wagner-Greven, Lead Planner, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque NM; 87103; or to [jeannie\\_wagnergreven@fws.gov](mailto:jeannie_wagnergreven@fws.gov).

Further information on the project can be found at [www.fws.gov/southwest](http://www.fws.gov/southwest)

The San Pedro is the last major undammed river in the American Southwest and one of the largest remaining intact mesquite bosques in the world. This Globally Important Bird Area is located at the convergence of four major ecosystems—the Sierra Madre and Rocky Mountains, and the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts. This convergence contributes to its high biodiversity values. It is recognized as one of the primary migratory bird corridors in the West, with estimates of up to four million birds that annually traverse the corridor between Mexico and breeding areas.

It is the policy of the Service to acquire Refuge lands from willing sellers or donors only.

Please note that any individuals who comment during this process, as well as those who previously submitted comments, become part of the public record for this project. The Service must release names, if requested, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act of 1974.

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The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect and enhance fish, wildlife, plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov).