

and Charleston Dams). So productive is the overall wildlife habitat of the riparian areas of Arizona's Verde River that studies have shown it produces the largest number of non-colonial nesting species of birds per acre of any habitat in North America. Arizona's beleaguered desert Bald Eagle population is but one indication of the unique, irreplaceable value of this ecosystem. Numerous other species including several threatened native fish species and birds such as the Gray Hawk, Black Hawk and Beardless Flycatcher would be impacted by the Central Arizona Project dams.

The current lawsuit and public education efforts to stop Cliff Dam will be very costly. Your help is sorely needed. Please make your contribution payable to the Coalition to Stop Cliff Dam, P.O. Box 15451, Phoenix, AZ 85060. Your contribution is tax-deductible for income tax purposes and will be used only for the Cliff Dam issue.

Sincerely,

Herb Fibel

Herb Fibel, President
Maricopa Audubon Society

Sharon Galbreath

Sharon Galbreath, Chairperson
Grand Canyon Chapter, Sierra Club

Ace Peterson

Ace Peterson, President
Arizona Wildlife Federation

*National conservation organizations which are plaintiffs: National Wildlife Federation, National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, The Wilderness Society, Friends of the Earth, National Parks and Conservation Association, Friends of the River, American Rivers Conservation Council, Environmental Policy Institute.

The Arizona Republic Friday, September 20, 1985

Environmental groups sue in bid to block Cliff Dam

By MARY A.M. GINDHART
Arizona Republic Staff
A coalition of 12 national and state environmental groups filed suit in federal court Thursday, September 19, 1985

Department of Interior from among nine alternatives to replace the planned Orme Dam and provide storage for CAP water and flood control. The suit, filed in federal court Thursday, September 19, 1985, is the first of its kind in the history of the project. The \$3.6 billion CAP is expected to begin regular delivery of Colorado River water to Phoenix this week and to Tucson by 1991.

Wheeler's group supports the project. The \$3.6 billion CAP is expected to begin regular delivery of Colorado River water to Phoenix this week and to Tucson by 1991.

Environmentalists take Cliff Dam to court

By Mike McCleary
The Phoenix Gazette
After five months of threats, environmental groups planned to file a lawsuit this afternoon in U.S. District Court to stop Cliff Dam.

Dam on the Agua Fria River and modification of Roosevelt and Stewart Mountain dams on the Salt River. A pair of southern bald eagles fledged two chicks from a nest at the Cliff Dam site last

The lawsuit was expected to be filed by Phoenix attorney Robert Witzman on behalf of the Maricopa, National and Prescott Audubon Societies. National Wildlife Federation, Friends of the Earth, National Parks and Conservation Association, Friends of the River, American Rivers Conservation Council, Environmental Policy Institute.

Cliff Dam is given green light despite danger to bald eagles

Friday, August 16, 1985
The report was prepared for the Interior Department's Bureau of Reclamation, which has proposed building Cliff Dam as part of the Central Arizona Project. The Phoenix Gazette, August 16, 1985.

because of a federal embargo until today on the release of the report. The report clears the way for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to begin pre-construction work on the dam.

pre-construction design," a source here said, adding that the study to date outlines "reasonable and prudent Cliff Dam alternatives" in minimum flood control and water storage.

The Tribune, Friday, September 20, 1985
The Mesa Tribune

Environmental groups sue to halt Cliff Dam

By Sunny Weathers
Staff writer
A lawsuit to stop Cliff Dam was filed in U.S. District Court in Phoenix Thursday by a group of environmentalists.

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today approved construction of Cliff Dam on the Verde River, saying the dam would be no commitment of federal funds to Cliff Dam at all, Osann said. "Given the outstanding national environmentalists' opposition to Cliff Dam, we are pleased to announce that the dam will not be built."

bon Society makes good its threat to take legal action against Cliff Dam construction. "This is a political decision," Bob Witzman, Audubon board member, said. "This is what you would expect from an agency that is in the same department (Interior) as the

National environmental coalition to battle Cliff Dam

By ANNE Q. HOY
Republic Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — Seizing on congressional concern over costly Western water projects, four national environmental groups today announced a coalition to battle Cliff Dam.

national Coalition to Stop Cliff Dam will focus on persuading Congress to deny funding for the dam. The environmentalists want Cliff Dam eliminated but do not oppose other parts of Plan 6, which calls for construction of one other dam, New Waddell, and the modification and repair of two others.

Western water projects and environmentalists will be lobbied to oppose the project. "I think I'll be doing a lot of political supp on the project," said Pam Lezakowitz, a Phoenix resident who has been active in the fight to save the National Football League franchise.

Coalition battles Cliff Dam

By Sean Griffin
and Mike McCleary
Gazette Washington Bureau
WASHINGTON — Four of the nation's leading environmental groups joined forces today in an effort to halt construction of Cliff Dam, a \$185 million component of the Central Arizona Project in Tempe, Arizona.

of Reclamation. A nest discovered in April 1984 would be inundated by Cliff Dam's reservoir. "Today's announcement raises debate on Cliff Dam from the local to the national level. I think it's a shame," Webb Tudd, president of the National Audubon Society, said today.

hutes of a major, national dam fight in the great tradition of Western dam fights." Osann said Congress will be told that Cliff is essential to the proposed Rio Salado project to turn the Salt River bed into a residential, business and resort area.

Rio Salado plan fuels flood of protests

By Susan Welker
Staff writer
The Rio Salado Development District is courting disaster by bringing development to a flood plain, residents said Thursday at a Tempe City Council meeting. "No matter what kind of pretty pictures you paint, that is still in a flood plain," said Muriel Marlow, 1142

By MARY A.M. GINDHART
September 3, 1985
The battle over the proposed Cliff Dam continues. The Phoenix Gazette, September 3, 1985.

criticism voiced on plans for Rio Salado. The project, which was created by the Legislature and funded with \$500,000 in state money, was described as "magnificent" by Stephen Lynch of Carr, Lynch, Chamberlain & Robert A. Witzman of Phoenix.

