

Partnering and Networking at *Ironwood Forest* *National Monument*

A NETWORK INITIATIVE

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AZ Native Plant Society (NPS) led by volunteer started re-vegetating the compacted mining site with locally collected native seed in 2009. IFNM working with NPS in 2012 to get Arizona Game and Fish Dept. grants or BLM funding for student scholarships through NPS.



Drug trafficking look-out point, northwest part of Ironwood Forest Nat. Monument

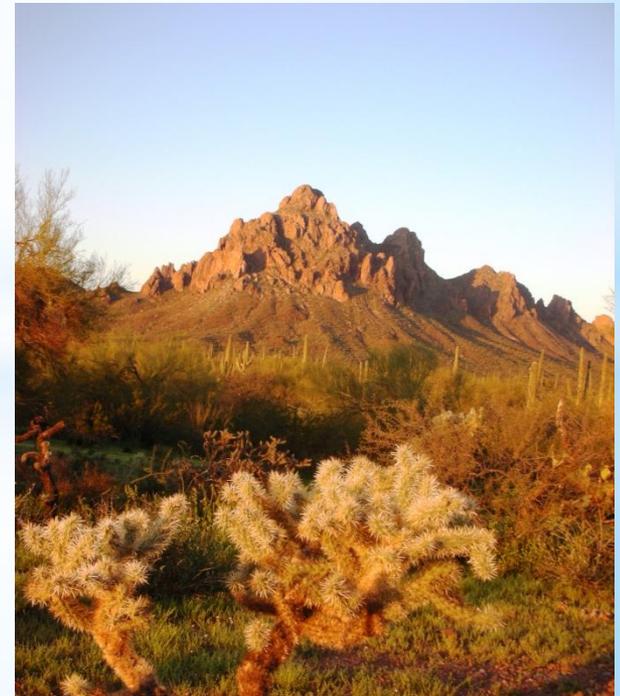
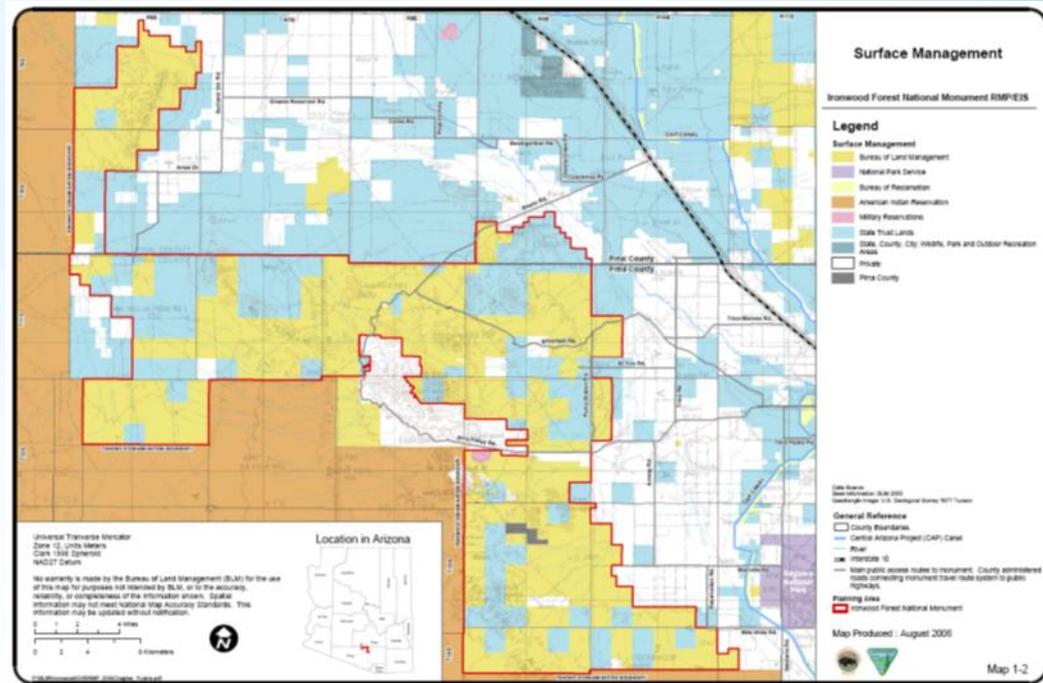


Friends of Ironwood helped clean this site within two day call for help notice.



Friends of Ironwood cleaned this vandalized site within two days of being called.

- ✓ Ironwood Forest National Monument created on June 9, 2000
- ✓ Northwest of Tucson by half hour
- ✓ Purpose: protect monument objects (resources)
- ✓ Varied support but not well known



Partnering and Networking at Ironwood Forest National Monument

Network Goal / Vision

Protect resources of the IFNM,
enhance community support, and
increase opportunities for
scientific research

Network Objectives

- ② Establish Assistance Agreements with Friends of Ironwood based on Shared Vision for IFNM based on **just published September 2011 Resource Management Plan/EIS**.
- ② Establish **annual field tours** on IFNM to educate public in coordination with FIF (Friends of Ironwood).
- ② Establish routine field work project schedules steered by volunteers.
- ② Establish additional locations as **Information Portals** in surrounding communities.
- ② Involve **youth** in “ownership” of IFNM on restoration field lab site.
- ② Use existing State Office Assistance Agreement to **attract University of Arizona** graduates to set up long term scientific monitoring sites on IFNM.
- ② Develop **environmental education** curriculums with local high schools and colleges.

