

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA PROJECT
TO
MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES
RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**



**FISCAL YEAR 2006
END-OF-YEAR REPORT**



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Bureau of Land Management (BLM)**

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The Southern Arizona Project to Mitigate Damages Resulting from Illegal Immigration and Smuggling

Fiscal Year 2006 End-of-Year Summary

Introduction

The Southern Arizona Project is a multi-year program set up by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to mitigate the impacts of illegal immigration and smuggling through on-the-ground projects. Between fiscal years (FY) 2003 and 2005, the program was funded through congressionally added-on supplements. In FY 2006 (and FY07), the BLM has funded this project through base annual appropriations. The program funding totals \$4,404,000: FY2003 \$695,000; FY2004 \$790,000; FY2005 \$986,000; FY 2006 \$971,000; and, FY2007 \$962,000.

These funds were shared among BLM offices in southern Arizona and were granted to neighboring counties and towns, federal and state agencies, non-governmental groups, and to the Tohono O'Odham Nation for mitigation activities on their lands. The program extends from the western Colorado River corridor to the New Mexico border on the east. In the past, this program concentrated on lands within 100 miles north of the border, but in 2006 many trash clean ups occurred as far north as the vicinity of Phoenix and the Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM).

The results for the first three years have been summarized in the report issued in May 2006: *A SUMMARY OF 2003-2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS (the Summary)*.

In FY2006, the number of illegal immigrants (undocumented aliens "UDA", undocumented immigrants "UDI", or undocumented migrant "UDM") that crossed public lands continued to be high and the resulting impacts appear to be expanded beyond the 100-mile area north of the border that has defined the borderlands. Added to these impacts are the damages that result from drug smuggling activities, particularly trail and road damage and abandoned vehicles. A detailed description of the impacts to lands in southern Arizona may be found in the *Summary* and in past reports provided on line at:

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/info/newsroom/undocumented_alien.html

Fiscal Year 2006

Projects completed during FY2006 included newly established projects and continued work from FY2005. For each participating agency or organization, project summaries are presented below in a summary fashion. The Appendices provide details and photographs of these projects.

General Notes about the FY2006 Southern Arizona Project:

1) Partnerships. In addition to the partners who receive direct funds, the participation of volunteers, humane and citizen groups, hikers and hunters, youth groups, local residents, and conservation associates must be acknowledged as keys to the success of this program.

In 2006 partnerships were added: the Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZG&F), Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORCNM), Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR), and

Coronado National Forest (CNF). BLM partners leveraged BLM funds, adding both other funding sources and partners. Cochise County reimbursed ranchers, scouts and hiking groups for collecting and removing trash on CNF lands. The Tohono O'Odham Nation (the Nation) has matched funds from this program with an Environmental Protection Agency grant and with the Nation's resources to develop a solid waste program. The Town of Marana (Marana) devoted resources to weekly clean-ups in the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM). The AZG&F organized hundreds of volunteers to clean up private ranchlands.

In FY2006 as in past years, youth and volunteer groups participated in significant events and occasional cleanups. The Student Conservation Associates (SCA) interns are invaluable to the program through their efforts and their outreach to organize other groups and volunteers. Humane Borders constantly removes trash in the IFNM or other areas near its water stations. The Huachuca Hiking Club worked the high country in Cochise County. Trash bags, gloves and other protective equipment are distributed to those who are helping with this effort. Beginning in 2005 and continuing into 2006, the U.S. Border Patrol (USBP) continues an effort to distribute thousands of trash bags to local agents for use by the illegal immigrants when detailed by agents.

2) Seamless mitigation. Many projects cross jurisdictional boundaries and involve multiple agencies and crews. For example, in Cochise County working with the BLM agreement with the county, local hiking clubs, scout troops and explorer posts removed litter from CNF lands. Although the SCA interns were funded through an agreement with BLM, weeks of crew time were also spent on lands managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), US Forest Service (USFS), and the National Park Service (NPS).

3) Litter removal in FY2006 increased tremendously in volume —over **1,181,540 pounds** removed in FY2006. This high volume represents not only the efforts of organizations to cleanup significant areas, but the fact that both undocumented immigrant trash (UDIs) and urban fringe trash occurs in overlapping areas and sometimes on the same sites. Urban-fringe trash results from residents, visitors and others who illegally deposit litter, mattresses, and other items in the desert. Some ordinary trash items may be utilized by UDIs, but are not brought to the site by them. Such mixed garbage is especially apparent at the Colorado River (Yuma), Morgan City Wash (near Phoenix), and the fringes of the IFNM. Cleaning up these UDI/urban fringe trash areas took great efforts to organize but produced very visible results and volumes of trash.

4) Landfills and Garbage Bags. Litter removed during cleanup projects is typically deposited in landfills, especially county or city landfills. Project funding is utilized for landfill costs as well as the garbage bags themselves. These are not ordinary garbage sacks but are specially ordered to ensure extra thickness and size. The impact of placing trash and bags in landfills is not evaluated within this report.

5) Abandoned and burned vehicles: Abandoned vehicles continue to be an expensive clean up task. These disabled, often burned or rolled-over vehicles typically must be extricated from remote and rugged areas or washes. Burned vehicles along with batteries, fuel cans and other parts are potential hazardous sites. Several units reported removing vehicles: the BLM Yuma (YFO) and Lower Sonoran Field Offices (LSFO) and the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWE). The TO Nation Solid Waste Division has recorded hundreds for future removal. The cost of towing vehicles depends on location and condition. Costs range from \$200 to \$750 per vehicle. Often, to prevent more extensive damage, law enforcement officers or agency staffs must accompany the towing operation.

6) The level of effort. The Southern Arizona Project is an extensive program with considerable efforts expended by agencies, tribes, groups and individuals. The problems being mitigated---impacts to the lands---are extensive as well.

Some idea on the measures of efforts can be gained from a few facts. For example, the TO Nation reported the total number of miles driven for their project in FY2006 as 30,798 miles. The Malpais Borderlands Group (Malpais BG) reported 19,744 miles driven during the project for fence repair, garbage pick up, and road repair. The accomplishments reported below also speak to the success of FY2006 due to multiple efforts.

7) Coordinated efforts. Funding provided by the BLM is matched with funds and resources. For example, student interns were hired as FWS workers through a 50:50 match with the BLM agreement. Agencies and organizations also match dollars through coordinated efforts. A prime example is the Altar Valley Clean up March 11, 2006, a program that has been going on for about three years in the north Altar Valley and involves a fall and spring event. Coordinated by AZG&F and local sportsmen groups, this independent event was designed for sportsmen to show local ranchers that they appreciate having access across private and public lands to hunt and will help address UDI litter. In March 2006, about 140 people turned out in very bad weather. Over a period of 6 hours, several sites were cleaned up amounting to over four 40-year dumpsters.

