

# Southern Arizona Project to Address Public Land Degradation as a Result of Illegal Immigration 2004



Abandoned vehicle removal



Barrier construction



Replanting an illegal burn



Illegal road rehab



Trash cleanup

## End-of-Year Report



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to  
Address Public Land Degradation  
as a Result of Illegal Immigration  
2004**

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**Introduction**

Fiscal Year (FY) 2004 was the second consecutive year funding was specifically provided by Congress “to address public land degradation as a result of illegal immigration” in Arizona. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and all of its partners greatly appreciate this support which was initiated by Congressman Jim Kolbe and supported by the Arizona Congressional Delegation and other members of Congress.

In FY2003, more than 122,000 illegal immigrants<sup>1</sup> were arrested on Federal and Tribal lands in southern Arizona. In FY2004, this number increased to more than 155,000. Many thousands more avoided arrest. This migration tidal wave caused very serious impacts to the fragile landscape and natural and cultural resources administered by Federal, Tribal, State, County and private land managers in southern Arizona. Thousands of roads and trails have been illegally established by the sheer magnitude of migrants coming into Arizona from Mexico. These roads and trails fragment habitat, destroy vegetation, cause erosion and leave unsightly scars which, if not rehabilitated, will last for decades in areas which were pristine six years ago or less.

It has been estimated that each immigrant discards at least eight pounds of trash on his/her journey through southern Arizona. On this basis, 1.24 million pounds (620 tons) of trash were left on Federal and Tribal lands in southern Arizona by those arrested in FY2004. This does not take into account the tens of thousands (if not more) of migrants that were not arrested or the previous six years of accumulation.

Cutting fences and vandalism by smugglers and illegal immigrants also are problems. Livestock fences are cut and torn out by vehicles. Gates are rammed by vehicles or left open, allowing livestock to escape. And, repairs of this damage are required on a continuing basis and are very costly and time-consuming.

Warming and cooking fires by illegal immigrants escape and destroy vegetation and wildlife habitat and cause a safety hazard to visitors—including other illegal immigrants that might be in the area—and firefighters.

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<sup>1</sup> Also referred to as undocumented aliens (UDA) and undocumented immigrants (UDI).

The House Appropriations Committee (thanks to Congressman Jim Kolbe and the support of other Arizona Representatives) included \$1 million for BLM in the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill for FY2004. In Conference Committee the amount was reduced to \$800,000. A rescission reduced it further to \$790,000.

Funding provided in FY2003 came late in the year and therefore a portion of this funding was carried over into FY2004. Funding provided in FY2004 supplemented ongoing efforts and expanded into other areas. Work accomplished in FY2004 included trash removal; rehabilitation of illegal roads, trails and impacted washes; removal of abandoned and burned-out vehicles; replanting burned out areas; fence, gate and barrier repairs; cattleguard and barrier construction; and other projects. And, employee and worker safety continued to be a high priority.

Cooperative Agreements have been made with the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona; Malpai Borderlands Group; National Park Service; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Cochise, Santa Cruz and Graham counties; the town of Marana; the Tohono O'odham Nation and others to pick up trash left by smugglers and illegal immigrants and to repair damage caused by them. Arrangements have been made with several sanitary land fills to receive the trash. Trash bags, gloves and other protective equipment have been purchased and distributed to those who are helping with this effort. Trash bags were distributed to U.S. Border Patrol Agents for their use when arresting smugglers and illegal immigrants.

Although these efforts are directed at the symptoms and not the cause of the immigration problem, we are realizing some valuable positive results. Rehabilitating illegal roads and establishing barriers work in most instances and traffic over these routes has been redirected. Secondly, we have found that a clean area is less likely to encourage littering than an area with existing concentrations of trash. Thirdly, trash removal helps with monitoring of current illegal use patterns. And, fourthly, trash cans are actually used by some illegal immigrants when placed at pickup points and other areas of heavy use.

This report summarizes the accomplishments made in 2004.

