

APPENDIX A  
The Southern Arizona Project  
FY2006 End-of-Year Report

Bureau of Land Management -- Phoenix District  
Lower Sonoran Field Office -- Sonoran Desert National Monument  
Hassayampa Field Office – Agua Fria National Monument  
Restoration Projects 2005-2006





# End-Of-Year Report

## **End-of-Year Facts (November 2005 through May 2006)**

Conservation crews, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) personnel, volunteers and Student Conservation Associates (SCA) Steve DeGrush and Kevin Malia collected approximately 685 bags of trash throughout the Phoenix BLM District from November 2005 through May 2006. That was a total of nearly seven tons, most of which was related to Undocumented Immigrant (UDI) travel.

Areas of the Sonoran Desert National Monument (SDNM) south of Interstate 8 contained most of the trash. An additional 35 bikes and 80 vehicles were removed from the monument.

During the seven-month stretch, Steve and Kevin totaled 96 and 81 field days, respectively. (Note: Steve worked between the dates of September 26, 2005 and August 15, 2006, while Kevin worked between November 3, 2005 and May 22, 2006. This report reflects the time period they worked together.)

In addition, SCA associates and land stewards restored and rehabilitated approximately 50 illegal roads throughout the monument. They signed areas, educated visitors, fixed fences and performed several other park ranger tasks.

Results from this report are as thorough as possible, but they do not tell the whole conservation story from this time period. Nor is every trash site and illegal road restoration documented here, instead this report provides examples of the type of rehabilitation effort occurs through this project.

**Project Name:** Smith Road cleanup #1

**Date of Project:** December 1 to December 6, 2005 and December 13, 2005

**Location:** Smith Road, begin at Interstate 8 overpass and move south

**Participants:** SCA associates Steve and Kevin; park ranger Melinda Mahoney

**Description of Project:** Collect trash along Smith Road, near Interstate 8 overpass and along washes paralleling Smith Road. One UDI site was known (near Interstate 8 overpass), while other sites and/or trash piles would be documented for future crew work or cleaned up. Place Wilderness signs in washes on east side of Table Top Wilderness boundary. Complete minor road restoration at a few points along road.

**Results:** Collected 31 bags of trash and five bikes. Trash was concentrated in a few areas, but mostly scattered in washes paralleling road. Old aluminum cans and trash collected along road scattered as well. Pounded in four new Wilderness boundary Carsonites; completed minor restoration work along Wilderness boundary. Replaced two “Road/Area Closed” signs at end of road.



before



after

**Project Name:** Morgan City Wash and Agua Fria National Monument cleanup #1

**Date of Project:** January 17 to January 18, 2006

**Location:** Morgan City Wash – about one mile north of Highway 74. Agua Fria National Monument (AFNM) – entrance to monument at Badger Springs exit.

**Participants:** SCA associates Steve and Kevin

**Description of Project:** Monitor trash sites along Morgan City Wash and clean up one of several trashy campsites. Collect trash around parking lot at AFNM from UDI use.

**Results:** Collected three bags in Morgan City Wash. Collected four bags of trash at AFNM.



before (Morgan City Wash site)

\* After photos unavailable; AFNM photos unavailable

**Project Name:** Morgan City Wash cleanup #2

**Date of Project:** February 5, 2006 to February 7, 2006

**Location:** Small side road south of Morgan City Wash route; road parallels Highway 74 and trash site within one-half mile north of Highway 74. Site extends approximately 150 yards and spills onto two hillsides.

**Participants:** Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crew of 10; SCA associates Steve and Kevin; BLM outdoor recreation planner Mary Skordinsky

**Description of Project:** Clean enormous UDI site, utilizing SCC crew.

**Results:** Collected approximately 350 bags of trash and filled four roll-off dumpsters. All of larger trash items removed from wash, though many tiny scraps remained.



before



after

**Project Name: Morgan City Wash cleanup #2 (continued)**



before



after



after



after (approximately one roll-off)

**Project Name:** Vekol Valley restoration #1

**Date of Project:** February 7 to February 14, 2006

**Location:** Length of Vekol Road from Interstate 8 to south end of road at Tohono O' Odam (TO) reservation boundary.

**Participants:** SCA associates Steve and Kevin

**Description of Project:** Identify, GPS and mark OHV intrusions and trash piles (UDI or recreation-related) along Vekol Road. Take out Carsonite "Not A Road" signs from previous year's SCA work projects in areas that appear to be fully rehabilitated. Restore and rehabilitate new intrusions.

