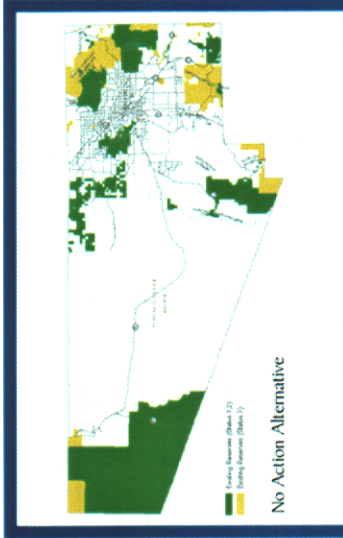
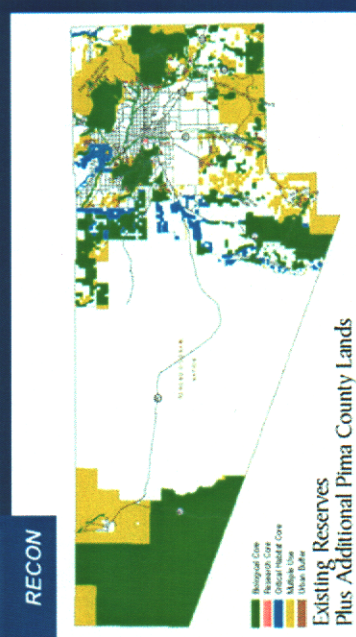


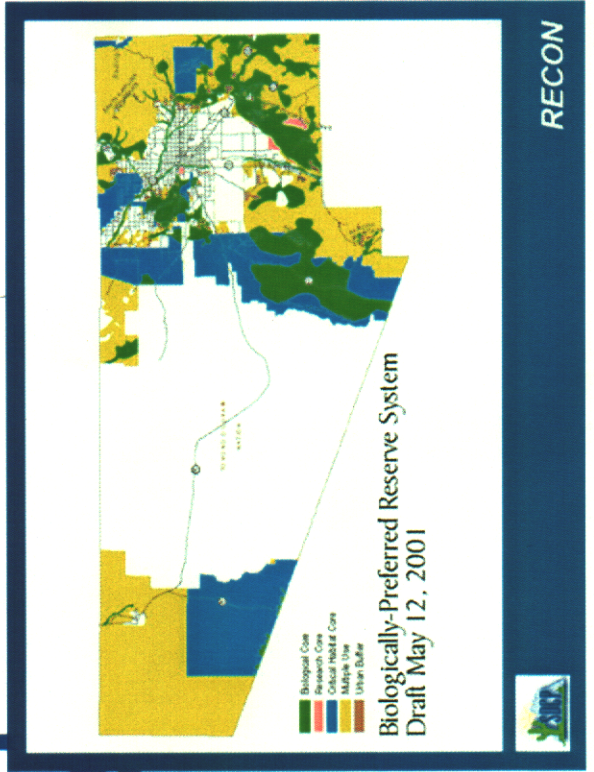
Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan



RECON



RECO



RECON

Alternatives Development
May 17, 2001

DRAFT



MEMORANDUM

Date: May 30, 2001

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator 

Re: **Alternatives Development for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan**

Section 10 (a)(2)(A) of the Endangered Species Act outlines the basic areas that must be covered by conservation plans. Plans are required to specify "what alternative actions to taking the applicant considered and the reasons why such alternatives are not being utilized." The attached maps and information reflect a range of alternatives that will assist in framing the public participation process for the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. The alternative that is ultimately proposed by the Steering Committee and adopted as the preferred alternative by the applicants has not been determined. Providing a recommendation for the preferred alternative is the responsibility of the Steering Committee and will be the result of the upcoming public process. This memorandum briefly outlines the range of alternatives that are being developed.