BLM wishes to thank all of the volunteers, government agencies, and organizations that helped throughout the year to clean up trash and repair damage caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants in southern Arizona. Your support is greatly appreciated and contributed immensely to protecting many fragile and valuable resources.

## **Bureau of Land Management**

### **Arizona Border Security Detail**

In FY2004, Arizona BLM law enforcement used \$83,000 to provide security for crews cleaning up and rehabilitating lands in southeastern Arizona, and to provide emergency

care to persons found in distress in the southern Arizona deserts. This funding also was used to increase the law enforcement presence in order to serve as a deterrent for illegal immigrant and drug smuggling, prevent additional resource damage and trash dumping, and provide increased visitor and employee safety on public lands near the border.

During a period from April 4, 2004 to May 29, 2004, two additional Rangers were assigned to the Tucson and Phoenix Field Offices. During the rest of the summer until September 1, 2004, local Rangers continued to work periodic saturation patrols. Rangers worked over 800 hours of overtime on the project. In addition, over 1,280 hours of base time were contributed by Rangers with a duty station from outside Southern Arizona.

Listed below are the highlights and statistics from this time period:



### **Phoenix Field Office**

The Phoenix Field Office received \$107,000 to clean up litter, human waste and hazardous materials (fuel and motor oil spills, biohazard bags, etc.); remove abandoned and burned-out vehicles; repair damaged fences; replace gates with cattleguards; rehabilitate (stabilize and close) damaged roads; operate and maintain roads; and purchase and install notification and warning signs. The focus of the effort was within the Sonoran Desert National Monument.

Because of heavy use by drug and illegal immigrant smugglers, regardless of weather, and the subsequent law enforcement effort (Border Patrol, BLM Rangers and others), the condition of the Vekol Valley and Bates Well roads had deteriorated significantly. Some spots were unsafe to travel at night; others were on the verge of becoming so. Both roads were bladed with a road grader as necessary to make them usable and safe for law enforcement and public land visitors. As a result, BLM Law Enforcement Rangers, Border Patrol and other agencies, as well as the visiting public, are now able to traverse these two roads in comparative safety.

Culverts were installed in two wash crossings on the Vekol Valley Road. These washes flooded with each heavy rain, making the road impassable. This presented a safety hazard for visitors, but also made it extremely difficult for BLM law enforcement officers and Border Patrol to work in the area. This put illegal immigrants and visitor lives in danger during times of inclement weather. These culverts make the crossings usable in wet weather, enhancing safety.

The main road south through Vekol Valley in the Sonoran Desert National Monument leaves the monument and enters the Tohono O’odham Nation’s reservation in T9S, R1E, Section 14. Until a cattleguard was installed, there was only a simple wire gate in the fence at the road. Illegal immigrants and drug smugglers sometimes drove vehicles through the gate without opening it, and when they did open the gate, they seldom closed it. The gate would often remain in this “destroyed” or open condition for several days at a time. This allowed livestock from the reservation to enter the monument, and vice versa. Installation of the cattleguard prevents this from occurring in the future and facilitates grazing management and resource protection on both sides of the fence.

Three additional cattleguards have been acquired and will be installed in similar situations on the monument in FY2005.

Illegal immigrants and drug smugglers often abandon (and sometimes burn) their vehicles. In FY2004, over 200 abandoned vehicles were removed from the Sonoran Desert National Monument and other BLM-administered public lands in the area. The company doing the towing terminated its volunteer relationship with BLM because it was losing money on the work. Therefore, BLM entered into a contract arrangement with a towing company so that the abandoned vehicles could continue to be removed from the monument and surrounding lands for the remainder of FY2004 and into the next year.

Ongoing border related activity by illegal immigrants and smugglers has several impacts, including the deposition of trash and waste on the public land and the creation of new roads and vehicle trails where the smugglers have driven off road and often were pursued by law enforcement. The trash and waste they leave remains until it naturally degrades unless there is some effort to remove it. The vehicle trails potentially become roads if other public land users drive over them after the smugglers create them. Additionally, fences are often cut and other minor impacts occur.