A-4 Fri., July 9, 1982 OGI The Phoenix Gazette

Approval of dams vital for Rio Salado

By Jack Lovelle
The Phoenix Gazette
Before work can begin on the Rio Salado project in the Salt River bed, voters must approve a bond issue of up to \$750 million for upstream flood control, apartment Friday, October 5, 1984.

Cliff and Roosevelt are flood-control provisions of the Waddell alternative to Orme Dam, which has been approved tentatively by Secretary of the Interior James Watt. The federal government has warned the states to look for local participation in funding of projects.

Cliff Dam too costly, impossible to justify, water district is told

By MARY A.M. GINDHART
Arizona Republic Staff
The cost of building a \$346 million dam on the Verde River east of Phoenix is "too costly and impossible to justify," a U.S. Bureau of Reclamation official told Phoenix residents today.

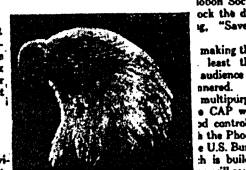
loudly, "Do we have to listen to this?" However, during a slide presentation, when the lights were out, at least one resident held up a copy of a photograph of the Verde River. "I don't want to see a photograph of the Verde River," said one resident. "I want to see a photograph of the Verde River."

Bald eagle fails to halt Cliff Dam construction

By Sean Griffin
and Mike McCleary
The Phoenix Gazette
WASHINGTON — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today approved construction of Cliff Dam on the Verde River, saying the dam would be no commitment of federal funds to Cliff Dam at all, Osann said. "Given the outstanding national environmentalists' opposition to Cliff Dam, we are pleased to announce that the dam will not be built."

Rio Salado project gets cool reception

The Tribune, Thursday, November 17, 1983
Opposition to the project was pervasive as residents called the project iffy, unrealistic and a boondoggle.



Sides grid for congressional fight over place where eagles dare

By MARY A.M. GINDHART
September 3, 1985
The battle over the proposed Cliff Dam continues. The Phoenix Gazette, September 3, 1985.

Criticism voiced on plans for Rio Salado

Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St. The project, which was created by the Legislature and funded with \$500,000 in state money, was described as "magnificent" by Stephen Lynch of Carr, Lynch, Chamberlain & Robert A. Witzman of Phoenix.

Related stories / page 4

criticism voiced on plans for Rio Salado

Chambers, 31 E. Fifth St.

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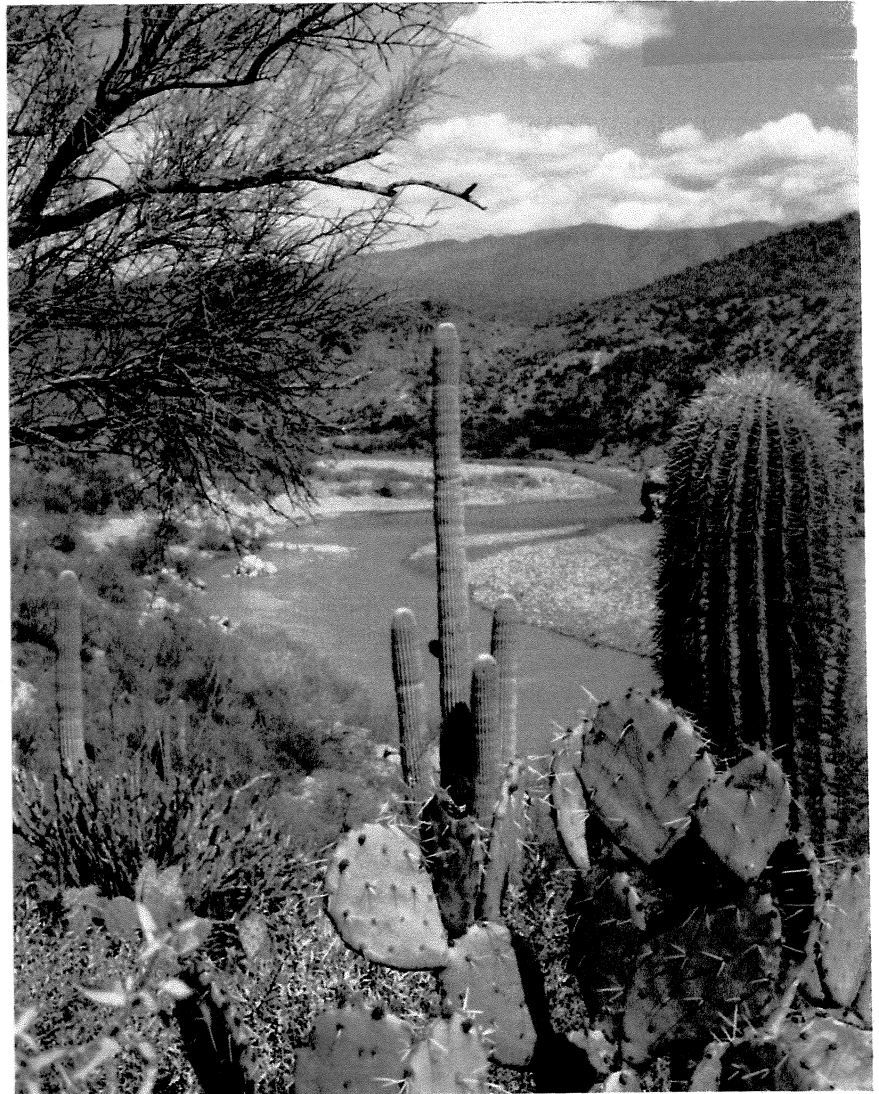
November 1985

This beautiful place could be doomed. The proud saguaros and cottonwoods standing guard on the banks, the unique birds and animals which live on the shores-- all could easily become dim memories. What you're looking at is the Verde River coursing through the Tonto National Forest outside Phoenix, Arizona.

