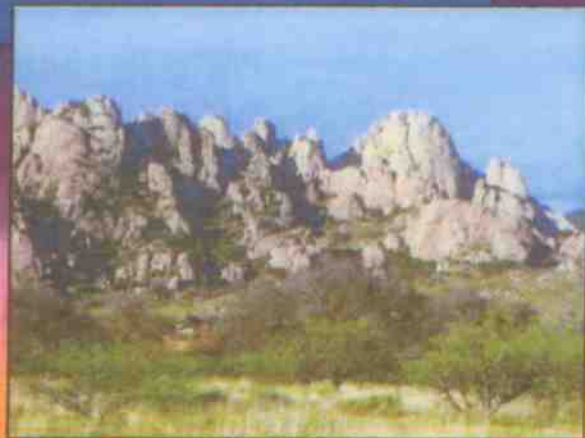
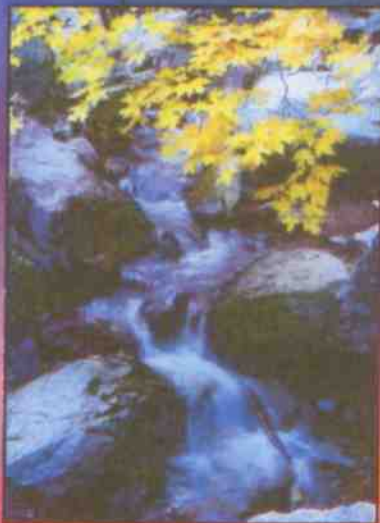


ENVISIONING 2020  
LAND USE PLANNING  
IN  
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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ENVISIONING 2020  
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COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA

SEPTEMBER 2008



# ENVISIONING 2020

## LAND USE PLANNING IN COCHISE COUNTY, ARIZONA

*If you don't much care where you're going, it doesn't matter which way you go. You're sure to get somewhere if you keep at it long enough.* - The Cheshire Cat in Alice's Adventure in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll.

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ENVISIONING 2020 – LAND USE PLANNING IN COCHISE COUNTY represents a proactive and collaborative vision for the future. What is a Vision? A Vision is a mental image that empowers individuals and communities by giving them foresight to make events happen and projects possible. Envisioning 2020 was an effort shaped by the people of Cochise County to help distinguish the scope and face of current and future growth in Cochise County over a 10-year horizon. The Cochise County Planning Department is pleased to present this report to Cochise County stakeholders, the Board of Supervisors, the Planning and Zoning Commission, the Boards of Adjustment and County Staff.

### Project Description

Over the last decade, the west has been the fastest growing region in the nation, experiencing a rapid influx of people seeking better employment opportunities, higher standards of living and wide open spaces. Taken further, over that time, Arizona has vied with Nevada as the nation's fastest growing state, and although much of that growth has occurred in the urban centers of Phoenix and Tucson, growth has occurred to a lesser degree in other, more rural areas of the Arizona, including Cochise County. Although growth is not an inevitability, demographic projections suggest that there is the *likelihood* that Cochise County will experience increasing population over time as more people, particularly retirees, discover the beauty, tranquility and high quality of rural life that Cochise County offers. Consequently, as our population grows there is a compelling need to carefully plan - to "grow smarter."

Arizona's *Growing Smarter Legislation* directs communities to update their respective Comprehensive Plans at 10-year intervals. One of the purposes of this legislation is to more effectively plan for the impacts of population growth by creating a more meaningful and predictable land planning process through increased citizen involvement in the process.



## COCHISE COUNTY ENVISIONING 2020

Thus, the core philosophy of *Envisioning 2020* is that in order to create an environment that is livable and desirable, residents must participate and buy into a plan for the future. The overarching approach of the project was to provide forums encouraging citizens to participate in the development of a Vision for their communities and the County as a whole (within the context of anticipated population growth). This process seeks to engage residents from a variety of backgrounds, interests and demographics in an organized effort designed to educate workshop participants about the planning process.

Perhaps more importantly, *Envisioning 2020* intends to establish citizen direction and priorities in shaping a preferred 2020 future and to conceive a long-term Vision and policy framework designed to achieve this Vision over time. To achieve that mission, community involvement inclusive of a cross-section of residents was sought; this was accomplished through a statistically valid random sample phone survey of Cochise County residents conducted by FMR Associates, Inc. of Tucson, as well as 13 widely publicized public workshops hosted throughout the County beginning in October 2007 and running through March 2008. Several sessions yielded only a few participants (*a low of seven*), while others attracted numerous participants (*a high of 108*). In all, *Envisioning 2020* attracted 448 self-selected participants, an average of 34 participants per workshop. In addition, *Envisioning 2020* aspires to:

- ◆ Democratize the process of growth management
- ◆ Generate new ideas and direction
- ◆ Safeguard Cochise County's quality of life
- ◆ Provide citizen input to policy makers
- ◆ Create ownership of the community development process
- ◆ Determine community values translatable into policies or standards

The methodology for *Envisioning 2020* was developed in the spring of 2007 and during this time an Outreach and Development Committee comprised of residents with diverse backgrounds was created to help Planning Staff coordinate workshops and oversee and steward process development. In addition, an independently contracted facilitator was hired to help in process development, to ensure that workshop participants remained focused, that the goals and objectives for each workshop were met, as well as to direct each *Envisioning 2020* workshop and summarize stakeholder comments. The phone survey is intended to complement the findings of the *Envisioning 2020* workshops, to offer additional insight about residents' values, as well as what residents feel are Cochise County's strengths and weaknesses. The survey consists of a 406-person, randomly-selected, statistically-grounded sample of 18 years and older male and female heads of household.

