

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Agua Fria National Monument



BLM National Landscape Conservation System
FY 2010 Annual Manager's Report

Agua Fria National Monument
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**Agua Fria National Monument
Arizona**

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The Agua Fria National Monument is a part of the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System, the mission of which is to conserve, protect and restore nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological and scientific values for present and future generations of Americans.



**United States Department of the Interior
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

– NATIONAL LANDSCAPE CONSERVATION SYSTEM –

FY 2010 ANNUAL MANAGER’S REPORT

I. Introduction

- This annual report encapsulates the efforts of the Agua Fria National Monument’s staff and its partners throughout Fiscal Year 2010 (October 1, 2009 – September 30, 2010).

- Unit Name: Agua Fria National Monument
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****Primary Mission: Protect and sustain the extraordinary combination of cultural, natural, and scientific resources within the high desert grasslands, canyons, and streams of the Monument. To the extent consistent with resource protection, provide opportunities for scientific research, public education, interpretation, and other compatible activities.*

- Manager: Jayson Barangan (Acting Agua Fria National Monument Manager)
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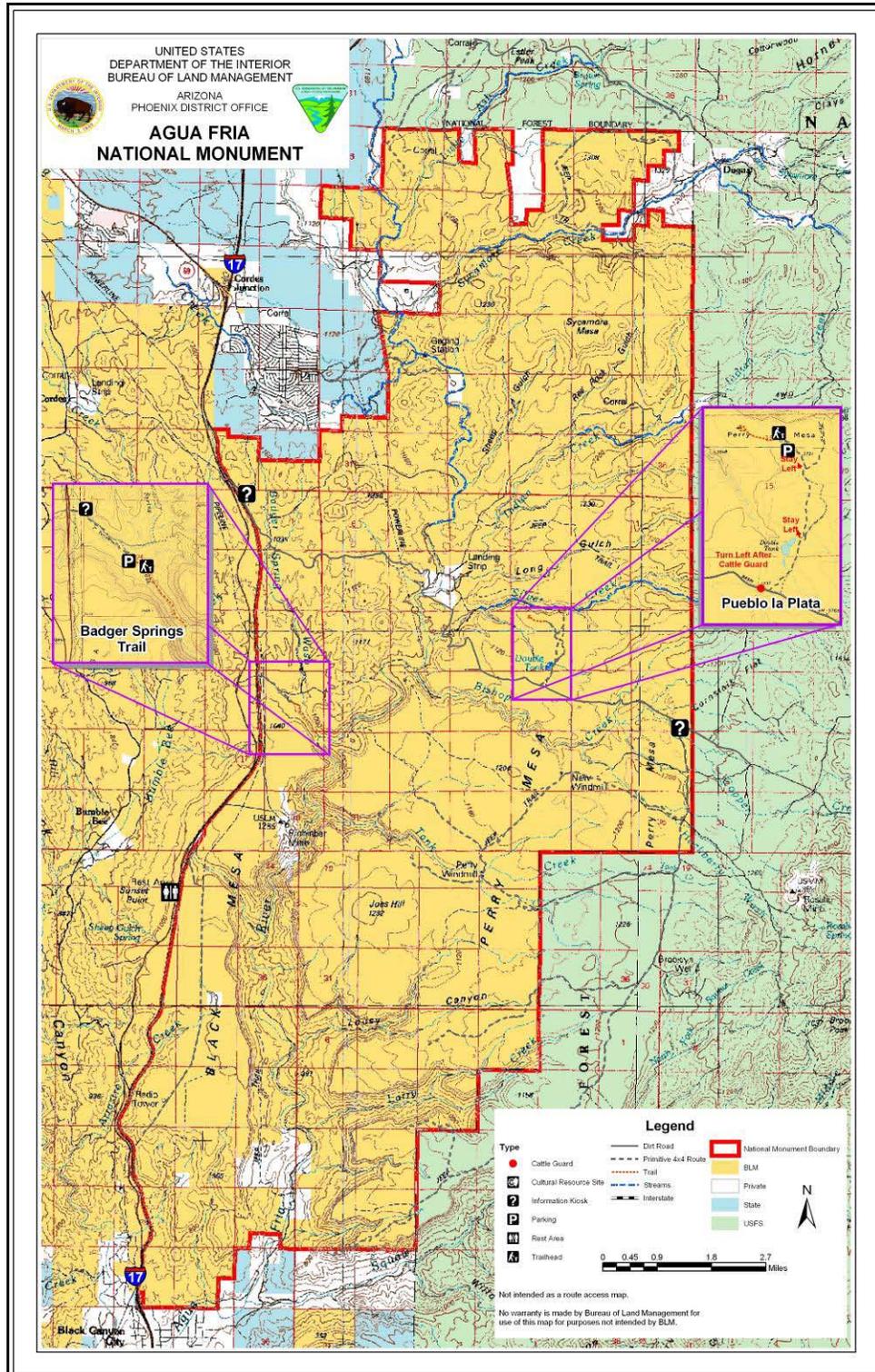
- Established: Proclamation 7263, January 11, 2000
 - ESTABLISHMENT OF THE AGUA FRIA NATIONAL MONUMENT BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA UNDER THE ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906
 - The 70,900-acre Agua Fria National Monument, is the home of the prehistoric Perry Mesa Tradition people, and is one of the most significant natural and cultural landscapes in the American Southwest. The Monument includes all of the BLM-administered public lands that make up the Perry Mesa Archaeological District listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The District was established to recognize and protect the particularly well-preserved system of prehistoric communities that were inhabited between A.D. 1250 and 1450. The approximately 50,000-acre Archaeological District is the largest prehistoric district in the nation.



The Monument, part of the BLM’s National Landscape Conservation System, is located 40 miles north of Phoenix. The public lands within the Phoenix District, which includes the Agua Fria and Sonoran Desert National Monuments, are the BLM’s most intensely urbanized. The Monument and surrounding Sonoran desert continue to experience the effects of long-term drought which is dramatically impacting vegetation communities and wildlife populations.

- Acreage: 70, 900 acres – about 110 square miles

- Annual visitation: Approximately 60,000 visitors
- Map of Agua Fria National Monument:



II. Land Use Planning

- **Agua Fria National Monument Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, April 22, 2010**

- The Agua Fria National Monument Resource Management Plan Implementation Strategy was developed in FY2010. Monument staff attended an RMP Implementation workshop wherein goals and objectives for both natural and heritage resource conditions were identified. Demands anticipated from the monument's various users were addressed. Monument priorities were established and budget considerations were identified as well.

- **Travel Management Plan for the Agua Fria National Monument, April 22, 2010**

- Roads within Agua Fria National Monument designated as open for motorized travel were numbered and signed. New aluminum signs illustrated with the AFNM logo were installed at eight strategic locations outside of the three main portal areas (Badger Springs Road, Bloody Basin Road, and EZ Ranch Road) to augment previous delineation of the monument's boundaries. A wide ranging effort to mark all routes designated as closed was initiated and prioritized based on proximity to cultural and /or biological resources exhibiting high risk potential for impact; the need for physical barriers became apparent through evidence of continued vehicular traffic on marked, closed routes. Plans are underway for the installation of physical barriers to prevent vehicular entry at several key locations within the monument.