Formal and Informal Network Partnerships

- ✓ **Partners with Volunteers Agreements**
 - Friends of Ironwood Forest
 - Dove Mountain Hiking Club
 - AZ Native Plant Society
 - Tucson Clean and Beautiful
 - Boy Scouts
 - Pima County Sheriff's office Horse Posse
- ✓ **Partners with Assistance Agreements**
 - Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center
- ✓ **Partners under Contract**
 - Buffelgrass eradication contract
- ✓ **Partners with MOU**
 - Pima County
 - Saguaro National Park Service
 - Bureau of Reclamation
- ✓ **Partners with Assistance Agreement**
 - Empire Ranch Foundation
 - Southern AZ Buffelgrass Coordination Center
- ✓ **Partners with Informal Partnerships**
 - Tohono o'Odham Nation
 - Local neighborhood associations
 - Border Patrol
 - Department of Homeland Security
- ✓ **Intra/Inter Agency Partners**
 - Sonoran Desert National Monument
 - Arizona Game and Fish Dept.
 - Coronado National Forest
- ✓ **Potential Partners**
 - Marana High School
 - Tohono o'Odham Community College
 - University of Arizona

Benefits of the Network

Present

1. Increased familiarity with IFNM
2. Protection of monument objects and other resources
3. Increased funding from various sources
4. High-level recognition (translates to additional resources)
5. Better knowledge of IFNM environment
6. Increased cooperation and sharing of expertise

Future

1. Implementation of large-scale restoration projects
2. Address issues more on a landscape-level
3. Increase scientific research and understanding of IFNM resources
4. Increased protection of resources
5. Increased appreciation of IFNM

Stage of Network Development

The status of IFNM's networking is active. The priority of IFNM is to become better known so there will be increased visitation. The recently published Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement will set the legal foundation for the specific direction IFNM planning and implementation.

- ❖ Visioning – centered on September 2011 PRMP
- ❖ Conceptual – complete
- ❖ Research and Development – ongoing
- ❖ Implementation Planning – ongoing; now has legal foundation
- ❖ Active – beginning stages; ongoing
- ❖ Evaluating – will begin when we solidify agreements

To manage the networking and move to the next stage, we discuss our common goal of increasing public education by providing volunteer opportunities for public to visit, help and feel ownership for the Monument.

Network Geography

Communities of Place, Identify and Interest

The networks operate:

- National Landscape Conservation System
- Ironwood Forest National Monument
- Sonoran Desert ecosystem
- Tucson basin

Who benefits from the networks?

- All involved
- Whoever chooses to be proactive towards a common goal
- IFNM monument resources
- BLM staff (having additional help with projects)
- Public (having their public lands better managed)
- Synergistic effect of having cross agency/state/county/local/ community efforts instead of “the old days”.

Benefits of the Network

Present:

- Increased awareness of IFNM
- Increased protection of IFNM and its resources
- Increased funding from within and outside BLM to protect those resources
- Increased cooperation and understanding of all entities working together towards a shared vision
- Increased potential for creativity to solve problems

Future:

- Increased efficiency in solving problems regarding resource protection
- Increased possibilities of successes on projects
- Increased funding based on those successes
- Implementation of long term science based monitoring
- Increased awareness deterring negative use of the land
- Ownership by surrounding communities of the jewel in their backyard

* Evaluating Network Potential and Performance

	Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1	Advance strategic priorities of the agency	We have made it a point to keep our network goals directly in line with the “Arizona Strategies”
2	Leverages funding	We are working towards more partnership funding sources.
3	Demonstrates big-picture thinking	The just published RMP will clearly define goals for partners.
4	Demonstrates entrepreneurship	More partners are bringing possibilities to the table.
5	Management of formal agreements and contracts	Challenge for non profits to absorb government funding (Assistance Agreement) process and advantages; government training would be advantageous to expedite their understanding
6	Demonstrates effective external and internal communication	A constant struggle – even while operating as a network, each organization has its own constituency and must respond to it.
7	Demonstrates accountability	Will be supported by acting on partnership agreements
8	Potential as a network management model	When we get fine tuned in the future.

Lessons Learned About Network Management

Lessons learned:

- ✓ Patience learned: realize non-profits have a lot to learn about us.
- ✓ Keep at it: plug for enough meetings to keep the communication going especially while things are going well.
- ✓ Give them online training to learn about our processes so they can understand federal government processes.

Valuable lessons learned:

- ✓ Stay in the driver's seat but be open to suggestions and listen!
- ✓ Be flexible and be willing to change your plans if a better plan is suggested