

Gila River Indian Community
Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning

Main Location:
291 W. Casa Blanca Rd, Bldg.#2
Post Office Box E
Sacaton, Arizona 85147
Phone: 520-562-6003



Realty Services:
64 East Pima Street
Sacaton, AZ 85147
Phone: 520-562-5060
Fax: 520-562-5064

Native Plant Review Request Packet

Revised December 27, 2022

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Native Plant Review Guidelines

FY 2023

Section 1: Introduction

In efforts to protect cacti, shrubs and trees indigenous to the Gila River area, the Gila River Indian Community has an existing Native Plant Ordinance (Title 15, Chapter 3) in place. This ordinance lists the types and names of plants protected in the Community, which includes by reference plants listed in the Arizona State Native Plant Law. It is the practice that NO protected or harvest-restricted plant material be relocated, removed, or destroyed without a prior documented Native Plant Review, Native Plant Salvage Plan and a Native Plant Salvage Plan Concurrence Memorandum or a Native Plant Permit approved by the Natural Resources Standing Committee.

Section 2: Overview

In all cases dealing with the Native Plants of the Gila River Indian Community, the process starts with the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning (LUPZ). The LUPZ – Ordinance Team is available to assist and answer any questions pertaining to the Native Plant Ordinance, its associated processes and can be contacted at the following location:

LUPZ Ordinance Team
Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning
291 W. Casa Blanca Road, Building 2 (Physical Address)
P.O. Box E (Mailing Address)
Sacaton, AZ 85147
E-mail: the LUPZ Support Group at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us and the Ordinance Team at OrdinanceTeam@gric.nsn.us to expedite processing.
Office: 520-562-6003

1. Native Plant Reviews

All development projects require a Native Plant review to determine if any protected native plants and/or trees within the project's limits are affected by project activity before any work may commence. The Native Plant Review is used to determine the extent of impact on any native plants and/or trees within a proposed, approved or active project site and help determine what methods to be utilized to protect these plants pursuant to the Native Plant Ordinance.

Furthermore, the Certificate of Compliance (COC) process may also be required if the project involves a "New Use" of Community Lands, ground disturbance activity or structures that may encroach upon existing property lines, Rights-of-Ways/Easements and/or thoroughfares. If any of these circumstances exist, Project Manager Corina Ortiz at Corinna.Ortiz.LUPZ@gric.nsn.us and the Planning Development Team at PlanningDevelopmentTeam@gric.nsn.us must be contacted to obtain documents necessary to comply with

COC requirements. A Native Plant Review will be an inclusive step of the COC if it is determined that process applies to your project. Therefore, if you are unsure if the COC applies, you should contact Ms. Ortiz and the PDT and copy our Support Group at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us to expedite the overall completion of necessary steps.

In no instance will Native Plants or Harvest Restricted Material be removed and/or sold for use off the Gila River Indian Community except as outlined in the Native Plant Ordinance.

Section 3: Native Plant Reviews

1. Starting at the Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning, the applicant is to fill out an LUPZ Ordinance/Livestock Request Form which will serve as the initial request to proceed with a Native Plant Review of the project if the COC process does not apply or has been waived. Otherwise, stop and follow the directions in 2.1.
 - A. On the document request form (or as attachments) please include the following information:
 1. Name / Organization of applicant or Name / Enrollment Number of applicant if applicable
 2. Address, phone number, fax number and email address of applicant
 3. Site map (8 1/2" x 11") of Project location - including District, Section, Township and Range
 4. Written narrative (addressed to the Ordinance Team) detailing the type of project and outlining the proposed land use activity (i.e. grading entire site for installation of building structures)
 5. Expected time frame required to perform the salvage operation
2. Applicant will need to arrange for the boundaries of the project site to be properly identified with all corners and perimeter staking installed if applicable (see LUPZ Survey Department for assistance with their requirements). It is desired that the perimeter staking be placed at intervals of approximately two hundred feet (dependant on terrain and vegetation) or less as appropriate for smaller parcels, allowing visual site of the proceeding boundary staking. This survey staking will then assure that the Native Plant Review is being performed within the correct boundary lines of the project site.
3. Direct your request documents to our Support Group at LUPZSupportGroup@gric.nsn.us and copy the Ordinance Team at OrdinanceTeam@gric.nsn.us to initiate necessary administrative processing..
4. The LUPZ Support Group will your request documents to the Ordinance Team with an assigned LUPZ # which will be used to identify the project and its associated request form.
5. After the boundaries of the project site have been properly identified, an Ordinance Team Member will conduct a Native Plant Review within the provided project boundaries (and if necessary, photograph) all impacted native plants and create a Native Plant inventory of protected plants and trees (*noting type and count*). The information collected will be used to compose a Native Plant Review (NPR) report. The NPR report will then be submitted to LUPZ Director Kimberly Antone for review and concurrence.
6. If the request is received via another LUPZ Section or is part of the Land Use Action Review and/or COC process, then the resulting report and associated material is returned to the responsible Project Manager or

