



#### What is "Peaceful Chiricahua Skies" (PCS)

All-Volunteer Initiative Supported by Multiple Partners, Endorsers and Citizen Volunteers

#### **Purpose of the Initiative**

Alert the public about the effects of a proposed relaxation of future regulations for USAF training flights over the Chiricahua-Peloncillo Region



#### **2 PARALLEL GOALS OF THIS INITIATIVE**

- 1. <u>STOP UNNEEDED FUTURE EXPANSION</u> of high-decibel and dangerous military flights over the "TOMBSTONE MOA"
- 2. Compel the Air Force to <u>FOLLOW ITS CURRENT REGULATIONS</u> when flying over residential, agricultural and sensitive public lands.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

#### **Last Year**

- USAF Notice of Intent for an Environmental Impact Statement to reduce limitations on USAF training flights over SE Arizona
- PCS website launched to alert local communities of proposal
- Hundreds of local residents turn out for the only Public Meeting scheduled by USAF in our area—in remote Animas, NM.
- USAF Comment Period deadline extended due to number of public comments.
- PCS submitted One Thousand petition signatures and hundreds of comments

#### **This Year**

- 2,000 petition signatures gathered, 100s of comments/noise complaints to date
- PCS & partners continue outreach to newspapers, elected officials, and agencies
- 4-day "Peaceful Skies Benefit" sponsored by a Tucson-based volunteer team drew hundreds of artists, musicians and activists.
- Preparing for Fall, 2023 awareness campaign



#### **EVENT AND MEDIA EXPOSURE**





GIRLS RULE

checkpoints.

patrols in March

Hundreds sign petitions as opposition grows to Air

Force flight increase over New Mexico and Arizona



#### Candidates for county offices to sign up next Tuesday, March 8

#### Air Force looking at Gila National



Famor, a local readon holping with the "The-Arisman Mock Third home computed in Institute qualifying research in Law Cross on February VI and VI. Overall, the harm district." We not all one seen in, and the 1-period second as a stem, and qualifying as the bottle head in the Either compution as fer for March 1-VI-11 in Absuppared proposals. The propose is the desproyed for second as reports to the desproyed for second proposals. A consist in the desproyed for second proposals. A consist in the desproyed for second proposals. A consist in the Practical Institute of the Practical Second Proposals and Consistent of the Practical Second Proposals. A consisting to Practical Christians.

Marching to Practical Christians.



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#### **AIRSPACE**

from 0.8 to 0.75 cm and is released

Flares also can confuse enemy

radar. "At least 500 tons of chaff is released annually during training within selected military operating areas in the United States. Con-cerns have been raised about im-pact on the environment and its potential toxicity to humans, livestock, and wildlife. Many of these concerns have been addressed or concerns have been addressed or are being researched by the Depart-ment of Defense and other agencies, but much of the data are unpub-lished," according to the National Library of Medicine.

Flares fired at higher elevations would not present a problem as they would flame out before hitting the ground, says the USAF. That was enough to get environ-

mentalists and those wanting to

stone MOA," according to a USAF

#### Legislators' opposition

Twenty state legislators, across provided a letter in opposition from partisan lines in both houses, did 34 organizations in New Mexico partisation interest most modes, that so of gain analysis in even section where the Frank Rendall III, secretary of the USAF to declare their amposition. They prefer keeping the low as 100 feet AGL and auperson-of 25,000 feet for supersonic training and maintain an elevation of New Mexico.

ing and maintain an elevation of New Mexico.

They pointed out, "Federal publico A major concern they cited was it lic lands in Arizona and New Mexich erisk of wildland fires." The milico that could be affected by the itary should consider conditions related to fire restrictions during the Apache-Sitgraves, Tonto and time frames of when local, state and federal fire restriction are in place forest Service Wilderness Areas, tederal fire restriction are in piace
and suspend the use of flares or any
other munitions that may spark a
18 Bureau of Land Management
fire in Arizona."

They asked the USAF to bar the

use of flares below 5,000 feet during Critical Environmental Concern, 4 fire restrictions. Critical Environmental Concern, 4 BLM Research Natural Areas, and

Rie restrictions. None of the legislators representing Cachise Coanty signed the ton Area-Cilla. Control of the Rep. Gall Griffin, R, and Lay Blaz, R, and Sen. David Gowan, R, did not respond to a request for your and San Bernardino—and the

R, did not respond to a request for you and San Bernardino—and the comment.