Summary of Accomplishments for FY2006:

- Litter removal: over **2,800 bags** of trash plus dump truck and dumpster loads amounted to **1,060,000 pounds** of trash removed from public lands. This included 35,350 pounds removed by Marana from the IFNM and 443 tons cleaned up along the Colorado River corridor. The Colorado River corridor trash was perhaps 10% immigrant; 90% was years old having resulted from continuous illegal dumping by resident and visitors;
- Litter removal: over 3,809 bags or **71,280 pounds** of trash removed from other federal, private and state lands, some removed by mules from inaccessible areas;
- Litter removal: over 3,565 bags or **50,260 pounds** (25.13 tons) removed from the TO Nation's lands;
- Abandoned cars: **130 abandoned vehicles** were removed and a much higher number were identified for future removal from the TO Nation's lands;
- Bicycle removals: **1,902 removed** from the TO Nation and 35 other bicycles removed from BLM public lands, mainly the SDNM;
- Fencing and repairs: BLM repaired 30 cuts in 50 fence sections over a 33 mile fenceline in the LSFO and installed 2 miles in the IFNM to protect plants; the San Bernardino NWR (SBNWR) repaired 3 miles; Pima County repaired 2,750 feet; BANWF spent 238 hours repairing fences; Malpais BG repaired fence cuts on a continuous basis; the Coronado National Memorial (CNM) repaired other fence segments; the CNF purchased fence materials and cattle guards which the National Guard installed;
- Roads and trails rehabilitated, removed or restored: the BLM LSFO/SDNM maintained 26 miles of road, rehabilitated 50 illegal routes, restored and signed or re-signed other routes, and maintained trailheads; BLM and CNF installed cattleguards; BLM rehabilitated 1600 ft of illegal routes in the IFNM; the Malpais BG repaired roads several times.
- Sensitive area protection: FWS installed steel vehicle guard rail through Leslie Canyon NWR (LCNWR) and bollard vehicle barriers along the SBNWR south boundary; BLM completed installation of the Sanford Canyon pipe rail vehicle barrier at Cienega Creek on the Las

Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA). BLM San Pedro Riparian NCA (SPRNCA) installed vehicle barriers at Bead Hill, and installed/repared water gaps at Escupule Wash.

- The BLM LSFO and the International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA) improved water and accessibility for pronghorn removing trash and fences and replacing existing water tanks;
- BLM IFNM and the Nation designed protection to close an important archaeological site to vehicle traffic through boulders---work finished in FY2007.
- Restoration Projects: BLM Yuma Field Office removed undesirable vegetation and fuels from some 8 acres; planted cottonwood and willow poles and 920 potted mesquite trees; the SPRNCA crew reseeded 351,000 square feet of UDI campsites in 5 locations;
- Vandalism and Graffiti Clean Up: San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon NWRs repaired vandalism or removed spray-painted rocks, associated with UDIs;
- Monitoring and Identification Projects: the LCNWR and SBNWR initiated studies to monitor potential UDI impacts, especially to habitat and avian wildlife; CNM SCAs spent 450 hours locating, documenting and developing a GIS database of UDI impacts; participants surveyed 22.6 miles in approximately a six week time period;
- Environmental Education and Signing: BLM placed anti-dumping signs in the Yuma Colorado River Corridor and bilingual protective signing and stickers with universal language dealing with fire in the LCNCA; students completed a CLASP learn and serve project at the IFNM;
- Special law enforcement details supported by the program funds produced these results during their patrol or operations: stolen vehicles recovered 50; vehicles impounded tied to UDI smuggling 136; UDIs detained for USBP 560; marijuana pounds seized 622; weapons seized 11; search and rescue operations 13; assists and backups 52.

Bureau of Land Management

Arizona Border Security Detail

In FY 2006, BLM law enforcement from Arizona was allocated \$50,000 to provide security for crews completing cleanup and rehabilitation of lands in southern Arizona, and to provide emergency care to any persons found in distress in the southern Arizona deserts. Other indirect goals were to increase the law enforcement presence in order to serve as a deterrent for UDI and drug smuggling, prevent additional resource damage and trash dumping, and provide increased visitor and employee safety on public lands.

Rangers from the El Centro (California) Field Office regularly assisted the Yuma FO in patrolling the border areas. Agents from the Arizona State Office and Rangers from other field offices in Arizona and adjacent States assisted the Gila and Phoenix Districts. Including the Rangers that normally patrol the border areas, there were a total of 753 hours of total overtime worked during FY2006.

Highlights and statistics from this time period taken from Significant Activity Reports:

	FY06	Compared to FY05
• Stolen Vehicles Recovered	50	68
• Vehicles Impounded tied to UDI Smuggling	136	121
• Undocumented Immigrants Detained for USBP	560	597
• Pounds of Marijuana Seized	622	924
• Assaults of Ranger (By Vehicle)	3	2
• Weapons Seized	11	8
• Backup to Assault of Border Patrol Officer	47	4
• Assist on Recovery of UDI Exposure Fatalities	5	3
• Search and Rescue Operations	13	8
• Border Security Details	62	41
• Border Drug Flights	25	

BLM Phoenix District Office

BLM Arizona completed planned organizational changes. The Phoenix Field Office has been encompassed within the Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO) and within the Hassayampa Field Office (HFO). Both field offices report to the Phoenix District. The LSFO includes the Sonoran Desert NM (SDNM). The HFO, which manages lands mainly to the north and northwest of Phoenix, includes the Agua Fria NM (AFNM). The HFO has begun to receive impacts from illegal immigration and in FY2006 organized cleanup events.

Detailed project reports and photographs may be found in Appendix A for both field offices.

Lower Sonoran Field Office

The LSFO received \$ 202,000 in FY2006. Much of the program focus was on the SDNM. Once again, significant efforts were completed utilizing BLM staff, SCA interns, volunteers and partnership agencies and groups. LSFO also provided funds to the CPNWF, the OPCNM, and continued its agreement with ISDA.

The LSFO and SDNM achieved these results between November 2005 and May 2006:

- Coordinated volunteers and SCA interns, with 172 days of SCA field work between 2 SCA interns;
- Utilized SCAs and other land stewards to sign areas, educate visitors, fix fences and carryout typical park ranger tasks;
- Removed 685 bags of trash from the Phoenix District (most from SDNM), nearly 7 tons of trash, most UDI in origin;
- Removed 35 bicycles and 80 vehicles from SDNM;
- Restored and rehabilitated approximately 50 illegal roads in SDNM;
- Maintained roads in LSFO and SDNM.

