

**SOUTHERN ARIZONA PROJECT
TO
MITIGATE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGES
RESULTING FROM ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION**



**FISCAL YEAR 2007
END-OF-YEAR REPORT
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT**

The Southern Arizona Project To Mitigate Damages Resulting from Illegal Immigration and Smuggling

Fiscal Year 2007 End-of-Year Summary

Introduction

Since fiscal year (FY) 2003, the Arizona Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has administered the Southern Arizona Project to mitigate the impacts of illegal immigration and smuggling through on-the-ground projects. From FY2003-FY 2005, the Project was funded through Congressionally added-on supplements. Since FY 2006, the BLM has provided funding through its base annual appropriations for resource protection. The program funding totals \$4,404,000: FY2003 \$695,000; FY2004 \$790,000; FY2005 \$986,000; FY 2006 \$971,000; and, FY2007 \$962,000.

In FY2007, as in past years, the Southern Arizona Project funds were shared among BLM offices in the southern Arizona borderland: the Colorado River District, Yuma Field Office; the Phoenix District, Lower Sonoran Field Office; and the Gila District, Safford and Tucson Field Offices. Funds were also transferred through various agreements to neighboring counties and towns, federal and state agencies, non-governmental groups, and to the Tohono O'odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe for mitigation activities on their lands. Geographically, the program extends from the west Colorado River corridor to the New Mexico border on the east. In the past, this program concentrated on lands within 100 miles north of the border, but in 2006 and 2007, trash removals related to illegal immigration occurred as far north as the vicinity of Phoenix.

Program results for 2003 to 2005 were reported in May 2006: A *SUMMARY OF 2003-2005 ACCOMPLISHMENTS* (the Summary). The results for 2006 were reported in Southern Arizona Project to Mitigate Environmental Damages Resulting from Illegal Immigration 2006 End-of-Year Report. The Summary also provides detailed descriptions of the impacts to lands in southern Arizona. This report and annual reports for each year are available at:

http://www.blm.gov/az/st/en/info/newsroom/undocumented_aliases.html

The impacts of illegal immigration and smuggling are very apparent on the southern Arizona landscapes, ranging from miles of trails and routes to litter occurring wherever illegal crossers hold up. Abandoned vehicles and, somewhat surprisingly, bicycles are scattered not only along roads but in fragile habitats where bailouts occur. The cut fences and busted gates that require constant maintenance are less visible.

Trash occurs in mounds as layers accumulate but is also dispersed across washes and trails. This trash has been described in annual reports and in many other sources. In

his FY2007 report, Matt Walton of the Arizona Game & Fish Department provides this typical description the litter that is being removed from many sites, even distant ones:

The trash found in these sites consisted of all types and sizes of clothing: underwear, shirts, socks, gloves, hats, pants, shoes, boots, and sneakers. Plastic bottles and glass jars that once contained food, water, juices, soda, electrolyte solutions, and baby bottles for milk and baby food. Cans for various foods such as: tuna, sardines, beans, vegetables, fruit, and juices, also cans from heating sources such as empty Sterno cans. And plastic bags: some white plastic grocery bags, black plastic for concealing and carrying items, and wrappers for: bread, tortillas, assorted snacks. In addition, there were thousands of backpacks, smaller waist packs, wallets, and purses, plastic makeup jars, vials, lipstick tubes, and zippered makeup kits. Also found in great numbers were: miscellaneous books, toilet paper, sanitary pads, diapers, magazines, religious writings, and photographs. Items for personal hygiene included: razors, hairbrushes, combs shampoo, toothpaste, mouthwash, soap, and deodorants/antiperspirants, toothbrushes, and medications containers. *AZG&F Report March 2008*

Programs and Accomplishments Fiscal Year 2007

On-the-ground projects completed during FY2007 included both newly established projects and continued work from FY06. For each participating agency or organization, individual project summaries are presented below in an abbreviated fashion. The Appendices provide details and photographs of these projects.

BLM partner agencies and groups who received funds and who develop projects, recruited and trained volunteers, and completed projects for FY2007 include: US Fish & Wildlife, the National Park Service, US Forest Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, International Sonoran Desert Alliance, the Malpais Borderlands Group, Pima County, Cochise County, Gila Watershed Partnership, the Tohono O'odham Nation, and the Pascua Yaqui Tribe.

The Student Conservation Associate (SCA) interns not only carried out on-the-ground projects, but provided hours of organization, training, and oversight for other student groups, community and social groups, and youth engaged in this work. Communities and organizations provided hundreds of hours of services for these projects. The Town of Marana regularly collected about 1200 lbs of trash from the IFNM. The Hunters Who Care Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZG&F) projects brought in hundreds of volunteers as did the Pima County clean up events.

Participants in the FY2007 Program: SCA, Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC), Community Learning Adventure Service Project (CLASP), Coconino Rural Environment Corps, Western College Football & Soccer Teams, City of Yuma staff, Boy Scouts from Yuma and Catalina District, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, Southern Arizona Hunters Who Care, Huachuca Hiking Club, Moore Ranch, Border Patrol Explorer Post #456, Safari Club International, NPS Volunteers in the Park, Humane Borders, University of Arizona students, Arizona Mule Deer Association, Arivaca Community volunteers,

Altar Valley Conservation Alliance, ranch owners and operators, local church members and the Silverbell and Red Hills neighborhoods.

A Summary of Accomplishments for FY07:

- Litter removal: over **225,000 lbs** or, **104.48 tons** of trash plus **705 cubic yards** of litter and **316** tires were removed from lands in Southern Arizona;
- Litter removal: agencies and groups vary in how litter is removed, but in total more than **5,188 bags**, **12 roll-off dumpsters**, and **sixteen 40-yard containers** of trash were removed;
- Abandoned cars: **131 abandoned vehicles** and **78 bicycles** were removed;
- Fencing and repairs: BLM repaired over **20 miles** of fencing in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) and **900 ft** on other public lands; the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (OPCNM) added **3.6 miles** of double barbed-wire strings to barriers; Pima County repaired 950feet; Buenos Aires NWF (BANWF) repaired **4.2 miles** of fence and removed **5,600 ft** of older fencing; the Coronado National Memorial (CNM) repaired **2 miles** of fence segments and purchased fence materials and **8 cattle guards** for future installation.
- Roads and trails rehabilitated, removed or restored: the BLM Lower Sonoran Field Office/Sonoran Desert National Monument (LSFO/SDNM) rehabilitated **30 illegal routes** and the Tucson Field Office (TFO) rehabilitated **16 illegal trails**. The ORPCNM restored 67 illegal roads. Agencies continued to use vertical mulching to restore and “hide” illegal roads and trails from continued use. Over six dozen were signed.
- Roads maintained: over **25 miles** of administrative roads were repaired and maintained at Cabeza Prieta.
- Sensitive area protection: FWS added **4,000 ft** of barrier in San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR). BLM SPRNCA) installed a vehicle barrier at Bead Hill, and installed and repaired three water gaps.
- BLM and the Tohono O’odham Nation protected an important archaeological site on the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) blocking vehicle traffic through boulders.
- Restorations: BLM Yuma Field Office planted **408 naïve trees** on 5 acres along the Colorado River in areas damaged by illegal crossing trails. The LSFO/SDNM and OPCNM restored over 3 acres damaged by illegal uses including areas damaged by abandoned vehicles.
- Windmills and wells maintained: CPNWF replaced windmills and BLM maintained **3 wells**, important water sources.

- Environmental Education and Signing: BLM placed **66 signs** and ORCNM installed **154 signs** to block use of illegal roads and trails. The IFNM provided a community service project for the CLASP students. Also, the International Sonoran Desert Alliance provided programs to residents and students reaching several dozen participants while working with BLM and OPCNM on place names.
- Special law enforcement details supported by the program funds produced these results during their patrol or operations: **41** stolen vehicles recovered; **91** vehicles impounded or tied to UDI smuggling; **457** UDIs detained for USBP; **4,622 lbs** Marijuana pounds seized ; **3** weapons seized; **8** search and rescue operations; **6** assists and backups, etc.

