

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Visitor Guide

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, or SPRNCA, is in Cochise County, Arizona, in the state's southeast corner. It contains 57,000 acres of Federal lands. The Conservation Area was established by the Federal Government in 1988 to preserve its outstanding natural resources and historic sites. Today, the Bureau of Land Management manages the area. It is free and open to the public for recreational use.

The San Pedro River flows north from its headwaters in Mexico 179 miles to its confluence with the Gila River. The SPRNCA protects the Upper San Pedro Basin area within a Federal preserve.



The SPRNCA Contains

- The last free-flowing river in the Southwest
- A rare cottonwood riparian forest
- A major bird migration flyway
- A diverse population of plants and animals
- Numerous historic and prehistoric sites
- Rare and endangered species
- 350 species of birds
- Trails open for hiking, biking, and horseback riding

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Visitor Centers



San Pedro House. Friends of the San Pedro River (FSPR) visitor center. Contains exhibits, bookstore, and gift shop. Access a network of trails to view river scenery, birds, and wildlife. Open every day 9:30-4:30. Highway 90, 8 miles east of Sierra Vista.



Fairbank Schoolhouse. An Old West ghost town. The Fairbank Schoolhouse visitor center and museum is now closed. It should reopen in late October 2022. We will then resume normal hours: open Friday – Sunday, 9:30 – 4:30. It contains exhibits about the town and the SPRNCA. Highway 82 between Whetstone and Tombstone.

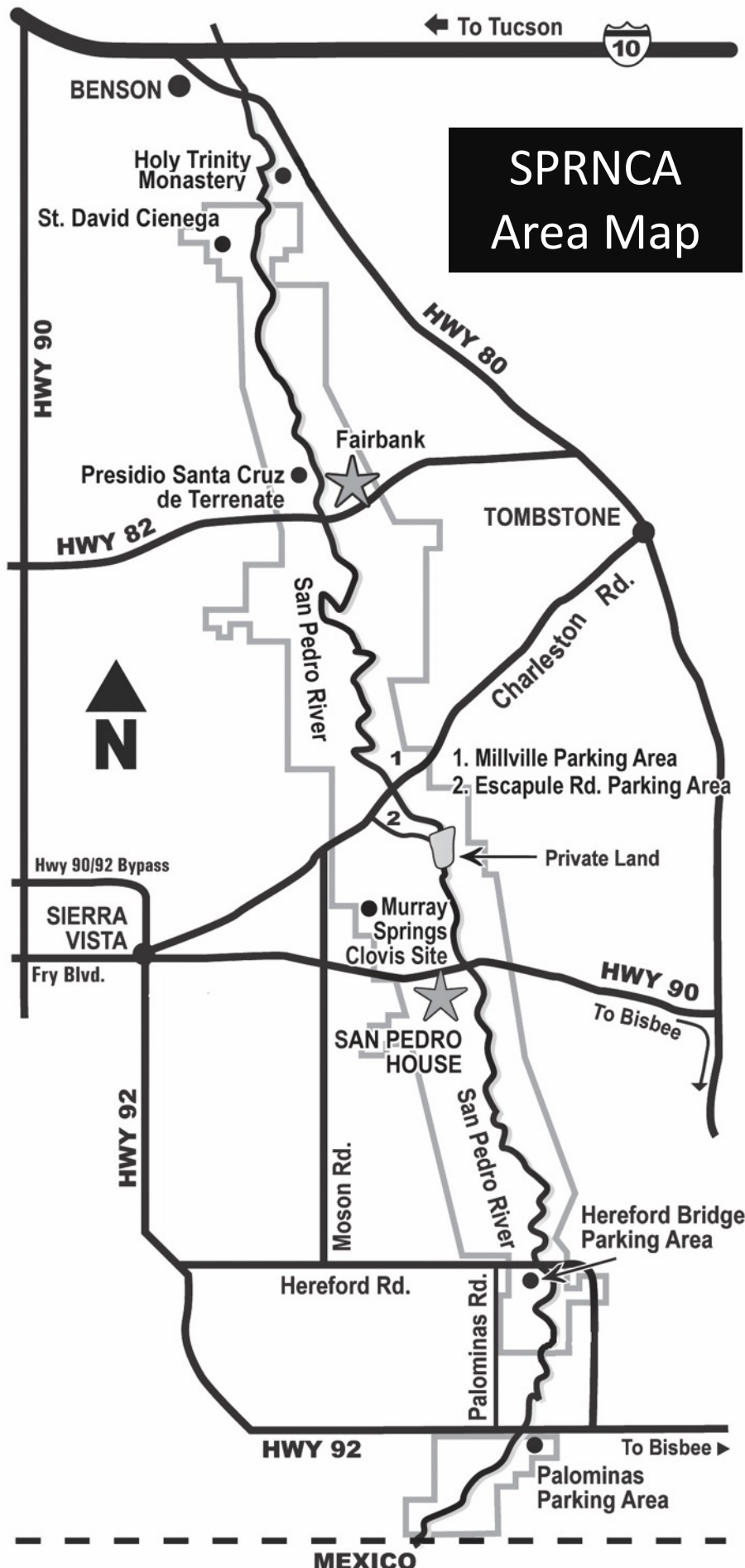
The SPRNCA is composed of 57,000 acres of public lands between St. David, Arizona and the International border.

