



MY INTERNSHIP AT SOUTHWEST DECISION RESOURCES

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Projects:

- Plan Tucson
- Southwest Adaptation Forum
- Southwest New Mexico Collaborative
- Various other meetings that I helped facilitate or note-take for:
 - Wildlife and Fire Workshop, Environmental Flows, Lower Gila River Collaborative





Plan Tucson

- As part of the Southwest Decision Resources team, my role was to help **support the stakeholder engagement process** as the **City of Tucson** is **updating the General City Plan**
- I worked directly with the City of Tucson planning team, Gordley Group, and Southwest Decision Resources
- I was able to work in multiple modalities (virtual, hybrid, in-person) and with different groups of people in the Tucson community
- Conducted **qualitative data analysis** with the outputs from our working group meetings and community forums

Plan Tucson

- As a member of the SDR team, I saw the **importance of preparation** for these meetings
 - Ensure that all **facilitators** and **notetakers** have a preparation session to be comfortable using the various tools and methods for engagement
 - The agenda design and engagement activities play a huge role in the success of a meeting
- I felt the **difference in how stakeholders engaged** in the **process as modalities changed**
 - People **in person were able to open up and connect with each other** more compared to virtual meetings
 - However, **virtual meetings** generally yielded a larger turnout due to their **convenience**
- I had the opportunity to see what an **urban planning process** looks like and the **importance of community and stakeholder engagement**



Southwest Adaptation Forum 2024

- I supported the **planning process** for the 2024 Southwest Adaptation Forum located at Desert Diamond Conference Center
 - We had over **150 participants** during the **3-day conference**
- Some of the topics discussed during the forum included: food sovereignty, drought, fire, water, and adaptation financing



Southwest Adaptation Forum

- I helped **document outputs** from the Forum for dissemination to all participants
- I was able to meet and learn from a variety of inspiring **leaders in climate adaptation**
- I learned about the **agenda-building process** and everything that goes into organizing speakers, activities, dinners, field trips, etc.





Southwest New Mexico Collaborative

- The Southwest New Mexico Collaborative is a **regional effort** to ensure greater and more **efficient coordination and alignment** among **local government, land management agencies, and community-based organizations** to elevate the work on issues relevant to local communities in the region
- Partners are working collaboratively on four main shared priorities: **Restoration; Economic Development Youth Engagement; Education and Stewardship; Outdoor Recreation**
 - These 4 priorities have 4 separate working groups lead by members of the Leadership Council

Southwest New Mexico Collaborative



- As a member of the Southwest New Mexico Collaborative, I learned a lot about multi-stakeholder engagement and the project prioritization process
- I recently attended the leadership council meeting in Silver City, NM where we had updates from the 4 working groups and the rest of the leadership council
 - We discussed priorities for the upcoming year and next steps
- I took notes for our meeting and helped create action items for the coming months

Facilitation Training

- As part of my internship at Southwest Decision Resources, I attended a **Facilitation Training** in January 2024
- I learned incredible facilitation and notetaking skills along with **engagement methods, project prioritization techniques, process diagrams, and how to manage different behaviors** in meetings and workshops
- These skills helped in all aspects of my internship and will continue to help me in any future positions, (and my life!)
- I also gave a mini facilitation training to my fellow Earth Grant cohort members in February 2024 with the skills I learned from the training and my time as an intern thus far