- No Action Alternative - The first alternative that will be more fully described during the community participation process and quantified in the Environmental Impact Statement analyzes resource protection, compliance, and other land use issues under the future scenario of taking no action to apply for a Section 10 permit under the Endangered Species Act.
- Existing Reserve System Alternative - This alternative will analyze the effectiveness and measure the trade offs of a minimum biological reserve.
- Expanded - Biologically Preferred Reserve Alternative - The benefits and costs of the maximum biological reserve will be analyzed and discussed under this alternative.
- Pima County Reserve System Alternative -- A fourth alternative measures the impact of potential non-participation by local incorporated areas. Such analysis is required under recent federal case law. The draft biologically preferred alternative, which continues to be refined by the Science Team, includes 42,202 acres of land in the incorporated areas, or approximately 1.4 percent of the total current recommendation from the science community.
- Proposed Reserve System Alternative -- The alternative that will be proposed at the end of the public process is yet to be defined by the Steering Committee and interested members of the community. In addition, the uses that will be recommended within these areas will be discussed and forwarded as proposals from the science community and the participating stakeholders and government entities.

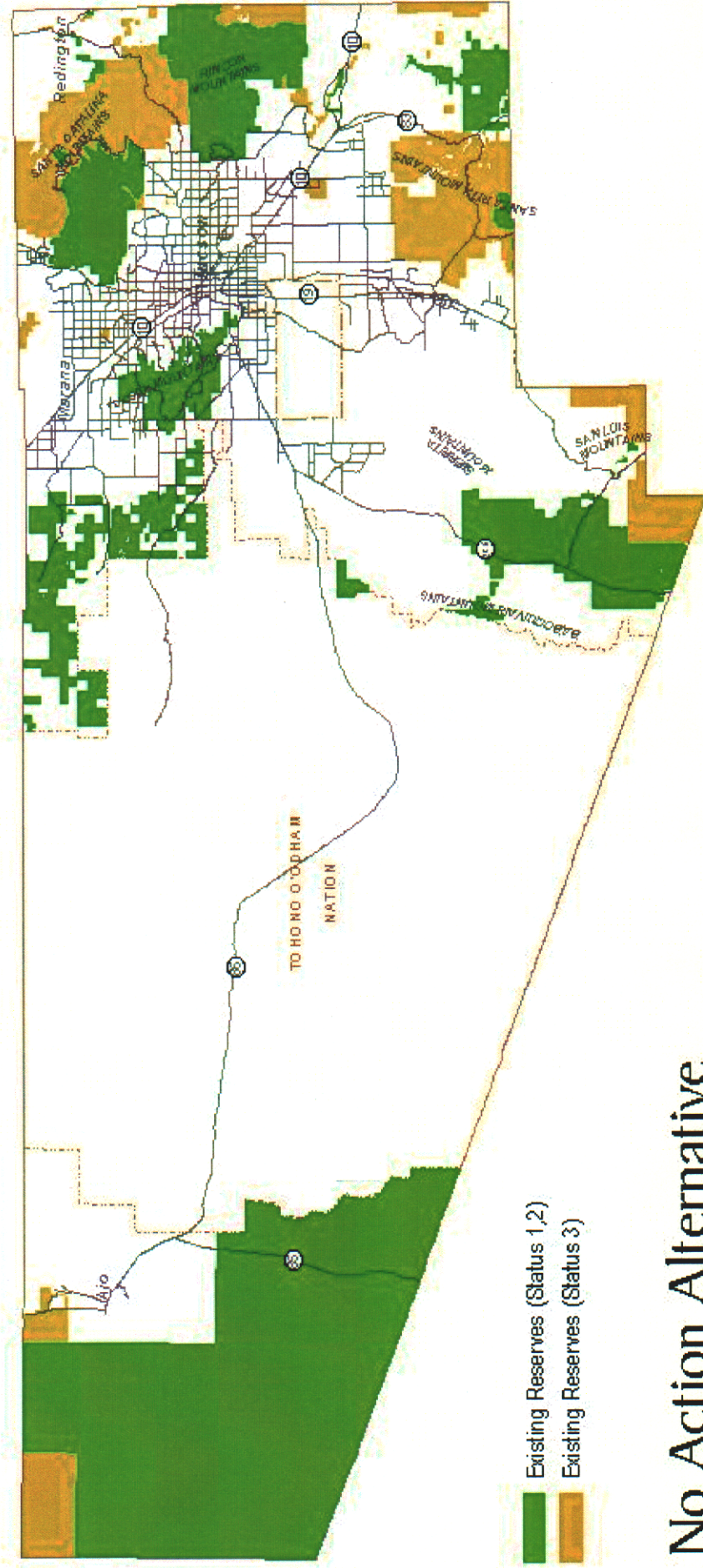
Discussion of the range of alternatives and the community's involvement in developing and recommending a preferred alternative begins this evening as we start the next phase of defining the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