Planner at LUPZ. The attending Project Manager or Planning Development Team Member will coordinate additional necessary steps in compliance with the required process.

7. If the requesting party submitted the request directly to LUPZ the approved NPR report is then sent back to the applicant for preparation of a Native Plant Salvage Plan (*description of where the native plants are currently located and where the native plants are going to be permanently planted, methods of transport, what native plants can not be salvaged, what mitigation measure will be taken to replace damaged or destroyed plant materials, etc.*). This plan is prepared by the applicant and is to outline the intended methods that will be used to protect all tagged native plants (a template that meets all requirements is available upon request). The prepared Salvage Plan is then submitted back to the Land Use Ordinance Officer for processing and routed to Director Kimberly Antone for review, concurrence and approval to proceed.
8. Once the Salvage Plan is approved, the applicant and Ordinance Team Member are to arrange a time that the salvage operation is to start, thereby allowing the Ordinance Team Member time to tag all affected protected plants identified in the Salvage Plan and schedule oversight of the process for compliance monitoring.
9. The Ordinance Team Member(s) will record the final placement of all tagged plants and remove the tags to complete the process.
10. Any deviation from the Native Plant Ordinance or approved Salvage Plan will result in a Violation Notice. The Violation Notice will be issued to the Party which initiated and oversees the project. It will then be that Party's responsibility to rectify the violation to avoid formal follow-up measures.

Sample Text – Copy and Paste to your Departments’ Letterhead

Native Plant Salvage Plan

January 1, 2023

Ordinance Team
Department of Land Use Planning and Zoning
P.O. Box E
291 W. Casa Blanca Road, Building 2
Sacaton, AZ 85147

Dear Ordinance Team,

On behalf of (Name) I am submitting our Native Plant Salvage Plan for the (name of Project), LUPZ # (this is on the Native Plant Review Report) at (location) for the managing of protected and non-protected Native Plants and/or Trees as identified on the Native Plant Review Report submitted for this project.

Our Native Plant Salvage Plan for the referenced site(s) is as follows;

- The first option will be to avoid disturbance of any Native Plants and/or Trees.
- We will coordinate with the appropriate District Service Center (and homeowner if applicable) for the removal of Mesquite Trees; these trees with a diameter of 4” and larger will be cut up into manageable pieces and dispersed as coordinated with the respective party; the remainder will be shredded and hauled off to a landfill.
- We will coordinate with the respective District (and the homeowner if applicable) for the transplanting of all protected Native Plants and/or Trees as identified in the Native Plant Reviews that need to be disturbed if not re-planted within the project limits; LUPZ- Ordinance Team will be provided a list of effected plants or trees and the plan prior to any work being conducted so any necessary tagging may be accomplished before any movement of identified plants and/or trees may occur.
- Palo Verde and Ironwood Trees will be shredded and hauled off if the material is not desired by the respective party (or parties).
- All non-protected plants, trees and shrubs will be shredded and hauled off to a landfill.
- No Native Plant Material will be transported off the Community without a GRIC Native Plant Permit except as outlined above or in the applicable GRIC Native Plant Ordinance or other applicable Laws & Ordinances, Regulations, Policies or Procedures.
- We will contact the Department of Land Use Planning & Zoning Ordinance Team in the event there are changes to the scope of construction area or upon any findings of protected native plants within the project limits.

Sincerely,

*If you are submitting a Native Plant Salvage Plan with your initial request thereby committing to abiding to the terms of the Community Ordinance and corresponding administrative procedures you may omit the reference to the LUPZ # and coinciding text in the parenthesis to expedite the process.