To alleviate these impacts, the Phoenix Field Office “employed” two Student Conservation Association (SCA) interns for the October through May period, through an existing Assistance Agreement with the SCA. The interns are picking up and removing trash and waste and rehabilitating vehicle paths. They will repair fences and signs and do other border related restoration and reclamation work. They will remain with BLM from early October 2004, when they started, through May, 2005.

Many hundreds of pounds of trash were removed, and significant portions of nine illegal roads were rehabilitated during the first month of work. Over the course of their appointment, the interns will remove or coordinate the removal of tons of trash and waste as well as rehabilitate roads and carry out other needed work.

To inform the public of the possible danger in the areas of BLM-administered public land affected by border activity, signs were designed and ordered, to be placed at strategic locations where needed. The wording of the signs is as follows: “**CAUTION** **Smuggling activity is common in this area because of proximity to the international**

**border. Be aware of your surroundings at all times.”** Additionally, agency identifying logos and telephone contact information are on the signs.

The signs have been installed on roads commonly used by the public when entering affected public lands.

See Appendix A for additional details and photos.

## **Safford Field Office**

The Safford Field Office (SFO) received \$142,000 in FY2004, which was used to supplement existing Assistance Agreements with the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cochise and Graham Counties, and the Malpai Borderlands Group to clean up trash left and repair damage caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants. Please see the accomplishments of each in specific sections that follow in this report.

## **Tucson Field Office**

The Tucson Field Office (TFO) received \$332,000 in FY2004 to be used on several projects in order to remediate the impacts of illegal smuggling of immigrants and drugs on public lands. The money was used in several partnership agreements to assist in the rehabilitation of degraded lands, construction of vehicle barriers, contracts for waste removal, and costs of materials and supplies.

## **Student Conservation Association**

Four Student Conservation Association (SCA) Interns were contracted to organize and assist with the work projects approved under this funding for the Tucson Field Office. Two of the SCAs were assigned to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area and two to the Ironwood Forest National Monument. As part of their training, these interns have become certified Wilderness First Responders, Tread Lightly Trainers, and are scheduled to become Leave No Trace Trainers. They have undergone field safety orientation and other training in order to become familiar and confident in performing their jobs under the current conditions, which include working in remote areas where illegal smuggling of people and drugs occurs, with little or no radio/cell phone coverage, and in extreme weather conditions.

In addition to organizing and working with a variety of organizations and groups to do cleanup and repairs, these SCA Interns spent more than 118 hours by themselves cleaning up trash left by smugglers and illegal immigrants (over 70 cubic yards) and rehabilitating illegal routes and other damaged areas.

Although funded in FY2004, these SCA Interns will be performing the following projects in FY2005:

- Coordinating 10 weeks of project work with the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona
- Teaching Tread Lightly! in public contacts and muster sessions with local Border Patrol stations
- Coordinating with partners for regular clean-up and rehabilitation work (e.g. Town of Marana, Humane Borders, and Sky Island Alliance)
- Documenting and remediating sites being damaged by illegal immigrants
- Coordinating waste removal, tire collection and disposal and other items not fit for landfills
- Revising bilingual messages for bulletin boards
- Installing and maintaining bilingual signage
- Recording and rehabilitating cross country vehicle routes (resulting from illegal smugglers), and
- Other projects.

The SCA's also are working with the Community Learning Adventure Service Project (CLASP) to get volunteers together with community speakers, on the land, to provide service hours to mitigate the impacts caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants and to talk about immigration in this area.

### **United States Customs and Border Protection**

Tucson Field Office has been working with the Border Patrol to assist in the clean-up of trash from immigrants and to help new agents become aware of traveling with minimum impact on the lands while doing their job. A Border Patrol specific Tread Lightly! Program was developed and delivered by BLM in June 2004 to over 50 Border Patrol supervisors in the Tucson Sector. During this training, new connections were made and messages shared. This program will be delivered in Border Patrol stations beginning November 2004 by the SCA interns and a BLM Park Ranger. Border Patrol Agents agreed to assist in clean-up of the litter left by immigrants. Over 1,000 lime-green trash bags have been provided to agents in the Tucson Sector.