Griffin emailed the Herald/Review stating the letter was sent continental Divide National Sceprior to her knowing about it. When 
it Trail and the Catwalk Naasked what she thought of the UStool Recreation Trail could be AF's proposal, she did not respond.

AF's proposal, she did not respond.

Supervisor Ann English, who represents the area under considreation, said, "The letter from members of the Arizona House of Rep"There is no demonstrated need need for these evere airspace modifications." resentatives and the Senate makes for these lower flight levels that will some very good reasons to add disturb people and wildlife alike and some very good reasons to add disturb people and windine aline and some restrictions and change some heights for aircraft when looking to ments, and tribal lands," said Sandy expand the MOA. The expansion of Bafr, director of the Sierra Club's the MOA needs to be balanced by Grand Canyon Chapter. "We are ap-



The U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds are seen during a training session in Cochise County earlier this year. A plan to lower the permissible altitudes for USAF training flights in the Tombstone Military Operations Area has met with resistance from legislators and

Conservationists weigh in Sandy Bahr, the Sierra Club Grand Canyon Chapter director, provided a letter in opposition from

continue a quie truzal life to rise energy devices at the practice of dumping that flower protected areas, in the flower pro

places for such low-level superso

the frequency of aircraft sortie

#### Copper Queen Community Hospital



Ms. Mirna Franco, MSN, BSN, PNP joins Copper Queen Community Hospital's Primary Health Clinics as a full-time Family Psychiatric Mental Health provider for the southern Cochise County community.

Ms. Franco previously provided exceptional care as a Psychiatric Registered Nurse at Canyon Vista Medical Center.

Call (520) 432-2042





Caring people... caring for people

#### Welcomes Mirna Franco!

Mirna Franco

to schedule an appointment!



U.S. Air Force informed the public of a plan to lower altitudes for supersonic flight ing requirements and mis-training that in primate state is a series to independ on the flares in Arizon and Company and chise County, and some state legislators and environmental groups have expressed their dislike for the proposals.

The USAF offers four al- essential skills for fightternatives to the Total State of and three others in Arizona and encourages the public threats to offer of Send letters to the editor of your more supersonic training to 5,000 feet. lower ellower e

from just west of Bisbee ly to avoid operating a eastward into Ne expanded military training nautical miles to the north. southern Cochise Count the month of the mont to the southern edge of the to avoid being visible to a suggested Willcox Playa, taking in threat. Training for this

made over time to support changes to aircraft, train-

The existing MOAs have Comments may be limit Fer Property of the bugh the low-a title Nation-

arizonaregionalairspaceeis.

Arizona Regional Airspace EIS.

com. Mail comments to:

Availability publication, fall

Representatives

David Cook, R. District Frank Carroll, R. Distric John Fillmore, R, Distri Pamela Powers Hanni

District 9 Jasmin Blackwater-Ny District 7

Walter Blackman, R. D. Brian Fernandez, D. Di Mark Finchem, R, Disti Neal Carter, R. District Senators

Rick Gray, R, District 21 Kelly Townsend, R, Dis

ove ground level (A MSL altitudes are aviation when opera or below 18,000 fee clearance from ter less of a concern for : operation.

AGL references a ally used at lower al almost always belov feet, when clearance terrain is more of a for aircraft operation The Tombstone 1

#### WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

- Draft EIS published, Fall 2023

- Draft EIS Public Comment Period and Hearing, Fall 2023

- Final EIS publication, Summer 2024

- Record of Decision Signed, Summer/Fall 2024

#### **KNOW THE AIRCRAFT**

Flying from:

**Davis-Monthan Airbase in Tucson:** 

F-16 — A-10 — C-130

Flying from:

**Morris Air National Guard Airbase in Tucson:** 

F-16







A-10 Two Tail Fins / 2 Engines
350 mph maximum speed
5,000 foot maximum altitude





# CONCERNS ABOUT AIRCRAFT OPERATIONS



- HIGH-DECIBEL
   NOISE LEVELS
- SONIC BOOMS
- CHAFF RELEASE

- FLARE RELEASE
- ACCIDENTS

#### **OSHA LEGAL LIMITS ON NOISE EXPOSURE**

Any noise above 90 decibels in the workplace requires employer-provided hearing protection.