**Results:** Removed 15 previously placed signs. Places where signs taken out nearly invisible to former use. Restoration work completed on new illegal trails has held up and remains mostly untouched.



before



after



before



after

**Project Name:** Vekol Valley restoration #1 (continued)



before



after



before



after



before



after

**Project Name:** Ironwood Forest National Monument cleanup and restoration

**Date of Project:** February 23 and 24, 2006

**Location:** Sawtooth Mountains, Ironwood Forest National Monument. Much of work completed along power line road on north side of monument

**Participants:** SCA associates Emily, Donna, Steve and Kevin

**Description of Project:** Arrange for removal of old truck on monument road. Clean up scattered trash (both UDI and recreational). Restore UDI roads in north part of monument.

**Results:** Truck removed successfully by Gary's Towing. Removed approximately four bags of trash. Restored two UDI roads, which paralleled each other. Used similar restoration techniques from previous sites, though higher amount of vegetation applied to one of the restored roads. North Tank and Ironwood projects completed over a three-day, two-night camping trip with Tucson Field Office SCA interns.



before



after

**Project Name:** Ironwood National Monument cleanup and restoration (continued)



before



after



vehicle removal

**Project Name:** SCC Freeman Road/ Vekol Road restoration and trash removal

**Date of Project:** March 5 to March 8, 2006

**Location:** Freeman Tank and immediate area; spots along Freeman Road. Vekol Road – approximately one-half mile north of Vekol-Table Top Road intersection

**Participants:** 11-member Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crew. SCA associates Steve and Kevin; park ranger Melinda Mahoney

**Description of Project:** Major tasks include directing crew, restoring illegal OHV routes, installing “Not A Road” and “No Motor Vehicles Off Road” Carsonite signs and cleaning up concentrated and scattered UDI trash sites. Other tasks include raking out OHV tracks in washes, constructing rock barriers on one illegal route, removing trash near Interstate 8 at Freeman Road and Vekol Road exits, acquiring GPS points for all work sites.

**Results:** Six non-inventoried routes were restored in Freeman Road area. One major non-inventoried route restored on Vekol Road. One-hundred bags of trash collected for project, almost all of which was extracted from Freeman Road area. Trash hauled by pickup truck and trailer to landfill on Highway 85, between Gila Bend and Buckeye Hills. Installed four Carsonite signs, and more importantly, were able to remove Carsonite signs after completing restoration on Vekol Road site. Crew and BLM personnel decided restoration work at most sites disguised former roads well enough to not install Carsonite signs. Restoration included digging out ruts, smoothing surface and using vertical mulching techniques when possible. Provided finishing touches to restoration sites by raking over tracks left by conservation personnel.



Freeman Road before



Freeman Road after (approx. 50 bags shown)



**Project Name:** SCC Freeman/ Vekol Road restoration and trash removal (continued)



Freeman before



Freeman after



contour work



rock barricade



raking out tracks in wash



vertical mulching

**Project Name:** SCC Freeman/ Vekol Road restoration and trash removal (continued)



Vekol before



Vekol after



Vekol restoration



Vekol restoration

**Project Name:** SCC Smith Road/Vekol Road restoration and trash removal

**Date of Project:** April 9 to April 20, 2006

**Location:** Work completed on Smith Road, primarily between Interstate 8 and Tohono O’ Odham Nation boundary. Some work completed on Smith Road, north of interstate; work also completed at West Lava Flow trail head and roads leading south from Pinal/ Maricopa county line.

**Participants:** 10-member Southwest Conservation Corps (SCC) crew. Phoenix District BLM Law Enforcement, SCA associates Steve and Kevin; park ranger Melinda Mahoney

**Description of Project:** Comprehensive removal of trash along Smith Road and washes paralleling Smith Road, south of Interstate 8. Remove trash from documented UDI site along Interstate 8. As time allows, remove trash along Smith Road, north of Interstate 8. Install Carsonite signs in washes along Smith Road/ Table Top Wilderness. As time allows, restore illegal roads along Smith Road and elsewhere in SDNM, including two locations on Vekol Road; roads south of Pinal/ Maricopa county line and West Lava Flow trailhead.

**Results:** Over two tons of trash removed, which included approximately 150 bags and 16 bikes. Trash collected and bagged along Smith Road; then taken by truck and trailer to landfill on Highway 85, between Gila Bend and Buckeye. Trash collected up to three washes deep on both sides of Smith Road, which encompassed broad area. “Hilltop” UDI site on south part of Smith Road yielded approximately 30 bags of total trash collected. Crew able to remove trash on Smith Road, north of Interstate 8 as well as other locations mentioned above. Nine Carsonite signs installed along Table Top Wilderness boundary washes. Crew worked well – successive helicopter flyovers have reported the road is nearly “immaculate” and contains a small amount of new trash.