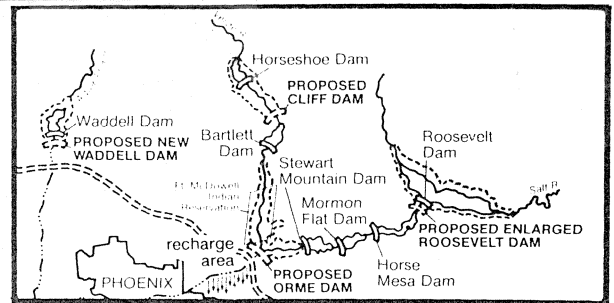
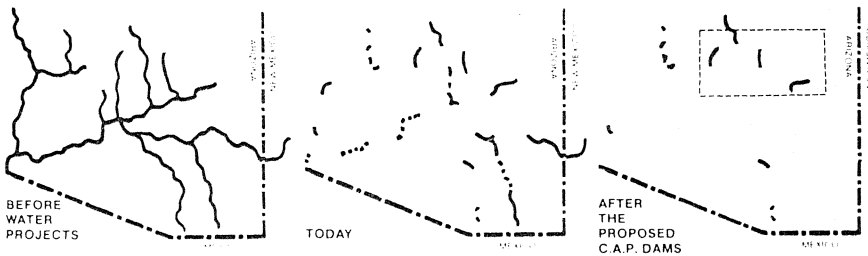
Right now in Congress the Senate and House Appropriations Committee members are considering funds for Cliff Dam a portion of the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Arizona Project.

Some 95% of the nation's Sonoran Desert streamside wildlife and bald eagle habitat has been destroyed by government dams (see map below). Cliff Dam would destroy critical habitat of the world's only desert-nesting Bald Eagles.

Please write your Representative or Senator in your district who are on the Appropriations Committee. Ask that all funding for Cliff Dam be withheld (names on reverse side).



DEATH OF AN ECOSYSTEM



Ideas for your letter:

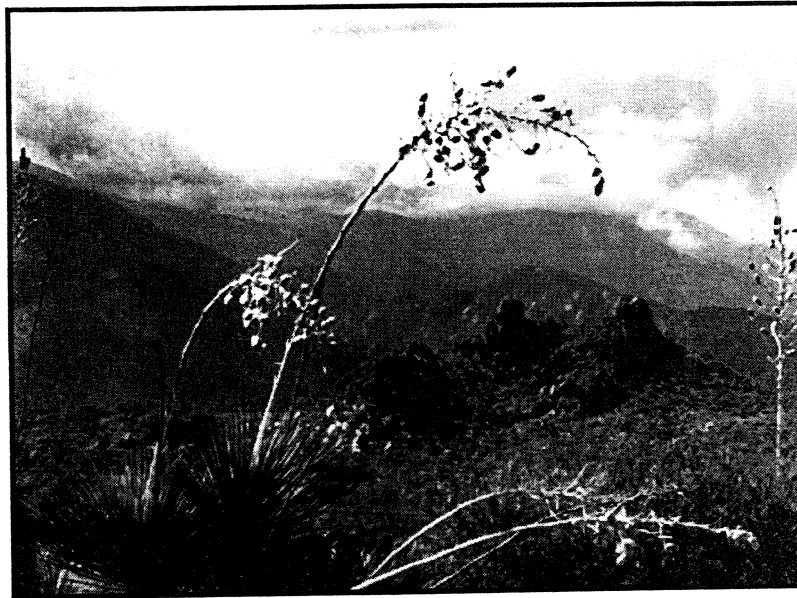
1. Cliff Dam would drown thousands of acres of valuable wildlife and eagle habitat. It could push to the brink of extinction a tiny, isolated, Sonoran Desert Bald Eagle population. Only thirteen pairs of these unique desert-adapted eagles produced young last year.
2. Cliff Dam would eliminate 10 miles out of 50 miles of Wild and Scenic river designation from Arizona's only "Wild and Scenic" river, the Verde.
3. The real purpose of the dam is to create a commercial riverbed real estate development in downtown Phoenix. Rebuilding the two existing Verde River dams for "flood control" would accomplish this dubious purpose with less environmental destruction and at less cost to the U.S. taxpayer (see map).
4. Cliff Dam and the Central Arizona Project is an outrageous waste of dollars and the proposed Cliff Dam portion has an illegal 1000%, \$1.0 billion cost overrun.
5. Storing (recharging) water underground would yield twice as much water as Cliff at practically no taxpayer cost.

Save A National Biological Treasure

INLAND GALAPAGOS CRADLE OF EVOLUTION

Mt. Graham is not simply an issue about squirrels. Mt. Graham is an inland Galapagos surrounded by a desert sea. More than 18 unique plants and animals, including three mammals, two mollusks, three plants, and many insects have evolved into unique species and subspecies since glacial recession 11,000 years ago — when Arizona was a damp, cool, boreal, spruce-fir forest like that found in central and northern Canada.

Mt. Graham possesses more life zones than any other isolated mountain in the U.S. It ascends from a 2,900 ft. desert floor to a 10,700 ft. boreal or Hudsonian (northern Canada) life zone. The diminutive 615-acre ancient, spruce-fir forest at Mt. Graham's summit is the southernmost spruce-fir forest in North America.



Jack Dykinga

Mt. Graham's vigorous summer monsoons, winter rains, and snowstorms sustain a mountain possessing more life zones and vegetative communities than any other solitary mountain in North America. By Arizona standards it is a rainforest. By astronomy standards it is a lemon. UofA, having battled for and lost control of Mauna Kea to the U. of Hawaii, would destroy this natural wonder, rather than swallow their pride and opt for the superior Mauna Kea site.