Bureau of Land Management

Arizona Border Security Detail

In FY07, Arizona BLM law enforcement was provided \$50,000 in additional funding to provide security for crews completing cleanup and rehabilitation and to provide emergency care to any persons found in distress in the southern Arizona deserts. Other indirect goals were to increase the law enforcement presence in order to serve as a deterrent for undocumented immigrant and drug smuggling, prevent additional resource damage and trash dumping, and provide increased visitor and employee safety on public lands. Including the rangers that normally patrol the border areas, there were a total of 700 hours of total overtime worked during FY07.

Highlights and statistics from this time period taken from Significant Activity Reports:

	<i>FY07</i>	<i>Compared to FY06</i>
• Stolen Vehicles Recovered	41	50
• Vehicles Impounded tied to UDI Smuggling	91	136
• Undocumented Immigrants Detained for USBP	457	560
• Pounds of Marijuana Seized	4622	622
• Assaults of Ranger (By Vehicle)	1	3
• Weapons Seized	3	11
• Backup to Assault of Border Patrol Officer	3	47
• Assist on Recovery of UDI Exposure Fatalities	3	5
• Search and Rescue Operations	8	13
• Border Security Details	35	62
• Border Drug Flights	25	25

BLM Phoenix District Office

Phoenix District manages both the Lower Sonoran Field Office (LSFO) and the Hassayampa Field Office (HFO). The LSFO includes the Sonoran Desert National

Monument (SDNM) which exhibits a range of impacts related to illegal immigration and smuggling. Many of the areas are 100 miles or more north of the international border. Now, impacts are beginning to occur on the HFO as evidenced by the Morgan City Wash cleanup near Highway 74, northwest of Phoenix.

Lower Sonoran Field Office

The LSFO received \$247,000 for projects in FY07 and funded agreements with the International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA), Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR), and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (OPCNM). Much of the LSFO program focused on the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM). The LSFO and SDNM achieved these results in FY200:

- Coordinated Student Conservation Associate Interns (SCAs), Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC), and volunteers at events;
- Coordinated and provided oversight for partnership agreements
- Utilized SCAs, SCC crews, BLM staff and other land stewards to sign areas, educate visitors, fix fences, maintain wells, and carryout typical park ranger tasks
- Removed or ensured the removal of 1600 bags of trash from the Phoenix District (most from SDNM), most UDI in origin
- Removed 78 bicycles and 76 vehicles from SDNM and neighboring lands
- Restored and rehabilitated approximately 30 illegal roads in SDNM.
- Collaborated to ensure environmental education and outreach events.
- Provided hours of security and deterrence patrols to reduce risks for visitors, employees, volunteers, and interns

Some Project Highlights: (See Appendix B for further details and photographs)

- Antelope Peak/ Table Top Wilderness UDA Trash Removal, Nov. 12-17, 2006; SCC crew, BLM law enforcement ranger and park ranger, removed 36 bags of trash and one car battery. To remove the trash from the wilderness area, the crew was required to hike two miles each way. Several trips were necessary to remove all trash.
- Smith Road/Table Top Wilderness UDA Trash Removal and Illegal Route Restoration, December 10-15, 2006; 14-member SCC crew and BLM park ranger, 40 bags of UDA trash removed along Smith Road, (30 of which were from Table Top Wilderness area) and six bikes. Also, 38 bags of UDA trash and eight bikes removed, near Marsh Road/ CAP canal; and, 12 bags of UDA trash

removed from Table Top Wilderness near the North Lava Flow and West Lava Flow trailheads.

- Table Top Wilderness east of Smith Road: 1.75 miles of illegally created smuggler routes were restored. Vertical mulching techniques were used to successfully mitigate off-road damage caused by smugglers making new illegal travel routes.
- Road/Table Top Wilderness UDA Trash Removal and Illegal Route Restoration, Jan. 27- Feb. 1, 2007; 10-member SCC crew, BLM park ranger, and three SCA interns, 24 bags of UDA trash and four bikes were removed.

Additionally, 1.5 miles of illegally created smuggler routes were restored. Vertical mulching techniques were used to successfully mitigate the off-road damage caused by smugglers making new illegal travel routes.

- Freeman Road Restoration, Feb. 20-22, 2007 and May 1, 2007; SCA interns, raked out tracks and applied vertical and horizontal mulching techniques to restore illegal roads made from UDA's and ATV's in 8 areas.
- Vekol Valley Road Repair & Restoration, Summer 2007, BLM operations staff. High speed UDA traffic and drug smuggling damaged the road. Broken road crusts were contributing to deep "flour" dust conditions creating sight line hazards for BLM law enforcement and staff, and for Border Patrol agents. Road surface was repaired, water drainage re-established, soils stabilized and signing replaced.
- Vekol Road trash and bicycle pick-up, Feb. 27-28, 2007; SCA interns, picked up 9 bags of garbage and 12 bicycles along Vekol road as well as in and along the washes.
- Ajo Well Maintenance Contract, Aug. 13, 2006 to Aug. 14, 2007, Cameron Allotment area south of Ajo, AZ; contractor and BLM specialist, maintained three wells converted from livestock uses to ensure reliable water source for Sonoran Pronghorn Antelope and other wildlife species.
- Phoenix International Raceway (PIR) Clean-up , Feb.10-15, 2007, South El Mirage Road north of the PIR; 10-member SCC and 3 SCA interns, picked up border-related trash, household garbage, tires, construction waste, and recreational waste in and around the Gila River near the PIR. The crew built up berms and installed Carsonite signs to lessen or prevent further damage. The crew filled three 40-cubic yard roll-offs and collected over 80 tires.
- Big Horn Station Restoration, June 4-22, 2007, south of Interstate-; BLM force account staff and SCA intern; the roof was completely restored. Future work will be done to replace the adobe walls. The building is now stabilized to the extent that further damage to the foundation, adobe walls, and framing structure will be minimized by curtailing the entry of water into the structure.

Hassayampa Field Office

- Morgan City Wash Clean-up , Feb. 4-8, 2007, about one mile north of Highway 74; 10-member SCC crew and 3 SCA interns, filled a 40 cubic yard roll-off of backpacks, jackets, water bottles, and other miscellaneous refuse.

Phoenix District Office Law Enforcement

During FY2007, BLM Phoenix District law enforcement rangers remained busy maintaining inter-agency relationships, impounding abandoned vehicles, conducting aerial patrols, documenting resource damage, and adapting to changes presented by organized alien and drug smuggling organizations. Rangers provided personal safety information to employees, and provided security when employees worked in law enforcement sensitive areas. Rangers provided security to dignitaries researching border impacts, Arizona State office employees, and the public.

PDO Rangers were successful in their attempts to deter smuggling on the SDNM. Rangers seized approximately 6,000 lbs of processed marijuana. The marijuana seized carried an estimated street value of \$5 million dollars.

- BLM Law Enforcement; Vehicles Removed, SDNM, FY2007, impounded 46 vehicles; 24 of the 46 vehicles impounded had been reported stolen.

Phoenix/Lower Sonoran Field Office Partnership: the International Sonoran Desert Alliance

BLM continued to partner with the International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA) on management for the Ajo block and other borderland areas. The FY2007 focused on environmental education projects on the Ajo public lands: June 7, 2007 to Oct. 27, 2007. Program components included cultural events and education:

- *Evening in the Sonoran Desert Series*, a monthly opportunity for all community members to experience being in the desert (even in the intense heat of summer), to learn about the desert and become better stewards of the desert. Speakers ranged from the Tohono O'Odham elders to BLM and NPS specialists; 5 events with 132 participants.
- *Sonoran Desert Adventure Camp*, a monthly event for 4th through 6th graders from the Ajo Unified School District. The children learned Leave no Trace principals, tenting, camp cooking, photography and journaling. This series culminated in overnight camping experiences where the children practice their new skills; 92 participants.
- Collaborations with the Pinacate Biosphere Reserve and OPCNM included monthly meetings to evolve Sonoran Desert educational materials and programming that Ajo and Sonoyta volunteers participated in. Some of the materials created are to be

used in the new Pinacate Visitors Center (as well as at OPCNM, ISDA and BLM) opening in 2008.