Some Project Highlights:

- Smith Road (near I-8) cleanup #1---December 1-6, December 13, 2005, BLM staff and SCAs; resulted in sign placements; removed 31 bags of trash, 5 bikes;
- Vekol Valley restoration #1---February 7 to February 14, 2006, length of Vekol Road from Interstate 8 to south end of road at Tohono O' Odom (TO) reservation boundary; SCA associates; identified sites for cleanup, removed 15 signs; rehabilitated new intrusions;
- SCC Freeman Road/ Vekol Road restoration and trash removal---March 5-8, 2006, BLM staff, SCAs, SCC crew of 11; resulting in: 1) 100 bags of trash removed; signs installed; 7 routes were restored using smoothing and mulching techniques;
- SCC Smith Road/Vekol Road restoration and trash removal---April 9 to April 20, 2006, BLM staff, SCAs, SCC 10 members, resulting in: 9 signs installed; removed 2 tons (150 bags) trash plus 16 bikes removed;
- Table Top Road restoration---April 25, 2006, SCAs, rehabbed road, removed trash and bikes; maintained trailhead;
- Area-A fence repair---May 15 to May 18, 2006, BLM staff and SCAs, completed about 2/3 of the fence line; repaired approximately 30 cuts and performed maintenance on more than 50 sections of fence;
- Pronghorn Improvement at Bendejas Well and Cameron Tank, south of Ajo----January 14 and March 25, 2006, BLM staff and ISDA volunteers; improved pronghorn accessibility by removing trash, fences and other debris, replaced with new water tanks, removed 2 dump-truck loads and 4 pick-pup loads of trash;
- Removed approximately 90 vehicles from SDNM and surrounding area, primarily south of Interstate 8.

Hassayampa Field Office

Unfortunately, the impacts of illegal immigration can now be seen in public lands to the north of the 100 mile area typically labeled borderlands. Projects completed:

- Morgan City Wash and AFNM cleanup #1---January 17-18, 2006; SCA interns, resulted in: monitoring and collection of 7 bags of trash; and,
- Morgan City Wash cleanup #2---February 5, 2006 to February 7, 2006, BLM staff, SCA interns, SCC crew of 10, cleaned up enormous UDI site, with approximately 350 bags of trash and filled four roll-off dumpsters.

International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA)

The Phoenix District Office partnered with ISDA on several efforts such as wildlife waters clean up, fence repair, trash removal and fence removal and repair. ISDA organized other volunteers and collaborated with the CPNWR.

ISDA highlights of efforts in FY2006:

- Outreach activities to organize and develop large groups of volunteers for work projects, organized specific events, and provided tools, project and desert safety training to volunteers. Volunteers were educated in the process of vertical mulching, a creative restorative process that “disappears” roads. ISDA set up environmental education opportunities and provided written materials.
- Collaborated with CPNWR to develop appropriate pronghorn specific guidelines for fence/wire/barrier removal to insure pronghorn usage in these areas.
- Cameron Tank project: with 38 volunteers (including Explorer Scouts), ISDA removed all barbed wire that had completely surrounded the tank and prevented pronghorn access for water. By freeing this area of all barriers, the volunteers created an oasis for all wildlife. In addition, this group bagged and removed all trash from the area and neatly piled fencing grids for later dumpster removal. In subsequent efforts, trash was taken to the Ajo dump.
- Bendaja Well project: with 42 volunteers for the purpose of removing 1 large area of fencing that was creating entrapment problems for wildlife and another area of wire and post entrapment (an old corral) that enclosed the water source, preventing the endangered pronghorn from accessing water. In addition to removing all barriers to 2 water sources in this area, this crew gathered, bagged, and raked together enormous amounts of trash. Two full dumpsters and 4 pickups full of trash were removed and the balance was neatly piled for future, major dumpster removal. Subsequently, trash was taken to the Ajo dump.
- Rasmussen Road vertical mulching project: 7 volunteers made an illegal road on BLM “disappear” through vertical mulching; road hadn’t been reused as their report date.
- Hia-Ced O’odham Indian cemetery vertical mulching project: 6 volunteers completed this successful project. The illegal road was restored, documented and photographed (for BLM). No reuse as of the ISDA report date.
- ISDA led 5 volunteers on a bike removal cleanup on BLM land to the south of Well Road. Eleven bikes and bike parts were removed to the Ajo dump.
- ISDA led 3 volunteers on a second bike removal cleanup on BLM land to the north of Well Road. This time volunteers found only 2 bikes and some bike parts, but also gathered trash along the way for removal to the Ajo dump. ISDA discovered a significant (though not too old) trash pile for future removal.

BLM Gila District Office

The Safford Field Office (SFO) and the Tucson Field Office (TFO) are now managed through the Gila District Office, although no field office boundaries have shifted.

Safford Field Office

The SFO received \$108,500 in FY2006, which was used to supplement existing assistance agreements with the NPS, FWS and the Gila Watershed. Work continued as carryover from

FY2004 with Cochise County and the Malpai BG to clean up trash left and repair damage caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants. Results:

- These agencies and group and their volunteers (as well as BLM staff) removed thousands of pounds of trash and rehabilitated washes and roads; and,
- They repaired roads, fences, gates, cattleguards and installed a vehicle barrier.

Please see more on the accomplishments for the NPS, FWS, MBG, and Cochise County in the summary below and project details in the Appendices.

Malpai Borderlands Group

The BLM Safford Field Office first entered into an assistance agreement with the Malpai BG in FY2003 and has continued each year since. The 2006 focus was on removing trash with some road and fence repair.

The Malpai BG focuses on the area illustrated in Appendix H: from Douglas east on the US/Mexican border to the border of New Mexico; north on the border to approximately 5 miles above the confluence of township 21S and 22S; west to Highway 80 and south to Douglas, Arizona. This area includes: the Mallet Ranch, 10X Ranch, Tex Canyon, Buck Creek, Indian Creek, Danger Wash, Silver Creek in the lower Chiricahuas, and ranches in the Pedregosa Mountains. Additional cleanup occurred in the Leslie Canyon Road area north of Douglas and west of Hwy. 80 including Castle Dome area.

Within this area of southeastern Arizona and the edge of New Mexico, the Malpai BG, working with local ranchers and employing a full-time worker, traveled 19,744 miles to remove trash and repair fence and roads. The Malpais BG contractor, following up on reports from local ranchers and from the USBP, often walked great distances to clean up areas.

- The Malpais BG contractor removed 8 to 10 bags of trash each day, working most 5-day weeks in the year. Large trash areas are now clean including some areas with newer trash.
- Several land owners are fencing off the wildcat roads that are a result of the vehicular traffic across the open country where there are no actual roads.
- Some roads were repaired where UDI and USBP traffic had caused extensive erosion.
- Some usable items have been recycled (clothing and blankets). Example: St. Vincent de Paul facility in Douglas.
- Over one mile of fence was built to control cattle frightened by the people walking through the pastures by the border. Funding for a cattleguard on the Geronimo Trail Road was cost shared by the BLM and Cochise County.

For a detailed identification of the UDI removed trash and project photos, see Appendix H.