III. Protecting America's Natural Resources

- **Notable Natural Resources**

- The Agua Fria National Monument was established in part, because of its rich and diverse ecosystems, which support an abundance of wildlife, including many special status species. Within the monument is an expansive mosaic of semi-desert grasslands, cut by ribbons of valuable riparian forest. Perennial desert grasslands within the monument are critical fawning grounds for pronghorn antelope and important habitat for upland birds, as well as many other wildlife species.



Riparian areas are supported by perennial streams which feed pools of water that persist year-round. These pools are designated as critical habitat for many native fish, including the endangered Gila Chub. Thick stands of willow, cottonwood, ash, and sycamore trees provide nesting and foraging habitat for a multitude of birds. Because of these natural resource values, the Audubon society has designated Important Bird Areas along sections of the Agua Fria National Monument. Additionally, the Agua Fria River has been identified as suitable as “Wild and Scenic” under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.

- A vast effort in partnership with the Rio Salado Audubon Society and Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument to conduct yellow-billed cuckoo surveys occurred in 2010. Thirteen areas were surveyed multiple times throughout the nesting season. All locations were found to contain yellow-billed cuckoos.

Endangered fish populations continue to thrive in areas unaffected by the Cave Creek Complex Fire. Larry and Lousy Canyons support an abundance of Gila chubs and Gila topminnows. Fish populations and critical habitat in Silver Creek have begun to stabilize following the fire in 2005. Efforts to monitor fish populations are ongoing.

Multiple fires, both prescribed and natural, have improved resource conditions for wildlife. Juniper thinning and slash pile burning treatments were conducted to improve pronghorn movement corridors. Broadcast burning of approximately 3000 acres of upper grasslands were used to improve rangeland health and wildlife habitat.

- **Land Health Assessments**

- Eighty percent of the livestock grazing allotments and 48,388 acres in the Monument have been assessed in reference to the Arizona Standards for Rangeland Health Evaluation.
- Of the allotments that have been assessed, all are meeting or making significant progress towards meeting Standards 1 and 3 for Rangeland Health in upland areas. 67% of allotments are meeting or making significant progress towards meeting Standard 2 for Rangeland Health in riparian areas. The majority of riparian areas in the Cordes, Box Bar, and EZ Ranch allotments currently are not meeting Standard 2. The Cordes allotment riparian areas are excluded from grazing use, the Box Bar allotment riparian pastures are winter season grazing only, and EZ Ranch is still being assessed. The purpose of these measures is to ensure progress towards meeting Standard 2 in these allotments.



- One grazing allotment, approximately 30,000 acres, remains in livestock grazing nonuse following the June 2007 Cave Creek Fire which burned much of the surrounding area. With the finalization of the Monument resource management plan in 2010, the BLM is currently implementing non-growing (winter) season grazing use for all riparian pastures within the Monument, which will lead to significant improvement in the riparian areas.

- **Inventory Efforts**

- Work to inventory natural and heritage resources continues to be done by BLM staff and increasingly through partnerships with universities, museums, botanic gardens, members of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, Arizona Site Stewards, Arizona Game and Fish Department, and local volunteers. The Desert Botanical Garden has continued to collect data for the Floristic Study on the monument and has completed analysis for the fire rehabilitation and grassland restoration study.
- In partnership with Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, the Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership, and the University of Arizona, the third annual inventory of perennial water within the Agua Fria River was conducted. Several inventory teams mapped 28 miles of the Agua Fria River during the driest part of the year and recorded both wet and dry areas.
- The Agua Fria National Monument is unique among BLM Arizona monuments in that its designation included a reserved water right, and requires the BLM to quantify and reserve the necessary water claim through Arizona’s water adjudication process. The need to quantify and reserve sufficient water rights for the Monument remains a pressing concern as the drought continues, and as population growth and ground water use around and upstream of the Monument increases. Also, the free-flowing nature of the Agua Fria River and its tributaries is an important aspect of its suitability for designation as a Wild and Scenic River.



The BLM Phoenix District began an initiative to quantify the monument’s water budget. This initiative, the Intra-Basin Water Management Project (IBWMP), capitalizes on the interest of stakeholders through setting up a framework for collective decision making in a workgroup structure. Workgroups consider benefits to wildlife, habitat, stream water quality and quantity, as well as aesthetic resource values in the identification of key issue areas for the basin.

The primary objectives guiding the development of the IBWMP have been to:

- Provide capabilities for assessing hydrologic and institutional water availability/reliability for management of the AFNM within the framework of a priority-based BLM water rights initiative.
- Provide baseline data to develop a flexible, generalized computer model for simulating the complexities of surface water management.

The current Request for Proposal for the IBWMP comprises four tasks:

- Surface Water Data Collection
- Assess Existing and Future Potential Groundwater Monitoring Well Locations
- Conduct Evapotranspiration Study
- Prepare Summary Report

- **Restoration Efforts**

- Grasslands Restoration: The Bureau of Land Management is one of four agencies focused on the conservation of grassland habitat in Central Arizona. With key portions of grassland habitat occurring on the Agua Fria National Monument, staff has worked in conjunction with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Prescott and Tonto National Forests, and the Natural Resources Conservation Service to develop the “Central Arizona Grasslands Strategy.” This strategy provides a framework for multiagency projects that benefit grassland habitat restoration on a landscape scale and across jurisdictional boundaries. Based on these efforts, the Central Arizona grasslands have also become a focal area for the Healthy Landscapes Initiative.

The majority of the Monument’s restoration projects are focused on improving wildlife habitat and maintaining movement corridors for pronghorn antelope. A portion of this work is accomplished through BLM’s fuels program in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. In FY 2010, we completed over 600 acres of juniper thinning and pile burning in the area of Sycamore Mesa to help restore connectivity between grassland habitats utilized by pronghorn. An additional 440 acres were treated on in the same area with broadcast burning. On Perry Mesa, 4300 acres were treated with broadcast burning. These actions improved habitat for wildlife such as pronghorn by reducing woody species encroachment and improving forage quality and quantity within the grassland habitat of the Agua Fria National Monument.

- Post-Fire Restoration: The post-fire vegetation change and efficacy of ecological restoration of semi-arid grasslands study on Black Mesa was completed in 2010. The Desert Botanical Garden (DBG) compiled information from multiple sources on historical land uses practices and trends in vegetation changes (e.g., trends in use by domestic livestock; wildfire) to assist with future land use decisions; established monitoring transects and documented vegetation composition in burned and unburned areas; created a GIS database with site locations and

associated data; and completed the analysis of relationships between perennial grasses and their variables, including substrate condition and cover of the invasive stock, *Brassica nigra*. Approximately 8,000 acres of the Monument was monitored as part of the post-fire vegetation study. The project yields useful information for the restoration of native vegetation in the Monument and other semi-arid grasslands in the Southwest.

