



We Create Our Future

**The Pinal County
Comprehensive Plan**

Pinal County
Planning and Zoning Commission
August 30, 2007



Planning Process: What is the Comprehensive Plan?

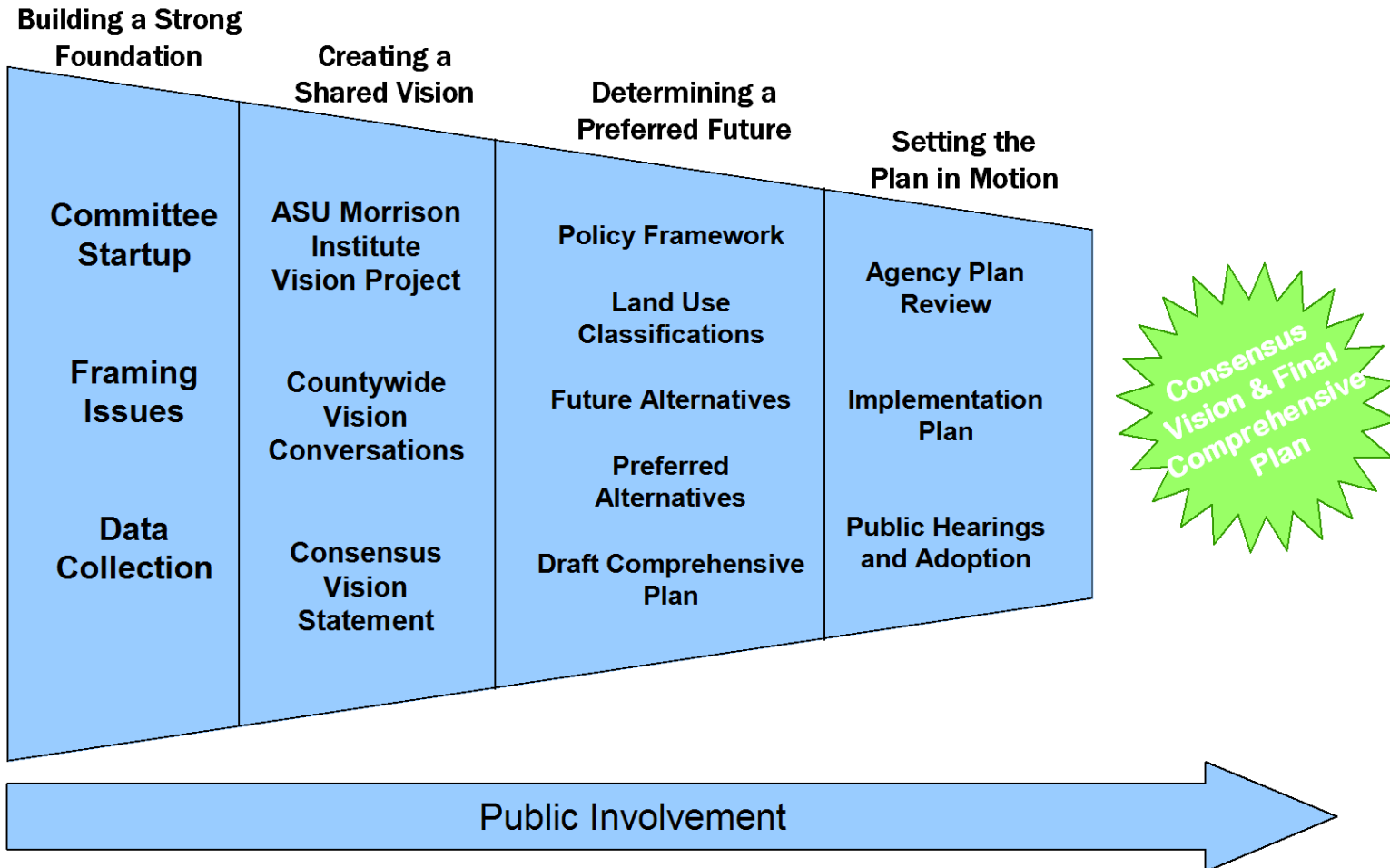
- A statement of policy to guide decision-making
- A plan to anticipate & manage growth
- The determination of the appropriate role for Pinal County
- An implementation program

Pinal County Comprehensive Plan

We Create Our Future



We Create Our Future: Pinal County Comprehensive Plan (March 2007 to May 2008)





Project Status

- Morrison Institute study completed
- Comprehensive Plan working groups meeting
- Website live: www.PinalCountyPlan.com
- Peer County Analysis
- Compendium of existing conditions being finalized
- Over 100 people actively on working groups
- Two rounds of public involvement completed

Questions the Plan Will Answer

- How do we create employment centers where residents can live and work in close proximity?
- What are the companies of the future & how do we prepare for them?



