

Section 1. NM/NCA Information					
Name of Unit	Type	Field Office	District	State	FY2012 Manager Name
Ironwood Forest	National Monument	Tucson	Gila	AZ	Laura Olais

Designating Authority Name	Citation	Date of Designation
Establishment of the Ironwood Forest National Monument	Proclamation 7320	June 9, 2000

Acres - TOTAL	BLM	Non-BLM
188,619	128,398	60,221

Budget - FY2012 TOTAL	1711 base	1711 one-time	Other	NM/NCA Organizational Code
\$594,822	\$496,822	\$98,000		LLAZG03000

Section 2. Resources, Objects, and Values (R/O/V)	
Name of R/O/V	% of Unit Inventoried for Presence/Absence
Drought-adapted vegetation	100
Rugged mountain ranges	100
View of Sonoran Desert	100
Ironwood trees	100
Habitat for T&E/special wildlife and plants	100
Archeological resources of scientific interest	12.1
Saguaro cacti	100
Palo verde trees	100
Nichols turks head cactus	100
Lesser long-nosed bat	100
Desert bighorn sheep	100

Section 3. Stressors	
Name of Stressor	Description
Border Issues	Human- and drug-smuggling activities
Urban Interface	Encroaching development
Mixed Ownership	>30% w/in NM is state lands or private
Invasive Plants	Buffelgrass

Section 4. Planning				
Plan Type	Date of Latest Milestone	Plan Status	Implementation Strategy?	Activity/Implementation Plans
Resource Management Plan	September 30, 2011	Proposed RMP	No	

Section 5. Staffing				
Position	Series/Grade	Full/part/seasonal	% Time Dedicated	Home office
Monument Manager	GS-0340-12	Full	80%	IFNM
Natural Resource Specialist	GS-0401-11	Full	75%	IFNM
Outdoor Recreation Planner	GS-0023-11	Full	20%	IFNM
Park Ranger	GS-0025-7	Full	50%	IFNM

Section 6. Significant Events, Activities, Accomplishments, and Stories			
Event	Date	Purpose	Story
DOD relinquishment initiated	October	Realty	US Air Force initiated relinquishment of Titan Missile Site on IFNM
Ironwood Hotshots cleanup	October	Cleanup	18-member crew removed eyesore camper shell; new volunteer source for IFNM
Waterman Mountains bighorn sheep catchment	October	Wildlife	Bighorn sheep water catchment redeveloped with Arizona Game & Fish Department (AGFD)
IFNM PRMP published	November	Management planning	IFNM Proposed RMP published, major milestone in RMP process.
Large archeological site discovered	December	Cultural	Large archeological site discovered. Not yet surveyed.
Restoration site rehab day	December	Restoration	Over 40 volunteers, including University of Arizona Soil Science students, performed physical labor towards restoring an area degraded by trespass.

Beat Back Buffelgrass Day	January	Invasive plant removal	BLM personnel and Friends of Ironwood Forest volunteers removed buffelgrass in the Cerrito Represso area. Buffelgrass is an invasive non-native that outcompetes native plants, negatively impacting habitat and natural ecological processes while increasing the rate of spread of wildfire in vegetation communities, such as those found on the IFNM, that are not adapted to fire.
Major vegetation damage from target shooting discovered	February 2, 2012	Protection of native vegetation, special status species, habitat	Damage to vegetation, including saguaros, palo verdes, ocotillos, barrel cactus, estimated value \$4,770.08
IFNM Fence survey completed	March	Resource protection	Pima County Horse Posse, other volunteers and BLM staff completed survey of fence status
Meet The Monument	April	Educational Outreach	Friends of Ironwood Forest
Outreach to Tohono O'odham	April and May	Native American and Youth Outreach	Presentations to Tohono O'odham, 2 districts and small community re: RMP, upcoming contracts, and youth hiring
NLCS Field Meeting	April	NLCS	NLCS field meeting in Tucson included field tour of IFNM
Damage to significant archeological site discovered	May	Cultural Resource Protection	Damage to significant archeological site discovered. Contract initiated to protect area in coordination with Tohono O'odham Nation.
Potentially new agave species discovered on IFNM	May 30, 2012	Vegetation, habitat, potentially rare species	An agave that appears to be significantly different, morphologically, than known species, was found on IFNM. Research permit issued to Desert Botanical Garden to collect flower and leaf parts for genetic analysis.
IFNM Junior Ranger Book	June	Educational Outreach	IFNM Jr. Ranger handbook completed.
Radio towers for IFNM messaging	July 18, 2012	Educational Outreach, Visitor Safety	Two public information radio towers installed. BLM partnered with Saguaro National Park (NPS) and Bureau of Reclamation to place the towers on their lands. The towers will broadcast information for IFNM visitors.
WO visits TFO to discuss IFNM land acquisition strategy	August 8, 2012	Realty	David Beaver (WO), Mike Werner (ASO) and Liz Petterson (LWCF) discussed IFNM acquisitions for FY2013. IFNM is #2 on the priority list for acquisitions in FY2013.