- Collaborations with the Pinacate Biosphere and the Tohono O'odham Nation included a joint May 2007 meeting with the Cultural Resources and Natural Resources committees of the Tohono O'odham Nation Legislative Council in Sells. ISDA initiated the discovery process between the U.S. Tohono O'odham and Mexican Tohono O'odham about correct cultural names of the important spiritual sites in the Pinacate. These will be used on Pinacate signage. In November, ISDA met with teachers at the San Simon School to explore educational programming options including student trips to sites in the Pinacate.

BLM Gila District

The Safford Field Office (SFO) and the Tucson Field Office (TFO) are managed through the Gila District Office. Both offices manage substantial borderlands currently being impacted by illegal immigration and smuggling from the lands just adjacent to the border to the Ironwood Forest National Monument, 70 miles north of the international border.

BLM Tucson Field Office

The TFO received \$ 368,000 in funding to support the field office programs and its special units: the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (NCA), the Las Cienegas NCA, and the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM). These funds were shared with neighboring partners of the TFO: the Coronado National Forest (CNF), Town of Marana, Pima County, and the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge (BANWR). Major components of this program are listed below. Please see the Appendix A for further project details and photographs.

TFO FY2007 Program Highlights:

- Organized volunteer groups. BLM staff and SCA interns worked closely with several organizations that provided significant service hours to remediate the impacts caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants on public lands;
- Coordinated conservation crew projects: Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) and affiliated with the SCC, the Community Learning Adventure Service Project (CLASP). Biannually, SCAs coordinate with a local high school to do a CLASP service project with community speakers and a week of community service to provide a dual educational/service based program that examines and helps mitigate the impacts caused by smugglers and undocumented migrants;
- Furnished or purchased equipment and supplies for SCAs and field crews including: 1) travel money for camping, 2) new satellite phones, 3) new trash grabbers, 4) equipment and vehicle maintenance and repairs including replacement tires for trucks, and, 5) hand tools for projects. New telecommunications were purchased for field crews working in remote areas: 1) charging stations and

rechargeable battery packs for 4 Iridium satellite phones; and, 2) pre-paid satellite phone plans for five phones in support of UDI projects and staff in the TFO area. Installed 3 hands-free Satellite car phone kits;

- Ensured safety and training for SCAs and volunteers: 1) Provided safety equipment including gloves, trash grabbers, hand sanitizer, first aid kits, appropriate PPE (i.e. hearing and eye protection); 2) 72-hour para-archaeology training for certification in site checks on rehabilitation projects; 3) 32-hour study at The Center for Land Use Interpretation to prepare for developing a GIS project to map all UDI activity on the IFNM 4) immunizations to mitigate exposure to high risk diseases, 5) ArcGIS training, 6) SCA/BLM staff developed 5-day, new employee orientation covering topics from defensive driving, to working in remote locations, to 4WD, and Leave No Trace ethics;
- Renewed landfill contract for two landfills near IFNM and coordinated waste removal, tire collection and removal, and disposal of other items not fit for landfills;
- Purchased and distributed trash bags: approximately 1,500 trash bags along with trash pickers provided to the Arizona Game and Fish (AZG & F) for use on the Hunters Who Care clean-up project; 200-300 bags were donated to volunteer groups such as Humane Borders, Samaritans, and community member clean-up groups living within the IFNM;
- Initiated setting up the SCA FY2008 program: coordinating 3.5 weeks of project work with the SCC, 1 week of project with CLASP, 1 day of community service work and educational opportunities for a group of students from Boston, MA; teaching employee orientation to new SCA interns and new BLM staff; speaking to University of Arizona sociology class about UDI related issues via PowerPoint;
- Teaching Tread Lightly! To the public and through muster sessions with local Border Patrol stations;
- Coordinated with partners for regular clean-up and rehabilitation work (e.g. Humane Borders, Sky Island Alliance, Sierra Club, Silverbell Estates Community, Hunters Who Care, Red Hill Community);
- Documented and remediated sites being damaged by undocumented migrants, and documenting foot trails being created by undocumented migrants, and recorded and rehabilitated cross-country illegal smuggler vehicle routes;
- Installed and maintained bilingual signage;
- Created and organized an education activity for the annual Ironwood Festival.

TFO Specific Project Highlights:

- SCAs spent more than 175 hours themselves cleaning up 1.4 tons/ 2,825 lbs. of trash. They also rehabilitated 4,951ft. of illegal routes and repaired 900 ft. of damaged fences;
- Santa Ana site protection, by boulder placement around the site, was implemented by Tohono O’Odham Nation to protect area from vehicle travel.
- Removed UDI trash from public and neighboring lands: continued collection efforts through two roll-off dumpsters. Since Oct. 1, 2006, 12 roll-off containers have been filled equaling approximately 27.37 tons.
- Rehabilitated routes: In coordination with both SCC and CLASP, the SCAs rehabilitated 16 illegally created routes;
- An SCC crew along with three SCA interns and one BLM staff worked in the backcountry of the IFNM November 2006 to clean up 314 bags or 6,437 lbs. of trash. They hiked the trash out of a wash from ½--1 mile.
- Two CLASP crews worked 24 hours in the IFNM in January and May to remove a total of 145 bags or 2, 972.5 lbs. of trash ½--1 mile from a road. During these weeks they also rehabbed 7 illegal routes equaling 0 .36 miles, or 1,922 ft. The crews of 12 met with federal agency employees, volunteers, and community speakers to learn about the land, illegal immigration and its’ effects. Through these educational sessions and practical work experiences, the crew became intimately familiar with, as well as remediated the impacts of, smuggling in southern Arizona.
- In total, two SCC crews between October 2006 and September 2007 collected 512 bags or 10, 496 lbs. of trash and rehabbed 10 routes equaling 0 .40 miles or 3,029 ft.
- Two neighborhood groups adjacent to the IFNM (Red Hill Community and Silverbell Estates) collected 357 bags = 7,312 lbs. This amount included 85 tires found in the IFNM. BLM staff and SCA interns then picked up and disposed of this trash;
- SCA intern Andrew O’Brien created a GIS project that mapped all known migrant foot trails and UDI lay-up sites compiled over the past 3 years, in addition to a spreadsheet that contains all data related to each feature.

San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) Project Highlights

- Spent ten days hiking over 60 miles in the Huachuca Mountains with three SCA's based out of the BLM's Tucson office and two ECO park ranger based out of the BLM's Sierra Vista office scouting out UDI dump sites for SCC crew to remediate.
- Spent two days pulling and hiking 26 tires several miles out of the San Pedro River with two SCA's from Tucson and a SCC crew in an effort to clean up the river before the monsoon rains pushed the tires and other trash further down river.
- A trailer that had been purchased with Kolbe fund money was stolen in mid-March from the Fairbank parking lot on the SPRNCA. The trailer was being used in preparation for the grand opening of the Fairbank School House and has yet to be recovered.
- Over 20 miles of fence along the international border in Palominas as well as other areas along the SPRNCA were repaired or replaced.
- Vehicle barriers were installed at Bead Hill and water gaps placed at Escapule and Waters Road.
- Efforts to work on UDI related projects was somewhat hampered by the fact that one SCA intern had no SCA partner for the majority of the year.
- UDI impacts along the SPRNCA during FY 07 were very low for the most part. One staff member personally scouted much of the SPRNCA over the course of the year and found very few instances of large UDI impacts.

Town of Marana

For several years, Marana has completed significant clean-up projects in and around the IFNM to remediate impacts. They perform weekly clean-up work on lands within and bordering the IFNM. The average weekly collection is around 0.6 tons or 1200 lbs. of trash.

- Since October 2006, the Town of Marana crews have collected 1, 494 bags or 32,980 lbs/16.5 tons of trash, and removed and disposed of 125 tires.