### **Youth Corps of Southern Arizona**

Under the existing statewide assistance agreement with the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona (YCOSA), \$67,000 was obligated for 10 weeks of work by youth crews. These crews fill a special niche in the remediation of impacts left by smugglers and illegal immigrants. These YCOSA crews are able to travel to distant, remote locations on rough roads and spend several days working in the area. Because they are self sufficient and camp in these areas, they can rehabilitate many places that are virtually logistically impossible to rehabilitate using volunteers.

With funds carried over from FY2003, three weeks of work were performed on the Ironwood Forest National Monument during FY2004 by one YCOSA crew—October 14-17, 2003 (see pages 32-36, Southeast Arizona 2003 Project End-of-Year Report), November 10-14, 2003, and December 1-5, 2003.

During the November and December efforts, the YCOSA crew picked up 227 bags of trash (113.5 cubic yards), 41 tires and other large items in the Ironwood Forest National Monument. They also rehabilitated 14 illegal routes and five expanding pull-outs. (See Appendix B).

Another YCOSA crew worked in Las Cienegas National Conservation Area on April 26-30, 2004. This crew removed waste (approximately 10 cubic yards), installed bilingual signs, rehabilitated and reseeded and mulched two damaged areas, and cut grass and took other fire prevention measures at the historic Empire Ranch House. They also removed trash from the Audubon Research Ranch. (See Appendix C).

And, YCOSA crews worked 17 days in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area between February 27 and September 22, 2004. During this time, they cleaned up 373 bags of trash (186 cubic yards). (See Appendix D).

### **Town of Marana**

The Town of Marana has been a strong partner for the Ironwood Forest National Monument. Again and again, their willingness to assist and their quality of work exceeded all expectations. As the gateway community to one of this nation's newest National Monuments, the Town of Marana has been nothing but supportive in their efforts to rehabilitate the area from the impacts of smuggling controlled substances and illegal immigrants.

Under an Assistance Agreement with BLM, the Town of Marana received \$35,000 in FY2003, some of which was carried over into FY2004. An additional \$30,000 was obligated to the Town of Marana in FY2004 for labor, supplies, tools, equipment and work performed to remediate the impacts of illegal immigration on the lands in and around Ironwood Forest National Monument. As part of this partnership, the Town performed weekly clean-up work (except in the summer) on lands within and bordering the Monument. Their average weekly collection was 1,200 to 1,500 pounds of litter. This waste was collected and delivered to the Tangerine Landfill. This landfill is owned by the Town of Marana, thus no disposal fees were incurred under this partnership agreement. Since October 2003, the Town of Marana disposed of over 41,000 pounds of trash.

The sites regularly used by illegal immigrants are typically in mesquite bosques, with roads that are brushy, overgrown and hard to get full size vehicles into. The Town of Marana was able to purchase a 4x4 dump truck that is not much larger than a golf cart to assist in the collection of the trash in these sites.

The Town of Marana also filled and disposed of an entire 30-cubic yard roll-off dumpster of tires. They have voluntarily taken on the task of removing the tires from the rims, as required for disposal. They perform this not only on the tires they collect, but on the many truck loads of tires collected by SCAs and BLM staff from Ironwood Forest National Monument (see Appendix B for more information).

### **Waste Collection Contract**

On Ironwood Forest National Monument, there are two 30-cubic yard roll-off dumpsters located in areas of high illegal immigrant traffic. One is on the southern end of Ironwood Forest National Monument, three miles north of the Tohono O’odham boundary, and one is located just south of Avra Valley Road, near the Waterman Mountains. These roll-offs provide a place for volunteer clean-up crews to dispose of waste without having to drive to a landfill and pay fees for their service. Although the closest landfill to the Monument is the Tangerine Landfill, it is not all that close when working in remote areas of the Monument. It is a tremendous help to have a place in these areas of high use to drop trash collected at any hour of the day or night, especially during multi-day work with crews. They are a necessity for BLM staff, SCAs, YCOSA crews, and volunteers. Since October 1, 2003, seven 30-cubic yard roll-off containers have been filled and removed. The total waste collected in these containers was 18.61 tons.

