

ALTAR VALLEY

a rural region that has it all:

Wildlife Refuges Ranches Migrant Crossing Habitat Restoration
 Drug Smuggling Proposed Pipeline Evidence of Climate Change

Diana Rea, Altar Valley Middle School, Earth Camp for Educators 2012

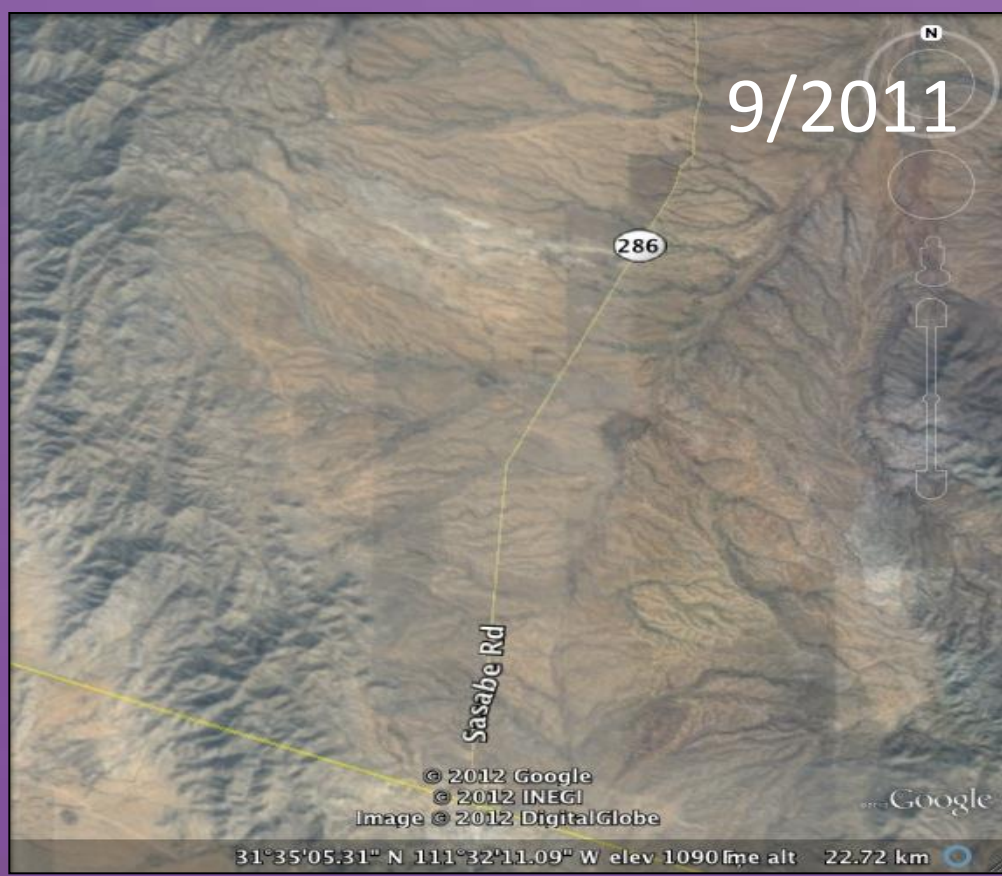
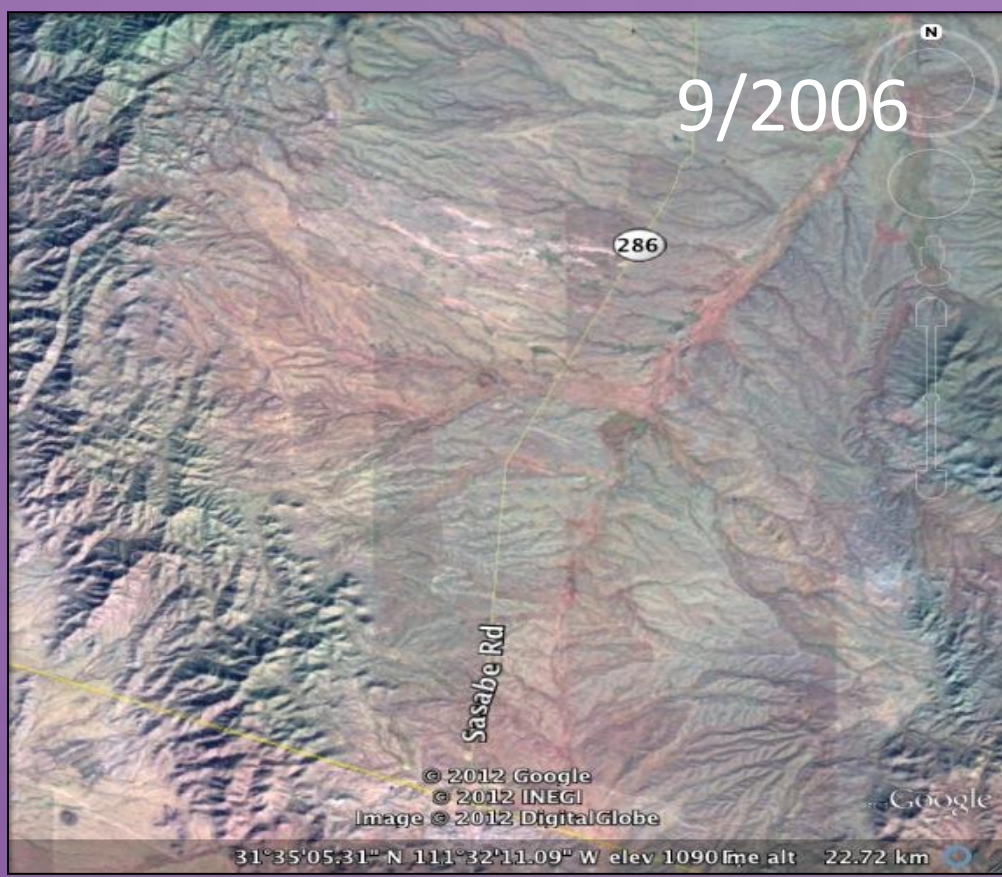
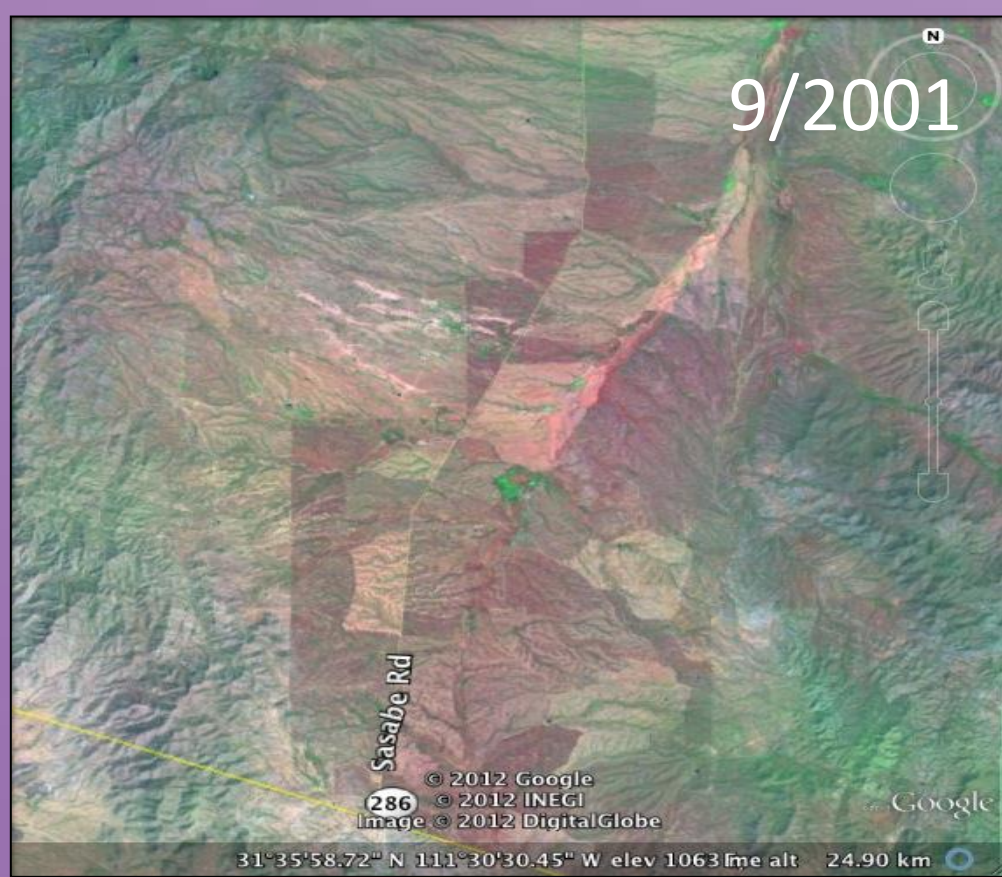
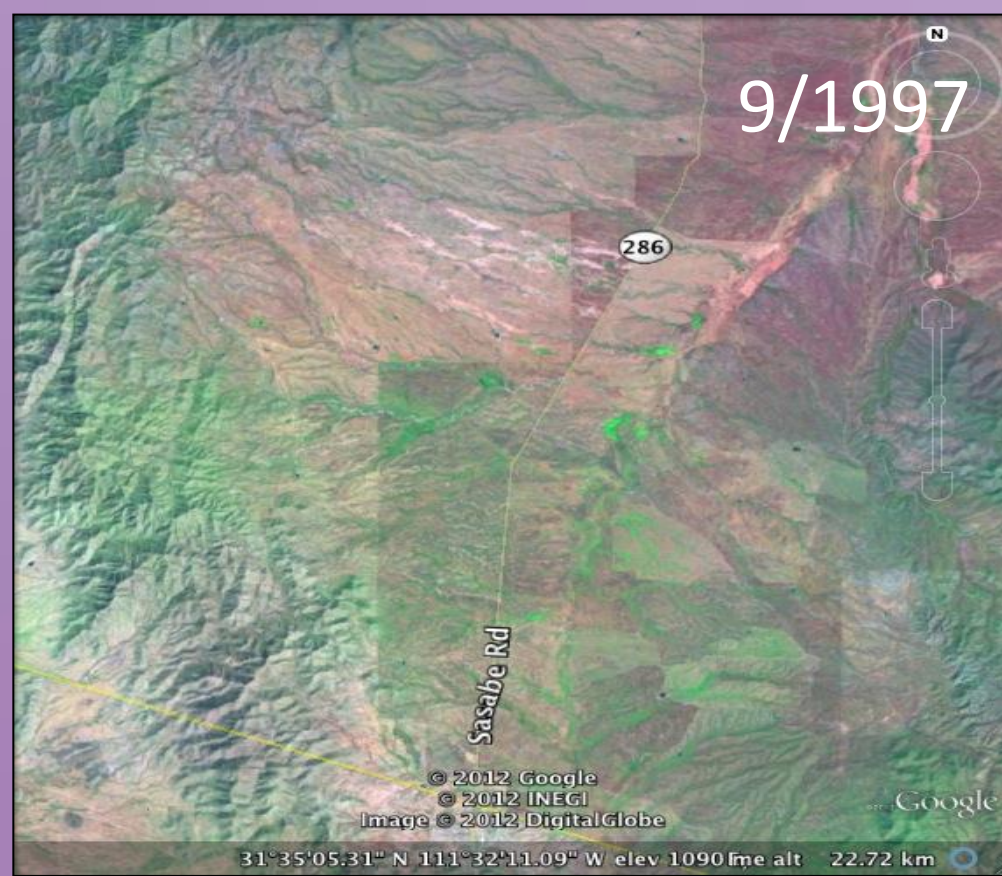