In past reports the Malpais BG has provided an in depth description of damages occurring in Southeast Arizona from the illegal immigration and smuggling. They continue to report:

- 1) Springs are fouled and full of trash. Water troughs are used as bath tubs and clothes washers;

- 2) Calves, snakes and other wildlife are killed for food;
- 3) Archaeological sites are trashed;
- 4) Fences are mashed down and broken, gates are left open, pipelines are cut;
- 5) There is a larger incidence of theft from homes mostly near Portal, AZ and Rodeo, NM.;
- 6) The international border fence is down in many places. USBP Horse Patrol has occasionally fixed the fence in places. Historically, local ranchers have had to fix the border fences themselves, although the fence belongs to the US Government;
- 7) Cattle and wildlife are constantly frightened by people on foot and are running from groups;
- 8) In 2005, one person, parked on the side of Highway 80 north of Douglas, had his tires slashed while he was gathering trash.

Future plans are to continue with the repair and replacement of fencing; road repair and repairs of other improvements that have been damaged.

Tucson Field Office

The TFO received \$ 438,000 in funding to support the field office programs and its special units: the San Pedro Riparian NCA, the Las Cienegas NCA, and the IFNM. These funds were shared with neighboring partners of the TFO: the CNM, CNF, Marana, Pima County, Santa Cruz County, and the BANWR. Major components of this program are listed below. Please see the Appendices for further project details and photographs. The TFO staff achieved these results or made these efforts:

- Coordinated SCA interns and volunteers, training and equipping field workers with safety and telecommunication needs;
- SCAs recruited and organized other volunteers and groups. BLM staff and SCA interns worked closely with several organizations that provided significant service hours to remediate the impacts caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants on public lands;
- Furnished or purchased equipment and supplies for SCAs and field crews including: 1) Digital cameras, GPS units and binoculars; 2) Backpacks and water containers for field work; 3) Fence cutting repair tools and materials; 4) Vehicles, laptop computers, cell phones, calendars and office supplies; 5) Tools and emergency equipment for vehicles; 6) Equipment and vehicle maintenance and repairs including replacement tires for field truck; 7) Cargo nets, tie downs, towing equipment and other supplies to haul litter; 8) Winch for removing smuggling vehicle car parts in washes and other heavy debris; 9) Hand tools for volunteer and youth crew projects, especially for vertical mulching projects of illegal smuggling vehicle routes; 10) Toilet system to dispose of human waste for project crews and large volunteer events; and, 11) Travel money for camping;
- Ensured safety and training for SCAs and volunteers: 1) Providing safety equipment including gloves, trash grabber sticks, hand cleaner, first aid kits and appropriate PPE (e.g. hearing and eye protection); 2) 80-hour medical training (Wilderness First Responder) or Refresher WFR; 3) 32-hour Desert Ecology course; and, 4) Immunizations to mitigate exposure to high risk diseases;
- Proved telecommunications for field crews in remote areas: 1) Charging stations and rechargeable battery packs for existing handheld; 2) Pre-paid satellite phone plans for 7 phones in support of UDI projects and staff in the TFO area, totaling \$3800; 3) Hands free car kit for one Satellite phone for IFNM park ranger working alone in remote areas where illegal activity is occurring; 4) Maintenance and parts for existing cellular phones: chargers,

antenna, etc.; and, 5) Replaced 10 EF Johnson handheld radios with 10 Bendix King handheld radios and associated items;

- Renewed landfill contract for two landfills near IFNM for use through Sept. 30, 2007 by TFO staff and interns during cleanup projects with the local communities and youth crews;
- Purchased and distributed trash bags: 500 bags designed for heavy duty use by BLM, partners and groups; 1,500 trash bags and 20 trash picker sticks were donated to the AZ G&F for use on the bi-annual Altar Valley Ranch Cleanup Project; 100 to 200 bags to other volunteer groups such as Humane Borders, Samaritans, and private individuals living on private lands within the IFNM;
- Purchased and utilized storage container, trailers, and all-terrain utility vehicle for the IFNM, SPRNCA and LCNCA. New equipment permitted SCA interns and staff to stage supplies for IFNM projects much closer to the resource area, significantly reducing fuel and employee travel time costs over the year. Higher clearance vehicles, trailers and a 4x4 utility vehicle improved efficiency in collecting and disposing loads of litter collecting during crew projects and volunteer services projects. The utility vehicle carries up to 1100 pounds and carries tools and supplies as well as trash;
- Coordinated youth crew projects: Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC, formerly Youth Corps of Southern Arizona) and, affiliated with the SCC, the Community Learning Adventure Service Project (CLASP).

Some TFO project highlights:

- SCAs spent more than 125 hours themselves cleaning up 271 bags (approximately 135.75 cubic yards) of trash. They also rehabilitated 384 feet of illegal routes and repaired 253 feet of damaged fences;
- SPRNCA water gaps and vehicle barriers: barrier installed and water gaps repaired by Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) park rangers with SPRNCA staff at Beed Hill and Escuple Wash;
- LCNCA vehicle barriers: pipe rail vehicle barriers installed on the east and west sides of Cienega Creek at the Sanford Canyon crossing; 2 pipe rail walkthroughs installed, staff assisted by the Sky Island Alliance volunteers who cleared brush and placed vertical mulching along the roadway to aid in restoring and naturalizing the area;
- LCNCA pilot sign development and fabrication: 3 large signs and smaller stickers. Stickers placed on "Carsonite" "Rockart" or "Rhino" type posts; larger signs to convey bilingual and universal language to visitors to be aware of their surroundings;
- IFNM Santa Ana site protection: to protect from vehicle travel, consultation with the TO Nation elders. Planning completed in FY2006 for project implementation in FY2007. A barrier of natural boulders to be used; work to be done by the TO Nation under an existing agreement;
- Removed UDI trash from public and neighboring lands: continued collection efforts through four roll-off dumpsters. Since October 1, 2005, thirty-one 30-cubic yard roll-off containers have been filled and removed at 5 locations; approximately 80 tons;