- Biological Resources: The condition of native fish populations has remained stable. The endangered Gila chub and Gila topminnow populations continue to thrive in Lousy Canyon, as well as in the tributary of Larry Creek. Endangered desert pupfish were introduced into both of these areas in the spring of 2006; however, they do not appear to have established a self-sustaining population and additional stocking may be required. Drought conditions and sedimentation following the 2005 Cave Creek Complex fire have continued to stress the endangered Gila chub populations in Silver Creek and Indian Creek; perennial pools provide relief for these populations.

Management actions were also taken in FY10 to protect riparian habitat along portions of the Agua Fria River and Silver Creek. The vehicle barrier in the Agua Fria River was repaired following a large flood event that incurred substantial damage to the structure. These actions protect habitat used each summer for breeding and nesting by the Western yellow-billed cuckoo, a federal candidate for listing; as well as improve habitat conditions for native fish such as the longfin dace.

IV. Protecting America's Heritage Resources

- **Notable Heritage Resources**

- The Agua Fria National Monument contains a rich kaleidoscope of human history. Over 450 distinct Native American structures have been identified within the monument; some of the larger pueblos indicate large community settlement, containing more than 100 rooms. Petroglyphs are peppered across the landscape, concentrated in close proximity to the numerous puebloan ruins, which were built between 1250 and 1450 A.D., when several thousand Native Americans, known as the Perry Mesa Tradition, inhabited the region. Numerous ruins of agricultural terraces and irrigation devices indicate that farming was widespread during this period. Other historical entities that occur within the monument include 19th century mining features, as well as Basque sheep camps.



The free-flowing Agua Fria River and its tributaries, which virtually bisects the monument is a notable heritage resource and is eligible for designation under the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. Separated by Interstate 17, the monument lies in close proximity to the Black Canyon National Recreation Trail, a network of hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian trails; there have been preliminary discussions about the possibility for linkage of the Black Canyon Trail to the monument at the Badger Springs portal.

- The condition trend remained stable for cultural resources, with the exception of the vandalism described below. The monument's park ranger, along with volunteers from the Arizona Site Stewardship Program and Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument conducted regular patrols to monitor the condition of more than 50 archaeological sites and features. Efforts were focused on large, conspicuous and accessible sites most vulnerable to vandalism and other types of disturbance. One volunteer patrolled the monument extensively throughout the year, providing BLM staff with weekly reports of sites found and their general condition; this volunteer monitored the condition of cultural features in heavily used areas, as well remote areas with greater risk for vandalism.

Vandalism occurred at a rock art site situated near the community of Cordes Junction, wherein petroglyphs were spray painted with graffiti. The incident received considerable media coverage and the BLM Phoenix District offered a \$2500 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the perpetrator(s). No arrests have been made to date.



In hopes of preventing or limiting future vandalism, a new risk/ratio criteria system is being developed to identify high risk archaeological sites. Once identified, these high risk sites would receive increased monitoring by the Arizona Site Stewards and BLM staff. Public education regarding rock art and cultural resources are also planned with the goal of increasing public awareness of the importance of these sites and the laws protecting them.

We remain concerned about potential for damage to cultural resources associated with increasing levels of unauthorized off-highway vehicular traffic and continued recreational target shooting, both of which are violations of resource management plan objectives.

- **Inventory Efforts**

- Work to inventory heritage resources continues to be done by BLM staff and increasingly through partnerships with universities, museums, botanic gardens, members of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, Arizona Site

Stewards, and local volunteers. Inventory efforts in FY 2010 were less than previous years. In conjunction with the risk/ratio criteria being developed, a survey plan is also in development to better manage and document survey inventories in the future.

With the valuable assistance of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, six prehistoric sites on the monument's northernmost tip of Perry Mesa were recorded. The sites were identified last spring during an archaeological inventory of the area just north of Silver Creek in the first phase of the multi-year Long Gulch Mesa Archaeological Inventory Project. Preliminary analysis suggests that the mesa top was used only for a brief period of time, perhaps between A. D. 1350 to 1375. Notably absent are the extensive agricultural terraces found to the south, but several relict agave "gardens" and numerous other "garden-like" features illustrate agriculture as the primary use at this part of the mesa prior to ranching. The most substantial temporary residential feature recorded was a five or six room structure. Unfortunately, like many of the other prehistoric sites on the monument, it did not escape the looters' shovel.



An informal archaeological reconnaissance was conducted on the Monument at the head of Lousy Canyon. The last archaeological surveys of this particular area took place more than 35 years ago. Not comprehensive in their scope, the researchers back then recorded few sites. Two petroglyph panels were found, likely made during the archaic period. In Arizona, the archaic period begins around 6500 B.C. and ends about A.D. 300. This pre-agriculture and pre-ceramic era is characterized by mobility and hunting and gathering, with a focus on smaller game animals. Archaic hunters used the atlatl (spear-thrower) and darts; the bow and arrow came later. The site containing the three animal-like figures is associated with a fairly large and dense scatter of thousands waste flakes from stone tool production. Much of the stone used by the toolmakers appears to be from non-local sources. That particular quality combined with a near absence of pottery (only two small pieces were observed) usually distinguishes Archaic period stone tool production areas from later tool production areas, which tend to have much less variety of stone material. Among the more prominent sites of the later Perry Mesa Tradition (A.D 1250 – 1425), almost no areas of stone tool production exist without an equal or even greater amount of broken pottery.

- **Restoration Efforts**

- Old Teskey Well: Restoration and stabilization efforts were conducted at the Old Teskey Well site. These efforts were undertaken by the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument and. Their activities included the removal of trash from the well, stabilization of the well's foundation, and capping the well for public safety.

- Riverbend Rock Art Site Vandalism: Efforts are currently underway to determine the best process to safely remove the paint, while limiting impact to the rock art itself. Clean up efforts will be in partnership with Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument and the Deer Valley Rock Art Center (ASU).

- **Future Goals**

- The following outline encompasses future goals for AFNM's cultural resource program:
 - Promote a partnership with Native American Tribes that have a cultural affiliation to the monument. This partnership would introduce a tribal voice and view, as well as a modern indigenous face to cultural resources within the monument. One of the most obvious examples would be the addition of a tribal voice to monument interpretation and public outreach projects. This partnership would be based on honest and heartfelt dialogue with the tribes, wherein we would seek their contribution.
 - Establish a procedure to establish a baseline on known and newly identified sites.
 - Produce a Rock Art binder, containing drawing, pictures of known rock art in the monument, for distribution to the tribes. This will allow tribal members unable to travel, the ability to see and identify rock art that occurs within the monument.
 - Establish a Risk/Ratio criteria system to assist in identifying high risk cultural resource sites and apply appropriate measure to prevent or limit impacts to the sites.
 - Develop a working and ongoing partnership with Arizona Game and Fish, as the new owners of the Horse Shoe Ranch, to develop a mutual public outreach program, highlighting the relationship between the native peoples and the flora and fauna.
 - Increase the participation of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, through managed cultural resource program.
 - Increase the number of sites monitored within the monument by the Arizona Site Stewards.
 - Increase public outreach concerning the cultural resources within the monument, through presentations at statewide conferences and conventions and participation in Arizona Archaeology Month.
 - Work with the Cordes Lakes community to provide education on cultural/heritage tourism stressing the benefits to the community.
 - Encourage professional publications regarding the monument every two years.
 - Produce a GIS and Geodatabase for cultural resources in the monument.