The Power of Perspective

Artist's view of a U.S. Landsat satellite. Credits: NASA

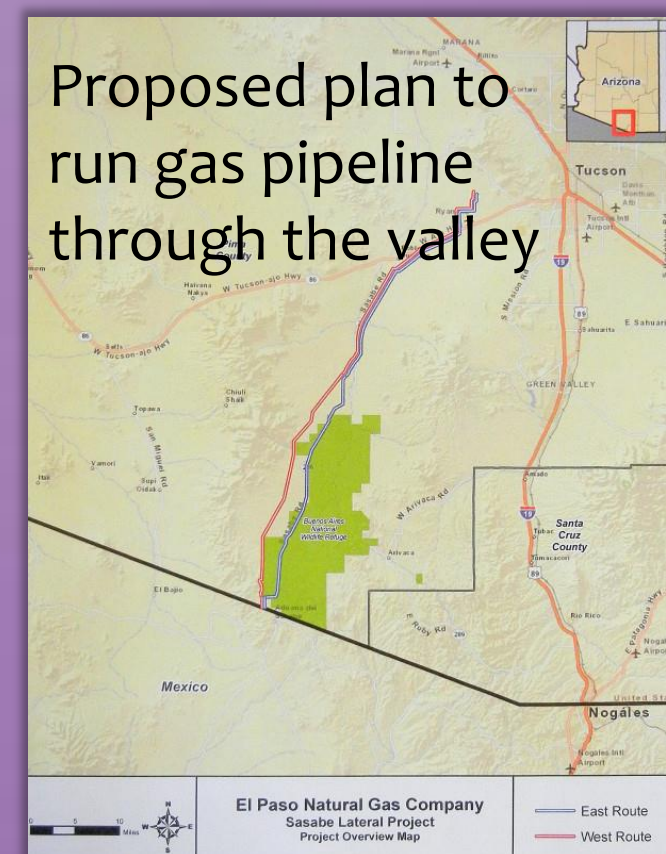
The false color Landsat images below show southern Altar Valley. Bright green shows areas of healthy vegetation, while pink represents barren soil and oranges/browns represent sparse vegetation. The past 14 years show less healthy vegetation and more barren soil. Combine this with other human impacts, and the valley and its residents may be in peril.

Current Land Users: agriculture, ranching, beekeeping, hunting, residential, population 5500



We have choices to make!

An average of 13,500 pounds of trash is left in the AZ desert every day by migrants and hunters. Shifting migrant routes endanger animals and change runoff patterns that lead to increased erosion.



Masked Bobwhite Quail, nearly extinct, was recently reintroduced due to efforts by Buenos Aires National Refuge



Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1985, contains approximately 13 bat species, 4 rabbit/hare species, 25 species of rats, 15 carnivores, 4 hoofed mammals, 1 marsupial, 12 amphibians, 4 turtles, 19 lizards, and 26 snake species. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, May 2009



Altar Valley is entirely contained in the "special species management" area of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, established in 2001.