- Rehabilitated Roads and Trails: attempted to use native plants and seed from local nurseries but contractual problems prevented this approach. Repaired one fence and installed one cattle guard on the IFNM along a high use smuggling corridor vehicle route to avoid constant upkeep and maintenance;
- An SCC crew worked 10 days in the IFNM October 3-13, 2005 to construct more than two miles of a four-strand barbed wire fence along the western side of Waterman Rd. The fence is intended to limit smuggler vehicles to the Waterman Road corridor where the road travels through an endangered species habitat (*Echinocactus horizonthalonius var. nicholii*);
- An SCC crew of eight people worked in the IFNM March 27-30 removing 85 bags of waste (approximately 42 cubic yards). This crew also rehabilitated 1,235 feet of roads in the West Silverbell Mountains created by smugglers engaged in cross country travel;
- A CLASP crew in IFNM, specifically the Malpais Hill area, April 24-27, 2006 worked 9 hours to gather and dispose of 115 bags of trash (approximately 57.5 cubic yards). The crew of 11 met with volunteers and community speakers to learn about the lands and illegal immigration and its affects. Through these educational sessions and practical work experiences, the crew became intimately familiar with, as well as remediated the impacts of, smuggling in southern Arizona;
- From August 27-30, an SCC crew worked on the SPRNCA to reseed camps left by UDIs. The 8 member SCC crew, along with 3 SCA interns, worked 27 hours in order to reseed the degraded areas along the San Pedro River.
- In total, the SCC crews between October 05 and August 30, 2006, collected 459 bags (229.5 cubic yards) plus 18 tires, and completed 1,235 feet of road rehabilitation and 351,000 sq ft. of reseeding (SPRNCA);
- Two neighborhood groups adjacent to the IFNM (Red Hill Community and Silverbell Estates) collected 377 bags (188.5 cubic yards) of trash over FY2006. The neighbors left full bags of trash along major corridors within the IFNM. BLM park rangers and SCA interns then picked up and disposed of this trash into the roll off dumpsters;
- On February 16, 2006, 26 Air Force Service Members worked along with a BLM park ranger and SCA interns at Valhalla to remove 40 bags (about 20 cubic yards) of UDI trash;
- Continued the USBP Pilot Trash Bag Program. Each USBP vehicle in the Tucson Sector was to be issued 10 trash bags. The concept behind this program is to send the bags to where the trash is being generated. The Tucson Sector has 8 USBP Stations, which were given boxes of trash bags proportionate to the size of the station. Each box contains 100 trash bags and a total of 103 boxes or 10,300 bags were used during the FY2006.

Town of Marana

Marana is the gateway community for the IFNM and a partnership between the town and IFNM has existed for the past three years. Under an agreement, Marana has been performing significant clean up and re-vegetation projects in and around IFNM to remediate the impacts from illegal smuggling. Marana received \$30,000 in FY2006 for labor, supplies, tools, equipment and remediation work. The Town performs weekly clean-up work on lands within and bordering the IFNM. Their average weekly collection is 700 pounds of litter, delivered to the Tangerine Landfill. Marana has made great efforts:

- Since October 2005, Marana disposed of over 35,350 pounds of trash.
- Marana has also filled and disposed of two 30-cubic yard roll-off dumpster of tires. The town has voluntarily taken on the task of removing the tires from the rims, as required for disposal. They perform this not only on the tires they collect, but on the many truck loads of tires collected by SCAs and BLM staff from IFNM;
- Also, in special cases, the town has been able to remove several abandoned vehicles and one particularly large trailer full of trash in addition to the weekly duties of UDI trash removal and road remediation.

BLM Colorado River District

The Colorado River District now administers three field offices: the Yuma Field Office, Kingman Field Office, and Lake Havasu Field Office.

Yuma Field Office

The Yuma Field Office was provided \$89,000 in FY2006 and achieved great results:

- Restored an 8-acre border area along the Colorado River probably burned by illegal immigrants;
- Removed 1,109 bags of trash plus. In addition to the crew, equipment was used to remove approximately 443 tons (**over one million pounds**) of trash that had accumulated over the years;
- Cleaned up 5 continuously used sites or about one square mile;
- Installed signs at high UDI activity areas that have become illegal dumpsites;
- Removed 26 abandoned vehicles, some burned, from BLM and Bureau of Reclamation-managed lands;
- Coordinated crews from the Coconino Rural Environment Corps and the SCC.

YFO continued efforts to protect native vegetation stands along the Lower Colorado area from fire damage and foot traffic. Restoration occurred in stages and utilized varying techniques. The results were plotted and recorded to measure success rates of plants and of various associated irrigation.

Several sites were cleaned up including: Paradise Cove, Transient Restoration Site, Gila River and Colorado River confluence, and Mitty Lake (approximately 1 square mile). Security concerns along the international border prevented further clean up.

See Appendix C for additional details and photos.

National Park Service (NPS)

Coronado National Memorial

The BLM Tucson Field Office signed an inter-governmental agreement with the CNM for \$16,000 late in FY2005. This agreement funded projects that were completed in FY2006. CNM encompasses approximately 5,000 acres along three miles of the US-Mexico border.

The impacts of illegal border activities include damaged fences, miles of unauthorized foot trails, soil compaction and erosion, trampled vegetation, and piles of trash and human waste. A limited field survey in 2003 documented 70 trails crossing a 1.2 mile east-west transect parallel to the main road that bisects the park. Trespass cattle enter the park through the damaged fences, wildfires are started by UDAs. Abandoned mines are used as hideouts, camp sites, and caches.

In FY2006, CNM capitalized on the volunteer resources available in the local area by hiring two SCA resource assistants, working as a team for 12 weeks to document impacts, coordinate cleanup efforts, and begin restoration work. The SCA interns located, documented, and helped develop a GIS database of UDA impacts on the park including illegal trails, trash sites, and damages to natural and cultural resources. The SCAs coordinated and led efforts with local groups (such as military units from Fort Huachuca, scouts, and other volunteers) and one week of a YCOSA crew to clean up trash and repair damaged fences in the park.

Results: The participants surveyed 36,430 meters of trails (22.6 miles) in approximately a six-week time period. Approximately 450 working hours were completed by each intern over a 12-week time period. The trail archives are stored in a personal geodatabase and will continue to expand as more data is collected. Although, there are survey results for each trail, the final results will not be compiled until enough data has been collected to make a significant analysis. With the remaining funding for this project, CNM will continue these border impacts surveys with a future SCA interns.

With the assistance of the YCOSA crew members 70 bags (1/2 cubic yard sized bags) were collected over a period of four days, covering approximately 25% of the park's area (approx. 1200 acres). Much of the area covered was in rugged terrain and required extensive hiking and strenuous labor, especially when carrying full trash bags to vehicle pick-up points. Fourteen participants completed a total of 420 working hours, October 31-November 4, 2005.

See Appendix D for project detail

NPS Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

The BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office signed an inter-governmental agreement with the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument late in FY2006 for work to be completed in 2007-2008. Future plans include assessment and clean up of monument lands. Those projects completed and reported in FY2007 will be included in the End of Year 2007 report.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)

FWS Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and San Bernardino NWR

The BLM Safford Field Office continued the interagency agreement with FWS at San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuges. In turn, the FWS matched funding from BLM at 1 to 1 or 1 to 3 to complete these projects:

- Cleaned up an estimated 0.25 tons of debris discarded on both refuges.
- Inspected and repaired an estimated three miles of fence line;
- Cleaned or repaired rocks that had been vandalized by crossers;
- Began installing a concrete-filled, steel, bollard-style vehicle barrier;
- Placed steel vehicle guard rail along portions of the Leslie Canyon roadway
- Monitored impacts from smuggling and illegal immigration on habitats and avian wildlife.

The Refuges made great use of student intern labor to complete projects from fencing and barriers to cleanup of trash and boulders. The BLM funding was matched equally with FWS funds to support the position. Other FWS staff was involved in these projects as well.

