



Transition Habitat  
CONSERVANCY

***Strategic Plan***  
**Transition Habitat Conservancy**  
**2018 - 2020**

**Vision**

By 2050, we will have protected several areas of ecological significance and wildlife corridors, and facilitated the creation of several natural parks in the West Mojave to protect important species and biodiversity. The land we preserved will allow people living in the high desert to continue to enjoy nature and will enable our children and grandchildren to see for themselves these rich resources.

**Mission Statement**

Transition Habitat Conservancy protects transition zone and wildlife corridor ecosystems and their scenic, agricultural, and cultural resource values in the West Mojave Desert. We provide education about the fragile and inspirational nature of our desert plants, animals, and ecosystems to connect people to nature.

**Core Values**

- We are committed to our dream and to the integrity of our mission statement.
- With the aid of the community, we will persevere and pursue the support of all interested parties in order to shape our vision for the greater good.
- We value integrity and will strive to work cooperatively while maintaining a high level of professionalism in dealing with stakeholders.
- We will preserve land using practices that are ethical and agreeable to all parties in the transaction.
- We will honestly and openly discuss our goals and intentions with willing partners.
- We will provide stewardship plans for land we preserve and uphold our agreements and responsibilities over time.
- We value communities' desires to maintain their rural character and will respect the property rights of landowners with whom we work in partnership.
- The Transition Habitat Conservancy board will remain directly involved in all aspects of operations.
- Preserve and promote the equine ethics and skills necessary to manage land in a non-motorized low impact way.
- We value and respect individual perspectives and will encourage open communication by providing a safe environment for disagreement.

## **Our main objectives are to**

### **1. Protect sensitive ecological areas.**

- Protect properties with significant wildlife habitat within our previously and newly defined service areas
- Plan/implement open space natural areas and protect those important resources as part of our responsibility to our children and grandchildren
- Identify/update priority areas, and increase as needed, for protection based on conservation science and good planning
- Protect watersheds within the scope of our mission and vision
- Define a variety of strategies for land conservation
- Monitor the status of protected parcels according to our policies, and utilize innovative, cost-saving, ways to achieve those requirements
- Collaborate with other agencies (county, state, and federal), non-profits, and other stakeholders to develop “regional” protection strategies
- Maintain flexibility to take advantage of opportunities as they arrive

### **2. Build support for protecting sensitive ecological areas**

- Improve our knowledge of these sensitive areas and their important linkages in terms of biodiversity, climate refugia, community needs, hydrology, etc.
- Develop a plan to engage and support the local community via schools, societies, local authorities, and other organizations. Utilize educational presentations, outreach collaborations, and field workshops to convey this message to visitors and help sensitize the public to the desert as a rich, diverse habitat.
- Collaborate with and help other organizations, public agencies, and stakeholders in resource protection.
- Participate in organizations, meetings, and conferences at state and local levels to present our projects and identify new ways/means to achieve our goals. Support legislation that strengthens or furthers our mission.
- Use web-based and social media platforms to inform the public about THC’s priorities and activities, and to help educate our community about the importance of open space and conservation
- Develop and maintain relationships with key media outlets.

### **3. Build the capacity of the Conservancy.**

- Complete and maintain Land Trust Alliance accreditation
- Refine the fundraising strategy
- Write grants, CAPPs, proposals, initiatives, and project ideas
- Increase and develop our volunteer and membership base.
- Utilize committees to implement work plans
- Diversify and expand the Board of Directors.
- Maintain and support experienced staff, board, and consultants. Key elements include: technology proficiency, land transactions and mitigation, accounting and finance, policy and procedures, ecology and biology, land and habitat management plans, fundraising, writing and content composition, public relations, education and outreach.
- Increase knowledge of land trust operations and strategies

# Three-Year Work Plans: Drafted January 25, 2018

## Puma Canyon Committee

Goal 1: Make money

2018	2019	2020
a. Sell Carter parcel	Remove mustard	Remove mustard
b. Sell air cond. unit	Sell Carter parcel	Identify mitigation opportunities
c. Remove mistletoe	Identify mitigation opportunities	Promote Gift giving
d. Identify mitigation opportunities	Promote Gift giving	
e. Promote Gift giving		