V. Providing Recreation and Visitor Experiences

- **Overview:** Visitation to Agua Fria National Monument was approximately 60,000 people in FY 2010, an increase of 12,000 visitors from what was reported in FY2009. Newly installed traffic counters have been a boon in terms of monitoring for visitor use within the monument, contributing to increased ability to report more accurate figures and increased ability in identifying trend changes in recreational use patterns.

Historically, recreation was dominated by hunters camping within the monument during open hunting periods for myriad game species. The most recent trend in visitation has been geared toward the monument's rich cultural resources; an increase in new, non-hunting recreationalists seeking to explore the area's cultural sites has been observed. Several areas have been identified wherein repeat visits are commonplace, primarily owing to day use hiking, bird watching, and picnicking. Overnight camping by equestrian users is also a very popular activity. We can attribute this heightened visitation to the increase in population of people who live in close proximity to the monument, as well as increasing land use restrictions in other areas surrounding metropolitan Phoenix.

- **Facilities, Construction, and Maintenance**
 - The condition of the Monument's few constructed facilities and assets is good. Vandalism of improvements continues, but was less than in previous years with no permanent destruction or theft of constructed assets. The Annual Maintenance Operating Cost (AMOC) pilot program, initiated in the previous fiscal year, continued in FY 2010 to document costs and personnel hours to maintain facilities, assets and roads.
 - **Construction:**
 - None.
 - **Maintenance:** Annual maintenance is limited. Road maintenance consists of grading six miles of road, which is adequate, and emergency repairs to the monument's few constructed assets. Efforts to stabilize visitor areas and roads to prevent resource impacts are ongoing.
 - Constructed Assets:
 - ❖ Vault Toilets: The Monument has two vault toilets, one at Badger Springs Wash and the other at Silver Creek on the Bloody Basin Road. Decorative rock barriers around the restroom buildings were constructed to deter vehicular traffic. The restroom facilities are serviced regularly by the park ranger, and maintained in good condition.

- ❖ Kiosks: In FY 2010, visitor information for the monument was enhanced throughout. Robust, vandal-resistant informational kiosks were installed in two locations providing readily available and refined interpretation of the monument's resources. A new, two-panel kiosk outfitted with brochure holders was installed near the restroom situated in close proximity to the Badger Springs entrance. The same type of two-panel kiosk was installed to replace the previous structure at the western entrance of Bloody Basin Road. The kiosks are also outfitted with a heavy lexan, shatter-proof panel. It is noteworthy to report that the panels are indeed shatter-proof, evident in the fact that the Badger Springs restroom kiosk was shot at 11 times in one assault without serious damage.

At present, Agua Fria National Monument now has a total of five informational kiosks. In addition to the two described above, the others are located at the Badger Springs exit off of Interstate 17, the eastern entrance of Bloody Basin Road, and the Cordes Lakes "Riverbend" area.

- ❖ Trailhead: The Badger Springs trailhead access includes some of the most important constructed assets in the Monument for public visitation and resource protection. The Badger Springs site and surrounding area include the following amenities: trailhead, vault toilets, interpretive kiosk, portal sign, and two parking lots. The portal and trailhead signs were replaced in FY 2010 owing to weather related wear and tear.

The interpretive cultural site sign at the La Plata trailhead suffered from severe weather related wear and tear and was replaced in FY2010.

Continued maintenance of the parking lots for the monument's trailheads is an ongoing annual necessity.

- Roads:

- ❖ All roads in the monument are dirt roads. Most are very rough; suitable only for vehicles with high clearance and, in many cases, preferably outfitted with four-wheel drive. During periods of the year with storms and precipitation, many roads are not passable owing to mud or flooding. Unless such road conditions contribute to resource impacts, these rough roads actually deter vehicular traffic to delicate natural



resources and thereby contribute to the backcountry experience that characterizes BLM's NLCS units. Generally, road maintenance is conducted to address only significant safety and resource protection concerns.

The Badger Springs Road and its associated parking lots remain subject to frequent flooding owing to its low elevation. This road is the primary access to a popular recreation trail that runs through Badger Springs Wash; during wet periods, flooding becomes a concern as the road cannot accommodate vehicles lacking four-wheel drive. Two areas along the road that were most vulnerable to flooding were stabilized in 2010.

The Bloody Basin Road is the most heavily used road in the monument. During dry periods, the first five miles of this road are passable in a passenger car, but a four-wheel drive vehicle with high clearance is recommended for the rest of its entirety. Maintenance work on the road is conducted according to an approved schedule. Yavapai County maintains approximately five miles of Bloody Basin Road, and the BLM maintains an additional four miles annually.

- Backlog of Deferred Maintenance:
 - ❖ No change since 2006. Condition assessments were done on facilities in the monument, and are in progress for all roads.
- **Signage:** A sign plan was completed for the Monument. BLM will seek funding to complete and implement it.
 - Bloody Basin Road entrance: The Monument has one BLM NLCS landscape-style portal sign situated near the main entrance of Bloody Basin Road. In previous years, the portal sign had deteriorated from weather related wear-and-tear, as well as through vandalism; additionally, the associated BLM logo signs were stolen. To mitigate for this, new portal signs were installed in 2010 near the west and east entrances of Bloody Basin Road.
 - Badger Springs entrance: The only other portal sign on the monument is situated near the Badger Springs entrance, which was replaced in 2010 owing to weather related wear-and-tear.
 - Target Shooting Signs: As identified in the Agua Fria National Monument Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, efforts to eliminate target shooting within the AFNM were implemented in FY2010. Ten "No Target Shooting" signs were installed at key access locations.

- Additional Needs and Signs: Portal signs are needed for the monument entrances near the community of Cordes Junction, as well as for Dugas Road entrance, situated north within the adjacent Prescott National Forest.

- **Comprehensive Travel and Transportation Management**

- The primary modes of recreation-based travel within the monument include off-highway vehicular, pedestrian, and equestrian traffic.

Following finalization and approval of the monument’s resource management plan and its associated travel management plan in April of 2010, the BLM completed signing of roads within the monument. All roads designated as open or closed for use by motorized vehicles were assigned a unique route number.

In its initial phase of travel management implementation, the primary challenges faced by the monument include road damage by irresponsible off-highway vehicular traffic and public disregard for road closure signage. A need to physically close certain roads has been identified and plans are underway to install barriers to prevent vehicular access to those roads.

- **Recreation Fee Program:**

- The Agua Fria National Monument does not have a recreation fee program. Currently, no planning for such a program is anticipated.

VI. Your Recovery Dollars At Work

- There were no Agua Fria National Monument projects funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act in FY2010.

VII. Engaging Youth in America’s Great Outdoors

- The Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) successfully obtained youth initiative funding from the National Landscape Conservation System as part of the “Hands on the Land” program. The program is intended to give students an opportunity to learn in America’s largest field classroom: Federally owned public lands. It has been shown that using the environment not only increases student achievement but also helps students develop lifelong learning skills and a greater sense of respect and responsibility to public lands.

