

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

Pima County---Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Department

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Agreement Numbers: AAA050009 and AAA050012

Annual Report- 10/1/05 through 9/30/06

Project Name: Pima County Lands

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) has been working with the BLM Tucson Field Office to address environmental and health/safety issues related to impacts of illegal immigrants on Pima County (PC) owned and managed lands. The initial grant awarded in August of 2005 was amended in August of 2006 with a new completion date of December 2007.

The project effort over the past year has focused attention primarily on litter left by illegal immigrants 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 illegal immigrants were entering properties and consequently causing damage to vegetation or property.

Our approach to this project has not focused on specific projects but rather ongoing efforts on PC lands as units. Within a property we easily find hundreds of points that we pick up litter or have fence line repairs. Experience has shown us that the impacts are ongoing, cumulative and must be re-addressed in many sites during the project year. Consequently, we have utilized our 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. It is still our intent 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 we have also helped coordinate and utilize specific events that focused attention on specific areas for short periods of time.

Unit Name (s):

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

Canoa Ranch-	4,700 ac.
Bar V Ranch/Davidson Canyon-	13,000 ac
Empirita Ranch-	880 ac
Kings 98 Ranch/Humane Border Station-	4,000 ac

Old Hayhook Ranch-	800 ac
Rancho Seco-	40,000 ac
Buckelew Ranch-	500 ac
Black Wash-	250 ac
Cienega Creek Preserve-	4,100 ac

Location (s):

Canoa Ranch-	Lat 32.2302 - Lon 111.0210
Bar V Ranch-	Lat 31.9784 – Lon 110.6427
Empirita Ranch-	Lat 31.9576 – Lon 110.5266
Kings 98 Ranch-	Lat 32.0166 – Lon 111.3564
Old Hayhook Ranch-	Lat 31.9547 – Lon 111.5149
Rancho Seco-	Lat 31.6527 – Lon 111.3420
Buckelew Ranch-	Lat 32.0702 – Lon 111.3394
Black Wash-	Lat 32.1603 – Lon 111.1804
Cienega Creek Preserve-	Lat 32.0082 – Lon 110.6150

Participants:

We had three categories of participants involved within our 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/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.

Project Coordinator(s):

Activities were coordinated out of the Natural Resource Division Manager’s office. Mr. Kerry Baldwin, the Division Manager, was responsible for overall coordination responsibilities. Within NRPR, site activity level coordination tasks were also assumed by the agency operations supervisor, natural resource specialists and fence crew leader.

For the major clean up event in the Altar Valley in March of 2006, Gabriel Paz of the Arizona Game and Fish Department was the primary coordination contact.

Several small groups of hikers and walkers utilizing NRPR lands and conducting clean up activities were coordinated by group leaders. Specific names were not retained for tracking purposes just general dates and litter pick up summaries.

Description of Project:

As previously noted, during the project year we focused attention on litter pick up and fence repairs. These efforts were ongoing across the year and may have involved just several hours, several days or in just a few cases several weeks.

Of special note were three major efforts. The first involved clean up and fence repairs at the Empirita Ranch. The second was the Altar Valley clean up event and the third was a comprehensive clean up of Canoa Ranch.

Empirita Ranch- this property is located east of Tucson and south of I-10. The ranch property has BLM lands to the east and state lands on the other three sides. This property experienced a significant increase in illegal immigrant traffic during the project year. Homeland Security increased routine patrol presence. This is headquarters for part of a larger working ranch covering BLM and state land grazing leases. Reoccurring fence repair was a major issue the past year. NRPR staff spent well over 120 hours and had to travel over 1,000 miles on repairs during the year. While on property, the crew also cleaned up about 10 individual sites along interior ranch roads and one major staging area along I-10. Estimates were that the crew picked up over 1,500 pounds of litter. Because of availability of property project funds costs were split across multiple funding sources to minimize the portion charged to this grant.

Altar Valley Clean up- March 11, 2006- this event has been going on for about three years in the same area of the north Altar Valley and involves a fall and spring event. Coordinated by Arizona Game and Fish and local sportsmen groups, the event has been expanding every year. The event was designed for sportsmen to show local ranchers that they appreciate having access across private and public lands to hunt and they would help address illegal immigrant litter problems. NRPR took an active role this project year in planning and conducting the event. We provided our Three Points Veterans Memorial Park as the primary staging area, Pima County provided roll off dumpsters, extra ADA restrooms and support staff prior, during and after the event.

In spite of miserable weather conditions about 140 people turned out including scout groups, sportsmen club members, local community members, concerned individuals and other environmental group members. Over a period of 6 hours the participants spread out over several hundred square miles to look for litter. Specific "hot spots" had been previously mapped by staff and local ranches that needed special attention. The teams collected over 4- 40yd dumpsters worth of trash during the extended morning. Besides the usual clothing, water bottles, cans and other litter the group collected over 12 abandoned bicycles. The event was very successful and plans were initiated for a fall clean up in October 2006, in the next grant project year, within several days of completion of the spring 2006 event.

Canoa Ranch- this 4,700 acre historic ranch property lies just south of Green valley along the Santa Cruz River corridor. It has been a major illegal immigrant traffic route for years. Trash has been increasing at an alarming rate over the past several years along with arrests of illegal immigrants on the property and cut fences.

In the summer months of July and August of 2006, the County assigned several 10 member teams of summer work program students on the property. They conducted their primary efforts between July 10, 2006 and August 11, 2006. The teen workers put in over 1,500 hours specifically on litter removal and clean up of buildings that had been used by illegal immigrants. Two NRPR staff and two crew leaders also supported the project coordination. The clean up across the 4,700 acres was very successful and generated 5-40 yd dumpster's worth of litter. We also did some trimming of trees in the more heavily used area to improve visibility and remove hiding spots. Now three months later the impact of their work is still very apparent. They made a significant impact on public and visitor perception of the cleanliness of the ranch and we have not seen the same level of reoccurrence as in some other sites.

Results:

The overall our efforts have been mixed but from our perspective, well worth the effort and we appreciate the support of BLM. We would not have been able to accomplish the project year activities and planned work without this supplemental support. It has allowed us to know what firm resources we will have available and allowed us to utilize existing matching County funds.

Unquestionably, we have 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 we have not experienced significant new deposits of litter. In other sites, it is an ongoing issue that we must address. We 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.

Again, because we have not been looking at the project from a site specific perspective we can generalize overall results. Utilizing Canoa Ranch as an example, we have impacted all 4,700 acres and removed over 5 – 40 cu/yd dumpsters of litter. To do that we probably picked up litter on several hundred specific points, repaired 20 different fence breaks, removed trash from 4 buildings and did vegetation trimming on 15 points across the ranch.

To estimate the overall effort, NRPR staff and volunteers, we offer the following summary table:

Property	Volume of Trash	Fence Repairs	Man-hours Effort
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

This past project year NRPR has not charged the project significant funding reimbursements yet but will provide a year summary request at a later date. We have been intentionally saving project funds for some additional specialized equipment needs and funding for the intermittent project staff planned for next project year.

We would project a similar project commitment next project year.

Photo Documentation (Selected):

The initial pictures are from the March 2006 event in the Altar valley area. The dates are incorrect on some of the photos.

Altar Valley (some dates are incorrect):



Canoa Ranch:



Canoa Ranch clean up:



Rancho Seca