Safford Field Office

The SFO received \$99,000 to support the field office programs and its partnerships with the Gila Watershed Group, Malpais Borderlands Group, Cochise County and the San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuges. Please see below and the Appendices for further project details and photographs for the Cochise County and Refuge partnership projects.

BLM Colorado River District

The Colorado River District administers three field offices: the Yuma Field Office, Kingman Field Office, and Lake Havasu Field Office. The District office was funded \$20,000 for law enforcement support.

Yuma Field Office

The YFO was provided \$129,000 in FY2007. The program components emphasized restoration along the Colorado River, abandoned vehicle removal, and cleanup of public lands. Yuma Field Office staff report that undocumented immigrant (UDI) trash becomes mixed with urban trash along the Colorado River.

Restoration BLM staff and volunteers assisted in restoring riparian habitat along the Lower Colorado River near Paradise Cove at different times. Adventure scouts, youth corps crews, and other volunteers assisted with the border restoration project.

- Approximately 408 native trees were planted within five acres that were negatively impacted by illegal border activities.

Workers removed undesirable plants with loppers or brush saws. Holes were drilled with augers and native potted mesquite, cottonwood, or willow trees were planted. Supplemental nutrients and moisture retaining crystals were added to the soil. Newly planted trees were protected from beavers and other herbivores with caging. Drip irrigation was established for the new trees. Trash in the area was removed.

Prior to the restoration, the area was devoid of trees because a fire had swept through the site. There were trails, trash, and remnants of small campfires throughout the area. After the borderland restoration project, the area has the potential to be high-quality habitat for wildlife.

Abandoned Vehicles

- At a remote site between Yuma and the international border, 21 abandoned vehicles were removed from an area covering approximately 640 acres.

The vehicles had to be moved from sandy areas to firmer ground with heavy equipment before they could be accessed for removal.

- Another abandoned vehicle was removed from the foothills near the Gila Mountains on the east side of Yuma.

Clean – Ups The Coconino Rural Environment Corps (CREC) provided a 21-person crew for clean-ups at 4 sites where illegal border activities occur along the Colorado River near Yuma from March 12-15, 2007.

- Colorado River: CREC and BLM staff removed more than 20 tons of trash from 4 sites.

On Aug. 11, 2007, more than 30 athletes from the Arizona Western College Football & Soccer Teams, staff from the City of Yuma, Bureau of Reclamation, and BLM, Boy Scout representatives, and other volunteers, conducted another clean-up at the confluence of the Gila and Colorado Rivers.

- Confluence Site: more than 8 tons of trash was removed from this area.
- Trigo Mountains Wilderness: Trash that included discarded clothing and empty water jugs was also removed from the route that goes through Clip Wash in the Trigo Mountains Wilderness. Some hunters in the Trigo Mountains expressed public safety concerns this year due to the potential for encountering smugglers.

National Park Service

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

The BLM Phoenix District LSFO signed an inter-governmental agreement with the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (OPCNM) for a total of \$30,000. The funded projects were: 1) Lost or stolen and abandoned vehicle removal, 2) Illegal immigrant refuse removal, 3) vehicle routes and foot trails restoration, and 4) repair, replace, and install protective fence material.

An SCA Intern (SCA) and a SCC six- person crew were hired in October 2006 to remove refuse at backcountry lay-up sites and along State Route 85. Trash was removed from the highway in late October 2006 from within 50 yards of a one and 12-mile section located at mile-marker 79 to 80 and 58 to 70, respectively. To the extent possible, work crew members separated aluminum cans for recycling in Ajo, Arizona. Refuse was removed from another 8-mile stretch, from mile-marker 72 to 80, in January and February, 2007 by a three person work crew of one SCA and National park staff. Funds from the Southern Arizona Project were used to hire one SCA intern, a SCC work crew, and provide housing for one SCA intern.

- 535 bags of refuse, weighing 9,281 lbs. were removed from OPCNM from late October, 2006 through February 2007 by SCA interns, a SCC work crew, and NPS Volunteers in the Parks

The SCA and SCC masked trails and posted signs at off-road vehicle routes and heavily used trails to delineate the perimeter for drag and vehicle turn-around sites, and to mark vehicle 'drive-through' lanes along public and administrative roads. Off-road vehicle routes and trails were masked by raking the site to reduce soil compaction and level the soil, scattering organic debris (e.g., rocks, logs, and shrub and tree branches) around the raked site, and, in some areas, scattering mature creosote seeds which had been collected from the immediate area.

- From October 2006 through May 2007, SCA and SCC staff restored and closed 3.1 acres of disturbed road side damage along Organ Pipe's public and administrative roads, including one abandoned vehicle site of 0.36 acres.
- The work crews also installed 154 Carsonite posts installed along 67 off-road vehicle routes leaving from Bates Well and the monument's north boundary roads. A follow-up visit to some sites revealed that, in general, Carsonite posts remained in place; with 6 of the 32 (19%) sites revisited showing signs of recent vehicle traffic.

OPCNM has traditionally maintained a livestock exclusion fence along the monument's international boundary with Mexico. When the vehicle barrier was installed in 2004, 2005, and 2006, the livestock exclusion fence rapidly disappeared. By 2006 there was virtually no wire or fence posts remaining along the monument's 30 mile boundary with Mexico. In 2005 and 2006, monument staff began to install livestock exclusion wire directly on the vehicle barrier. The fence consisted of one strand of smooth wire located 22" above ground and one strand of barbed wire located 48" above ground. The lower strand of smooth wire is to allow Sonoran pronghorn passage under the barrier.

- An SCA intern and SCC work group hired under this grant, assisted with this project and installed 7.1 miles of wire on 3.6 miles of vehicle barrier.

Abandoned vehicle removals were also a component of this program but owing to the new international fence, no vehicles were removed in the monument under this project. In July, 2006 Organ Pipe completed over 25 miles of vehicle barrier fencing along its international border with Mexico. The presence of this vehicle barrier and construction of an additional vehicle barrier on Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge has likely contributed to the reduction in number of abandoned vehicles found on the monument. Currently, most abandoned vehicles are found on or near State Route 85 which bisects the monument in a north to south direction and ends at the Port of Entry in Lukeville, Arizona. Removal of these vehicles are by special contract with owner/operator businesses in Ajo, Why, and Lukeville, Arizona.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

FWS Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and San Bernardino NWR

The BLM Safford Field Office continued the interagency agreement with FWS at San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuges for \$20,000 in FY2007. See Appendix E for additional details, photos and costs.

- Vehicle barrier: A total of 4,000 feet of vehicle barrier was completed on San Bernardino NWR at a cost of \$15,000, including 300 estimated tie of labor.

- Trash clean-up: An estimated total of 0.20 tons of trash clean-up and removal on both refuges at project cost of \$6,000. This included 403 estimated hours of staff time.
- Habitat and wildlife population monitoring: monitored was carried out on both refuges, costs \$15,000. Multiple biological science technicians were hired, and related contracts were granted to assist with this effort. Monitoring consisted of: Vegetation monitoring at established plots; MAPS bird banding; Hay Hollow bird monitoring; and reptile, amphibian, and small mammal population monitoring. Efforts included: \$7,136.00 in contracts, and 444 estimated hours of biological technician time. Draft reports from the two bird projects (MAPS and Hay Hollow) are available in Appendix E. Data from the other two projects (Vegetation and Reptiles) have not yet been summarized.
- Boundary fence: The fence was inspected and repaired at both refuges at a total cost of \$4,000 and over 200 hours of labor.

FWS Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge

The BLM Tucson Field Office signed an interagency agreement with Buenos Aires NWR (BANWR) late in FY 2006 to fund continued efforts to mitigate damage to the refuge by illegal border crossers. The funding enabled (1) towing of abandoned vehicles, (2) hiring of 12 weeks of work by two habitat restoration interns from the Student Conservation Association, and (3) 10 work days by the Southwest Conservation Corps.

