



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Tucson Field Office
3201 East Universal Way
Tucson, AZ 85756
520-258-7200
www.blm.gov/az/



April 15, 2015

In Reply Refer To:
1626 (AZG03000)

Dear Interested Party,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Tucson Field Office has approved a final *Travel Management Plan* that will guide the administration of the transportation system within the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM). With the issuance of a Decision Record (DR) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), BLM has determined that the IFNM *Travel Management Plan* is the most effective approach for implementing the Monument's transportation system and that this approach will not have a significant effect on the environment.

The IFNM *Travel Management Plan* (TMP) identifies and prioritizes strategies and specific projects to provide a functional, safe and low impact system of roads and trails on the Monument. These actions implement the decisions made in the IFNM Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision, completed in 2013, and the travel route designations made concurrently. Key elements of the TMP include guidelines for road and trail maintenance to improve road conditions, prioritized projects to limit motorized use to appropriate areas, and a sign plan to facilitate access and enjoyment.

In developing the TMP, The Tucson Field Office worked closely with Friends of the Ironwood Forest, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Arizona State Lands Department, Pima County, US Border Patrol, recreational users, and holders of rights-of-way, grazing leases and special use permits. We appreciate the participation of all these parties in shaping the plan to manage this nationally-significant resource.

As an interested party, you are receiving this notification because (a) you have expressed interest in the BLM's transportation management program on the IFNM or (b) you participated in preparation of the plan.

In order to incorporate public input, BLM made the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) available to the public for a 30-day comment period beginning August 1, 2014. Based on comments received, the BLM re-examined route designations in the Sawtooth Mountains and modified the TMP by identifying administrative vehicle access needs on two routes. Comments were addressed in Appendix Q, and changes to the document were listed in Appendix R, of the final EA.

The DR is enclosed for your reference. All project documents including the FONSI, DR and final EA (reference number DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2013-0033-EA) analyzing the proposed action and alternative action are available on the web at <http://on.doi.gov/1asacFO>, on the IFNM web page at http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/prog/blm_special_areas/natmon/ironwood.html, and in the public room at the Tucson Field Office 3201 E Universal Way, Tucson, AZ 85756. Appeal procedures for these implementation level decisions are described in the DR. For more information, please contact Amy Markstein, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, at (520) 258-7231 or amarkstein@blm.gov.

Sincerely,

s/ Bruce Sillitoe
Acting Field Manager