

Appendix A
Sonoran Desert National Monument
FY 2004 Border Project
BLM—Phoenix Field Office

Project Name: Operation and Maintenance of Roads - Vekol Valley Road and Bates Well Road.

Unit Name: Sonoran Desert National Monument and Bates Well Road (Ajo)

Date of Project: August, 2004

Location:

Sonoran Desert National Monument *Township: 7S. Range: 1E. Section: 22* (beginning point). 15 miles (2 miles S of I-8 to Table Top Trailhead)

Ajo *Township: 12S. Range: 6W. Section: 35* (beginning point) 10 miles (Bates Well to Organ Pipe Cactus NM boundary)

Participants: Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office Force Account crew

Project Coordinator(s): Eugene A. Dahlem, Manager, Sonoran Desert National Monument

Description of Project: Because of heavy use by drug and illegal immigrant smugglers, regardless of weather, and the subsequent law enforcement effort (Border Patrol, BLM Rangers and others), these roads had deteriorated in condition. Some spots were unsafe to travel at night; others were on the verge of becoming so. Both roads were bladed with a road grader as necessary to make them usable and safe for law enforcement and public land visitors.

Results: BLM Law Enforcement Rangers, Border Patrol and other agencies, as well as the visiting public, are now able to traverse these two roads in comparative safety.

No photos available of this operation.

FY 2004 Border Project BLM—Phoenix Field Office

Project Name: Road Maintenance and Operation – Vekol Valley Road Culverts

Unit Name: Sonoran Desert National Monument

Date of Project: September 2004

Location: *Township:* 8S *Range:* 1E *Section:* 26
GPS data: 10S 0384680 / 3619200

Participants: BLM Phoenix Field Office Force Account crew

Project Coordinator(s): Eugene A. Dahlem, Manager, Sonoran Desert National Monument

Description of Project: Culverts were installed in two wash crossings. These washes flood with each rainfall, making the road impassable. This presented a safety hazard for visitors, but also made it extremely difficult for BLM law enforcement officers and Border Patrol to work in the area. This put illegal immigrants and visitor lives in danger during times of inclement weather.

Results: These culverts make the crossings usable in wet weather, enhancing safety.



Before



After



After



After

FY 2004 Border Project BLM—Phoenix Field Office

Project Name: Vekol Valley Cattleguard

Unit Name: Sonoran Desert National Monument

Date of Project: September, 2004

Location: *Township: 9 S. Range: 1 E. Section: 14*
GPS data: 10S 0384585 / 3611505

Participants: Bureau of Land Management, Phoenix Field Office Force Account crew

Project Coordinator(s): Eugene A. Dahlem, Manager, Sonoran Desert National Monument

Description of Project: The main road south through Vekol Valley on the Sonoran Desert National Monument leaves the monument and enters the Tohono O’odham Nation’s reservation at the above location. Until this project was completed, there was only a simple wire gate in the fence at the road. Illegal immigrant and drug smugglers sometimes drove vehicles through the gate without opening it, and when they did open the gate, they seldom closed it. The gate would often remain in this “destroyed” or open condition for several days at a time. This allowed livestock from the reservation to enter the monument, and vice versa. Installation of a cattleguard prevents this from occurring. This facilitates grazing management and resource protection on both sides of the fence.

Results: Installation of the cattleguard, replacing the wire gate, helps improve resource conditions on both sides of the fence.

Three additional cattleguards have been acquired and will be installed in similar situations on the monument in FY2005.



Installed cattleguard

FY 2004 Border Project BLM—Phoenix Field Office

Project Name: Trash Removal and Road Rehabilitation

Unit Name: Sonoran Desert National Monument

Date of Project: 2004/2005

Location: Throughout affected areas of the monument and surrounding BLM-administered public lands.

Participants: Bureau of Land Management Phoenix Field Office, Student Conservation Association

Project Coordinator(s): Eugene A. Dahlem, Manager, Sonoran Desert National Monument

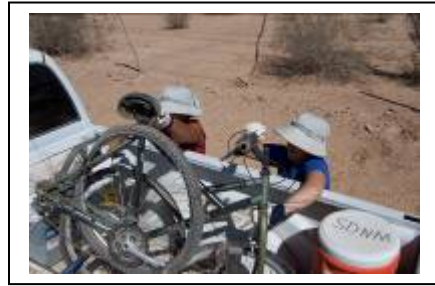
Description of Project: Ongoing border related activity by illegal immigrants and smugglers has several impacts, including the deposition of trash and waste on the public land and the creation of new roads and/or vehicle trails where the smugglers have driven off road and often were pursued by law enforcement personnel. The trash and waste would remain until it naturally degrades without some effort to remove it, and the vehicle trails potentially become roads if other public land users drive over them after the smugglers create them. Additionally, fences are often cut and other minor impacts occur.

To alleviate these impacts, the Phoenix Field Office has “employed” two Student Conservation Association (SCA) Interns through an existing Assistance Agreement with the SCA. The interns are picking up and removing trash and waste and rehabilitating vehicle paths. They will repair fences and signs and do other border related restoration and reclamation work. They will remain with BLM from early October 2004, when they started, through May, 2005.

Results: Many hundreds of pounds of trash have already been removed, and significant portions of nine illegal roads have been rehabilitated within the first month of work. Over the course of their appointment, the Interns will remove or coordinate the removal of tons of trash and waste as well as rehabilitate roads and carry out other needed work.



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After



Before



After

FY 2004 Border Project BLM—Phoenix Field Office

Project Name: Abandoned Vehicle Towing

Unit Name: Sonoran Desert National Monument

Date of Project: 2004/2005

Location: Throughout the eastern part of the monument, and in the Ajo area.

Participants: BLM Phoenix Field Office and contracted towing company

Project Coordinator(s): Eugene A. Dahlem, Manager, Sonoran Desert National Monument

Description of Project: Illegal immigrant and drug smugglers often abandon (and sometimes burn) their vehicles. In FY2004, over 200 abandoned vehicles were removed from the monument and other BLM-administered public lands in the area. The company doing the towing terminated its volunteer relationship with BLM because it was losing money on the work. Therefore, BLM entered into a contract arrangement with a towing company so that abandoned vehicles could continue to be removed from the monument.

Results: Abandoned smuggler's vehicles will continue to be removed from the monument and surrounding lands over the next year.



Before



After



Before



After



FY 2004 Border Project BLM—Phoenix Field Office

Project Name: Public Warning Signs

Unit Name: Sonoran Desert National Monument

Date of Project: Ongoing

Location: Various locations on Sonoran Desert National Monument and other border-affected BLM-administered public land.

Participants: Bureau of Land Management Phoenix Field Office

Project Coordinator(s): Eugene A. Dahlem, Manager, Sonoran Desert National Monument

Description of Project: To inform the public of the possible danger in the areas of BLM-administered public land affected by border activity, signs were designed and ordered, to be placed at strategic locations where needed. The wording of the signs is as follows: **CAUTION Smuggling activity is common in this area because of the proximity to the international border. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.** Additionally, agency identifying logos and telephone contact information is on the signs.

Results: The signs have been installed on roads commonly used by the public when entering affected public lands.



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