Narcotics smugglers will cut the international border fence and drive through SBNWR to enter the United States illegally. To help prevent this illegal and destructive activity, a concrete-filled, steel, bollard-style vehicle barrier is being installed along the south boundary of the refuge.

Smugglers trafficking in humans and/or narcotics drive off established roadways to clandestinely pick up their cargos in the riparian corridor at LCNWR. 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 BLM funding, the work was conducted using about a 3:1 match of FWS funds and funding provided through BLM.

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 the BLM. The contracts were completed using a 50:50 match of FWS funds.

See Appendix E for additional details and photos.

FWS 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, supply staff and volunteers with tools to repair damaged fences, and to provide supplies for removal of debris left by illegal immigrants.

BANWR stretches from the US/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, much 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, and human waste) is unsightly to visitors and unsafe for wildlife.

The entire \$14,000 obligated in FY2005 was spent in FY2006 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; and, (4) Towing of abandoned vehicles which cost \$750 per vehicle (on average). These disabled, often burned or rolled-over vehicles typically must be extricated from remote and rugged areas or washes. Removal is continuing into FY2007. In FY2006, 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. The Refuge also was able to utilize two work weeks of YCOSA crew time to do immigrant litter cleanup work and fence cut repairs.

Please see Appendix E for project details.

FWS Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

The BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office signed an inter-governmental agreement with the Cabeza Prieta NWR late in FY2006 for project work to be done in 2007-2008. Projects completed and reported in FY2007 will be included in next year's report.

U.S. Forest Service

Coronado National Forest

The BLM Tucson Field Office signed an inter-governmental agreement with the CNF late in FY2005. CNF encompasses approximately 1.8 million acres with 30 miles of the US/Mexico border on two districts, Nogales and Sierra Vista. The impacts of illegal border activities include damaged fences, miles of unauthorized foot trails, soil compaction and erosion, trampled vegetation, and piles of trash and human waste. Trespass cattle enter CNF through the damaged fences, wildfires are started by UDIs, and abandoned mines are used as hideouts, camp sites, and caches. This agreement provided funding in the amount of \$30,000 to address these impacts. The following materials were purchased under this agreement:

- \$20,046.08 for fencing materials;
- \$ 9, 954 Cattleguards

Nogales Ranger District added \$3,000 to complete the cattleguard purchase as well as cover travel to Colorado to transfer them to Nogales. Border Patrol has utilized some of the fencing materials as have the ranchers, but most was intended for the National Guard deployments, as needed.

Additionally, under a separate agreement funded by the Tucson Field Office, CNF was also able to utilize one week of a YCOSA crew time in the Huachuca Mountains to clean up immigrant litter.

Cochise County

The BLM Gila District Office, Safford Field Office continued to partner with Cochise County through an assistance agreement. In turn Cochise County, further partnered with private, community and service groups to target lands in the CNF for clean-up. Some of these events involved horseback crews and others required strenuous hiking. The County dedicated the County Inspector, vehicles, trailers, supplies and dumpsite to complete these projects.

The partnership with Cochise County has resulted in significant amounts of trash removal:

2003:	3.03 tons (6,060 lbs)	2004:	10.46 tons (20,920 lbs)
2005:	5.80 tons (11,600 lbs)	2006:	6.0 tons (12,000 lbs) in 10 projects

Cochise County highlighted FY2006 Projects:

- Highway 90, MP 296 to 297, December 6 to Dec 23, 2005, county removed 0.86 tons of trash
- Central Hwy, MP 10.5 and Hwy 90, MP 388.0, Border Patrol Explorer Post #456, December 27, 2005 and January 6, 2006, crew of 12: resulted in 0.74 tons bagged and picked up for dumping
- Highway 90, MP296, Unity of Sierra Vista, January 3, 2006, crew of 10: results 0.33 tons of trash bagged and removed
- Highway 90, MP 302, Unity of Sierra Vista, May 23, 2006, crew of 10: results 0.58 tons of trash to the dumpsite
- Highway 80, MP 389, Explorer Post #456, June 13, 2006, crew of 10: results 0.46 tons to dumpsite
- Miller, Ash and Andelusion Canyons, Boy Scout Troop #435, July 29, 2006 crew of 24: results 0.32 tons removed
- North Oro Road, Douglas Border Patrol Explorer Post #456, August 1, 2006, crew of 8: results 0.52 tons of
- CNF Comfort Springs Trail, Moore Ranch, August 21 and 26, 2006: result 1520 lbs of trash to dumpsite via 4 or 5 horses and crew members
- CNF Trail II, Sierra Vista High School Girls Soccer Team, September 2, 2006, crew of 18: results 0.65 tons bagged and removed
- CNF Comfort Springs Trail, Boy Scout Troop #435, September 9, 2006, crew of 12; result removed 1520 lbs to dumpsite

See Appendix F for specific projects and photographs.

Santa Cruz County

An assistance agreement with Santa Cruz County was signed in late Fiscal Year 2003. At that time, \$35,000 was allocated to conduct ongoing UDI remediation. The County used these existing funds in Fiscal Year 2006 to purchase trash bags, gloves, hats, t-shirts and trash pickers for the volunteers to use during projects. Santa Cruz County utilized the county Workforce Development participants, as well as the Border Patrol Explorers, for trash remediation projects. The projects were held approximately biweekly with about 20 volunteers removing trash throughout Santa Cruz County. Areas cleaned include Interstate 19 between mile posts 4 and 8, the Rio Rico area, the Sonoita area, Bell Ranch and Monte Carlo.

- Over FY2006, volunteers removed 300 bags of trash in Santa Cruz County.

Pima County

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) has been working with the BLM TFO to address environmental and health/safety issues related to impacts of illegal immigrants on Pima County (PC) owned and managed lands. The initial grant of \$30,000 was awarded in August, 2005; accomplishments through the end of FY2006 follow. The project efforts focused attention primarily on litter left by UDIs on nine large County open space and conservation land properties. The base properties cover approximately 68,000 acres. Additional work was also done on routine fence repairs where UDIs were entering properties and consequently causing damage to vegetation or property.

The County approach to this project has not focused on specific projects but rather ongoing efforts on county lands as units. Within a property staff easily finds hundreds of points that needed litter pick up or fence line repairs. Experience has shown that the impacts are ongoing, cumulative and must be re-addressed in many sites during the project year. Consequently, Pima County has utilized staff resources to visit properties and address problems as a part of ongoing management efforts and activities as units rather than points on a map. The intent is still to maintain an intermittent staffed team to focus increased and ongoing attention on problem areas across the County lands. It is anticipated that such a work unit will become fully functional early in 2007 and work through most of the rest of the next project year. During the past project year, staff has also helped coordinate and utilize specific events that focused attention on specific areas for short periods of time.