NATIONAL BIOLOGICAL TREASURE AT STAKE

Jan. 1991

What also makes Mt. Graham biologically extraordinary is that it is the co-mingling point for the flora and fauna of the continent's southernmost Hudsonian forest with those of the Mexican subtropics. Mt. Graham is an uncommonly wet range by Arizona standards (making astronomy marginal). It hosts 14 perennial streams and 3 unique high-altitude cienegas. Cienegas are wet meadows with bog-like vegetation that support richer flora and fauna than the surrounding conifer forest. In one day a bear foraging on Mt. Graham can ascend or descend through life zones which are the equivalent to walking from the Mexican border to the Hudson Bay.

Government studies show the telescope project would ecologically destroy over 100 acres of the tiny, fragile 615-acre virgin, spruce-fir summit ecosystem. It would fragment, subdivide and degrade much more of it. This 615-acre Hudsonian (boreal) life zone contributes significantly to Mt. Graham's evolutionary and biological uniqueness.

For the Mt. Graham red squirrel to survive the winter, cones must be stored green and unopened in food caches beside fallen trees. If forest canopy is removed for telescope construction, wind and sun will reduce the adjacent forest's humidity (edge effect). The stored cones then open and the seeds are destroyed or lost.

FACT VS. FICTION ON MT. GRAHAM

1. UofA claim: *There are no alternatives to Mt. Graham.* **Fact:** Graham was ranked 38th (least desirable) of 59 western U.S. sites by a recent study. A recent study for placement of the world's largest telescope, chose Mauna Kea, hands down, over a mediocre Graham. Monsoon-and-snowstorm-plagued Mt. Graham with 35 inches of rainfall and 73% humidity was considered suitable only half the year. Mauna Kea with six inches of rainfall and 25% humidity was suitable 3/4 of the year. UofA would destroy a national biological treasure to accommodate driving convenience and to avoid sharing with other institutions at occupied sites. Both the German and Vatican collaborators poised for Mt. Graham admit equivalent or better sites exist elsewhere. A sour grapes UA, having lost control of Mauna Kea in a 60s turf war with U. of Hawaii, would now destroy a world-heritage ecosystem and defer to a technically inferior site.

2. UofA claim: *The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) was never bypassed, just "accelerated."* **Fact:** The USFS wrote an environmental impact statement (EIS). **Fact:** The Congressional exemption from NEPA nullified all written Mt. Graham USFS impact statements and the environmental rules applying to them. UofA lobbied NEPA exemption because they knew the deficient USFS EIS failed to consider non-destructive telescope sites as required by NEPA law. This deficiency would have been challenged in court by conservationists.

3. UofA claim: *The project has never been shown to be harmful.* **Fact:** UofA has spent millions conniving to exempt their extremely harmful project from all environmental law. Besides lobbying exemption from NEPA, their Mt. Graham legislation incorporated a fraudulent, illegal

endangered species study according to Congressional testimony given by the General Accounting Office, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Arizona Game and Fish Dept. The FWS official who ordered his biologists to write a study approving the project, under Congressional cross-examination, admitted he broke the endangered species law. Now that the project is known to be in violation of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), UofA attorneys in court are claiming Congress meant to exempt the project from ESA as well as NEPA. All legislators connected with the legislation have emphatically stated ESA was in no way meant to be weakened.

4. UofA claim: *There are 11,000 acres of squirrel habitat and UofA needs only 8.6 acres.* **Fact:** UofA would destroy, or fragment 1/4 of the squirrel's best habitat. UofA says they need 24 acres, not 8.6, for their minimum viable project. "Edge" effect from 24 acres destroys 130 acres and fragments even more. Most of the project is within (1) the summit's priceless 615-acre old-growth, boreal forest and (2) the 472 acres of "best" squirrel habitat. UA's 11,000 acre figure erroneously includes thousands of heavily logged, valueless or marginal acres. Squirrel numbers have varied from 99 to 328 depending on food supply. Each time astronomers destroy old-growth "critical habitat" the population comes closer to the extinction threshold during food shortages.

5. UofA claim: *It has been a needlessly prolonged 4-10 year planning process so it's O.K. to circumvent NEPA.* **Fact:** It was 2 yrs., 4 mos. UofA submitted their first (18-scope) proposal in June '84. The USFS environmental study (DEIS) came out Oct. '86 approving 5 scopes on High Peak. UofA adamantly refused this for the next two years. They insisted 7 scopes was their minimum viable project. They also insisted on building in the extremely vulnerable Emerald Peak habitat. The AZ delegation intensified their intimidation of the USFS and USFWS over the next two years, forcing the unlawful selection of Emerald Peak. The USFS capitulated in late '87 and the USFWS in mid '88. Congress unknowingly incorporated the fraudulent, illegal USFWS Emerald Peak endangered species study into the notorious NEPA exemption rider of Oct. 88.

6. UofA claim: *Hunting has harmed the squirrel.* **Fact:** All biologists who have worked on Mt. Graham concur that habitat destruction is the issue, not hunting. This 8 oz. "mini-squirrel" is virtually non-hunted (one found in a hunter's possession in past 23 years).

7. UofA claim: *Abert's squirrel introduction has hurt the Red Squirrel.* **Fact:** Both species live side-by-side in separate ecological niches on various mountain ranges in the Southwest. Abert's prefers open, lower altitude, Ponderosa pine, and being unable to cache food for winter, fails in snow-covered, higher, old-growth boreal red squirrel habitat where the scopes would go.

