

APPENDIX E
Southern Arizona Project
FY 2006 End-of-Year Report

San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuges

Project Name: Monitoring Impacts to Wildlife from Illegal Border Activities

Unit Name: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge

Date of Project: Calendar Year 2006

Location: Various locations on SBNWR and LCNWR in Cochise County, AZ

Participants: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: \$4,680
Bureau of Land Management: \$4,680

Project Coordinator(s): William Radke, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Description of Project: Illegal immigrants crossing through San Bernardino NWR and Leslie Canyon NWR impact water quality, wildlife populations, and other habitat conditions in these “protected” areas. During 2006, studies were initiated on both refuges to monitor the potential impacts from illegal activities. The research was contracted out to monitor impacts to habitat and avian wildlife using, in part, funding provided from Congressman Kolbe through BLM. The contracts were completed using a 50:50 match of FWS funds and funding provided through BLM.

Results:



Project Name: Trash Removal

Unit Name: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge

Date of Project: Calendar Year 2006

Location: Various locations on SBNWR and LCNWR in Cochise County, AZ

Participants: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: \$5,850
Bureau of Land Management: \$5,850

Project Coordinator(s): William Radke, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Description of Project: Illegal immigrants crossing through San Bernardino NWR and Leslie Canyon NWR dispose of large volumes of trash, human waste, and other debris. Throughout the year, refuge personnel cleaned up an estimated 0.25 tons of debris discarded on the refuges. A student intern was hired as a laborer to conduct much of this work using funding provided from Congressman Kolbe through BLM. The position was filled using a 50:50 match of FWS funds and funding provided through BLM.

Results:



Before



Project Name: Vehicle Barrier

Unit Name: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge

Date of Project: Calendar Year 2006

Location: International Border along south boundary of SBNWR

Participants: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: \$9,580
Bureau of Land Management: \$9,580

Project Coordinator(s): William Radke, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Description of Project: Narcotics smugglers will cut the international border fence and drive through San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge to enter the United States illegally. To help prevent this illegal and destructive activity, a concrete-filled, steel, bullard-style vehicle barrier is being installed along the south boundary of the refuge. A student intern was hired as a laborer to assist with this work using funding provided from Congressman Kolbe through BLM. The position was filled using a 50:50 match of FWS funds and funding provided through BLM.

Results:



Project Name: Vehicle Guardrail Installation

Unit Name: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuge

Date of Project: Calendar Year 2006

Location: Leslie Canyon NWR in Cochise County, AZ

Participants: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: \$39,200
Bureau of Land Management: \$14,040

Project Coordinator(s): William Radke, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Description of Project: Smugglers trafficking in humans and/or narcotics drive off established roadways to clandestinely pick up their cargos in the riparian corridor at Leslie Canyon NWR. Additional vehicles have careened off the roadway. Such activity damages sensitive wetland habitat and impacts federally-listed endangered plants and fish in Leslie Creek. To thwart this illegal activity, a steel vehicle guard rail was installed along portions of the roadway through Leslie Canyon. A contractor was hired to install the guardrail using materials purchased by the FWS. Using some of the funding provided from Congressman Kolbe through BLM, the work was conducted using about a 3:1 match of FWS funds and funding provided through BLM.

Results:



Before



After



Project Name: Fence Repair and Grafitti Removal

Unit Name: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service; San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge

Date of Project: Calendar Year 2006

Location: Various locations on SBNWR and LCNWR in Cochise County, AZ

Participants: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: \$5,850
Bureau of Land Management: \$5,850

Project Coordinator(s): William Radke, Refuge Manager, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Description of Project: Illegal immigrants crossing through San Bernardino NWR and Leslie Canyon NWR commonly cut and/or damage fences and gates to help accommodate their travel. Throughout the year, refuge personnel inspected and repaired an estimated three miles of fenceline on the refuges. Additional vandalism, such as spray painting rocks, associated with illegal border crossings was also cleaned up or repaired as appropriate. A student intern was hired as a laborer to conduct much of this work using funding provided from Congressman Kolbe through BLM. The position was filled using a 50:50 match of FWS funds and funding provided through BLM.

Results:



APPENDIX E
THE SOUTHERN ARIZONA PROJECT
FY2006 End-of-Year Report

**Fish and Wildlife Service ---Buenos Aires National Wildlife
Refuge**

The BLM Tucson Field Office signed an interagency agreement with Buenos Aires NWR late in FY 2005 to fund the following carry-over project work in FY 2006: remove abandoned vehicles, (2) supply staff and volunteers with tools to repair damaged fences, and (3) to provide supplies for removal of debris left by illegal immigrants.

Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge stretches from the U.S./Mexico border to twenty-five miles north of the international boundary. Border Patrol estimates that several hundred to thousands of undocumented aliens cross the border every day.

In the year 2001, GIS analysis and aerial imagery revealed 1,314 linear miles of UDA trails on the refuge, including 117 individual trail crossings at the 4.5-mile international border. This translates to 280 acres of complete denudation, which of which is in fragile and valuable riparian habitat. The miles of trails and acres of denudation have increased since that year. Before interagency funds were available, 20 abandoned vehicles needed to be removed. Some vehicles are blackened by being set afire, and many are in remote and off-road areas. Removal is difficult and costly. The amount of trash (litter, clothing, water bottles, human waste) is unsightly to visitors and unsafe for wildlife.

Accomplishments: The entire \$14,000 obligated in 2005 was spent in FY 2006 to accomplish refuge habitat management goals. (1) Personal protective equipment necessary for habitat clean-up: \$1,446.72 purchased leather gloves, safety glasses, safety goggles, dust filter masks, and insulated water coolers. (2) Litter clean-up supplies: \$942.38 purchased hand-held litter grabber tools and trash bags. (3) Tools for mending cut and damaged fences: \$559.49 secured fence post drivers, fence post pullers, fence pliers, bolt cutters, and a fence stretcher. (4) Towing of abandoned vehicles: Average cost for removal per vehicle is \$750. These disabled, often burned or rolled-over vehicles typically must be extricated from remote and rugged areas or washes. Removal is continuing into FY 07. In FY 06, inter-agency funds enabled removal and towing of 12 vehicles at a cost of \$8,915.82.

A \$2,135.59 administrative fee was retained at the USFWS Regional Office in Albuquerque. Compiled with the above expenditures, the total expenditure equals \$14,000. This figure is the total obligation from the 2005 agreement.

YCOSA Project Oct. 3-13, 2005

YCOSA provided Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge with ten days of work, October 3-13, 2005, with Monday, October 10th as their day off. This worked well because the 10th was a staff holiday and we didn't have law enforcement staff working that day. Other days, we required that YCOSA check in with our LE officers when the crew was leaving for a work site and returning. They carried a refuge hand-held radio with them each day and also had it with them at their campsite at night. This helped one night in order to contact staff when a rattlesnake needed to be moved!

Leaders Aurora and Erin were terrific -- they were businesslike and efficient and had a no-nonsense, let's-get-it-done approach, and at the same time were personable and friendly. The crew worked hard and did their jobs well. It was gratifying and helpful to us to have leaders who could take the assignment, maps, instructions, and tools and go out and get the job done without placing a burden of time on staff members. I organized tools and supplies, provided maps and planned the schedule, but then the actual work was efficiently directed by the leaders and performed by the crew (and leaders).

We made sure that contact via radio (and cell phone was present too) was available at all times. On the first days of their fence repair near the border, a maintenance staff member accompanied the group, but later they were independent. I showed them three litter clean-up sites on two days; otherwise the crew knew where to go and went on their own.

Fence repair was along a road that parallels the international border but is about a half mile north of the border. It gets cut regularly by illegal immigrants. Litter pickup was mainly in "lay-up" sites where immigrants are camping out or waiting for rides. They also cleaned up Mustang Saddle, a pass in the low mountains south of Arivaca on a hiking route called Mustang Trail, that branches off of our Arivaca Creek Trail. The saddle is a major trash area. They also cleaned up several smaller sites and our 10-mile auto tour loop.

Oct. 3 = orientation, then 5 hours of litter.

Oct 4 = 8 hrs fence

Oct 5 = 4 hours litter, 2 hours fence, then 2 hours litter

Oct 6 = 8 hours fence

Oct 7 = 8 hrs litter at Mustang Saddle

Oct 8 = 8 hours litter near Brown Canyon Road, then near Arivaca Road

Oct. 9 = 8 hrs litter pickup, near Arivaca Road

Oct 10 = day off (hike in Brown Canyon)

Oct 11 = 8 hours fence

Oct 12 = 8 hrs fence

Oct 13 = 3 hours litter, Arivaca Road.

On Oct. 13 we invited the group to headquarters and invited our staff also to a thank-you ceremony. This included cake with frosting saying "Thank You YCOSA," and each participant and leader received an 8 x 10 color photo of their work along the fenceline.

For actual work hours and transportation to sites (not counting orientation, etc.) the crew put in the following:

Litter clean-up = 38 crew hours (crew hours x 7 people = 266 hours)

Fence repair = 34 crew hours (crew hours x 7 people = 238 hours)





Line-up of 10 vehicles recently removed from the Refuge using agreement funds.



Detail of where one of these removed vehicles was located on the Refuge.



Another image displaying the difficult terrain from which these vehicles were removed.