Alternatives

- No Action
- Existing Reserve System
- Expanded Reserve System
- Pima County Reserve System
- Proposed Reserve System

No Action Alternative

- Pima County will not apply for an ITP
- Activities continue under existing land use policies and guidelines
- No specific acquisition of land for conservation purposes
- Activities that would affect listed species would be prohibited under Section 9 of the ESA
- Projects with federal action, could resolve endangered species conflicts through consultation under Section 7
- Non-federal activities that would affect listed species could pursue project specific ITPs under Section 10 of the ESA



No Action Alternative

- Existing Reserves (Status 1,2)
- Existing Reserves (Status 3)



Existing Reserve System

- Pima County and Cities will apply for an ITP for the existing reserve system covering some of the Vulnerable Species
- The County and Cities will manage covered species through an AMP
- Activities in Pima County and Cities will continue under existing land use policies and guidelines
- Management of Federal and State lands will be modified for conservation purposes within the Reserve System
- Some minor specific acquisition of land or easements for conservation purposes would occur
- Conservation of some of the vulnerable species and their habitat at the least cost in terms acquisition or constraint of additional lands

Existing Reserve System

<i>Status</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Biological core	265,711	8
Critical habitat	509,923	15
Research core	10,544	<1
Multiple use	949,908	28
Urban buffer	468	<1
Urban reserve/State	1,662,150	49
Total	3,398,703	100

RECON

Expanded Reserve System

- Pima County and Cities will apply for an ITP for an expanded reserve system, including most or all of the Vulnerable Species
- The County and Cities will manage covered species through an AMP
- Activities proceed under policies and guidelines in the updated Comprehensive Plan and in the Cities continue under existing or amended land use policies and guidelines
- Management of Federal and State lands will be modified for conservation purposes within the Reserve System
- Significant acquisition for conservation purposes by County and Cities
- Maximum conservation of biological resources, and represents the biologically preferred alternative