The BANWR stretches from the U.S./Mexico border to twenty-five miles north. Border Patrol estimates that several hundred to thousands of undocumented aliens cross the border every day. In the year 2001, GIS analysis and aerial imagery revealed 1,314 linear miles of UDA trails on the refuge, including 117 individual trail crossings at the 4.5-mile international border. This translates to 280 acres of complete denudation, which of which is in fragile and valuable riparian habitat. The miles of trails and acres of denudation have increased since that year.

Before interagency funds were available, 20 abandoned vehicles needed to be removed. Some vehicles are blackened by being set afire, and many are in remote and off-road areas. Removal is difficult and costly. The amount of trash (litter, clothing, water bottles, human waste) is unsightly to visitors and unsafe for wildlife.

Accomplishments: (Further details available in Appendix D)

- Towing of 12 abandoned vehicles: cost = approximately \$8,100. The average cost for removal per vehicle is \$750. These disabled, often burned or rolled-over vehicles typically must be extricated from remote and rugged areas or washes. Twelve vehicles have been removed in fiscal year 2007.
- Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) -- Jan. 20 – Feb. 1, 2007 repaired 4.2 miles of fence and removed fencing and materials from two other areas.

SCC provided valuable work on fences during 10 work days. SCC crew repaired barbed wire fence that had been damaged or cut by illegal immigrants. Broken fence allows cattle to enter from Mexico, adding to the landscape damaged caused by immigrants. SCC crew also removed a large amount of barbed wire fence left over from ranching days. This helps the movements of deer and pronghorns and eliminates an obstacle in which they can become fatally entangled. Refuge volunteer Gary Tuell accompanied the group each day to steer them to work sites on this large and remote refuge, and also helped supervise the crew and their work. Their accomplishments included:

- Garcia Road – Fence Repair: Along a 4.2 mile length of fence which parallels the border: Replaced 300 feet of barbed wire, repaired 230 splices, attached 162 wire clips that attach wire to posts, installed or replaced 26 t-bar posts.
- Three Hills area – Fence Removal: Picked up coils of wire left by previous workers – 70 large coils (21,500 linear feet). Pulled and removed 175 metal posts, carried to a trailer, taken to disposal site. Removed and coiled 2,000 feet of 5-strand barbed wire fence, removed 100 t-bar posts, carried from field and transported to disposal site.
- Choffo Tank Road to State Tank Road – Fence Removal: Removed 1,800 feet of sheep fence (6-strand with weave wire), folded into packets, carried from field and hauled to disposal site. Removed 1,800 feet of 5-strand wire, coiled this and 9,000 feet of smooth wire, carried from field, hauled to disposal site.

In FY2008, two SCA interns have been funded for work between Oct. 1 to Dec. 22, 2007 (in FY2008 report). The SCA's will repair fence close to the border, where barbed wire fence is damaged or cut by illegal immigrants. They will clean up litter along illegal trails and in lay-up sites. These sites are typically very littered with clothing, backpacks, food cans, and other debris when the immigrants change clothes and discard their belongings, prior to getting a pre-arranged vehicle ride or continuing their journey on foot. The interns will also work with biology interns on projects to analyze damage to vegetation caused by immigrant traffic.

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

In partnership with the BLM Phoenix District Office, the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR), received \$12,500 funding to mitigate against illegal immigration and smuggling impacts that the Refuge has received over a number of years. Inventories of CPNWR have indicated hundreds of miles of illegal trails and routes accompanied by litter and associated impacts to habitats.

Between October 2006 to March 2007, volunteers were recruited to restore and maintain areas from intrusion, maintain windmill sites, and remove abandoned vehicles and trash:

- 23 abandoned vehicles were removed along with approximately 6 tons of trash;
- Approximately 20 acres of off-road travel due to smuggling and interdiction efforts were completed with vertical mulching;
- All windmills were repaired, including replacing the windmill at Adobe Well. All valves were replaced at a cost of \$70 each.
- Repaired/maintained approximately 25 miles of administrative routes in the Child's Valley for the purpose of allowing USBP better access and minimizing wear and tear on CPNWR equipment necessary to irrigate the forage enhancement plots.

U.S. Forest Service

Coronado National Forest

The Coronado National Forest (CNF) encompasses approximately 1.8 million acres with 30 miles of the US/Mexico border on two districts, Nogales and Sierra Vista. The impacts of illegal border activities include damaged fences, miles of unauthorized foot trails, soil compaction and erosion, trampled vegetation, and piles of trash and human waste. Trespass cattle enter CNF through the damaged fences, wildfires are started by UDA's. Abandoned mines are used as hideouts, camp sites, and caches.

This agreement provided funding in the amount of \$37,733 to address these impacts, used by Nogales Ranger District to purchase these materials: \$17,679.25 for fence material (approximately seven miles); \$15,873.75 for cattle guards (eight cattle guards); \$2,000 for road re-route; and, \$2,180 to fly fence material to International boundary

- Two miles of new fence was constructed on the international boundary on the Bear Valley allotment, often used by traffickers because of the area is remote and rough. The permitted and the rancher from Mexico split the cost of the construction of the fence since the Forest Service provided the material, and paid for the helicopter to fly the material onsite. Drop locations were GPSd for 8 bundles of material.
- CNF provided fence material to the Border Patrol to support the vehicle barriers that have been installed on the international boundary. Barbed wire is place on the lower section of the fence barriers to keep traffickers and cattle from entering the U.S. illegally. Approximately one mile just west of Nogales, Arizona has been installed. Border Patrol is currently applying this technique on other areas of the Nogales Ranger District.
- Cattle guards were purchased (8) and installed to assist in managing grazing rotation more efficiently and effectively. Cattle guards will replace gates that are commonly left open or destroyed by illegal immigrants, drug traffickers, and the general public allowing cattle to enter pastures that they should not be in. Cattle

guards will also assist the Border Patrol by allowing them to enter and exit an area freely without having to stop for gates speeding up the response times in these areas.

- CNF provided fence material to ranchers affected by illegal trafficking to repair their fences that are on forest, especially those 16 allotments on the west side of Nogales.

Cochise County

The BLM Gila District Office, Safford Field Office worked with Cochise County through an assistance agreement to remove undocumented immigrant trash in the county utilizing the Solid Waste Department and volunteer groups. In FY2007, seven groups worked in the county on lands including the Coronado National Forest (CNF) between October 19, 2006 and May 11, 2007. Note the variety of groups that volunteered for these projects. (See Appendix F for details and photographs of projects.)

- A total of 6.47 tons of trash bagged and removed but note that .78 tons had to be packed out via horses and mules from difficult terrain.

FY2007 Locations, Participants and Results:

USFS Crest Trail, Huachuca Hiking Club, Oct. 19, 2006, bagged 0.40 tons of trash;
USFS Crest Trail, Moore Ranch Horse Packing, Nov. 2 and 8, 2006, packed out 0.40 tons of trash;

Rocker M Ranch, Border Patrol Explorer Post #456, Dec. 27, 2006, bagged 0.23 tons of trash;
Rocker M Ranch Horse Packing, Dec. 28, 2006, packed out 0.23 tons of trash;

USFS Crest Trail III, Huachuca Hiking Club, Jan. 4, 2007, bagged 0.15 tons of trash;
USFS Crest Trail III, Moore Ranch Horse Packing, Jan. 5, 2007, packed out 0.15 tons of trash;

Newman Ranch, Sierra Vista Diamond Girls Softball Team, April 6, 2007, bagged 4.69 tons of trash;

Double Adobe Road, Bisbee Rotary Club, April 20, 2007, bagged 0.16 Tons of trash;

South Browns Canyon, Border Patrol Explorer Post #869, May 11, 2007, bagged 0.84 tons of trash.

Pima County

Pima County Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) worked with BLM TFO to address environmental and health/safety issues related to impacts of illegal immigrants on Pima County (PC) owned and managed lands. The initial grant of \$30,000 was awarded in August of 2005 and \$30,000 in 2006 which carried over into FY2007.

Pima County reports that overall the efforts have been mixed but still well worth the effort. In some cases, like Canoa Ranch, the effort has dramatically improved the visual look and feel of the property and the Ranch has not experienced significant new deposits of litter. In other sites, however, new litter is occurring and must be repeatedly addressed.