The entire area is open to the public, but lack of roads and surrounding private lands may make access difficult.

Access points with parking areas and trailheads for the San Pedro Trail are the best places to enter.

SPRNCA access points:

- Land Corral/St. David Cienega
- Terrenate
- Fairbank
- Millville
- Escapule Road
- Murray Springs
- San Pedro House
- Hereford Road Bridge
- Palominas



San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

Come explore!

Attractions

San Pedro House. A FSPR Visitor Center and gift shop sits in a desert garden and a network of trails that is a premiere destination for birdwatchers worldwide.

Fairbank. A Tombstone-era ghost town. Take a self-guided tour. Visit the Friends' Schoolhouse museum. Access the Fairbank Loop and San Pedro Trail to Boquillas Ranch.

Presidio Santa Cruz de Terrenate. Hike to one of three Spanish forts in Arizona, site of conflict with the Apache. Take a self-guided tour.

Millville and Rock Art Discovery Trail. Hike to the ruins of two Tombstone boom-era silver mills and Native petroglyphs that date back 1,000 years or more.

Murray Springs. Self-guided tour of a 13,000-year-old Clovis Culture mammoth kill site, perhaps Arizona's premiere archaeological site.

Land Corral. Visit the St. David Cienega, one of the last remaining cienegas in the Upper San Pedro Basin.

The San Pedro Trail

A system of hiking trails that leads from the southern border 35 miles north along the River (with gaps in several spots). Connecting trails exist at the San Pedro House, Fairbank, and elsewhere that provide access to the River, historic sites, and the other wonders to be found in the SPRNCA.

Docent Walks

Friends' docents lead nature and birdwatching walks at the San Pedro House, and tours of historic Terrenate, Grand Central Mill, Fairbank, Millville, Clanton Ranch, Murray Springs, and the San Pedro House. **See our FSPR website or Facebook page for schedules.**



Friends Tour of Millville

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Recreation

Recreation in the SPRNCA

Hiking

Terrenate Hike. Easy round-trip hike of 3 miles roundtrip to the site of the Presidio.

The Fairbank Loop Trail. 4.1-mile loop. Visits the town cemetery, Grand Central Mill, and the riparian forest. Moderate.

Millville and Rock Art Discovery Trail. A 1.6-mile roundtrip trail. Easy.

Murray Springs to the San Pedro House. One-way hike, 4 miles. Moderate.

San Pedro House to Hereford Road Bridge. Eight miles one-way. Moderate.

Birdwatching

Some favorite spots are the trails at the San Pedro House, Waters Road, and the Hereford Road Bridge.

Bike and Horseback Riding

Bikes and horses are allowed on the San Pedro Trail only. A great destination is the Little Boquillas Ranch Headquarters 3 miles south of Fairbank. The Fairbank Loop is another favorite route.



Birdwatchers at the San Pedro House

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area Regulations

Visitor Rules and Regulations

Camping is allowed in the backcountry only, at least one mile from roads, parking areas, and recreation sites. There is a \$2 per person, per night fee. There is a seven-day limit. There is no car or RV camping.

Horses are allowed only on the San Pedro Trail outside developed areas and historic sites. Clean up after them in parking areas.

Bikes are allowed on the San Pedro Trail but not on river trails or in historic sites.

Drones may not take off or land in the SPRNCA. However, you may fly them over the area except the Recreation Management Zones that surround the San Pedro House and Fairbank.

Hunting and fishing are allowed in accordance with Arizona State Game and Fish rules. Hunting is not allowed in recreation sites or the safety zones around houses, recreation sites, and highways.

Dogs must be kept on a leash in recreation sites and under control at all times. Do not let dogs run loose without supervision or chase wildlife. It is your responsibility to clean up after them.

These activities are prohibited: metal detecting, target shooting, prospecting or mining, off-road vehicle use, digging or collecting any artifact, mineral specimen, or plant product.

Emergency Services: Call 911.



Sunset in the SPRNCA

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area

Partner Organizations



Friends of the San Pedro River

Friends of the San Pedro River
9800 E. Highway 90
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
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The Friends of the San Pedro River are a volunteer, non-profit organization that supports BLM operations in the SPRNCA by providing recreation support for visitors.



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The SPRNCA is managed for the American people by the **Tucson Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.**

Please consider donating to the Friends of the San Pedro River using this QR Code:



*This e-brochure was created by the Friends of the San Pedro River.
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