8. UofA claim: *Only UofA tree-planting and research dollars can save the squirrel.* **Fact:** Tree-planting is a public relations gimmick. It requires 150-400 years to restore suitable old-growth. Research is exemplary but cannot replace "critical habitat" destroyed by astronomers. The dilemma is short-term (100+ yr.) species survival, not long-term forest recovery.

9. UofA claim: *UofA "monitoring" research will measure construction impact.* **Fact:** Because the squirrels look alike and are unmarked it cannot be determined whether the project fatally displaces or destroys more than six squirrels annually- the congressionally allowable annual project "kill." The UofA behavioral study using unmarked squirrels is public relations

hype, like tree-planting. The study was rejected by the scientific community due to its flawed control areas and unmarked animals.

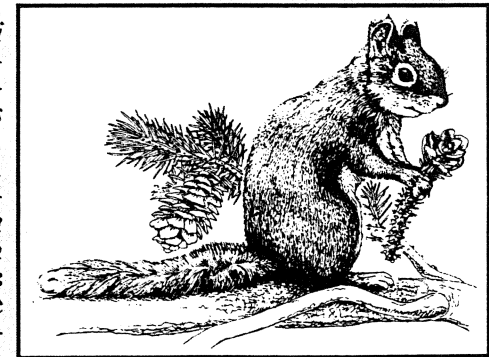
10. UofA claim: *UofA claims the presence of squirrels in the lower altitude mixed conifer justifies deforestation of the summit's tiny old-growth, spruce-fir forest.* **Fact:** Dense, humid old-growth canopy, whether in the higher, spruce-fir or in lower, mixed conifer, is vital. The food and shelter of both habitats are important. The heavily logged mixed conifer will require 150-400 years to develop suitable old-growth. Because some squirrels survive in fragments of unlogged old-growth mixed conifer, this does not justify destroying virgin, old-growth spruce-fir in the federally designated "critical habitat."

11. UofA claim: *UofA claims the Apache cannot protest the project because they were mailed a questionnaire years ago asking if they had objections.* **Fact:** The Apache Elders and Tribal Council in July 1990 voted unanimously to oppose the project as a violation of their religion and culture. In Phoenix in 1987 the Pope told Native Americans to "...preserve and keep alive your cultures, languages, values and customs..." In late 1990 Vatican, UofA and Max Planck bulldozers proceeded to desecrate Apache holy ground on Mt. Graham.

18 PLANTS & ANIMALS OF MT. GRAHAM FOUND NOWHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD

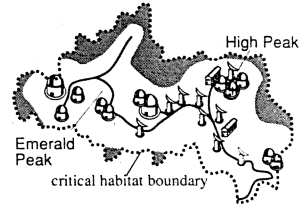
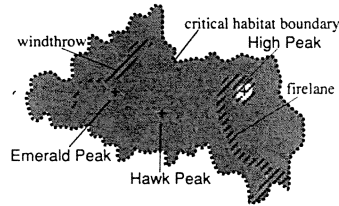
Mammals: Mt. Graham spruce (red) squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus grahamensis*; long-tailed vole, *Microtus longicaudus leucophaeus*; Pinaleno pocket gopher, *Thomomys bottae grahamensis*. **Mollusks:** *Sonorella imitator*, *Oreohelix grahamensis*. **Insects:** *Byrrhus sp.*, *Trechus arizonae*, *Priognathus sp.*, *Diplotaxis saylori*, *Scaphinotus petersi grahami*, *Symphoromyia fulvipes*, *Tetraphleps sp.*, *Deraeocoris sp.*, *Dichooscytus sp.*, *Eumorsea Pinaleno*.

Plants: *Erigeron heliographus*, *Potentilla albiflora*, *Erysimum capitatum*. **Mammals:** Mt. Graham spruce (red) squirrel, *Tamiasciurus hudsonicus grahamensis*; long-tailed vole, *Microtus longicaudus leucophaeus*; Pinaleno pocket gopher, *Thomomys bottae grahamensis*. **Mollusks:** *Sonorella imitator*, *Oreohelix grahamensis*. **Insects:** *Byrrhus sp.*, *Trechus arizonae*, *Priognathus sp.*, *Diplotaxis saylori*, *Scaphinotus petersi grahami*, *Symphoromyia fulvipes*, *Tetraphleps sp.*, *Deraeocoris sp.*, *Dichooscytus sp.*, *Eumorsea Pinaleno*. **Plants:** *Erigeron heliographus*, *Potentilla albiflora*, *Erysimum capitatum*.



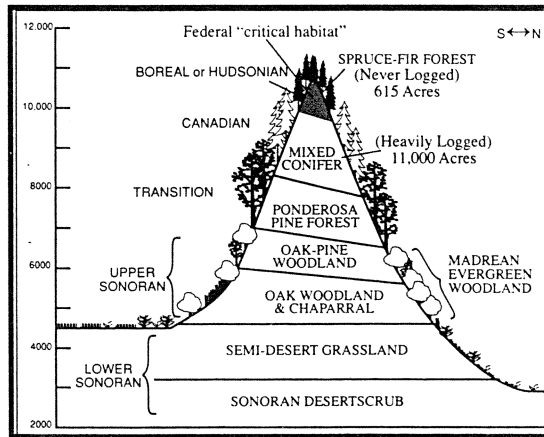
PRICELESS CRADLE OF EVOLUTION PLACED ON THE AUCTION BLOCK This 615-acre ancient, pleistocene spruce-fir forest is the federally designated "critical habitat" of one of the most endangered mammals in No. America. Technically superior sites which don't destroy national biological treasures and endangered animals are available.

1984: UofA PROPOSES TO DESTROY ENTIRE FOREST White areas represent habitat UofA would destroy or degrade. In 1984 UofA requested 18 telescopes at Emerald Peak, Hawk Peak, and High Peak - which would more than obliterate the ecosystem.