Pima County uses an approach of looking at the entire area impacted rather than just at specific projects. Utilizing Canoa Ranch as an example, the entire 4,700 acres was cleaned up with over 6 – 40 cu/yd dumpsters of litter to date: removed 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. Pima County continues to monitor Rancho Seco road impacts. At the historic Montano, the camp building has been cleaned out and the County stabilized damages due to UDIs breaking in and using the vacant building for refuge.

Summary of efforts: (See Appendix G for further details and for photographs.)

<u>Property</u>	<u>Volume of Trash</u>	<u>Fence Repairs</u>	<u>Hours Effort</u>
Canoa Ranch	3- cu/yds	2- 50 ft	32 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	0	0	10 hrs
Rancho Seco	120- cu/yds	4- 100 ft	40 hrs
Buckelew Ranch	2- cu/yds	0	20 hrs
Black Wash	0	0	0
Cienega Creek	5- cu/yds	5- 150 ft	80 hrs
Project Coordination			320 hrs

Very importantly, Pima County also drew in a number of participants in these efforts, estimating over 350 individual participants during the project year:

- County staff or summer interns, within the Operations and Natural Resources Divisions worked at times across the full project period or were involved in specific events/management activities
- Special large events, such as Altar Valley-Rancho Seco cleanup, brought hundreds of volunteers out for a one day event
- Individual groups that did ongoing efforts on site specific areas during the year.

Examples of cooperating volunteer groups during project reporting period:

Sportsmen Who Care: Humane Borders- Tucson Chapter; Boy Scouts- Catalina District; University of Arizona; local church groups; Arizona Mule Deer Association; Southern Arizona Sportsmen; Arivaca community volunteers; ranch owners/operators; Altar Valley Conservation Alliance; Arizona Game and Fish Respect Program volunteers

The following is a conservative estimate of time and resources spent on project to date related activities that would fit under the match category for BLM funds (estimated charges at \$.40/mile, \$9/hr for volunteers/summer youth crews and \$20/hr for PC staff).

	<i>Volunteer time</i>	<i>PC Staff</i>	<i>Mileage</i>
Last Report Period	1,390 hrs	2,150 hrs	12,000 miles
Current Report Period	<u>2,650 hrs</u>	<u>125 hrs</u>	<u>8,195 miles</u>
Estimated Value	\$36,360	\$23,000	\$ 8,078

Empirita Ranch, east of Tucson, south of I-10, with 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. Border Patrol increased routine patrol presence. Reoccurring fence repair was a major issue the past year. NRPR staff spent well over 100 hours and had to travel over 810 miles on repairs during the reporting period. While on property, the crew also cleaned up about 6 individual sites along interior ranch roads and one major staging area along I-10. This area was also addressed by the Humane Borders group.

- Estimates were that the crew and volunteers picked up over 1,000 pounds of litter.

Amado/Rancho Seco Clean up- March 3, 2006- this event has been going on for about three years in the 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 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 in this project again in planning and conducting the event because it moved over to the Amado/Rancho Seco area. NRPR provided help establishing the primary staging area, Pima County provided roll off dumpsters, ADA restrooms and support staff prior, during and after the event.

About 250 people turned out including scout groups, sportsmen club members, local community members, concerned individuals and other environmental group members. For 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 3- 40yd dumpsters worth of trash during the extended morning. Besides the usual clothing, water bottles, cans and other litter the group gather numerous tires and abandoned vehicle parts. The event was very successful; new fall clean up planned for October 2007.

Canoa Ranch-, 4,700 acre historic ranch property just south of Green valley along the Santa Cruz River corridor and a major illegal immigrant traffic route for years. Trash had been increasing at an alarming rate over the past several years along with arrests of illegal immigrants on the property and cut fences. In July and August of 2006, the County

assigned several 10- member teams of summer work program students on the property with primary efforts between July 10 – 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. NRPR also did some trimming of trees in the more heavily used area to improve visibility and remove hiding spots.

- The clean up across the 4,700 acres was very successful and generated 5-40 yd dumpster's worth of litter

FY2007: Now one year later the impact of their work is still very apparent, a significant impact on public and visitor perception of the cleanliness of the ranch and without the same level of reoccurrence as in some other sites. Intermittent staff canvas the area and pick up new trash that had been accumulated. This activity is still going on quarterly.

At Rancho Seco, several main dirt roads had become major UDI transport routes at night. The activity during all types of weather had significantly eroded the road in some places. Recreational access by the public had become harder and several complaints had been received about damage to vehicles as a result of the road damage.

- The Pima County DOT was called into do a basic grading of the roads and repair major problem areas along about 5 miles of road that provide recreational access on County lands and other adjacent public lands.

Arizona Game and Fish Department

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZG&F) was awarded a \$15,000 grant for the purchase of materials and supplies related to the cleanup of UDI trash in SE AZ for the Ranchland Cleanup Project. The AZG&F program has been very successful, collaborative, and safe. To date AZG&F notes that there have been no reports of injury or sickness, or snakebites attributed to these cleanup activities. On a regular basis, the AZG&F organizes events and supplies and assist volunteer groups that have an awareness of the outdoors and a desire to transform the landscape back to its natural condition. The clean up events are an expansion of regular duties for local Department Wildlife Law Enforcement and Landowner Relations Program personnel. In FY2007, AZG&F coordinated three events: Ironwood Forest National Monument Clean up February 3rd 2007; and the biannual Hunter's Who Care events on October 21, 2006 and March 3rd 2007. The Hunter's Who Care program has moved from an annual event beginning in 2002 to two event per year, spring and fall.

October 21, 2006 Hunter's Who Care Cleanup Event

AZG&F purchased equipment to help volunteers stay safe from illnesses that might be contracted from contact with UDI garbage, and to limit the contact volunteers were having with poisonous reptiles and painful spines from cactus and thorn bushes. The equipment helped reduce overall fatigue of AZG&F volunteers from bending and carrying of loaded bags. The new gloves, garbage hauling carts and pickets were well-tested at this event.

- This October effort yielded four 40-yard dumpsters of UDI trash, or 160 cubic yards.

Coordination for the fall 2006 event was done in joint cooperation between Gabriel Paz and Matt Walton of AZG&F, Kerry Baldwin Pima County Parks and Recreation, Lance Altherr of "Hunter's Who Care", and Bobby Boido representing the Safari Club International.

Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) Clean up February 3rd 2007

In the fall of 2006, several of the ranchers on the IFNM asked the AZG&F Department's Adopt-A-Ranch Program to help organize and sponsor a large scale UDI trash cleanup event on several of the ranches in and around the Saw Tooth Mountains, known collectively as "The Ironwood Ranches". AZG&F contacted the Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society (ADBSS) and ADBSS members agreed to help clean up litter associated with UDI activities on private and public lands around Desert Big Horn Sheep populations in the vicinity. ADBSS has spent many thousands of hours working cooperatively on other Big Horn Sheep projects locally that affect this population, and statewide to enhance, restore, and develop suitable habitat and water resources that sheep depend on for their survival. Ruminant species, such as Big Horn Sheep have been known to ingest trash and especially plastic debris, and to have suffered death from inoperative digestive function. AZG&F along with BLM assisted with the planning and coordination of this clean up event with very careful consideration of safety issues and risks reduction.

On Feb. 3, 2007, 35 volunteers and 9 agency personnel participated for 5-7 hours in collecting trash under trees and bushes, in washes, around cattle water catchments, irrigation canals, along trails, fence lines, utility corridors and roads. Volunteers were able to use supplies and tools purchased through the BLM UDI funding: rakes, hand-operated garbage pickers, leather gloves (disposable), trash bags, hand sanitizers, and rubber wheeled carts.

- A total of 70 cubic yards of UDI trash were collected from several locations on BLM, State Trust land, and private property. A total of seven large sites within the IFNM were cleaned up.