In 2010 the Agua Fria National Monument received Youth Incentive funding to develop a partnership with the American Indian Science and Engineering Society (AISES) and conduct a 10-week Summer Intern Program for postsecondary students during the summers of 2010 - 2015. The purpose of the program is to provide students with hands-on work experience opportunities to gain relevant skills and knowledge, to prepare for their transition to the workplace, to explore career options, and to develop professional networks. Benefits include fostering human resource diversity within the BLM and

opportunities to recruit participating students into their workforce. AISES administers the 10-week summer internship program which would be funded by the BLM.

- There were multiple youth-focused projects on the Agua Fria National Monument. Through a partnership with the Audubon Society, as part of “Hands on the Land”, a multitude of youths participated in yellow-billed cuckoo surveys. Participants spent the summer in the Agua Fria River and its tributaries surveying for yellow-billed cuckoos and collecting data on multiple habitat components.
- In FY 2010, the BLM and Agua Fria National Monument initiated the River Pathways Project with the Audubon Society. With Youth Incentive and “Hands on the Land” funding, Audubon experts will provide training for the high school students on bird and habitat survey techniques. These experts will lead students on surveys and habitat improvement projects, such as removal of invasive exotic plants, planting native vegetation, fencing sensitive areas, and rehabilitating closed roads. This project is in its infancy but is expected to grow in FY 2011. To date, 80 hours have been spent with an Audubon Center staff member and a youth for development of the River Pathways project, as well as associated training.
- In the summer of 2010, staff from the National Training Center, Washington Office and Agua Fria National Monument conducted a field training exercise at the Monument. The exercise is the culmination of a one-week orientation for the BLM's Student Career Employment Program (SCEP) students. The day-long exercise gave students the opportunity to address multiple-use management issues and an introduction to the resource planning process. Each student participated as a member of an interdisciplinary team and given a mock scenario using the monument's real-world resources and issues. The latter part of the day was spent at the Horseshoe Ranch where student teams developed management alternatives and presented their preferred alternative at a mock public meeting. The field course is one of several national training exercises that have been conducted on the monument, supporting the effort to expand the monument's research and education opportunities.
- Through an assistance agreement, BLM provided funding for one AISES intern during the summer of 2010. Recruitment targeted American Indian college students with current AISES membership. Project work assigned included riparian monitoring, yellow bill cuckoo bird surveys, and assisting with the Table Mesa recreation area site designs. The student worked 40 hours a week in the Phoenix District Office and successfully completed the 10 week internship. Weekly updates and performance reviews were submitted to AISES program officers. At the end of the 10 week session, a representative of AISES, an AFNM staff member, the student intern and his family attended a close out session wherein the internship's results were evaluated. Additionally, the close out session served as an opportunity to discuss ways to improve the program for future internships.

VIII. Partnership and Volunteer Efforts

- **Overview:** The Agua Fria National Monument successfully utilizes volunteers and partnerships to support the monument's mission: protecting natural and heritage resources, engaging local communities, and providing youth opportunities. Partner and volunteer activities provide assistance in community outreach, visitor information, cultural site monitoring and protection, historical research, data collection, and outdoor education. The AFNM and its partners are working together around a shared vision to increase mutual interests, as well as to successfully reach mutual goals.

- **Volunteer Accomplishments**
 - Pronghorn Partnership: In FY 2010, between 40 and 60 volunteers participated in fence projects that improved wildlife habitat within the Monument, particularly for pronghorn antelope. Approximately 400 volunteer hours were utilized for this effort, valued at \$8,430.00. Volunteers included individuals from the Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona State University, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Boy Scouts, Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, local ranchers, and BLM staff. The teams focus on the mesas in the northern part of the Monument, which comprise native grasslands and are home to a variety of wildlife species. The area serves as a key migration corridor that connects grassland habitat north of the Monument.

 - The Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument Partnership: The Friends contributed 4,437 volunteer hours in 2010. The total monetary value of these hours is \$92,511.45. The Friends project to care for and interpret the historic Teskey home site has been ongoing and has the added benefit of facilitating local community understanding of the Monument. Since this effort began, a reduction of illegal dumping in areas of close proximity to the site wherein dumping was previously a rampant activity, has been observed.

 - Community Volunteers: The monument has benefited from the efforts of ten volunteers from local communities, all of whom assisted with the park ranger's large scope of duties (maintenance, public contact/education, and monitoring). One of these volunteers has been providing assistance on the monument for well over five years. As the monument is staffed with only one park ranger, volunteer contributions have made a significant impact with regards to stewardship over these lands. The volunteers have been an invaluable resource in terms of providing a connection to the local communities and improving understanding of the monument's purpose and its special resource values.



- **Partnership Accomplishments**

| Agua Fria National Monument Fiscal Year 2010 Partnership Accomplishments | | | | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Partner(s) | Project Name and Description | Accomplishments | Monetary and In-Kind Contributions | |
| | | | BLM | Partner |
| Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument | Various Projects throughout the year | Trash pickups, outreach activities, interpretive signs, annual Friends group meeting, wet-dry mapping, integrated weed management planning, archeological hikes, oral histories, cultural resources protection and outreach efforts, site protection and documentation | N/A | \$92,511.45 |
| American Indian Science and Engineering Society | AFNM Youth Incentive Project | 10 week summer internship program | \$12,300.00 | \$10,000.00 |
| Arizona Site Stewards | Site Stewardship Program | Assisted with monitoring and protecting cultural sites | N/A | \$7,735.35 |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department | Healthy Lands Initiative Project in the Central Arizona Highlands | Provided guidance for and development of wildlife waters on the Cross Y, 2Y and Sycamore allotments | \$20,000.00 | \$25,000.00 |
| Arizona Game and Fish Department, Prescott National Forest, Tonto National Forest | Central Arizona Grassland Management Strategy | Integrated management strategy for conservation and restoration of grassland ecosystems and associated pronghorn habitat. | N/A | N/A |
| Audubon Society | River Pathways Project (Youth Incentive and Hands on the Land Projects) | Riparian monitoring, bird surveys, trash clean ups, outreach and education programs | \$250,000.00 | \$50,000.00 |
| Totals (\$) | | | \$282,300.00 | \$185,246.80 |

- Invasive Weed Partnership: In January 2010, a final draft of an Integrated Weed Management Plan (IWMP) was submitted to the BLM by the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument and the Agua Fria Open Space Alliance. The Phoenix District has developed strategic approach to managing invasive plant species, using a variety of treatments methods. BLM staff, Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, and other volunteers continues efforts to control invasive plant species occurring on the Monument. New tamarisk populations have been documented on the Agua Fria River and tributaries within the Monument. Other invasive weed species such as Malta Star Thistle, Black Mustard, Sahara Mustard, and non-native annual grass species have been documented on the Monument as well. Additional weed inventories are planned for 2010 followed by treatments to remove and eradicate invasive plant populations.
- Central Arizona Grassland Management Strategy: Monument staff worked collaboratively with the Prescott and Tonto National Forests, and the Arizona Department of Game and Fish to develop an integrated management strategy for conservation and restoration of grassland ecosystems and associated pronghorn

habitat in central Arizona. This coordinated approach will help facilitate the implementation of landscape level habitat projects, akin to the Healthy Landscapes initiative, by maximizing the use of available resources.