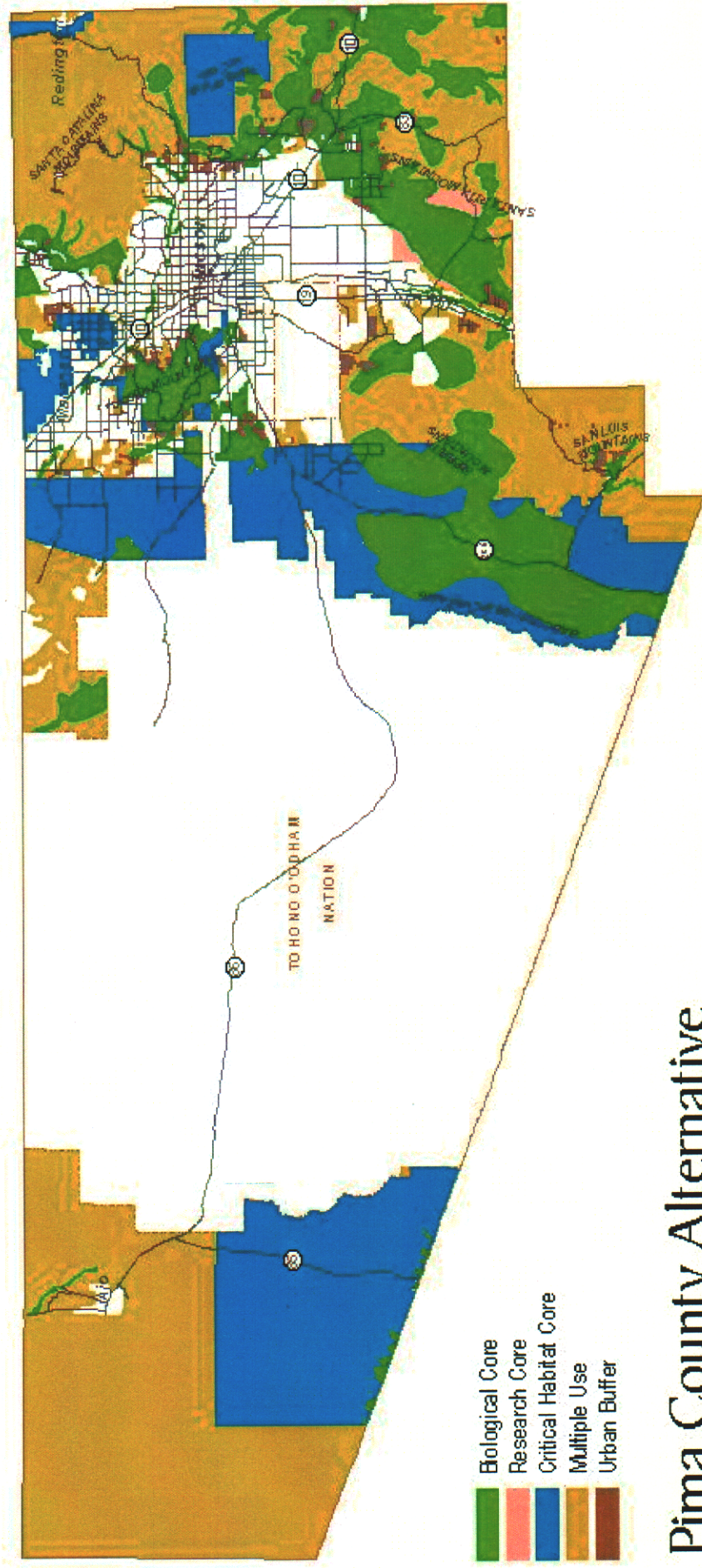
Expanded Reserve System

<i>Status</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Biological core	623,519	18
Critical habitat	759,496	22
Research core	11,702	<1
Urban buffer	31,148	1
Multiple use	1,481,656	44
Urban reserve	481,121	14
Total	3,398,642	100

RECON

Pima County Reserve System

- Pima County will apply for an ITP for species an expanded reserve system, including most of the Vulnerable Species
- The County will manage covered species through an AMP
- Activities in Pima County will proceed under policies and guidelines as defined in the updated Comprehensive Plan
- Activities in the Cities will continue under existing policies and guidelines, except activities affecting listed species
- Management of Federal and State lands will be modified for conservation purposes within the Reserve System
- Significant acquisition for conservation purposes by Pima County
- Similar to the Expanded Reserve System Alternative, but does not include the Cities and does not provide them with coverage for listed species