The Department hopes that this clean up will continue to expand and become a twice a year event. Project coordinators included AZG&F Matthew Walton and Gabriel Paz through the Region V Office in Tucson. Cooperation, support, and leadership was also given by all the volunteer groups and particularly by: Lance Altherr Hunter's Who Care, Bobby Boido Safari Club International, Pima County Parks and Recreation, Division Manager, Kerry Baldwin, and many other who could not be mentioned here.

Hunters Who Care March 3rd 2007

The AZG&F Department, Pima County Parks and Recreation, in conjunction with Southern Arizona Hunters Who Care held a joint clean-up event on State Trust (STL) and Pima County lands near Arivaca, on March 3, 2007. Over 200 volunteers

participated in the event. The volunteers targeted known lay-up sites and commonly used trails, along roads and near livestock water sources.

Volunteers cleaned up 15 sites. The areas were mostly on STL from milepost 5 to 20 on the Arivaca Road. This area consists of STL lease lands and county property (Rancho Seco) and the Marley Ranch (private and STL lease). Trash was found in high volumes both north and south of Arivaca Road. The highest concentrations were found along power lines, utility easements, and areas along the fence lines that cross the Arivaca Road. Participants included members of: Southern Arizona Hunter's Who Care, Safari Club International, ADBSS, the Boy Scouts of America, and others. Once again, garbage hauling carts greatly aided volunteers for heavy loads and in reducing the number of trips required to trucks.

- The joint effort yielded four 40-yard dumpsters of UDI trash, or approximately 160 cubic yards on 15 sites.

This clean up, held annually since 2002, was founded by several hunters, who approached AZGFD personnel for assistance with coordination with ranchers, garbage disposal and other equipment and supplies. Cooperators have begun expanding the clean ups into two events per year, consisting of a spring and fall event. Attendance of these volunteer groups is usually depended on several factors including conflicts with scheduled: hunting seasons, holiday and long weekend commitments, local and national sporting events, and unwillingness to attend during poor weather.

The Tohono O'odham Nation

The Tohono O'odham Nation (TON) received \$14,000 in FY2007 at the end of the fiscal year. That work will be reported in the FY2008 report.

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe

The Pascua Yaqui Tribe received \$9,000 at the end of the FY2007 for work to be done in FY08. That work, which has been completed, will be reported in the FY2008 report.

The Southern Arizona Program Lessons Learned

BLM and partner groups have successfully organized and completed hundreds of projects since 2003. Fortunately some individuals have remained involved over longer periods and have become sources of information for understanding both the issues on the ground and for practical solutions to how to tackle this immense problem. Some comments follow that provide lessons learned for others to consider when organizing and approaching fieldwork.

Observations from the BLM Ironwood Forest National Monument:

Emily Hertz, SCA intern with 4 years of experience on the Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) and the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) has become an expert. She addressed these questions based on the IFNM.

What do we know about the issue from experience in the IFNM?

- Paths used by illegal immigrants change as enforcement strategy on the border changes.
- Trails appear to be moving west away from often used patrol routes but all trails and lay-up sites identified months ago are still in use. Most of the trash is being found in the backcountry—the amounts of trash found are decreasing in the front country locations.
- The closer you are to a paved road, the more likely there will be smuggling routes that tend to also be used by ATV/OHV users who follow them and end up creating more well defined illegal routes.
- Research is needed to see how the content of the garbage affects the soil, water, flora/fauna etc.
- Over the past four years there has been more media coverage of criminal activity occurring in the IFNM. This does not speak to whether there actually is more activity occurring, or just more coverage
- Incidences of violence such as the triple homicide in the IFNM definitely impacts this program's since workers are barred from the field or required to work closely with law enforcement.
- There will continue to be trash left behind and illegal routes created in the Southwest, as long as people are walking through the desert to come to the US.

Is there any formal assessment and prioritizing for IFNM mitigation? BLM has not assessed whether trash has been located in high areas or low areas; trash is found in both low-lying areas and on top of hills/sides. Washes tend to be place where a lot of trash is found (it's cooler, gravity etc.). However, after monsoon season, a lot of trash may be washed away or buried under many feet of sand/debris etc.

The IFNM program doesn't prioritize between the trash or revegetation projects. Crews tend to focus on the larger trash sites, since these are often farther off road and more people are needed to bag the trash and hike it out. Clearance for revegetation projects requires the archaeologist's time, and until one of the interns was trained, it was difficult to schedule, especially if the projects were last minute additions. Revegetation projects usually end up as an addition to the normal trash work with the crews, depending on how quickly we can remove the trash. However, IFNM has focused more on revegetated illegal routes the past 2 years.

BLM has a formal GIS assessment of where the UDI activity is occurring on the IFNM. We have plotted all foot trails and lay-up sites as well as smuggling roads over the past 4 years on a map. Since no data existed before, we cannot yet compare whether the sites have remained clean or new foot trails have been created, until we find new ones and/or until we come up with a method for monitoring these sites.

Does the trash return?—What are end results of mitigation? Yes, the trash returns. It seems that most large sites do not become as large again, but this could be due to more prompt clean-ups than in previous years. In addition, the people and thus the trash shift routes, simply changing the location of the trash, not necessarily decreasing the amount of trash.

Revegetation projects, however, appears more successful since it seems that most of the illegal routes stay closed. This depends on rain (cactus clippings need to take root), season of rehabilitation (spring, winter, or summer), and whether or not the route closed was well used. The more defined the illegal route, the more likely the site will be reopened after rehabilitation.

What projects have you completed FY2007 that required more effort than usual?

This year we spent 2 weeks with our SCC crews and 2 weeks with our CLASP crews—for a total of ten days— bagging and hiking out trash from a wash and a foot trail (¼--1 mile, one-way) to a road. This work was particularly difficult. Some of the trash had dammed up an area, and could only be removed with pick-axes. Once it was removed, then it still had to be hiked out (typically 2-4 bags at a time—weighing anywhere from 16-25 pounds per bag = (32-100 lbs.) over rough terrain that eventually climbed out of a wash and up an incline or many other small washes. We removed over 12,362 lbs. or 657 bags during these clean ups.

What are some practical lessons learned?

- Locate roll-offs as close to your clean-up site as possible.
- Triple check any debris (i.e. tires) you don't put in a bag, for scorpions.
- Law enforcement officers are a great asset when working with inexperienced youth and when working in the back country.
- Never head into a lightning storm on an ATV. Go to a low lying area and stay close to the ground.
- Don't camp crews near wildlife waters.

FY07 The Southern Arizona Project7 Lessons Learned from the BLM Yuma Field Office:

Ron Morfin and Fred Wong have been working on the issue since at least 2005. They report that recent experience has shown that we must remove abandoned vehicles promptly. Vehicles abandoned in remote areas away from a community were burned on several occasions when they were not removed promptly. The cost for removing a burned vehicle increases sharply, since the site now requires a hazardous materials response. There are also more severe environmental impacts from hazardous materials at a site where a vehicle is burned.

When vehicles or trash are not removed promptly in areas that are isolated, yet fairly close to a community, the sites begin to accumulate additional vehicles and trash from the local area. Many of the areas where illegal border activities occur along the Colorado River are also used for hunting, river access for fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreation activities. Outdoor recreation benefits enhance the quality of life for

local residents. Outdoor recreation opportunities also make the region a desirable destination for visitors who contribute significantly to the local economy.

Public lands adjacent to the border have historically been popular for dove and quail hunters. In recent years, escalating public safety concerns have prompted at least one local government entity to discourage public use of these areas.

Lessons learned and approaches from Pima County:

Pima County's approach has been to not focus on specific projects but rather to focus on Pima County lands as entire units. Within a particular unit, the Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation (NRPR) staff easily find hundreds of points for trash pickup or fence repairs.

Experience has shown that the impacts are ongoing, cumulative and must be re-addressed in many sites during the project year. Consequently, the NRPR has have utilized 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. An intermittent staffed team focused attention on problem areas across the County lands. During the past project year, NRPR also coordinated and utilized specific events that focused attention on specific areas for short periods of time.