- Collaborative efforts with Local government: Monument manager and staff worked closely with cooperating agencies that administer nearby lands or have special expertise in resource management. These local and government entities include the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Yavapai County, Tonto National Forest, Prescott National Forest, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Yavapai Prescott Tribe, and local communities including Black Canyon City, Cordes Junction, and Mayer, Arizona.

IX. Science

- **Overview:** The BLM defines “science” broadly, including basic and applied research in natural and social science, as well as inventory and monitoring. The AFNM encompasses a wide variety of objects that pique scientific interest; these include both cultural and biological objects. Science is critical to understanding and managing these resources. Within the AFNM, at least 450 cultural sites are known. Archeological features include, but not limited to: dwellings, racetracks, agricultural terraces, lithic and ceramic scatters, and a seemingly unending abundance of petroglyphs. The AFNM also contains diverse ecosystems which are scientifically important. These ecosystems include semi-arid grasslands which are cut by ribbons of riparian forests. Upland sites are home to species of high priority for conservation, such as pronghorn antelope and upland bird species. Riparian areas within the AFNM serves as perennial sources of water which support the endangered Gila chub and Gila topminnow, the yellow billed cuckoo (a candidate species for listing under the ESA), and a plethora of other riparian obligate species. There is great potential to expand the knowledge of scientific interests and the possible research opportunities within the monument are innumerable.

The AFNM exists for the purposes of protecting and understanding the unique objects and characteristics that comprise it. Several specific science needs, opportunities, and questions have been identified by BLM staff and AFNM stakeholders, partners, as well as current/past scientific researches. In response to these needs, a draft science plan was developed in conjunction with monument staff, other BLM staff, other agency staff, and monument stakeholders throughout the scientific community. This plan sets forth goals, requirements, and processes for continued scientific inquiry and research within the AFNM. Finalization of this plan is anticipated to occur in FY 2011. Specific goals related to science for the monument include:

- Establishing the AFNM as a world-class scientific research station, promoting science that both informs management decisions and explores general scientific inquiry.
- Implementing a standard permitting process for research that encourages excellent research design, execution, and communication of scientific findings both internally and externally.

- Promoting innovative approaches to collaboration with partners and stakeholders.
- Establishing greater capacity to solicit investment in scientific research and communication.

- **Science Efforts**

| Agua Fria National Monument Fiscal Year 2010 Science Efforts | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Project Name and Description | Scientific Discipline | Research Contributor/ Collaborator | Land Management Applications | Products | Monetary and In-Kind Contributions | |
| | | | | | BLM | Partner |
| Legacies on the Landscape Project: Study the effects of the natural environment on the prehistoric human populations, and the long-term effects of the prehistoric settlements on the modern environment. | Archeology and Ecology | Arizona State University and the Desert Botanical Gardens | Data collected will be critical in monitoring cultural sites. Baseline data is needed to inventory cultural sites. Subsequent surveys will allow the AFNM to assess the impacts of visitors to cultural sites and determine if cultural artifacts are being removed. | N/A | \$20,000.00 | \$20,000.00 |
| Vegetation and Post-Fire Restoration Study: Conduct basic and applied botanical research, and support research efforts toward protection and restoration | Ecology, Botany | Desert Botanical Gardens | Understanding the vegetative responses to fire is critical in determining the application of fire as a resource benefit to the AFNM. Additionally, as part of the "Seeds for Success" program, seeds are collected and stored for the National Seed Bank Program. | A final report was delivered in December which details findings. | N/A | N/A |
| Wet-Dry Mapping: The Agua Fria River in the BLM's Agua Fria National Monument was the subject of an inaugural water mapping project. | Hydrology | University of Arizona, Upper Agua Fria Watershed Partnership, and Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument | Data gathered during wet dry mapping are critical in monitoring water resources and vicariously through this monitoring, wildlife habitat. Trend data will also be used to track changes through time and monitor the effects of climate change and increased urbanization. | Training of participants and report finalization was completed. | N/A | N/A |
| Pronghorn Antelope Diet Composition: Assess diet composition of Pronghorn using non-invasive fecal analyses employing a comparative method. | Botany, Wildlife Biology and Genetics | Arizona State University and Desert Botanical Gardens | Understanding species composition of wild ungulate diets will provide baseline information that directly aids monitoring and management efforts thereby helping land managers assess range quality for target animal species. | Genetic markers for individual plant species have been identified. A "cafeteria" trial feeding has begun. | \$25,000.00 | \$25,000.00 |
| Agua Fria National Monument Flora Project: Conduct inventories of the monument's vegetation. | Botany | Desert Botanical Gardens | These studies are providing baseline data for supporting decisions that will foster productive ecosystem management and the protection of Monument landscapes, consistent with the Monument proclamation. | Collection, identification, and curation of AFNM flora. | \$50,000.00 | \$25,000.00 |
| Totals (\$) | | | | | \$95,000.00 | \$70,000.00 |

X. Outreach, Environmental Education, and Interpretation Efforts

- **Overview:** The AFNM park ranger has continued to spearhead efforts pertaining to the development and distribution of interpretive handouts, as well as maintaining and updating visitor information on the five monument kiosks. With regards to face-to-face interaction relating to monument policy and providing informal interpretive information to visitors, the park ranger again is responsible for those efforts. Interpretive theses for the monument focus on the archaeological history of the Perry Mesa Tradition, historical mining and ranching of the area, biological resources, as well as etiquette when visiting cultural and biologically rich sites.

AFNM's Pueblo la Plata site, which showcases a major settlement of stone masonry pueblos, is outfitted with a visitor register wherein interpretive pamphlets specific to the

site are made available for visitors. Pamphlets are also available at the Badger Springs trailhead with information about the archaeological and historical features within the monument as a whole. The Teskey Homesite is an interpretive site developed in partnership with the Friends of Agua Fria, outfitted with an interpretive panel displaying information about historic ranching families and their way of life. General interpretive informational brochures about the monument are made available for the public at the Phoenix District Office.

- *Outreach:* In FY 2010, local officials, U.S. Congressional staffers from various Arizona districts, and interest group representatives toured the monument. Officials were able to learn about the significant cultural and biological resources contained within the monument, as well as discuss with staff management objectives and implementation activities associated with the recently approved resource management plan.

BLM and the AFNM Friends group provided tours for the public, Arizona Archaeological Society chapters, and the Arizona Hiking Club as part of Arizona Archaeology and Heritage Awareness Month. Presentations on archaeological efforts within the monument were given to the Kingman and Desert Foothills chapters of the Arizona Archaeological Society.



- **Visitor Centers**

- With the support of the Friends of Agua Fria National Monument, BLM is a partner in the development of the Black Canyon Heritage Park on the banks of the Agua Fria River in Black Canyon City. The park's visitor center will highlight area attractions including the monument. Partners include Black Canyon City Community Association, Historical Society, Fire Department, Arizona Game and Fish, and National Park Service. BLM is also working to partner in the development of the Cordes Museum in the monument gateway community of Cordes Junction.

