

## **Sedona International Environmental Center (SIEC)**

### **Creating a Sustainable Future for all Life**

Sedona is known by visitors worldwide as a place where the “Earth speaks to them”. Therefore, it is the ideal place for people from around the world who “speak for the Earth” to gather.

Located at the western gateway to Sedona, El Rojo Grande Ranch is the perfect location for an international environmental center built in the adobe pueblo style of the Southwest. The Ranch was originally designed by the Offield’s as a place where the public could enjoy harmony with Nature and was augmented by a unique equestrian facility that also allowed trail rides into the adjoining National Forest property.

The Sedona International Environmental Center (SIEC) is a research and education facility which will provide a place for the exchange and analysis of data and knowledge regarding current and future worldwide environmental challenges. A think tank for environmental experts, universities and organizations, the SIEC will provide an international meeting place and educational platform. NAU and ASU researchers will collaborate and engage participants in the study of environmental issues and will design solutions for implementing a sustainable future within “green” business economies. Lectures by world experts will be broadcast, via the internet and satellite, to participating organizations, institutions, and members worldwide. Classrooms (both at the center and online) will provide venues for classes, workshops, and visiting lecturers.

Public outreach will be a vital part of the Center's mission. Its Research and Education facilities will include a state-of-the-art multimedia lecture theatre and presentation hall. Live visual feeds will be projected on the theatre’s screen originating from orbiting satellites, which are monitoring the current status (and incremental changes) in the Earth’s dynamic biosphere.

Leading-edge projection technology will help viewers experience the uniqueness of Earth's fragile blue biosphere and acquaint them with what the astronauts call the "Overview Effect". Many of the astronauts went through life-changing perceptual alterations when they viewed Earth from space and returned to the planet's surface with a renewed sense of responsibility and dedication to preserve the Earth's life-giving environment. The SIEC's goal is to provide the viewer with an appreciation of Earth's place in our galaxy and instill a sense of stewardship in order to establish a sustainable future for our Planet and its inhabitants.

All SIEC buildings will be designed and located on the property in a manner that blends unobtrusively with the natural landscape and minimizes their impact on the local ecology. Using passive solar energy-efficient design, and solar energy generation, the SIEC complex will be "off the grid" and will be built as an example of true "green" construction techniques and materials. All new buildings will be built as prototypes, to demonstrate leading-edge green building technologies. Real-time monitoring, recording, and control of heating, cooling, and energy usage will demonstrate and document the effectiveness of efficient "natural" building designs for sustainable development around the world.

### **"Eye of the Horse" Research Project**

#### **An Eye to the Future for Equine Management**

With its history as a world-class equestrian center, much of the El Rojo Grande Ranch acreage will be used to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome a number of the wild mustangs that need to be relocated from Public Lands. With the input and collaboration of horse experts and equine associations, the Ranch will become a scientific center and pilot project for wild horse management, so population control can be implemented on public lands and Native American Indian reservations. Therefore, the majority of the Ranch land will remain open space, while the current equestrian facility will be used for education and training.