Goal 2: Grow endowment to \$500,000 (to get \$20,000 per year needed based on actual budget)

Goal 3: Infrastructure

2018	2019	2020
a. Trail maintenance	Trail maintenance	Trail maintenance
b. Richard loop, coyote crossing	Interpretive trail	Trail naming and map update
c. Equine Hitching post	Trail naming and map update	Land Monitoring
d. Trail naming and map (on paper and phone)	Land Monitoring	
e. Upgrade waystation		
f. Land Monitoring		
g. Determine cost Schwarz cabin transformation		

Goal 4: Puma usage policy 2018

Goal 5: Expand Puma area to CAPP size

# Portal Ridge Committee

Committee Goals: -Committee and Policy Development- -Acquire 1000 acres in Portal Ridge-  
 -Access and Road Management / Effective Erosion Control- -Community Outreach (especially Bleich Flats)-  
 -Ongoing Stewardship- -Develop Education Program for the Youth- -Complete Hiking and Riding Trail System-

## Year 1 2018

Conduct Baseline Stewardship- management, taxes, insurance vehicle, etc- this is an ongoing item
Acquisitions- Purchase 240 acres in 2018 with \$960,000 in WCB funding *Additional costs include Phase 1 fee, Allyson Lavender time to help with escrow/transaction, staff time to assist with transaction, baseline, etc.
Two solar wells completed and “naturalized”- primarily funded from donation
AmeriCorps Activities- remove fencing, erosion control, invasives, etc. – funded via endowments and NCCC
Committee Development- add and evaluate members
Policy Development – Access (roads, trails, public), camping, fires, etc.
Road Erosion Management- Solve Grazing dilemma, get USDA engineering plans and cost
Install Informational Kiosk at trailhead- mountain lion and rattlesnake safety, rules and regs, info *Costs need to be determined. Kiosk can be similar to one in Puma Canyon
Mountain Lion Plan and Discussion- Better informed, risk management, community engagement. *Consultation and/or field trip to see how other organizations/communities are handling this. Signage.
Grade road holes with tractor for access to Keeler- estimated at \$1,500

## Year 2 2019

Purchase 511 acres in 2019 with SunPower Mitigation funding and endowment
Install Monarch Waystation in Bleich Flats community. Try to get others in community interested as well *funding needs dependent on community involvement
Erosion Plan finalized and funded- must find funding source for the majority of this work
Land Manager Succession Plan- begin training others to do monitoring to ensure backup plan.
Trail System Marked and Mapped
Cultural Site Evaluation Plan

## Year 3 2020

Purchase 260 acres in 2020 with unknown plan at this time

# Fremont DWMA Plan

DWMA Goals: -Stewardship and Monitoring- -Two Acquisitions Per Year- -Polygon Stronghold-  
-AmeriCorps and other Crews- -Road Evaluation- -Desert Tortoise Plan- -Fulltime Stewardship Specialist-

## Year 1 2018

Drone monitor all lands and respond to unwanted impacts- funded
Complete 50% of OHV Grant Requirements- sheriffs, staff and volunteer match- funded
Two acquisitions- Tax Sales purchased. Mitigation parcel happening as well- funded
Polygon Stronghold established in case resources are limited long-term- funded
Outreach Event hosted- also consider multiple small ones
Create acquisition plan to identify key parcels to pursue
Bolster interagency team- transition from Tara to Kerry
Title Insurance on Tax Sales
Desert Tortoise Grant completed and apply for more
Determine working plan with Wildlands, Inc. and MDLT
Hire long-term Land Stewardship Specialist

## Year 2 2019

Drone monitor all lands and respond to unwanted impacts- funded
Complete 35% of OHV Grant Requirements- match, Restoration Crew, Ranger- funded
Two acquisitions- Tax Sales purchased. Mitigation parcel happening as well- funded
Polygon Stronghold established in case resources are limited long-term- funded
Outreach Event hosted- also consider multiple small ones
Desert Tortoise Plan continued. More grants
Improve our fee lands