- **Environmental Education**

- With the support of the Friends of Agua Fria National Monument, we provided stewardship project opportunities, and on-site and off-site interpretation and environmental education presentations. The focus of these presentations was cultural resource stewardship, environmental stewardship, ecological restoration, wildlife resources, tread lightly and leave no trace. Attendees included area students, local individuals, archaeology enthusiasts, conservation groups, scouts, student agricultural clubs, and Site Stewards.

Agua Fria National Monument staff and members of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument combined forces for a cleanup of the “River Bend” area along the road to the EZ Ranch in the Monument. The purpose of the project was to clean up the popular area and build connections with the Friends group and the local community of Cordes Junction, AZ. The River Bend area has become popular for picnicking and camping, as well as teenage weekend bashes and all-terrain-vehicle (ATV) driving. Some ATV drivers now ride through the riparian area and in the Agua Fria River bed itself, causing damage to that particular stretch of river. In 1994, the BLM identified this segment of the Agua Fria River as eligible for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, as a Scenic River segment. The BLM has begun working with the local community, ranchers, and public land users to identify ways the area can be managed to eliminate increasing impacts to the area.

The BLM and Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument sponsored several public presentations about the Monument. The Friends sponsored a talk by Dr. Andrew Salywon, Assistant Herbarium Curator for the Desert Botanical Garden. The presentation consisted of the history of the lands that compose the monument and its current flora. The ongoing studies are a collaborative effort between the Desert Botanical Garden and the BLM. The Friends sponsored a presentation by volunteer archaeologist Bill Nightwine, regarding the abstract and representational rock art of the monument. ASU graduate student Melanie Tluczek also presented her research on the water and dietary requirements of pronghorn in the monument. BLM and Sonoran Audubon lead public tours into the monument’s Audubon “Important Bird Area” for a fascinating look into the Agua Fria River riparian habitat that makes the Monument special.

Other public outreach highlights included site tours for the public, the Arizona Archaeological Society, Agua Fria Open Space Convention, Arizona Hydrological Society, and the Verde Birding and Nature Festival. These tours were made possible by the efforts of the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument and Arizona Site Stewards.

The monument was the subject of several major Phoenix newspaper articles that focused on cultural resource protection, target shooting, and NLCS units in general. The monument was the subject of dozens of articles published in gateway community markets; most contact was positive and focused on the particular projects, the monument management plan, BLM staff, resource damage

from target shooting, illegal dumping, volunteer cleanups and other projects, and prescribed fire activity.

- **Interpretation**

- The Friends of Agua Fria National Monument recently began historic research on a school that operated on the monument in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The school was situated near the “Riverbend” area outside of Cordes Junction. Their research will enable them to develop interpretive materials for this location, furthering efforts to educate the public of the monument’s rich history.

An interpretive plan for the Pueblo la Plata site was completed through an intra-governmental order with a Forest Service enterprise unit called “Recreation Solutions”. Work continues on development of interpretive signs and updating pamphlet information.

XI. Manager’s Corner (optional)

- **Agua Fria National Monument Receives Department Award** – The Department of the Interior, International Technical Assistance Program awarded its recognition award to the BLM for hosting the delegation of government officials from the Republic of Georgia in September 2009. Georgian Minister of the Environment George Khachidze and the Ministry's delegation visited Glacier National Park, the Grand Canyon, Agua Fria National Monument and the Black Canyon Corridor area. Hassayampa Field Manager Steven Cohn and Agua Fria National Monument Manager Rem Hawes and staff Amanda James and Nancy Stallard received the award. The BLM introduced the delegation to a model program for protected area management, providing instruction on the management of the Agua Fria National Monument. Delegates learned how the national monument was created and how the BLM then implemented public and private partnerships to effectively implement on-the ground management by and for the general public.
- **The Phoenix District Commissions Artwork to Commemorate 10-Year Anniversary of the Agua Fria National Monument** – The Phoenix District commissioned Black Canyon City artist Gary Bennett to create a commemorative landscape art piece of the treasured sites of the Agua Fria National Monument. The Friends of the Agua Fria are reproduced 300 limited edition canvas prints that were signed by the artist and sold as part of a fundraiser for the Friends of Agua Fria. The original art now hangs in the BLM Phoenix District Public Room.
- **Phoenix District’s Agua Fria National Monument Draws Thousands to 10th Anniversary Celebration** – With the beating of an American Indian drum and ancient tribal chants for the parade of flags, 2,200 people stepped to the strides January 9th into a big top tent on Arizona’s Agua Fria National Monument for an outdoor heritage festival honoring the 10th anniversary of the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) and this monument. Tribal elders offered the blessing in which the Creator was thanked for the managers and leadership of the Bureau of Land Management and their care of

71,000 acres of precious and historic lands. In unison, monument manager Rem Hawes and immediate past president of the Friends of Agua Fria Dr. Tim Flood stood to welcome guests and youth in *Celebrating the Agua Fria* – a day of fun and education in the greater outdoors. The team next unveiled a large landscape painting depicting the monument's mesas, deep canyons, river, petroglyphs, and wildlife. This art was commissioned by the Phoenix District BLM for the year-long anniversary events, with the Friends group paying for canvas prints that were sold as a fund-raiser. Looking out at the crowds, children carried recycled tote bags and freebies that contained the art; they had already donned the tee-shirt revealing the national landscape painting. While youth learned ancient skills to make fire, arrowheads, pottery, and spear hunting, the adults listened to inspirational speeches from the director of the National Landscape Conservation System, Carl Rountree, and the BLM Arizona State Director Jim Kenna, who vowed to continue partnerships and investments with gateway communities adjacent to these public lands. Arizona Audubon dedicated its Important Bird Area within the Monument and offered a morning birding trip that was attended by at least 50. The official program culminated with the cutting of a birthday cake shaped in the landscape of the mesa and canyons, featuring tiny saguaro cacti, rattle snakes, and the Monument's entry sign. Tours of petroglyphs were offered every 30 minutes under clear skies and warm Arizona temperatures. Held within the Monument on the in-holding of the Horse Shoe Ranch, *Celebrating the Agua Fria* was enjoyed by all and received much positive and public praise.