### **Volunteer Service Projects**

Several organizations have provided volunteer hours to remediate the impacts caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants on public lands. For example, Humane Borders provided regularly scheduled project work and 630 volunteer hours to clean up 148 cubic yards of trash from the Ironwood Forest National Monument. (See Appendix B).

On February 3, 2004, ten students and staff from the Southwest Open School from outside Durango, Colorado, provided 60 volunteer hours to reclaim four illegal routes, and cleanup about three cubic yards of trash in Ironwood Forest National Monument and adjacent lands owned by ASARCO. This effort was organized by the Arizona Wilderness Coalition. (See Appendix B).

In March, April and September 2004, the Sky Island Alliance provided over 554 volunteer hours of work in the vicinity of “The Narrows” within Las Cienegas National Conservation Area to build vehicle barriers, rehabilitate illegal routes and clean up trash left by smugglers and illegal immigrants. (See Appendix C).

On May 3-7, 2004, a crew from the Northwest Youth Corps and two SCA Interns collected 23 cubic yards of trash from the San Pedro Riparian National Recreation Area and Zacatecas Canyon near Old Bisbee, Arizona. (See Appendix D).

## **Yuma Field Office**

The Yuma Field Office was provided \$69,000 in FY2004. With this funding, it restored border areas affected by illegal immigrant activities along the Colorado River. Field Office Staff and contracted crews from the Coconino Rural Environment Corps planted 250 cottonwood and willow poles scattered within a 14-acre area to replace trees that were destroyed by a wildfire (C936) that occurred on June 17, 2001 and believed to be caused by illegal immigrants. An open top wire cage consisting of wire mesh anchored to a T-post and rebar was placed around each planted pole for protection from beavers and other wildlife.

For the cleanup phase, Field Office Staff and contracted crews from the Coconino Rural Environment Corps picked up approximately 40 cubic yards of trash and 43 vehicle tires along nine miles of the river levee road on BLM administered land in the border area from Morelos Dam and south along the entire stretch of the Colorado River to San Luis, Arizona.

During the project, crewmembers were contacted by some of the recreating public who expressed their appreciation for cleaning up the area. It was noted that in addition to the importance of the entire project area for bird hunting, the area near Morelos Dam receives a fair amount of weekly day-use for fishing and boat launching.

See Appendix E for additional details and photos.

## **National Park Service**

In FY2003, BLM entered into an Assistance Agreement with the National Park Service at Chiricahua National Monument/Fort Bowie National Historic Site for \$20,000. Since that funding was transferred late in the year, a portion of it was carried over for use in FY2004. With this funding, nine illegal immigrant activity sites were monitored for trash accumulation over the fiscal year. These were all sites that had been used by illegal immigrants to different degrees in FY2003. Only one site (Site 8), in the mouth of Siphon Canyon, continued to show heavy illegal immigrant use. The location was checked weekly for additional trash build up. The trash was bagged and brought into the Fort Bowie maintenance area where it was inventoried and weighed. It was disposed of in a trash compactor and later taken to the landfill in Willcox.

During FY2004, Site 8 produced over 228 pounds of trash including, 33 backpacks, food and water containers and discarded clothing. Approximately half of the backpacks contained personal items. The rest were empty. Many of them were new and in good condition. Site 8 and Apache Pass also produced four automobile bench seats and five bucket seats that had been discarded along the road and at the pick up point. The park also recorded two illegal immigrant-related traffic accidents. Both were vehicles leaving the roadway, one hitting a tree and the other high-centered on some boulders. One of the vehicles had to be towed away. Both accident scenes had to be rehabilitated.

See Appendix F for additional details and photos.