The following sites represent the primary activity areas that PC focused attention on this past project year:

Canoa Ranch-	4,700 acres
Bar V Ranch/Davidson Canyon-	13,000 acres
Empirita Ranch-	880 acres
Kings 98 Ranch/Humane Border Station-	4,000 acres
Old Hayhook Ranch-	800 acres
Rancho Seco-	40,000 acres
Buckelew Ranch-	500 acres
Black Wash-	250 acres
Cienega Creek Preserve-	4,100 acres

Pima County had three categories of participants involved within efforts during the project year:

- County staff, or summer interns, within the Operations and Natural Resources Divisions worked at times across the full project year or were involved in specific events and/or management activities;
- Special large events, such as Altar Valley cleanup, brought hundreds of volunteers out for a one day event'
- Individual groups that did ongoing efforts on site specific areas during the year.

During the project year, it is estimated that over 250 individuals participated in project activities. About 180 were members of the public. Overall the efforts have been mixed but from the County perspective, well worth the effort. The County reports it would not have been able to accomplish the project year activities and planned work without this supplemental support. Unquestionably, PC has been able to utilize the funds to remove significant amounts of litter left across open space and conservation lands. In some cases, like Canoa Ranch, the effort has dramatically improved the visual look and feel of the property and the area has not experienced significant new deposits of litter. In other sites, it is an ongoing issue that the County must address. Pima County may have been able to remove accumulated spots of litter but they have been replaced by new, although far less in volume, litter deposits. Fences and gates have been repaired only to have them cut the following evening.

Because the County has not been looking at the project from a site specific perspective, the following is a generalization of overall results. Utilizing Canoa Ranch as an example, efforts covered all 4,700 acres and removed over 5 – 40 cu/yd dumpsters of litter. To do this, litter was removed from several hundred specific points. 20 different fence breaks were repaired, trash was removed from 4 buildings and vegetation trimming occurred on 15 points across the ranch.

Here is a summary table estimate of the overall effort of NRPR staff and volunteers:

Property	Volume of Trash	Fence Repairs	Effort hours
Canoa Ranch	240- cu/yds	20- 1,500 ft	2,000 hrs
Bar V Ranch	10- cu/yds	5- 150 ft	40 hrs
Empirita Ranch	10- cu/yds	10- 500 ft	120 hrs
Kings 98 Ranch	5- cu/yds	0	20 hrs
Old Hayhook	5- cu/yds	0	10 hrs
Rancho Seco	5- cu/yds	4- 100 ft	40 hrs
Buckelew Ranch	5- cu/yds	0	20 hrs
Black Wash	5- cu/yds	4- 150 ft	30 hrs
Cienega Creek	5- cu/yds	5- 150 ft	80 hrs
Altar Valley Event (Covered Rancho Seco, Kings 98 Old Hayhook, Buckelew)	160- cy/yds	0	1,200 hrs
Project Coordination			320 hrs

- Involved over 250 individuals (180 members of the public) in projects spread over county properties;
- Projects and events removed 450 cubic yards of trash;
- Repaired 2,750 ft of fence (over 20 fence breaks).

See Appendix G for photographs.

The Tohono O'odham Nation

Tohono O'odham Nation – Natural Resources Department Solid Waste Management – Undocumented Migrant (UDM) Project

The BLM and the Tohono O'odham Nation entered into a five year cooperative agreement to address the problem of waste left behind by illegal migrants. The purpose of the cooperative agreement has been to provide financial resources to mitigate damage caused by illegal immigration within the Nation by removing trash and rehabilitating and restoring natural resources damage caused by UDMs.

The Nation is a federally recognized Indian Tribe in South Central Arizona with over 28,000 enrolled tribal members. The Tohono O'odham Reservation consists of four non-contiguous parcels totaling more than 2.8 million acres of Sonoran Desert, nearly the size of the State of Connecticut, and it is the second largest Indian Reservation in the United States. The Nation has 75 miles of remote international border which is the longest shared international border of any Indian Tribe in the US. This position has created an unprecedented homeland security crisis.¹

At its peak of border crossing activity, 1,500 immigrants illegally crossed the Nation border daily. Currently, USBP estimates that the numbers to be 250 to 350 illegally cross daily into the US via the Nation. A USBP spokesman recently reported that the Nation is in the “busiest corridor of illegal immigration in America”. Recent intelligence sharing of information between the Nation and USC&BP has revealed that they are starting to see an increase of border-related activity. Such activity includes an increase in the amount of UDM foot traffic, narcotics smuggling and vehicular traffic, abandoned vehicles and stolen vehicle recoveries within the Nation. There are at least 160 known illegal crossing sites along the Nation's border with Mexico. In 36 locations there are no barriers at all.² Recent activities along the border clearly demonstrate an increase in drug smuggling and reported sightings of what appears to be a Mexican military at the southern edge of the border and attacks against drug “back packers” have increased.

Daily confrontations with illegal aliens require the Nation's Police Officers to possess weaponry and protective equipment to ensure the safety of their own lives. Safety for the Solid Waste Management crew, however, continues to be a major issue due to the fact that crew members are out cleaning up the sites in remote locations that are unsecured and lack radio coverage. Cell phone and radio transmissions often do not work due to dead transmission zones. Local law enforcement offices do not have the resources to escort crew members to clean up sites.

To date, the Nation has spent more than \$10 million dollars in tribal resources on Homeland Security issues and now spends over \$3 million annually. The Nation has been able to forge relationships with EPA and BLM to clean-up the trash that is littered on the Nation's Reservation by UDIs. This situation has caused damage to natural resources and to date generated 130 sites that have been cleaned up on the Nation's lands over the past 24 months.

During FY2006, the UDM Project focused on re-visiting all known sites that have been cleaned up at least once and the identification of new sites. The crew made 1,650 trips to re-visit known sites for the purpose of cleaning-up any new waste and to verify if the campsites or pick up points were still being utilized by UDMs.

¹ Prepared Statement of Vivian Juan Saunders, Chairwoman, Tohono O'odham Nation to the Judiciary Committee.

² Excerpt from Prepared Statement of Vivian Juan-Saunders Chairwoman to the Tohono O'odham Nation address to the Judiciary Committee.

The numbers reflected on this report were recorded on tracking forms, which tracks the date, time, mileage and cost of fuel, site locations, number of bags collected, number of bikes or abandoned vehicles, tonnage of debris from the project and any other comments based on observations and assumptions. The following are some of the factors that affected the amount of debris collected in FY2006:

- UDM activities appear to have been relocated to new sites, which are slowly being identified by crew members with approximately 46 new sites. This brings a new total of identified sites to 130 since the start of the project;
- The weather conditions during this past summer at 100 plus degree heat;
- Border crossers utilizing coyotes or smugglers to lead them through the desert quickly or the use of stash houses (where smugglers hide UDMs while awaiting payment and travel arrangements to final destinations) are more common;
- Regular site visits to campsites and visibility of crew members has reduce the amount of use of the known locations by UDMs;
- Increased use of concrete bags to give the appearance of an even load going in to the pick up points, concrete bags are then disposed of and illegal migrants are then hauled out of the site.