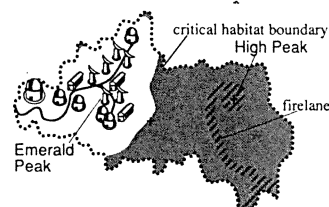
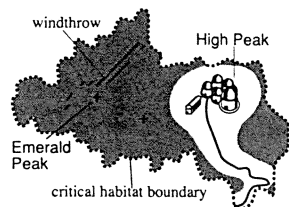
- ancient, virgin spruce-fir forest
- firelane or trees blown over
- would be degraded or destroyed by UofA
- federal red squirrel "critical habitat"

Mt. Graham possesses more life zones than any other isolated U.S. mountain. More than 18 unique plants and animals have evolved at this "inland Galapagos" cradle of evolution since glacial recession 11,000 years ago. The 615-acre boreal summit, North America's southernmost spruce-fir forest, is biologically irreplaceable.



1986: INTIMIDATED AGENCIES APPROVE 5 TELESCOPES Under intense Arizona congressional delegation pressure, USFS & USFWS OK'd five scopes on High Peak. UofA refused and from 1986-1988 demanded more scopes and land while the delegation further pressured the agencies into breaking endangered species law and approving the ecologically sensitive Emerald Peak habitat.

1988: CONGRESSIONAL GIVEAWAY Congress approved seven telescopes in the extremely vulnerable Emerald Peak region. Three scopes were totally exempt from NEPA and used the USFWS' fraudulent endangered species study. The entire western summit would be destroyed and UofA is given a beachhead for expansion eastward.



HOW YOU CAN HELP STOP THE PROJECT:

Write to: Your **Senators** (Wash. D.C. 20510) and **U.S. Representative** (Wash. D.C. 20515). **Rep. Gerry Studds**, Chairman, Fisheries & Wildlife Conservation & the Environment Subcommittee, (House Off. Bldg., Wash. D.C. 20515); and **Rep. Walter Jones**, Chairman, Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. Jones/Studds are the endangered species watchdogs of Congress. Please ask the above to: (1) immediately undertake lawful endangered species studies, and (2) to enact legislation clarifying that all provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) apply on Mt. Graham as was assured by Congress when they passed the Mt. Graham rider in 1988. The Bush Administration claims the rider exempted the project from ESA.

President George Bush, White House, Wash. D.C. 20500. Ask him to stop his efforts to remove the project from the provisions of the Endangered Species Act; and to allow a lawful, non-fraudulent endangered species study to now be undertaken.

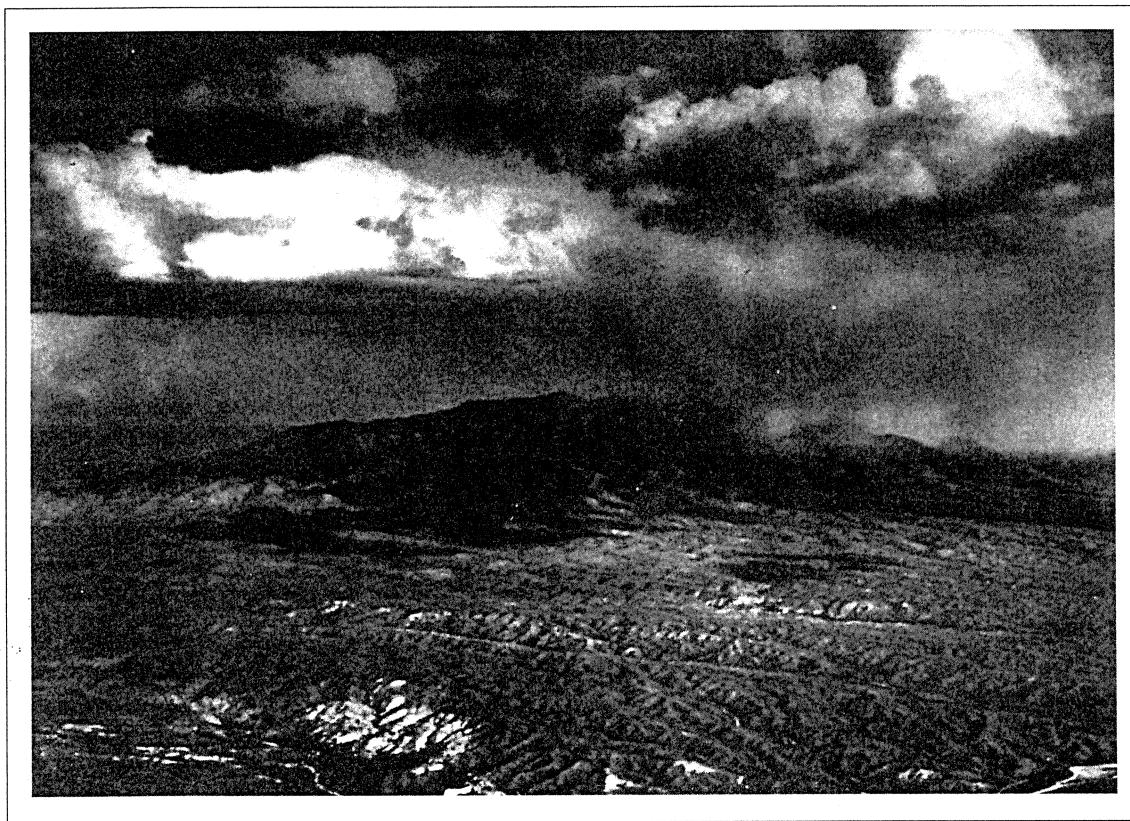
President, Ohio State Univ., 190 N. Oval Mall, Columbus OH 43210
President, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson AZ 85721. Also contact OSU and UofA **Trustees and Regents** and AZ and OH state legislators. It is unthinkable for great centers of learning to participate in a project which has spent millions in lobbying and lawsuits in subverting the nation's two key environmental laws: the National Environmental Policy Act, and the Endangered Species Act.