Questions the Plan Will Answer

- How do we integrate open space and trails throughout the County and in harmony with the built environment?



Questions the Plan Will Answer

- How do we preserve environmentally sensitive areas including rivers, natural water ways, and habitats?



Questions the Plan Will Answer

- How does the County jointly plan for success with Tribal and municipal governments?
- What role does the County play in the future?



Questions the Plan Will Answer

- How does the County ensure long-term water resources, energy conservation, and a sustainable development pattern?





Road Shows

An introduction to the project...

Over 300 people have attended Road Shows at these Pinal County locations:

- San Manuel
- Maricopa
- Casa Grande
- Florence
- Superior
- Gold Canyon
- Red Rock
- Coolidge
- Saddlebrook



What We've Heard at the Road Shows

What **ONE** thing do you value most about Pinal County?

- Open space
- Rural atmosphere/environment
- Natural beauty
- History and heritage
- Night sky



What We've Heard at the Road Shows

What **ONE** thing do you **not** want to lose in Pinal County?

- Open space
- Diversity
- Sense of community
- Agriculture
- Uniqueness
- Clean air/water/environment



What We've Heard at the Road Shows

What ONE major change have you seen in Pinal County?

- Rooftops/homes/growth
- Loss of agriculture
- Increase in traffic
- A positive synergy between residents and governmental officials



Peer County Analysis

- Rapid growth over past 20 years
- Impacted by one or more rapidly growing metro areas
- Urban/agricultural/open space interface
- Preservation issues
- Bedroom community/commuting issues

Peer Counties Selected

- Polk County, Florida
- Cobb County, Georgia
- Arapahoe County, Colorado





Key Lessons

1. Should have developed dedicated funding for infrastructure and roads
2. County and municipalities should have worked better together
3. Should have developed transportation options such as transit, light rail
4. Better job of uniting citizens behind a common vision for the future – unify rural and urban
5. Should have had planning tools in place earlier
6. Long range planning should have been more imbedded to withstand political change



Comments from Road Show...

All peer county lessons are important
for Pinal!

Where are we in the process?

Task 1: Project Initiation

Task 2: Framing Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Issues

Task 3: Pinal County Comprehensive Plan Compendium

Task 4: Setting the Vision

Task 5: Policy Framework

Task 6: Alternatives Development and Analysis

Task 7: Preferred Plan Alternative

Task 8: Draft Comprehensive Plan (60-Day Review Draft)

Task 9: Agency Review

Task 10: Implementation Plan

Task 11: Public Hearing Comprehensive Plan

Task 12: Produce Final Pinal County Comprehensive Plan



Vision Workshops

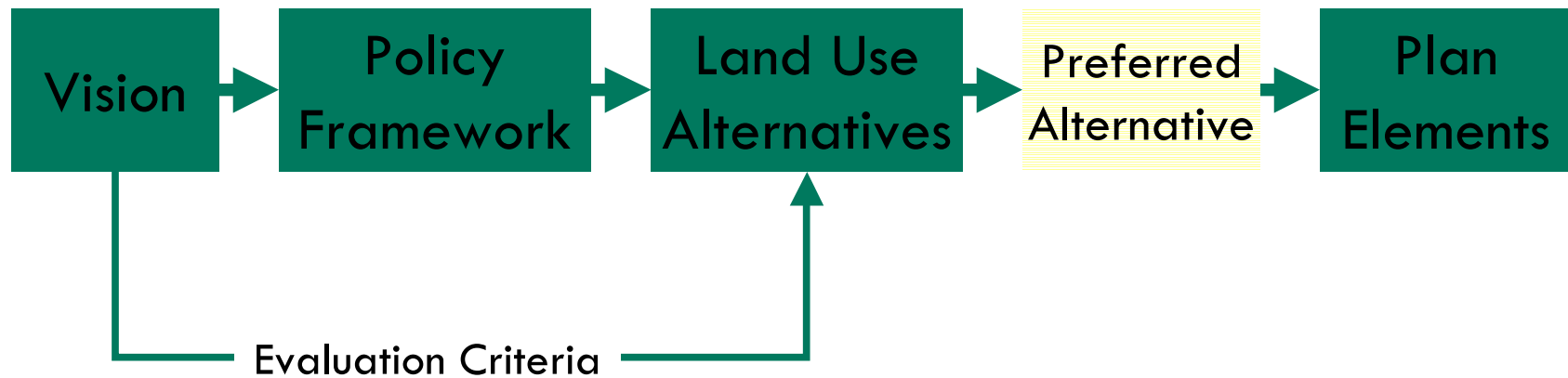
- Over 300 participants worked to create Pinal County's Vision for the Future. The Vision Statement is now being drafted.
- Arizona City
- Kearny
- Santan/Queen Creek/Johnson Ranch
- Central Arizona College
- Oracle
- Stanfield
- Gila River Indian Community



