

APPENDIX H
The Southern Arizona Project
FY2006 End-of-Year Report

Malpai Borderlands Group

Project Name: U.D.I. TRASH CLEAN-UP ANNUAL REPORT AS OF AUGUST 15, 2006

Unit Name: MALPAI BORDERLANDS GROUP

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Date of Project: October 1, 2005 to September 30, 2006

Location: Southeastern Arizona

From Douglas east on the Mexican Border to the border of New Mexico, go north on the border to approximately 5 miles above the confluence of Township 21S and 22S then go west to Highway 80 and south to Douglas, Arizona. The area we have worked in also 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.

Add to this area, some cleanup on Leslie Canyon Road area north of Douglas and west of Highway 80 including some of Castle Dome.

Project Coordinators and Cooperators: Malpai Borderlands Group and local property owners/lessees. Border Patrol helps with information.

Participants: Shaine Parker, Contractor

Shaine Parker is working to clean up all the area that he can access. He had been working at least 5 days a week. He drives into an area as far as he can and walks long distances into trashed areas. This involves carrying bags of trash long ways to the roads. Often the trash is in isolated, steep, brushy canyons. The Border Patrol and local ranchers tell him where there is a place that needs to be cleaned up. Because he is carrying the bags to his vehicle, and then depositing them in land fills where there is no scale to weigh the trash, it isn't always possible to even approximate the weight. He averages 8 to 10 bags a day. He uses smaller bags for the heavier trash. He will usually empty the bags into the dumpsters and reuse the bags again.

Costs for Fiscal Year :

Labor: \$ 2,019.93 Watershed Restoration work
Labor: \$16,416.00 Trash Cleanup
Supplies and dump fees: \$ 895.94
Cattleguard on fence on Geronimo Trail Road. \$ 3,500.00
Mileage: \$ 6,910.75

Total BLM funds used for FY 2006 \$ 29,702.62

Miles driven: 19,744 miles

TRASH CLEAN UP:

Results: There has been a large area that has been cleaned up. Some roads were repaired where UDA and Border Patrol Traffic had caused extensive erosion.

The trash that is removed consists of:

Personal Hygiene: Razors, combs, brushes, shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, makeup, toothbrushes, medications, (Naproxin, Advil, Aspirin, stomach meds, electrolytes), vitamins.

Clothing: Pants, sox, underwear, shirts, hats, caps, gloves, coats.

Shoes- high heels, shower shoes, boots, tennis shoes and thongs.

Jewelry: Watches, necklaces, bracelets, knives, key chains.

Bottles and jars: Thousands of plastic water bottles from 1-gallon size to pint size, broken glass jars, electrolyte bottles, juices, milk containers, baby bottles.

Food cans: most from Mexico, but some with Russian labels found here. Safeway receipts in back packs full of American canned food.

Food cans opened with a pocketknife, leaving ragged edges and torn metal lids;

Food: Bread, tortillas, jars of food, baby food and formula, food from Safeway and Wal-Mart in Douglas, complete with receipts, some not opened; juice, milk, sodas, electrolytes.

Paper: Many items are from other countries besides Mexico. Forms from maquiladore factories; airline and bus ticket stubs; phone cards, Social Security cards; identification cards, pay receipts from work in US, photographs, letters, books, promissory notes, paper money, toilet paper, sanitary pads, disposable diapers.

Fabric and plastic: Blankets, towels, table cloths, several matching bed spreads from Mexican Hotels, serapes, rags, rope, string, wire, lots of plastic bags used for carrying food, or large ones for use as raincoats. Hundreds of back packs, fanny packs, shoulder packs, wallets, gloves.

Miscellaneous: Batteries, cell phones, FM radios. Fecal matter that that the clean-up fellow buries.

Miscellaneous results from the UDA traffic:

Damage done:

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

Calves, snakes and other wildlife are killed for food.

Archaeological sites are trashed.

Fences are mashed down and broken, gates are left open, pipelines are cut, there is a larger incidence of theft from homes mostly near Portal, Az. and Rodeo, NM..

The International Border fence is down in many places. Border Patrol/Horse Patrol has occasionally fixed the fence in places. The ranchers have historically had to fix the border fences themselves, although the fence belongs to the US Government.

Cattle and wildlife are constantly frightened by people on foot and are running from groups. In 2005, Shaine Parker was parked on the side of Highway 80 north of Douglas, gathering trash when his tires were slashed.

Good news:

There have been large areas that were trashed, that are now clean. Some of the areas are new trash and some are being cleaned again because of new traffic.

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 UDA and Border Patrol Traffic had caused extensive erosion.

There has been recycling of usable items to people that can use the clothing and blankets.

We have washed several large bags of clothes and dropped them off at the St. Vincent de Paul facility in Douglas.

There has been over a mile of fence 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.

Additional Information for future plans:

This year, we had other money for the watershed work that we had to use. We probably will use some of this grant in the next year for repair and replacement of fencing; road repair and repairs of other improvements that have been damaged.

Selected photographs from the Malpais Borderlands Projects:



Before clean up



After clean up



Before clean up



After clean up



Geronimo Trail Road – cattleguard