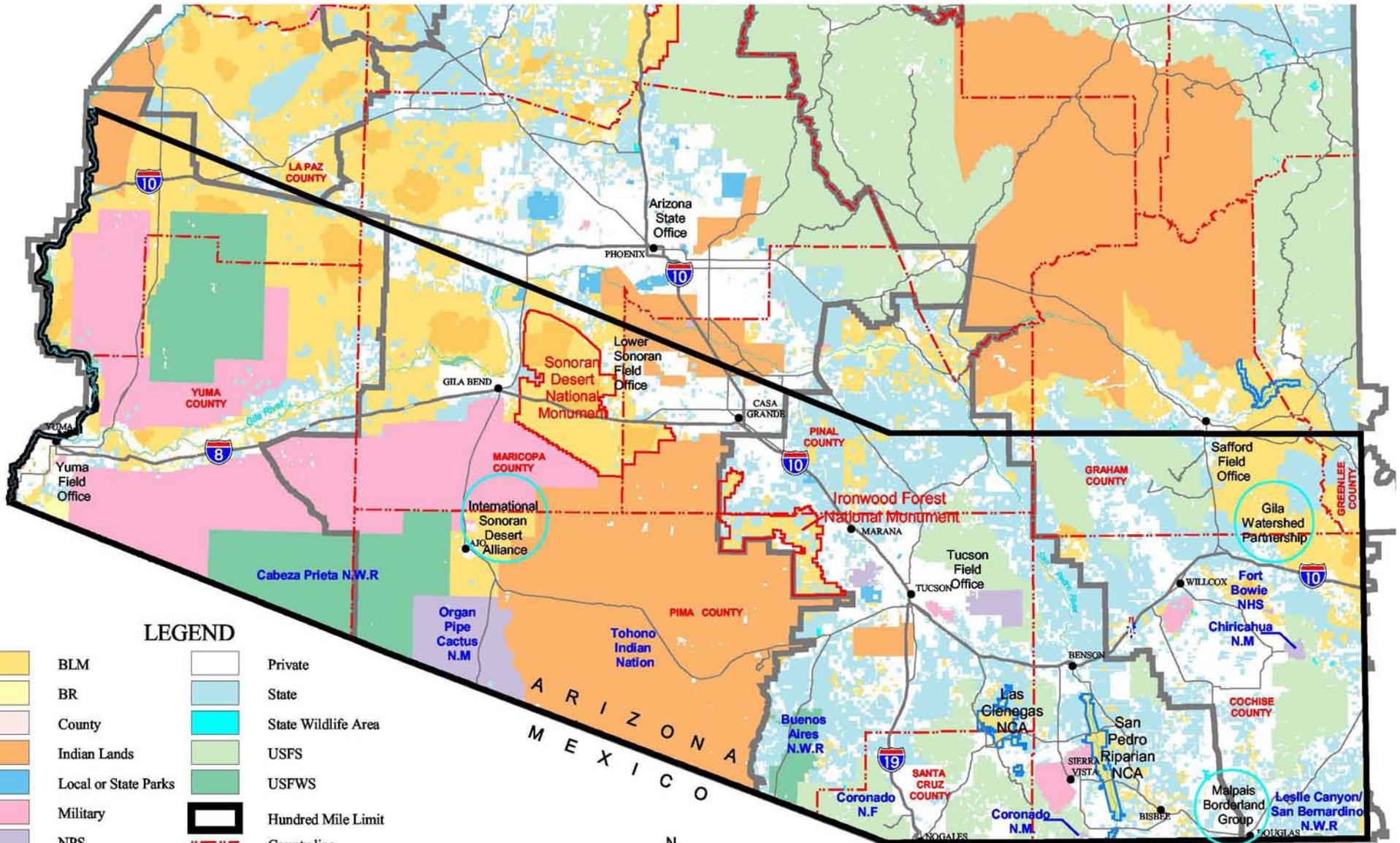
Are cleanups permanent? "We may have been able to remove accumulated spots of litter but they have been replaced by new, although far less in volume, litter deposits. Fences and gates have been repaired only to have them cut the following evening."

Appendix G

Arizona Game and Fish Department Program Success:

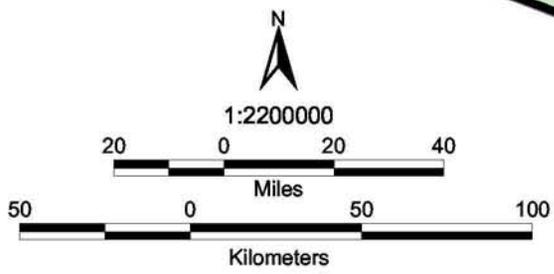
As an important goal, the AZG&F noted that not only have the individuals cleanup events been very successful, they have met safety goals as well. Volunteer safety has been assured. Direct contact with UDI trash can pose health risks from illnesses that might be contracted from UDI garbage. The new equipment that the Southern Arizona Project funding has helped to purchase limits potential contact volunteers might have with poisonous reptiles and painful spines from cactus and thorn bushes. Additionally, the equipment has helped reduce overall fatigue of our volunteers, as there is now less bending and carrying of heavy loaded bags.

FY2007 Summary Prepared by: Shela McFarlin, BLM, Arizona State Office



LEGEND

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|-----------------------------|
| | BLM | | Private |
| | BR | | State |
| | County | | State Wildlife Area |
| | Indian Lands | | USFS |
| | Local or State Parks | | USFWS |
| | Military | | Hundred Mile Limit |
| | NPS | | County line |
| | Non-governmental Organization Projects | | BLM Field Office Boundaries |



Caution:
Land ownership data is derived from less accurate data than the 1:24,000 scale base map. Therefore, land ownership may not be shown for parcels smaller than 40 acres, and land ownership lines may have a plotting error of 1/16 to 1/8 inch.

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management of use of the data for purposes not intended by BLM.

The Arizona State Land Department and Bureau of Land Management make no warranties, implied or expressed, with respect to information shown on this map.

SOUTHERN ARIZONA PROJECT FISCAL YEAR 2007 - PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS

Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Roskrige, Ironwood Forest National
Monument (IFNM)
Student Conservation Associate (SCA)



BLM IFNM
Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC)
January 2007

BLM IFNM
Community Learning and Service Project
(CLASP) training students



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
(ORCNM)
SCC crew with trash collected at Dripping
Springs



Pima County - University of Arizona Crew King's Ranch



Pima County - Rancho 2 Crewmember



Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge –Trash Removal Crew



Abandoned Vehicle Removals:

BLM Yuma Field Office FY07 Abandoned Vehicle Removed



Abandoned vehicle on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument



Barriers and Protective Fencing:

Coronado National Forest, Bear Creek Allotment International Boundary Fence.
Materials are being hauled in by helicopter for construction of two miles of fence.



Coronado National Forest, Nogales
Ranger District
Fences cut by illegal activities being
repaired by local ranchers and CNF.



Coronado National Forest, Nogales
Ranger District
Fence Repair and Cattle Guard
Installation near the international
boundary in cooperation with the US
Border Patrol.



San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge (SBNWR)
A Vehicle Bollard to block vehicles from driving through the Refuge.



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
SCC crew installing livestock exclusion fencing



ORCNM vehicle barrier with livestock exclusion fencing



Trash Removal

TFO IFNM West Silverbells SCC Crew January 2007 Before (left) and After (Right)



SCC Crew November 2006



BLM SCC and SCA crew Morgan City Wash, Hwy 74 north of Phoenix, Before and After Clean up



Road Rehabilitation

BLM LSDM SCC Crew Table Top Wilderness December 2006 (left) and January 2007 (right)



BLM IFNM SCC Crew January 2007



BLM IFNM CLASP Crew, Silverbells Road Rehab Project



Volunteer Events Contributed Again in 2007

Arizona Game & Fish Volunteer Event
Before



During



Cochise County and the Border Patrol Explorer Post # 869 Brown Canyon



Cochise County and the Huachuca Hiking Club US Forest Service Crest Trail



Sierra Vista Diamonds Girls Softball Team