F-16 at 500 feet above ground at 500 mph produces 120 decibels of noise.



Should the USAF provide all of us with special hearing protection?

## FAA RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FLIGHTS NEAR NOISE-SENSITIVE AREAS

Visual Flight Rules (VFR) over National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, or U.S. Forest Service areas:

"All aircraft must maintain a minimum altitude of 2,000 feet above the surface of lands and waters administered by the NPS, UFWS, or USFS Wilderness areas."

"All aircraft are requested to fly at altitudes higher than the minimum permitted by regulation."

#### WHAT IS A "SONIC BOOM"?

#### Sound barrier broken @ 761 mph

F-16 at supersonic speed at 5,000 feet above ground would produce a sonic boom up to 200 decibels







Countermeasure to confuse enemy radar



NEW PROPOSAL WOULD ALLOW DROP FROM 2,000 FEET above ground

(Current: NOT ALLOWED IN TOMBSTONE MOA)



#### **FLARE RELEASE**

New Proposal would allow dropping of flares from 2,000' above ground (Currently 5,000')

**Countermeasure for heat-seeking missile defense** 





#### DO F-16s EVER CRASH?

#### From... The Air Force Times

By Rachel S. Cohen

Dec 2, 2022 11:28 AM

"Six F-16s have been involved in accidents so far this year. About three Fighting Falcons have been totaled each year on average for the past decade.
F-16s have been in the Air Force inventory since the 1980s; about 700 of the airframes remain."

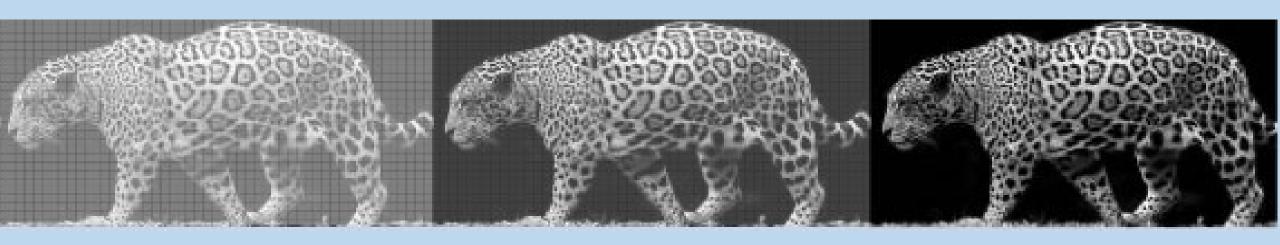
Rachel Cohen joined Air Force Times as senior reporter in March 2021. Her work has appeared in Air Force Magazine, Inside Defense, Inside Health Policy, the Frederick News-Post (Md.), the Washington Post, and others.



#### THREATS TO WILDLIFE

Southern Arizona has 140 ESA-Listed plant and animal species as Endangered, Threatened and Species of Concern

ESA-listed species are easily affected by high-decibel, low-elevation flyovers



## USFWS APPROVALS REQUIRED FOR DISRUPTION OF HABITAT

....Activities must not be "likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or adversely modify designated critical habitats."

The USAF must consult with all agencies affected by the new proposal.



#### **AVAILABLE ALTERNATIVE TRAINING AIR SPACE**

#### White Sands Missile Range, NM.

3,200 Square. Miles of sprawling airspace

#### Yuma Proving Ground, AZ

1,300 square miles. The world's biggest military installation and airspace testing ground