UDI site near Smith Road and Interstate 8



unloading trash at landfill

**Project Name:** SCC Smith Road/ Vekol Road restoration and trash removal (continued)



SCC "safety circle" on Smith Road



trash removal at "Hilltop" site



Smith Road smuggling camp (before)



Smith Road smuggling camp (after)

**Project Name:** SCC Smith Road/ Vekol Road restoration and trash removal (continued)



before



after



"Hilltop" site before



"Hilltop" site after



signing (before)



signing (after)

**Project Name:** SCC Smith Road/ Vekol Road restoration and trash removal (continued)



Vekol Road restoration



signing and restoration, south end of Vekol Road



Vekol Road restoration (before)



Vekol Road restoration (after)

**Project Name:** Table Top Road restoration

**Date of Project:** April 25, 2006

**Location:** Table Top campground; area along Table Top Road near campground

**Participants:** SCA associates Steve and Kevin

**Description of Project:** Rehabilitate numerous off-road smuggling tracks that cross road leading to Table Top Trailhead. Remove trash and bikes along road. Complete minor maintenance at Lava Flow & Table Top trailheads. Re-define small parking/ pull-out area at Lava Flow trail head.

**Results:** Off-road track rehabilitation should stop additional recreational use. Re-defined parking area looks good and should hold up. Access roads and campground very clean.



Lava Flow trail head parking (before)



Lava Flow trail head parking (during)



Lava Flow trail head parking (after)

**Project Name:** Area-A fence repair

**Date of Project:** May 15 to May 18, 2006

**Location:** West and north lengths of Area-A fence line (approx. 33 miles total)

**Participants:** BLM employee Amos Sloan; SCA associates Steve and Kevin

**Description of Project:** Repair cuts and breaks along entire length of Area-A fence line; perform general maintenance of fence where needed. Use ATVs to haul fence supplies and assist with transportation.

**Results:** Completed approximately two-thirds total length of fence line. Repaired approximately 30 cuts and performed maintenance on more than 50 sections of fence. Cuts and breaks in washes were most timely to repair; some sections were completely replaced with new t-posts and strands of wire. Some cuts needed only minor repairs (i.e. tightening loose wires).. Fence required repairs in most spots where it crossed washes.



before



after



before



after

**Project Name:** Area-A fence repair (continued)



before



after



locate wire ends



string-out wires



tie-off wires

**Project Name:** South Ajo Block cleanup & wildlife water repair and replacement

**Date of Project:** January 14 and March 25, 2006

**Location:** Bendejas Well and Cameron Tank areas south of Ajo, AZ

**Participants:** BLM wildlife biologist Lori Young, BLM construction personnel, International Sonoran Desert Alliance (ISDA) volunteers; led by ISDA program director, Mimi Phillips

**Description of Project:** For the January project, volunteers removed trash, wire and other materials around the earthen Cameron livestock tank to make the tank more accessible to Sonoran pronghorn, an endangered species. The Ajo Copper News and Ajo Corridor News provided positive coverage of the event.

During the March project at Bendejas Well, volunteers removed trash, fences and pushed over railroad ties to open up the former livestock holding area. In addition to the smuggling trash, the area had accumulated decades of public use trash.

BLM replaced water tanks damaged by smuggling activity with new water tanks to provide reliable water for Sonoran pronghorn. Because smuggling activity was regularly damaging these waters (holes, spigots left on, etc.), the drinkers were modified to limit water loss, and the waters were checked weekly and minor repairs were done as needed.

**Results:** The 38 volunteers removed two dump-truck loads of materials and debris and four pickup loads of trash. They stacked the larger, more unmanageable items into piles for a later pick-up date. Those materials will be removed with a front-end loader. ISDA continues to express interest in cleanup projects around the Ajo region. Reliable water is available for the endangered Sonoran pronghorn.



volunteers at Cameron Tank



**Project Name:** South Ajo Block cleanup and wildlife water repair (continued)



hauling out a storage tank



re-converted game water at Bendejas Well

**Project Name:** Abandoned vehicle removal

**Date of Project:** Ongoing

**Location:** Sonoran Desert National Monument and surrounding area; primarily south of Interstate 8

**Participants:** Phoenix District BLM law enforcement personnel

**Description of Project:** Find abandoned vehicles and report discoveries. Coordinate prompt removal of vehicles. Vehicles and associate debris are removed.

**Results:** Approximately 90 vehicles were removed in Fiscal Year 2006. By removing vehicles quickly, hazardous materials spills are often avoided, unsightly vehicles are removed, and the resources in the area can begin to rehabilitate immediately.



abandoned vehicle near Antelope Pk.