RESULTS:

- Total number of bags collected for FY 2006: **3,565 bags of debris**
- Total number of bikes collected for FY 2006 : **1,902 abandoned bikes**
- Total number of miles driven for UDM Project for FY 2006: **30,798 miles**

In conclusion, the Nation's Solid Waste Management Program has significantly reduced the amount of visible trash left by undocumented migrants. The USBP and National Guard have significantly reduced illegal border crossings in certain areas of the Nation shifting the flow to other areas of the US/Mexico border. Discussions with Homeland Security, USBP, and BORSTAR officials have revealed that foot traffic is significantly down on the western side of the Baboquivari Mountain range. It has shifted further west into the Vamori Wash area and further east to the eastern side of the Baboquivari Mountain Range. Drug smuggling on the reservation, via stolen vehicles crossing the border, is up due to the construction of the vehicle prevention fence further west, in the Cabeza Prieta NWR.

The Nation's lands continue to be impacted by the littering of tons of illegal alien garbage creating negative environmental impacts. The Nation's SWMP continues to expand its efforts to identify and remove waste, abandon vehicles and reduce natural resource damage. To restore and protect the fragile Sonoran Desert requires continued funding, experienced field staff and waste site identification.

Fiscal Year	Sites cleaned up	Abandoned bikes collected	Bags of trash collected	Other:
2005	84 sites cleaned	1,420 bikes removed	4,005 bags (45 tons of trash) picked up	
2006	84 sites revisited; 45 sites cleaned up	1,902 bikes collected	3,565 bags of debris (25.13 tons of trash)	220 abandoned vehicles located

See Appendix I for further details and photographs.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZG&F) was awarded a \$9,000 grant for the purchase of materials and supplies related to the clean up of UDI trash for the Ranchland Clean Up Project. During the 2006 report period, the AZG&F purchased nearly 45% of the equipment budgeted in the grant proposal. The remaining balance will be spent in the 2007 calendar year, before the close of the grant cycle in September.

Final Note to the 2006 End-of-Year Report:

While this report notes much about the accomplishments of these projects, the report is not exhaustive of the efforts made and projects completed in FY2006. Some project work carried over to FY2007, and some funding was provided late in FY2006 to partners. Many bags of garbage collected by individuals or groups in Southern Arizona are never reported and parallel efforts by other agencies or groups must be added to the Southern Arizona Project accomplishments.

Finally, as the Phoenix BLM District noted about their completed work and report:

Results from this report are as thorough as possible, but they do not tell the whole conservation story from this time period. Nor is every trash site and illegal road restoration documented here; instead this report provides examples of the type of rehabilitation effort [which] occurs through this project.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA PROJECT FISCAL YEAR 2006 PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Yuma Field Office, Lower Colorado Restoration Pole Planting



BLM Sonoran Desert National Monument
Illegal Road Restoration



BLM Ironwood Forest National Monument
Red Hills Community joins with Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew



BLM San Pedro Riparian Nat'l Conservation Area
San Pedro River Clean up: Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crews -- 2500 lbs that week



Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
Fence Repair, Youth Corps of Southern Arizona (YCOSA), Nov. 2006



Pima County --Bags for dumpster, ready for landfill. August 2006



Cochise County/Coronado National Forest
Huachuca Hiking Club and Ranchers clean up and mule-pack trash from the high country



Abandoned Vehicle Removals:

BLM Sonoran Desert National Monument



FWS Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge
Vehicle found in difficult situation for removal



BLM Yuma Field Office
Abandoned Vehicle Removed



Tohono O'Odham Solid Waste Division
Abandoned bicycles removed from TO Nation lands



Barriers and Protective Fencing:

FWS San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge



Signage:

BLM Yuma Field Office
"No Dumping"
Signs installed in illegal dumping area
After major cleanups



BLM Sonoran Desert National Monument
"Not A Road"
Carsonite sign in Vekol Valley after illegal road
restoration



Restoration:

BLM San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area
SCC and BLM crew reseeded 100,000 square feet



BLM Ironwood Forest National Monument
After vertical mulching applied to restore
illegal road by the Town of Marana crew



BLM Sonoran Desert National Monument --- Vekol Road Restoration



Before



After

BLM Ironwood Forest National Monument ---Sawtooth Mountains Road rehabilitation
Before



After



Repair of Fences, Water Tanks and Other Infrastructure

BLM Sonoran Desert National Monument
Wildlife Water Replacement and Fence Repair
International Sonoran Desert Alliance, volunteers, and BLM crews



BEFORE AND AFTER: Clean up of undocumented immigrant (UDI) Sites

BLM Ironwood Forest National Monument---Malpais Foot Trails
139 bags of trash removed to the Agua Dolce dumpster

Before

After



Tohono O'Odham Nation Western Region
Before



After



BLM Yuma Field Office
Clean up of Colorado River dump site along the limitrophe. Mixed urban fringe
trash and UDI litter.

Before



After



Resource Damage

Tohono O'Odham Nation



FWS San Bernardino/Lesley Canyon
Graffiti to be removed from outcrop:



National Park Service (NPS) Coronado National Memorial
Typical trash in a UDI traffic corridor



Tohono O'Odham Nation

Concrete bags hauled in to give the appearance of an even load going in to the pick up points. Concrete bags are then disposed of and illegal migrants are hauled out of the site.



Malpais Borderlands Group targeted lands. Lay up spot trash accumulates on important ranchlands.



BLM Ironwood Forest National Monument—mixed trash being collected for the dumpster



Fiscal Year 2006 End-of-Year Summary—Glossary

UDI, UDA, UDM

Undocumented immigrant, undocumented alien, undocumented migrant are terms used by various reporting agencies and the media.

AZG&F	Arizona Game and Fish Department
BLM	Bureau of Land Management
BANWR	Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (FWS)
CLASP	Community Learning Adventure Service Project
CNF	Coronado National Forest (US Forest Service)
CNM	Coronado National Memorial (NPS)
CPNWR	Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge
ECO	Environmental Careers Organization
FWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
HFO	Hassayampa Field Office (BLM)
IFNM	Ironwood Forest National Monument (BLM)
ISDA	International Sonoran Desert Alliance
LCNCA	Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (BLM)
LCNWR	Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuge (FWS)
LSFO	Lower Sonoran Field Office (BLM)
Malpais BG	Malpais Borderlands Group
NPS	National Park Service
OPCNM	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (NPS)
SBNWR	San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (FWS)
SCA	Student Conservation Association
SCC	Southwest Conservation Corps (formerly Youth Corps of Southern Arizona)
SFO	Safford Field Office (BLM)
SPRNCA	San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (BLM)
TFO	Tucson Field Office (BLM)
TO Nation	Tohono O’Odham Nation
USBP	U.S. Border Patrol
YFO	Yuma Field Office (BLM)