ADEQ Border Management Training	August 14, 2012	Border Issues, Resource Protection	Melissa Hayes of Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) held a training session for Border Management Taskforce Members at TFO. Training included ADEQ's new border trash website. Southern Arizona Project funds interns to clean up trash at IFNM; they will contribute to the ADEQ database.
Art Show focused on IFNM	September 8, 2012	Educational Outreach	Presentation of the flora and fauna of the IFNM as part of a month-long showing of photos of IFNM landscapes in Western National Parks Association visitor center gallery.
Acting BLM Director tours IFNM	September 28, 2012	VIP, Management	Acting BLM Director toured the IFNM and was briefed on the RMP and the 8 protests thereof. Mike Pool got a first-hand look at some of the issues facing the IFNM: shooting of saguaros, border impacts, vandalism, invasive buffelgrass, damage caused by off-highway vehicles, mixed land ownership and the urban interface.
National Public Lands Day Buffelgrass Removal	September 29, 2012	Invasive plant removal	Approximately 50 volunteers pulled invasive buffelgrass between Saguaro National Park West and IFNM East. Event organized by Friends of Ironwood Forest, included volunteers from Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center and University of Arizona. Clearing this area of buffelgrass is a proactive action, designed to decrease seed dispersal onto federally-administered lands.

Section 7. Science Projects (BLM and External)					
Project Name	Project Description	Project's Key Words	Principal Investigator	Project's Status	BLM's Contributed Funds (can be \$0 or greater)
Potential new species of agave found near Watermans on IFNM	Nondestructive collection of plant parts and genetic analysis of an agave		Wendy Burroughs/Desert Botanical Garden	Research In Progress	\$0

Ethnography of human- and drug-smuggling in borderlands	Ethnography based on traces left by smuggling activity		Scott Warren/Arizona State University	Report Drafting	\$0
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**Section 8. Manager's Corner**

Border-related issues: Human and drug smuggling activity on the IFNM has an enormous effect on day-to-day operations and influences everything done on the IFNM. The IFNM is on a highly traveled corridor for undocumented immigrants, who travel on foot, bicycles, and in vehicles. While the area has historically seen less drug trafficking than in other surrounding areas, this activity has been continually increasing in the IFNM since 2010. This is of great concern to BLM because of the increased violence and aggressive behavior typically associated with drug smuggling. Since 2011, our work and presence on the IFNM has been greatly hampered by the resulting office policy that all non-law enforcement BLM employees go in pairs when working in the IFNM. This has particularly limited coverage on weekends when visitation is greatest. We currently employ only one park ranger and he cannot work in the IFNM alone. We continually work around this problem with volunteers or other accompaniment but overall it does lessen our effectiveness on the IFNM.

Money provided through the Southern Arizona Project has allowed BLM to hire 2 full-time Student Conservation Associates for the last several years. These SCAs spend nearly 100% of their time searching for, inventorying, monitoring, and cleaning up trash on the IFNM related to illegal human smuggling. Their work is invaluable to us, as attested by the fact that even with this amount of labor solely dedicated to the UDM trash problem, we are always finding more. Very few layup sites have been found since 2010, but smaller smuggling trash sites are found throughout the monument on a continuing basis. We rely heavily on the work of SCAs to accomplish our mission.

Public messaging and Educational Outreach: Important messaging to the public was accomplished this fiscal year, such as the installation of 6 permanent signs for public safety, and the publication and distribution of an updated and revised IFNM glossy fact sheet. Docents presented information about the IFNM in various Tucson communities and to Boy Scouts of America troop directors.