#### Marine Corps Air Station, AZ

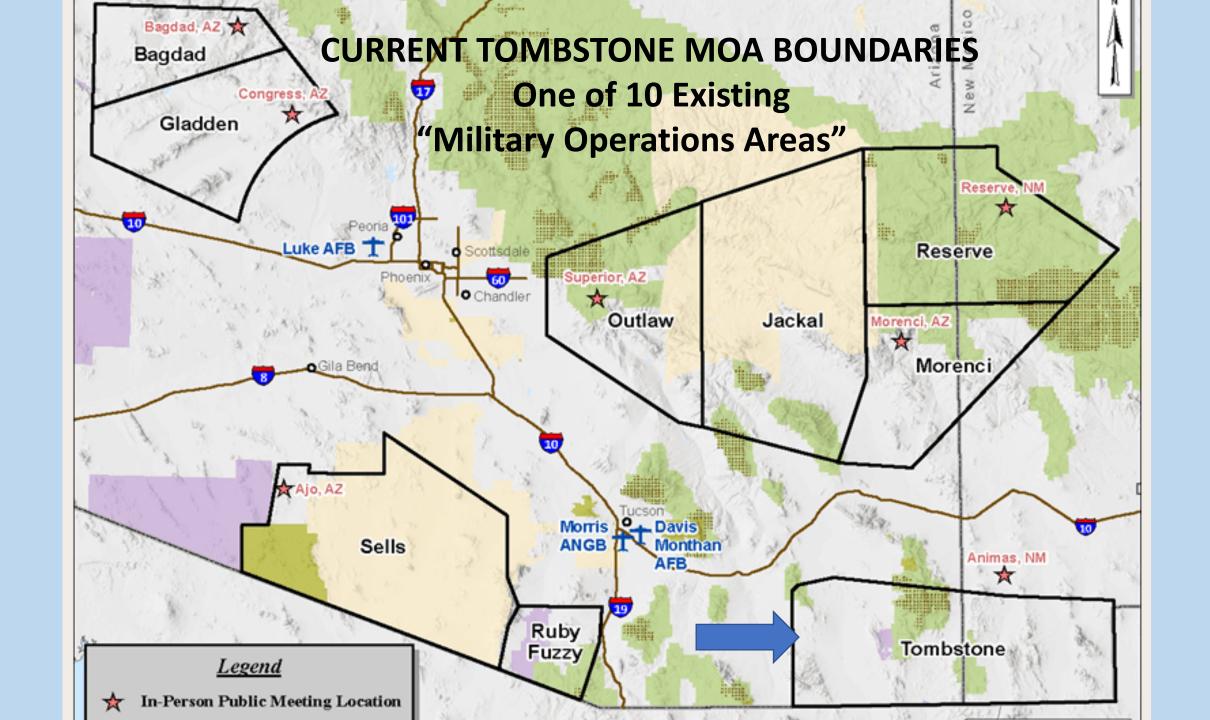
3,000 acres of military airspace

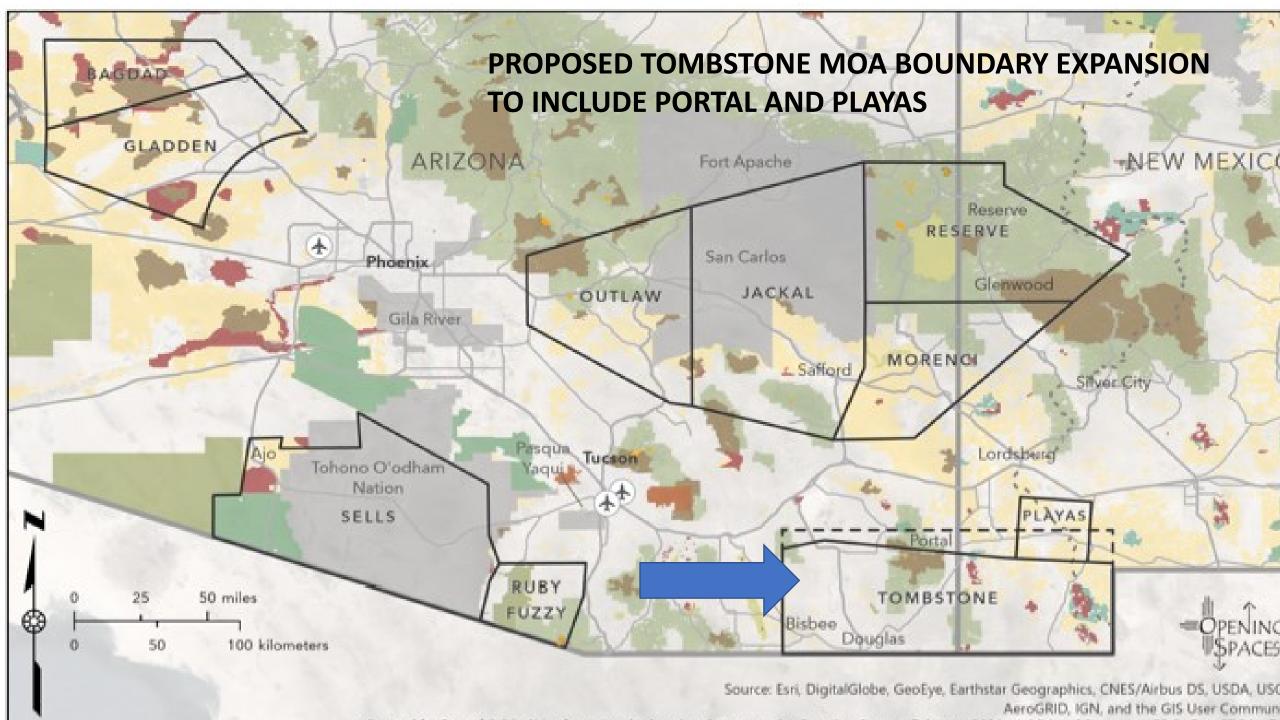
#### Barry M. Goldwater Range, AZ

Millions of acres, multiple aircraft testing areas

#### Camp Navajo Army Base, AZ

44 square miles. Biggest military installation in AZ

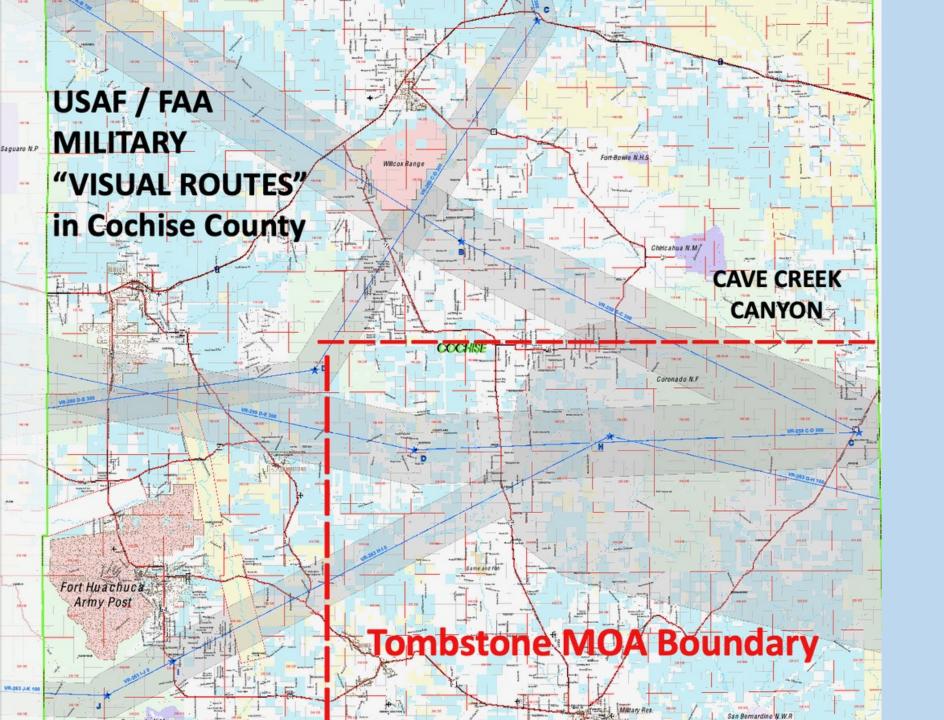




#### ANOTHER FACTOR TO CONSIDER.....

# MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES: VR'S OR SAFETY SACRIFICE ZONES?

Did you know there are aready areas in the Chiricahuas where military flights are allowed to fly 100 feet above ground level?



TRAINING
ROUTES NOT
SUBJECT TO
TOMBSTONE
MOA
REGULATIONS

Flights a low as 100-300 feet Above Ground

#### **KEEP REPORTING ALL NUISANCE FLIGHTS!**

Federal Aviation Regulation 91.119 specifies that aircraft may not be operated closer than 500 feet to any person, vessel, vehicle or structure.