An additional \$20,000 was added to the Assistance Agreement in FY2004, but was not received by Fort Bowie National Historic Site until September 2004 due to administrative delays. A total of \$21,510 will be carried over and used in FY2005.

## **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

BLM entered into an Assistance Agreement with FWS at San Bernardino and Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuges for \$20,000 in FY2003 and added another \$20,000 in FY2004. All of this funding was used in FY2004.

The two refuges continue to have their border and boundary fences cut or damaged by smugglers and illegal immigrants. Cut and damaged fences allow livestock to trespass onto the refuges causing damage to sensitive wetland habitat in addition to that caused by the migrants and smugglers themselves. Four thousand dollars (\$4,000) was used for fence repair.

Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) was used along with FWS funding to hire a term position employee that monitored the refuges for damaged fences and trash concentrations and to clean up trash during the year. This funding has allowed FWS to make a concerted effort to clean up the tremendous amounts of trash left by illegal immigrants on the refuges.

Drug smugglers mix with illegal immigrants to bring marijuana into the United States. At camping sites, rest areas and lay-up areas, marijuana seeds are discarded or dispersed and begin to grow when conditions are right. During trash clean up efforts, marijuana is also eradicated before it can be harvested. About \$1,000 was used for marijuana eradication on the refuges.

In the past, smugglers were driving into remote areas of Leslie Canyon National Wildlife Refuge to pick up illegal immigrants. This resulted in damage to sensitive riparian areas and has lead to the take of Federally-listed endangered species.

Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) was used to install 550 feet of Corten Steel vehicle guardrail on the refuge to prevent vehicle access. Vegetation is healing and the potential for stream contamination has been diminished.

See Appendix G for additional details and photos.

## **Tohono O'odham Nation**

BLM entered into an Assistance Agreement with the Tohono O'odham Nation in July 2004 for \$50,000. This Agreement provided funding to the Nation to repair damage caused by smugglers and illegal immigrants crossing their lands and to clean up trash left by them. Final approval by the Nation's Legislative Council to receive the money is still pending. Work will be performed in FY2005.

## **Cochise County**

In FY2003, BLM entered into an Assistance Agreement with Cochise County for \$43,600. About \$31,660 was carried over into FY2004. BLM provided Cochise County with an additional \$20,000 in FY2004, making a balance of \$51,660. In FY2004, a total of \$7,290 was used. The balance of \$44,370 has been carried over into FY2005.

Cochise County picked up trash left by illegal immigrants in January 2004 along Escapule Wash and on May 4 on Ruth Cowan property. Adults and juveniles on probation provided the workforce for the cleanup of the Touchstone Trail near Benson on May 29. They picked up 2.08 tons of trash.

On June 14-18, YCOSA crews picked up over two tons of trash from the Ogurek, Hargis, and Misty Ranches and along the Touchstone Trail. Trash consisted of backpacks, plastic bottles, food containers, personal items, clothes and shoes. Useable backpacks were salvaged, cleaned, restored and donated to local schools.

During their nine days of work on the Cowan Ranch, October 14-22, 2004, YCOSA crews picked up over six tons of trash.

See Appendix H for photos of trash and cleanup efforts.

## **Graham County**

In FY2003, BLM entered into an Assistance Agreement with Graham County for \$10,000. In FY2004, an additional \$30,000 was provided. As was reported at the end of 2003, the county built a trash trailer and established a citizens committee—Southeastern Arizona Clean and Beautiful (SEACAB)—to identify sites and plan for cleanup and restoration projects.

The trailer has been used by a crew of about five prison inmates and one supervisor to clean up illegal immigrant trash sites along and near county roads one day per week for a period of about eight months during 2004.

About sixty volunteers, including SEACAB volunteers, Safford 4-H and BLM personnel, worked four hours on May 15, 2004 on a Gila River cleanup. Two large roll-off dumpsters and several smaller containers were filled with trash picked up by hand and with a large front-end loader. Both sides of the river were cleaned up at the Eighth Avenue Bridge in Safford and the Pima Bridge in Pima, Arizona. See Appendix I for additional information and photos.