- **BLM Partners with Museum and ASU on Perry Mesa Exhibit** – On March 4, 2010, the Agua Fria National Monument staff celebrated the grand opening of an exhibit at the Pueblo Grande Museum entitled, "Landscape Legacies: The Art and Archaeology of Perry Mesa." Monument staff worked with Arizona State University (ASU) researchers and museum personnel to develop the Perry Mesa exhibit. Perry Mesa is the dominant geographic feature in the Agua Fria National Monument. The 50,000-acre Perry Mesa National Register District, which spans the monument and part of the adjacent Tonto National Forest, was designated to recognize the significance and extent of the archaeology on Perry Mesa. Originally designated in 1975, the District was expanded in 1996 and is now one of the largest prehistoric districts listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The exhibit highlighted the history, ecology, rock art "petroglyphs," artifacts, and pueblo ruins of the area, and their connections to the entire central Arizona landscape and other cultures.
- **BLM Conducts Prescribed Burn on Agua Fria National Monument** – BLM conducted a 410-acre prescribed burn to improve Pronghorn Antelope habitat within the AFNM. Firefighters ignited piles of Juniper in the Sycamore Mesa area -- approximately 5 miles northeast of Cordes Junction, Arizona. The piles of Juniper, which had encroached into the grassland mesas, were initially cut by the Bureau to improve grassland habitat for pronghorn and other wildlife species. The vegetation was thinned and then piled to dry. Some of these piles were burned in December 2009. Through thinning and burning the excess Juniper, wildlife corridors were opened up, predator cover were reduced, and forage for wildlife is expected to improve.

- **Agua Fria National Monument Featured at National Convention-** Arizona's Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) was one of several units within the National Landscape Conservation System featured at the annual Society for American Archaeology (SAA) conference in St. Louis. The SAA is **THE** annual national conference of academic, government, and private archaeologists around the nation. The conference provides a forum for archaeologists to present papers and posters regarding new research, debate controversial topics, and reconnect with colleagues. Dan Martin, archaeologist (advanced spatial technologies) in the Washington Office created a poster of BLM NLCS sites with input from archaeologists. The poster showcased some of the archaeological projects underway on the AFNM and other NLCS units putting them on the national stage. Additionally, Connie Stone, former archaeologist for the AFNM, presented a paper in a session devoted to NLCS units wherein she discussed some of the archaeological developments of the past ten years on the monument.
- **Article Features Arizona Governor's Award Recipients for Monument Work** – On June 2, 2010, the *Prescott Daily Courier* newspaper featured an article about Agua Fria National Monument volunteers Sandy and Larry Gauthier. In honor of their work to renovate a historic home site within the monument, Sandy and Larry received the Governor's Awards in Public Archaeology. The Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission awards the honor annually to vocational archaeologists who have demonstrated outstanding efforts in the preservation of heritage resources in Arizona. The article described how Sandy and Larry spent countless hours interviewing descendants of the family that originally homesteaded in north central Arizona in 1940. Today, the historic site is known as the Teskey Home Site. Using funds provided by the BLM and the Friends of the Agua Fria National Monument, the Gauthier's organized and helped install an exceptional interpretive sign that gives visitors a glimpse into living along Big Bug Creek in 1940. The volunteers worked tirelessly to stabilize the foundation of the farmstead and water well, and constructed a protective fence around the main compound.
- **Arizona National Monument Closed to Recreational Target Shooting – Open for Hunting:** On May 24, 2010, the Phoenix District announced that recreational target shooting is prohibited within the Agua Fria National Monument; hunting, in accordance with Arizona state laws, is allowed. The target shooting prohibition comes upon the release and implementation of the Approved Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement for the monument, keeping in line with the Presidential Proclamation aimed at protecting the objects of the monument – mainly petroglyphs, pueblos, and historic sites. BLM officials installed signs advising visitors that the plan is final and that target shooting is prohibited, and got the word out through various recreational organizations. News releases advised visitors with regards to where to go for recreational shooting outside of the monument.
- **Agua Fria Manager Appointed to NLCS Management Advisory Team** – Rem Hawes, Agua Fria National Monument Manager was appointed to the NLCS Management Advisory Team for a two year term. The NLCS includes over 886 federally recognized areas and approximately 27 million acres of National Monuments, National

Conservation Areas, Wilderness Areas, Wilderness Study Areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers, National Scenic and Historic Trails, and Conservation Lands of the California Desert. As part of the Management Advisory team, Rem will help facilitate collaboration and better integration of NLCS policies and management within the Bureau.

- **Arizona Game and Fish Commission Votes to Acquire Horseshoe Ranch in AFNM** – On October 9, 2010, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission voted to approve state funding for the Arizona Game and Fish Department to acquire the Horseshoe Ranch. Since June 2009, the BLM has been working with the Arizona Game and Fish Department regarding the Department’s acquisition of the Horseshoe Ranch, a 199-acre private land inholding within the Agua Fria National Monument. The Department will use Arizona Heritage Funds to match a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 Recovery Land Acquisition award to fund the \$3.3 million purchase of the ranch. The Arizona Antelope Foundation also contributed \$125,000 toward the purchase. The Department intends to use the ranch as an outdoor and hunter education facility, as well as a base for a third party livestock grazing operation. The BLM is working to develop a memorandum of understanding with the Department and Tonto National Forest articulating how the associated BLM and Forest Service grazing leases will be administered.
- **Urban challenges** – The Agua Fria National Monument is located 40 miles north of Phoenix. The public lands within the Phoenix District, which includes the Agua Fria and Sonoran Desert National Monuments, are the BLM’s most intensely urbanized. In 2010, Arizona remained as one of the fastest-growing states in the nation; the Phoenix-metropolitan area, now considered a “megapolitan area” by the Census Bureau, remains the fastest-growing area in the state. Interest in, inquiries about and visitation to the Monument reflect this increasing pressure.

Phoenix has a series of City and County “mountain parks.” These preserves are open, undeveloped desert park areas surrounded by development. As the Phoenix-megapolitan area grows, the southern edge of the Monument will serve as the northern-most extent of the megapolitan area. This will subject the Agua Fria National Monument to the kind of visitation and pressures seen today in the urban mountain parks.

- **Prehistoric Archaeology** – Unfortunately, a major occurrence of vandalism took place towards the end of FY 2010 at a rock art site near the community of Cordes Junction. We are pursuing public education as a means to reduce major incidents such as this, as well as to reduce minor incidents of damage that are difficult to quantify, such as artifact piling and casual collection.

We must remain vigilant about damage to other resources and improvements. The rugged character of the Monument makes off road travel quite unpleasant, if not impossible. Nevertheless, the BLM is in the throes of blocking illegal access to fragile areas that are not and were never intended for vehicular traffic. The damage and vandalism that we see is most often directed at the Monument’s facilities, signs, kiosks, and other infrastructure.

The Agua Fria National Monument is a well known destination. It is becoming increasingly visited, enjoyed, and used. Its next door neighbor is the Phoenix megapolitan area. There are more than 4.5 million (and growing) residents and 12.0 million annual visitors, all of whom deserve an outstanding natural and cultural landscape for generations to come. The BLM and its partners are well-positioned to provide it.

- **Monument Staffing** – During Fiscal Year 2010, the following positions were staffed on the monument:

Monument Manager
Park Ranger
Wildlife Biologist
Natural Resource Specialist
Archaeologist

Both the Wildlife Biologist and Natural Resource Specialist positions also provide support to the Hassayampa Field Office, particularly for work needed to evaluate and renew livestock grazing permits. Field office and district staff reciprocates by providing support for monument work as needed.

A Hydrologist position would focus on water quantification and water rights work. A Recreation Planner position would focus on partnership building, interpretation, and visitor use management work. Temporary seasonal park rangers would provide additional visitor services and resource protection work during the higher use visitor season, October through April.