#### **THIS RULE IS CONSTANTLY VIOLATED**

Some complaints to USAF have received responses revealing new information such as location of "MILITARY TRAINING ROUTES"

#### THE NEW PROPOSAL

## COMPARISON OF EXISTING AND PROPOSED TOMBSTONE MOA FLIGHT REGULATIONS

**USAF Preferred** 

Alternative #2

#### ACTIVITY EXISTING REGULATIONS PROPOSED REGULATIONS\*

TIME OF OPERATIONS: 6AM - 9PM Daily

LOWEST FLIGHT ALTITUDE: 500 Feet ABOVE GROUND
LOWEST SUPERSONIC FLIGHT: 30,000 Feet ABOVE GROUND
LOWEST FLARE RELEASE: 5,000 Feet ABOVE GROUND

LOWEST CHAFF RELEASE: NOT ALLOWED FLIGHTS OVER PORTAL, AZ: NOT ALLOWED

6AM - 9PM Daily

100 feet Above Ground 5,000 feet Above Ground 2,000 feet Above Ground

2,000 Feet Above Ground

**ALLOWED (boundary expanded)** 

\* Alternative #1 No Action Alternative

Alternative #2 Preferred Alternative (see above)

Alternative #3 Identical to #2 except no boundary expansion to include Portal, AZ

Alternative #4 Identical to #2 except the Lowest Supersonic Flight is increased to

10,000 feet above ground from 5,000 feet

## Effects of Expanded Military Air Operations in the Chiricahua-Peloncillo Region

#### What are the benefits for local residents and communities?

No Tangible Benefits Reported

#### What are the negatives for local communities?

- Loss of environmental quality (peace and quiet, Loss of solitude in the wild)
- Stress on personal health and well-being, loss of privacy
- Reduction in real estate values
- Reduction in tourism
- Disruption of livestock and wildlife activities due to extreme noise levels.
- Increased risk of wildfires from flares, crashes
- Damage to structures caused by sonic booms
- Increased stress from high-decibel noise from low-elevation flights



Opposition by elected officials was the primary force that stopped the Gila MOA Proposal....

Urge your elected officials to oppose expanded military training flights in the Tombstone MOA.

#### WHAT YOU CAN DO

1. REPORT EVERY NOISE/NUISANCE FLIGHT INCIDENT TO PEACEFUL CHIRICAHUA SKIES NOISE COMPLAINT FORM

GET A FLIGHT TRACKER APPLICATION: FlightRadar24, FlightAware

- 2. NOTIFY ELECTED OFFICIALS AND AGENCY DIRECTORS
- 3. WRITE LETTERS TO EDITORS OF REGIONAL NEWSPAPERS
- 4. SPREAD THE WORD ON YOUR SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
- 5. JOIN peacefulchiricahuaskies.com MAILING LIST for UPDATES
- 6. See peacefulchiricahuaskies.com for SAMPLE LETTERS, ADDRESSES AND INFORMATION



#### TWO WAYS TO REPORT ALL NUISANCE FLIGHTS

#### **USE THE PCS ON-LINE "NOISE COMPLAINT FORM"**

https://peacefulchiricahuaskies.com/report

#### **EMAIL OR CALL IN COMPLAINT to PCS**

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#### **Nuisance Flight Report Form**

This report will be sent to the Davis-Monthan Air Force Base and the Arizona Air National Guard, with copies to your own email address and to Peaceful Chiricahua Skies

Name*	
first, last name	
Address	
your street address	
City	
State	
Zip Code	
2.5 0000	
Phone	
Email*	
Complaint Type*	
☐ Low level flight	
Excessive noise	
Flight frequency	
□ Other	
Date (of incident)	
mm/dd/yyyy 🗂	
Time (of incident)	
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Easy-To-Use
NUISANCE
FLIGHT REPORT FORM
On PCS Website
Peacefulchiricahuaskies.com

Reports automatically forwarded to appropriate airbase





## https://www.zazzle.com/store/pcsstore

**SPREAD THE WORD!** 

### DONATE TO PROTECT OUR PEACEFUL SKIES

Through PCS's fiscal agent

Chiricahua Regional Council

www.chiricahuaregionalcouncil.org

For Detailed Information on How You Can Help: www.peacefulchiricahuaskies.com