Ambassador, German Embassy, 4645 Reservoir Rd. NW, Wash. D.C. 20007
President, Max Planck Institute, Residenz-str. #1A, 8000 München, Germany (45 cents). Your local **Catholic Bishop**; or, **Ambassador, Vatican Embassy**, 3339 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Wash. D.C. 20008. Vatican and Max Planck telescopes would destroy a mountain sacred to the Apache, a national ecological treasure, and an endangered species. Apache Tribal Council and Elders have voted unanimously against this desecration of their religious and traditional beliefs.

Robert Adams, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, 1000 Jefferson SW, Wash. D.C. 20560. Smithsonian pays lip service to biodiversity and Native American culture while they would destroy both on Mt. Graham. Tell your **U.S. Senators** and **Representative** to cancel federal Smithsonian funding until they desist.

A contribution (tax-exempt) to "Save Mt. Graham Fund," P.O. Box 15451, Phoenix AZ 85060 would be greatly appreciated. Copies of the replies you receive would be greatly appreciated, too.

— THE BATTLE INTENSIFIES — MT. GRAHAM CAN BE SAVED



Mt. Graham has more vegetation life zones than any solitary U.S. mountain. Since glacial recession 10,000 years ago, many subalpine plants and animals found nowhere else in the world have evolved on the virgin spruce-fir forest on its summit. This tiny 400-600 acre forest treasure-trove is now being systematically piecemealed and fragmented by UA even though superior observatory sites exist elsewhere.

Dear Friends,

On July 28, 1994, a coalition of 18 environmental organizations¹ won an injunction against further telescope construction on Mt. Graham until lawful environmental studies are performed. At 5 AM on Dec. 7, 1993, under intense secrecy, the University of Arizona (UA) chainsawed hundreds of old-growth trees in a single day. On July 28, however, the court stopped the UA chainsaws as they were headed for more.

The illegally cut site is part of the 600-acre spruce-fir forest that crowns

Graham's 10,700 ft. summit. Since glacial recession 10,000 years ago, many plants and animals found nowhere else² in the world, and of immeasurable ecological and evolutionary significance, have evolved in this diminutive, fragile spruce-fir forest. The Dec. 7 covert assault was designed to prevent environmental and Native American opponents from having time to enter court to halt the illegal deforestation of a site outside the area Congress exempted from U.S. environmental law.

The reason for the illegal clear-cutting was that UA, in their 1988

rush to lobby their exemptions from U.S. environmental law, failed to do their science homework. In 1988, UA told Congress the mountain had been studied to death and that their German partners would leave them if they had to wait for completion of environmental studies. In a \$1,000,000 lobbying blitz, UA tacked a rider on another bill and rushed it through in the final hours of Congress without hearings or public testimony. In 1993, five years later, UA admitted they lobbied Congress for the worst place on the mountain.³

Astonishingly, UA ignored the

careful 1982-87 studies of the National Optical Astronomy Observatories⁴ (NOAO, 20 leading U.S. astronomy universities). NOAO noted visibility problems with Graham's flat topography, dense old-growth, monsoon and snowstorm-plagued weather, and fewer suitable viewing nights. The studies found 37 continental U.S. sites superior to Mt. Graham, and Hawaii's Mauna Kea clearly superior. NOAO jettisoned their Mt. Graham plans and moved to Hawaii and Chile.

Why your financial help is needed in our litigation:

1. Help us stop this nightmare! Though two small telescopes (Vatican and German) have been built, 7, 12⁵ or more telescopes are planned. German and Vatican astronomers have admitted they have alternatives.⁶ The illegal, "Pearl Harbor" clear-cut was for telescope #3, the near-bankrupt Columbus binocular telescope. The Columbus has lost 50% of its partners and UA now says only half the telescope can be built. Twenty-eight North American institutions have already abandoned or rejected the Mt. Graham scandal because of its "unacceptable" visibility, cloud cover, deep snow, or irreconcilable Native American and environmental problems. No U.S. universities remain as partners.

2. UA lawyers told the court that if UA must now comply with U.S. environmental law, it "threatens a breakup of the international coalition and...that [the Columbus] telescope may be placed outside the U.S." UA also says that if no Columbus is built, the entire Mt. Graham project would not be cost-effective and would collapse. UA can easily find partners at other sites. For example, Mexico has offered to join Columbus at what both claim is a world-class site in Mexico.



At 5:00 AM, Dec. 7, 1993, UA with FS/FWS collusion carried out a top secret clear-cut strike upon a small, vulnerable spruce-fir forest on the summit of Mt. Graham—an ecosystem of immeasurable ecological and evolutionary significance. UA hurriedly cut the trees in one day and left them lifeless in the snow. The secrecy and haste was to prevent citizens from having time to enter court to stop a deforestation in violation of environmental law.



Monsoons and snowstorms frequently enshroud Mt. Graham making costly astronomy. UA ignored the mid-80's studies of 20 leading U.S. universities showing 32 better U.S. sites, a clearly superior Hawaii, and warnings about Graham's flat topography and dense old-growth. Belated UA studies now show UA chose the worst site on Mt. Graham: flat and heavily forested.

3. Government studies⁷ showed that the proposed city of telescopes would destroy 25% of the endangered Mt. Graham red squirrel's best 472 acres of spruce-fir habitat, critical to its long-term survival. Not only does UA endeavor to build in the heart of this tiny, fragile old-growth ecosystem, the feeder roads to the proposed telescope sites will permanently fragment remaining critical forest remnants.⁸

4. San Carlos Apache Medicine people, spiritual leaders, and three tribal councils have declared the telescopes "an act of profound desecration and a serious violation of Apache traditional religious beliefs." In the Apaches' lawsuit, UA lawyers argued that they were exempt from U.S. cultural and religious protection laws as well as U.S. environmental laws.