Costs charged against the Assistance Agreement for this cleanup effort and the work performed by the prison inmates have been nominal. A balance of \$36,800 has been carried over to FY2005.

In November 2004, the County began assisting an Eagle Scout with a project cleaning sites along the Gila River north of the Town of Thatcher which includes illegal immigrant sites.

The County, perhaps assisted by the City of Safford, will be tearing down a house by the Gila River which is being used by many undesirables, including illegal immigrants, passing through the valley.

Additionally, the County is planning a concerted effort, along with volunteers from SEACAB, to clean up Haekel Road in January 2005. The County also plans to use the prison labor crew along with Highway Department Employees to do several major cleanup projects.

The County and SEACAB will be scheduling more volunteer cleanup days for 2005.

## **Santa Cruz County**

In the summer of 2003, BLM entered into an Assistance Agreement with Santa Cruz County for \$35,000 to clean up illegal immigrant trash throughout the county. This funding was carried over into FY2004, but no cleanup work occurred. Thus, the funding was carried over into FY2005.

In November 2004, the Santa Cruz County Workforce Development Program began in earnest to develop a partnership with the Border Patrol to clean up illegal immigrant trash. Under this partnership the Border Patrol will identify heavy concentrations of trash and volunteers in the Border Patrol's Youth Explorer program, in concert with Santa Cruz County staff, will clean up the identified areas. The above funding along with County funds and perhaps Border Patrol funds will be used.

The first areas to be inventoried and cleaned up will be along Cienega Creek in Las Cienegas National Conservation Area. Other problem areas within Santa Cruz County will follow.

Although it has taken considerable time to initiate this effort in Santa Cruz County, significant progress is expected in 2005.

## **Malpai Borderlands Group**

In FY2003, BLM entered into an Assistance Agreement with the Malpai Borderlands Group for \$90,000. A balance of \$36,100 was carried over to FY2004. In FY2004, BLM provided the Malpai Borderlands Group with an additional \$40,000 giving them a total of \$76,100. However, the Group only used about \$24,000 in FY2004, leaving a balance of \$52,100 that has been carried over to FY2005.

Smugglers and illegal immigrant traffic have created many unwanted trails and roads and have caused creek banks to collapse. Border Patrol and other law enforcement four-wheel All Terrain Vehicles and four-wheel drive vehicles tracking the smugglers and illegal immigrants further expand the trails and roads. These trails and roads concentrate runoff during storms and have resulted in erosion problems. About \$25,500 of the above funds went towards 7.2 miles of watershed erosion control treatments in southeast Arizona in 2004. See Map 1 in Appendix J.

The watershed erosion control is a treatment to stop the erosion and heal the cuts that were trails. If the treatment doesn't extend up the watersheds to the surrounding areas, the time and money spent on the single spots that are damaged will be wasted.

At this time all the watershed restoration work has been in tributaries that eventually run into the San Bernardino National Wildlife Refuge.

The Malpai Borderlands Group obtained other grant money to continue the watershed work. See Appendix J for a detailed report on the watershed restoration project and examples of the completed work before the rains and the effects of the rains and flooding.

The Malpai Borderlands Group also replaced one mile of fence between two ranches that was torn down by illegal immigrants. See Map 1 in Appendix J.

The Malpai Borderlands Group hired a person to pick up trash left by illegal immigrants on ranchlands in southeast Arizona. See Map 2 in Appendix K for the area covered and for additional details and photos.

The contractor picked up from two to fifteen 45-gallon garbage bags of trash each day, averaging about eight bags per day. He then loaded them in his truck and hauled them to local land fills. Many times he walked a mile or two away from roads covering many miles of open country. A detailed listing of items found and picked up can be found in Appendix K, page K-1.

In FY 2005, clean up efforts will continue and fences, gates, roads and other improvements damaged or destroyed by illegal immigrants will be repaired. Certain illegal roads also may be closed. The clean-up is a never ending job, covering country where there are no roads and the trash has to be gathered by hand and bags hauled out by hand to the nearest road.

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# Appendices