

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

**Bureau of Land Management Colorado River District
Yuma Field Office**

Project Name: 2006 Yuma Border Restoration

Unit Name: Lower Colorado River

Date of Project: November 23, 2005 to September 30, 2006

Locations: Federal lands at: *Township: 16 South, Range: 22 East, Section: 28* (within), San Bernadino Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona; *Township: 7 South, Range: 21 West, Sections: 14 and 23* (within); *Township: 8 South, Range: 22 West, Sections: 19 and 30* (within); *Township: 11 South, Range: 24 West, Sections: 16 and 17* (within); *Township: 9 South, Range: 20 West, Section: 7* (within); *Township: 8 South, Range: 20 West, Section: 13* (within); *Township: 4 South, Range: 23 West, Sections: 11 and 12* (within); *Township: Range: Section: (within)*; Gila and Salt River Meridian, Yuma County, Arizona

Participants: Fire Biologist David Repass, Wildlife Biologist Fred Wong, Natural Resource Specialist Bethany Hontz, Park Ranger Bill Alexander, Law Enforcement Officers Keith Dorsey, Jacques Hanson, and Ruben Conde, Recreation & Wilderness Specialist Ron Morfin, Coconino Rural Environment Corps, Youth Corps of Southern Arizona, and Southwest Conservation Corps

Project Coordinator(s): Fred Wong, David Repass, Keith Dorsey, Ron Morfin

During January 15 to 26, 2006, a crew from the Youth Corps of Southern Arizona removed undesirable vegetation, planted 280 cottonwood and willow poles, and formed barriers to redirect traffic from an area that has been affected by UDI activity. Materials that included a pump, filters, drip irrigation equipment, and hoses were purchased, and an irrigation system installed for the native plant restoration project.

A crew of 10 persons from the Coconino Rural Environment Corps worked with Yuma BLM staff from February 12 to 25, 2006 with the planting of 920 potted mesquite trees and 175 cottonwood/willow poles in the Transient Fire restoration area. The crew constructed a wire fence around the planted area for protection from herbivores and human trampling. Fuels reduction and maintenance of a fire restoration site covering approximately 8 acres was completed. In addition to fuels reduction to protect the restored area, maintenance included repairing and rerouting irrigation lines. Irrigation will be needed until the roots of planted native trees reach ground water. The burned area is associated with illegal border activities on BLM administered lands that are adjacent to the City of Yuma.

The Southwest Conservation Corps provided a crew of 10 for clean-ups at Paradise Cove, Transient Restoration Site, Gila River & Colorado River confluence, and Mitty Lake that together covered approximately 1 square mile. The clean-ups were conducted from April 24 to May 5, 2006. Due to staff safety concerns over the escalation of violent crimes in 2006 related to illegal border activity, the crew did not conduct a clean-up of the area south of Paradise Cove along the international boundary. In previous years, a clean-up had been conducted on BLM administered lands along the border.

Law enforcement staff coordinated the removal of abandoned vehicles from BLM and Bureau of Reclamation administered lands.

Results:

As of 6 Sept 06, 2006 73 cottonwoods 28 willows had become established and are growing in the native plant restoration area. There was a 36% survival rate for tree pole plantings. Alternative methods will be used in FY 2007 to improve the pole planting survival rate that will include the use of rooting hormones and a more frequent watering schedule. The attempt to redirect UDI traffic was unsuccessful. UDI traffic either went over or around the vegetation barriers that were constructed.

There was a 35% survival rate for the tree pole plantings in the fire restoration site. The survival rate for potted tree stock was approximately 25%. A contributing factor to the survival rate of the potted stock was a lack of staff to conduct more frequent watering.

The clean-up crew removed 1,109 bags of trash. In addition to the crew, equipment was used to remove approximately 443 tons of trash that had accumulated over the years. Signs constructed out of ¼ inch steel were installed at high UDI activity areas that have become illegal dumpsites.

A total of 26 abandoned vehicles were removed from federal lands. It was noted that some abandoned vehicles were burned when they were not removed promptly and this added to the cost for removal.

Sample of Abandoned Smuggling Vehicles Removed





Gila River & Colorado River Confluence Clean-up

Before



After



Paradise Cove Clean-up





Mittry Lake Area Clean-up



Transient Restoration Area Clean-up



Signs