5. UA's 1988 rider represents the first peacetime exemption⁹ from all U.S. environmental law. A project based on such a precedent must be stopped.



In six of the last seven years surveys showed more squirrels around the illegal clear-cut. Days before the secret strike, however, a hush-hush study, lacking peer review or public announcement or distribution, alleged the squirrels had abandoned this illegally clear-cut area, intimating they would never return there — science fiction biology.

With your help a priceless ecosystem can be saved. This is a bad project in the wrong place. Please mail your check (tax-deductible) to "Save Mt. Graham Fund" Box 15451, Phoenix AZ 85060.Z

Sincerely,

Anita MacFarlane

Anita MacFarlane
Ariz. Audubon Council

James Breck

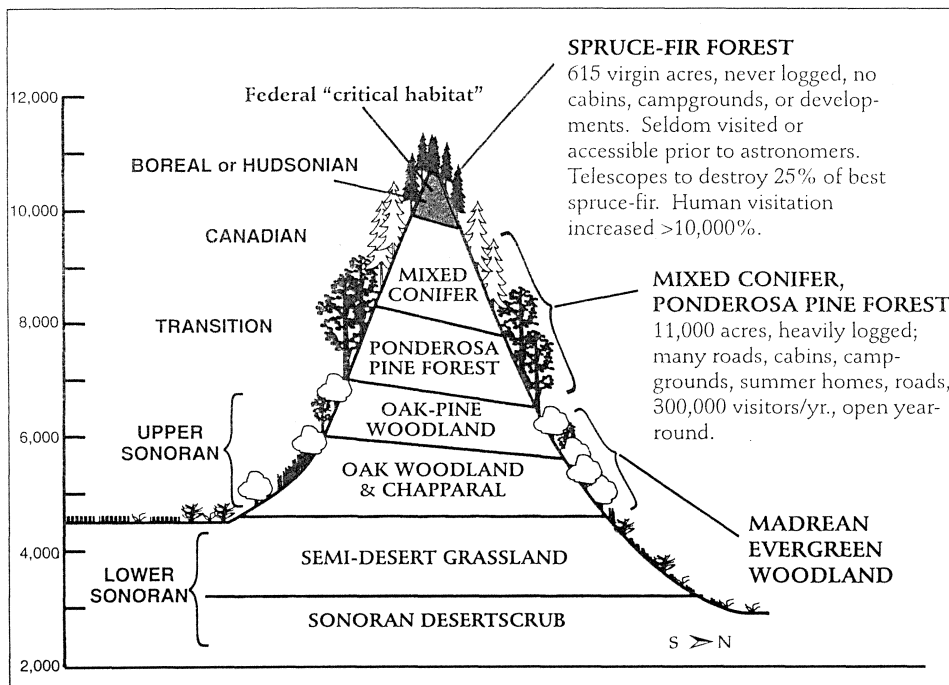
Jim Breck

Ariz. Wildlife Federation

Sharon Galbreath

Sharon Galbreath

Grand Canyon
Chapter, Sierra Club



Mt. Graham's tiny, fragile spruce-fir summit is a primitive, unlogged, undeveloped, seldom visited ecosystem. Weather closed it to humans most of the year prior to astronomy. Besides deforestation and ecosystem fragmentation, telescopes would open it to year-round trucks, cars, personnel and tourist buses, snowblowers, helicopters, generators, tree windthrow, tree-topping, disease, and fire. Telescope feeder and access roads increase squirrel roadkills and losses from predators, block wildlife dispersal, gene transfer, food search etc. Telescopes bring thousands of days of astronomy and construction personnel all year long. UA/FS boast of busing in, at minimum, 10,000 astrotourists annually, into a remote ecosystem which saw but a handful of rugged, summer-only campers.

Our honor roll, MAS chapter officers, 1971-2006

THE ROADRUNNER is published monthly excepting for July and August by the Maricopa Audubon Chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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Monthly Meetings

First Tuesday of the month, September through April, 7:30 p.m. Our meeting place is Dorrance Hall, at the Desert Botanical Garden (DBG), except for our annual banquet in May at Shalimar Country Club in Tempe. The DBG is located at 1201 North Galvin Parkway, Phoenix, Arizona. This is approximately 1/4 mile north of the Phoenix Zoo. For a map, please see the DBG website at www.dbg.org/.

Dorrance Hall is located just off the main parking lot and entry to the DBG, and there will be signs directing you to the meeting place. Please contact a board member if you have any questions, or check out our web site at www.maricopa-audubon.org. Pre-meeting dinners (October through April) are held at Pete's 19th Tee, 1405 N. Mill Avenue, Tempe (at the Rolling Hills Golf Course), starting at 6:00 p.m.

Membership Information--see notes and announcements for more detail

Your National membership entitles you to membership in the National Audubon Society and the Maricopa Audubon Society. National members receive bi-monthly issues of Audubon Magazine and quarterly issues of the Cactus Wren-dition. For all new National Audubon memberships send check or money order payable to National Audubon Society to: Membership Chair, Krys Hammers.

Introductory rate for new members..... \$20/year
Senior Citizen or student rate..... \$15/year
Basic rate..... \$35/year
Foreign: add \$10 in US funds

For membership changes and status, call 1-800-274-4201. Address changes can be e-mailed to CHADD@audubon.org. For Wren-dition subscriptions only-\$20/year (Make your check payable to "Maricopa Audubon Society") and send to Krys Hammer at 1121 N. Terrace Road, Chandler, AZ 85226. For Summer/Winter address change or to freeze your membership in our chapter call Membership chair, Krys at 480-413-9805 or krys.hammers@cox.net