Pima County Reserve System

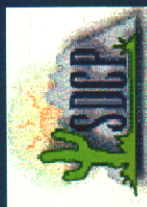
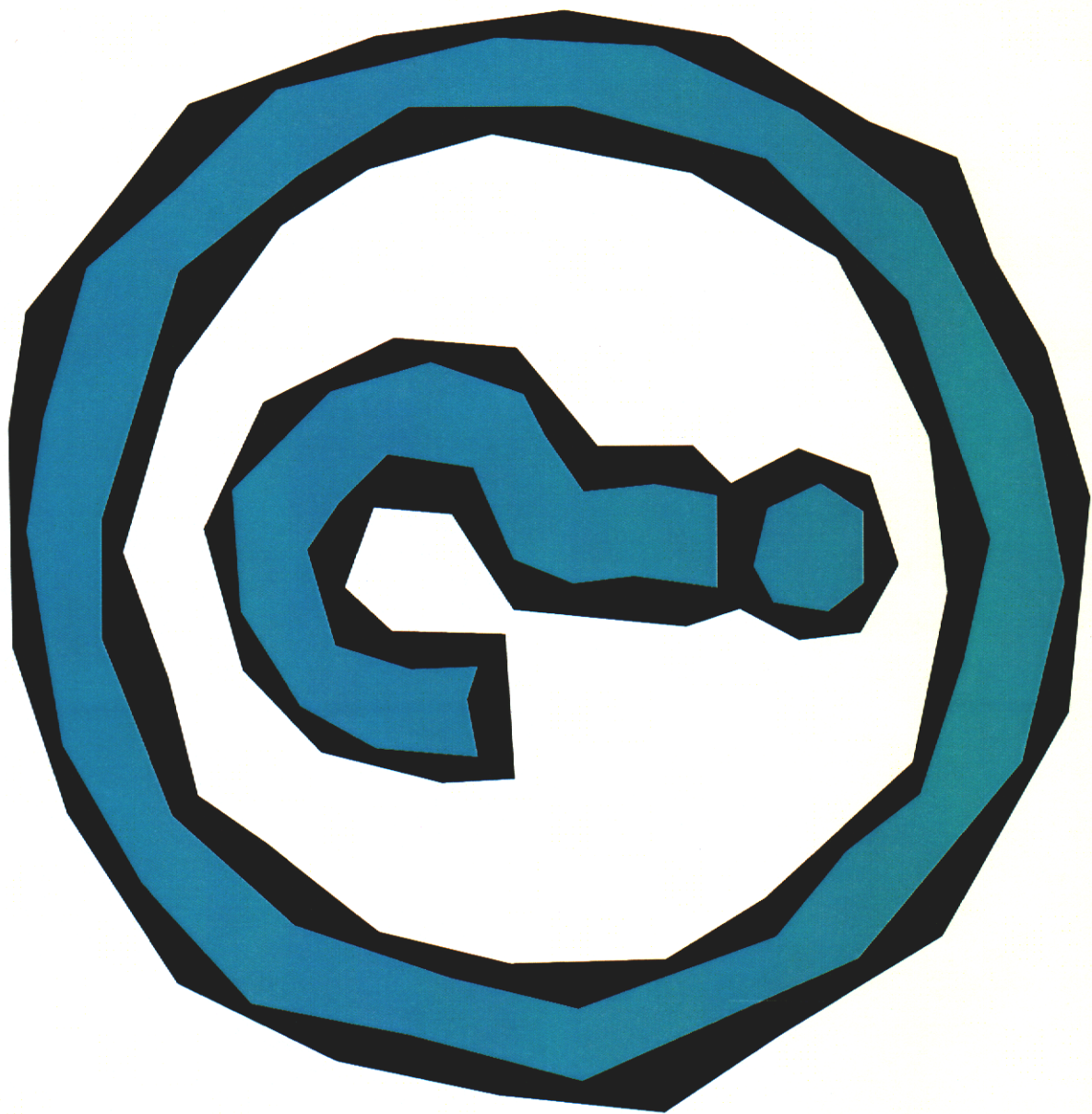
<i>Status</i>	<i>Acres</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Biological core	609,705	18
Critical habitat	744,707	22
Research core	10,544	0
Multiple use	1,479,883	44
Urban buffer	30,475	1
Urban reserve	523,329	15
Total	3,398,642	100

RECON

Proposed Reserve System

- Pima County and Cities will apply for an ITP an expanded reserve system, including most of the Vulnerable Species
- The County and Cities will manage covered species through the implementation of an AMP
- Activities in Pima County will proceed under policies and guidelines in the updated Comprehensive Plan and in the Cities under existing or amended land use policies and guidelines
- Management of Federal and State lands will be modified for conservation purposes within the Reserve System
- Result in significant acquisition for conservation purposes or other means of assuring long-term conservation management by Pima County and the Cities
- Balance between maximizing coverage of species and the ability of the participants to implement the plan

RECON



Proposed Reserve System

Status	Min Ac	Max Ac	Exist %	Exp %
Biological core	265,711	623,519	8	18
Critical habitat	509,923	759,496	15	22
Research core	10,544	11,702	<1	<1
Multiple use	949,908	1,481,656	28	44
Urban buffer	468	31,148	<1	1
Urban reserve	1,662,150	481,121	49	14
Total	3,398,703	3,398,642	100	100

RECON