What is a vision statement?

- A community's preferred future 'destination'.
- A shared image of 'where' the community would like to be at a given point in the future.

Where does the Vision fit?





Vision Workshop Format

1. What do you think about the emerging vision themes?
 - Open Spaces and Places
 - Sense of Community
 - Economic Sustainability
 - Quality Education Opportunities
 - Mobility and Connectivity
 - Environmental Stewardship
2. If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future. What would be the outcome of our efforts? What would we have achieved?



Emerging Vision Themes

What do you think about the emerging vision themes?

All participants across the county felt that the Emerging Vision Themes were good and reflective of the ideal future

Some suggestions –

Quality, Accessible Healthcare
Public Health, Safety & Welfare

Overriding Principle –

Collaborative partnerships with all agencies & governmental entities
Responsive government that is accountable & provides proactive leadership



Vision Components

- If we do everything right, how would you describe a successful Pinal County in the future. What would be the outcome of our efforts? What would we have achieved?



Open Space & Places

We will have ...

- Large parcels preserved for open space
- Mountains protected from development
- Sensitive land areas protected
- Wildlife corridors
- Space between development & communities
- Appropriate places for recreational activities
- Connected trails
- Addressed state land holdings to align with Pinal County's vision
- Preserved the county's unique environmental & topographic features



Sense of Community

We will have ...

- Uniqueness of communities protected
- Developed meeting spaces throughout the county
- Involvement by residents in local decision-making
- Acceptance of different lifestyles & people; respect for differences
- Heritage, culture & history maintained



Economic Sustainability

We will have ...

- Jobs closer to people
- Variety of job centers throughout the county
- Innovative & environmentally-sensitive businesses
- Preserved a role for agriculture in the county's economy
- Developed Pinal County as a tourism destination based on our environmental stewardship

Quality Educational Opportunities

We will have...

- Expanded post secondary education
- Distance learning opportunities
- Exceed AZ & National standards
- Life-long learning opportunities
- Curriculum includes – history, culture & environmental ethic
- Quality teachers come here because of quality of life & great pay
- Educational opportunities throughout the county



Mobility & Connectivity

We will have ...

- True multimodal transportation system
- High speed rail
- Internal transit connections to activity center
- Telecommunications connections
- Improved roadway capacity
- Protected corridors for future expansion prior to development



Environmental Stewardship

We will have ...

- People that understand the sensitivity of the desert environment & heritage
- Clean air & dark skies
- Well managed water resources
- Riparian area, rivers, & wildlife habitats restored & protected



Planning Workshops

- To bring residents & stakeholders from throughout Pinal County to work together in developing future land use & transportation plans that implement the Vision that has evolved from the 9 Road Shows & 7 Visioning Workshops.
- Apache Junction
- Eloy
- Johnson Ranch
- Central Arizona College
- Mammoth
- Maricopa

Pinal County Plan: Involvement is Key!

- Committee Structure
- Road Shows
- Vision Workshops
- Planning Workshops
- Forums
- Public Hearings
- Youth Outreach
- Meetings in a Box
- Speakers Bureau
- Public Hearings



Project Communications



- Project Website
- E-Newsletters
- Face Book Webpage
- Informational Flyers
- Questionnaires
- Interim Reports

THANK YOU!

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Visit the Project Website Regularly!
www.PinalCountyPlan.com