

U.S. Border Patrol- Ajo Station, Tucson Sector
National Park Service- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Restoration Update and Inter-agency Momentum

2016
National Park Service.
CENTENNIAL





Organ Pipe Cactus

National Monument
Arizona

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Monument Increases Public Access

Areas in in the park have been closed since 2003 will again be available for public access beginning September 15, 2014. This action is a result of increased staffing and infrastructure and an emphasis on educating visitors to the risks. The park is using new signage, informational brochures and increased safety orientations to improve visitor's awareness about the illegal activities.

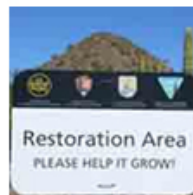
[Directions & Transportation »](#)[Operating Hours & Seasons »](#)[Fees & Passes »](#)[Superintendent's Vital Sign Report »](#)[Your Safety »](#)[Be A Junior Ranger »](#)

Features



Public Access Increases

Superintendent Brent Range welcomes visitors to explore areas of the park that have been closed since 2003.



Interagency Restoration

A multi-agency effort results in restored undesignated vehicle routes that will return habitat back to the endangered Sonoran



Desert Safety

Staying safe means being informed, knowing your limits and being aware of your surroundings.

[Read More](#)

Restoration Funding

- CBP Funds (2 Pots of Money)
 - DHS 1. \$2 million – pronghorn, SBI net
 - DHS 2. \$980,000 – bats and pronghorn, Ped Fence
- Biological Opinion
 - Ecological Services, Mitigations

2006 MOU

**Memorandum of Understanding
Among
U. S. Department of Homeland Security
and
U. S. Department of the Interior
and
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Regarding
Cooperative National Security and Counterterrorism
Efforts on Federal Lands along the United States' Borders**

I. Purpose and Scope

A. This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), including and on behalf of its constituent bureau U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the CBP Office of Border Patrol (CBP-BP); the Department of the Interior (DOI), including and on behalf of its constituent bureaus, the National Park Service (NPS), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR); and the Department of Agriculture (USDA), including and on behalf of its constituent agency the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Throughout this MOU, these three Departments, including their constituent agencies, may be referred to as "the Parties." Any reference to a bureau, agency, or constituent component of a Party shall not be deemed to exclude application to any appropriate bureau or constituent component of that Party. DHS recognizes that the BIA enters into this agreement only on its own behalf and not on behalf of any Indian tribe.

B. The geographic and jurisdictional scope of this MOU is nationwide. The Parties recognize the national security and counterterrorism significance of preventing illegal entry into the United States by cross-border violators (CBVs), including but not limited to the following: drug and human smugglers and smuggling organizations, foreign nationals, and terrorists and terrorist organizations. The Parties further recognize that damage to DOI and USDA-managed lands and natural and cultural resources is often a significant consequence of such illegal entry. The Parties are committed to preventing illegal entry into the United States, protecting Federal lands and natural and cultural resources, and - where possible - preventing adverse impacts associated with illegal entry by CBVs.

C. This MOU is intended to provide consistent goals, principles, and guidance related to border security, such as law enforcement operations; tactical infrastructure installation; utilization of roads; minimization and/or prevention of significant impact on or impairment of natural and cultural resources; implementation of the Wilderness Act, Endangered Species Act, and other related environmental law, regulation, and policy across land management agencies; and provide for coordination and sharing information



Inter-agency Restoration Planning



Signage Plan

Education / Read and Sign

AJO 10/1

September 22, 2014

MEMORANDUM FOR: ALL STATION PERSONNEL

FROM: Anthony S. Good *Anthony S. Good*
Patrol Agent in Charge
Ajo Station

SUBJECT: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

On September 15, 2014, all of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (OPCNM) was opened to the public. Agents should expect to encounter park visitors in remote locations that they normally would not have. As a reminder, backcountry camping is allowed on OPCNM, agents will encounter overnight visitors at many locations. OPCNM personnel have agreed to notify the station Duty Supervisor at the end of each day of how many Backcountry Camping permits were issued and for which areas of the park. This information will assist agents in identifying legitimate traffic.

Since the public will have access to the entire park, vehicle traffic is expected to increase on all park roads. Agents are reminded of the necessity to adhere to the posted speed limits. OPCNM roads are 25 MPH, unless otherwise posted. In the event of an emergency, when traveling at higher speeds, take caution to avoid accidents with park visitors, park personnel and other agents. There are many obstacles and blind spots that may contribute to the risk of an accident on the OPCNM.

OPCNM has identified routes that are in the process of being approved as patrol routes. These designated routes can be identified with a brown carsonite sign labeled, "Wilderness Area, Closed To All Motor Vehicles." (See attachment). Currently, agents may drive on these routes if there is a reasonable expectation that interdiction will occur or if other emergent circumstances exist. Off Road Vehicle Activity Reports (OVARs) will continue to be generated for these routes. Once the environmental compliance has been completed (approximately 6-8 months), the brown carsonite posts will be replaced by green posts and OVARs will no longer be required.

OVAR data will be used to document the use of these routes and also to identify any new routes that may be needed in the future. Documentation of OVAR data is critical to our continued access to these areas and will be used to expand our access. OVARs should be called in to the station as per current SOP but with the addition of the route designation which will be printed on the brown carsonite signs. The Duty Supervisor will also have a list of all these designators with the corresponding GPS coordinates to facilitate reporting.

The Ajo Station has worked with OPCNM, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, Bureau of Land Management, and the Wellton Station to identify areas for restoration. These areas will be marked, "Restoration Area Please Help It Grow" (See Attachment), and a straw wattle will be

850 N. Hwy. 85
Why, Arizona 85321



U.S. Customs and
Border Protection

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

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across the entry. These restoration areas may only be utilized for immediate life threatening emergencies (preservation of life).

Please see the attached document explaining the Land Restoration Plan.

Organ Pipe Cactus
National Monument



WILDERNESS
AREA

CLOSED

**TO ALL
MOTOR
VEHICLES**



Restoration Area
PLEASE HELP IT GROW!



BP Forward Operating Base

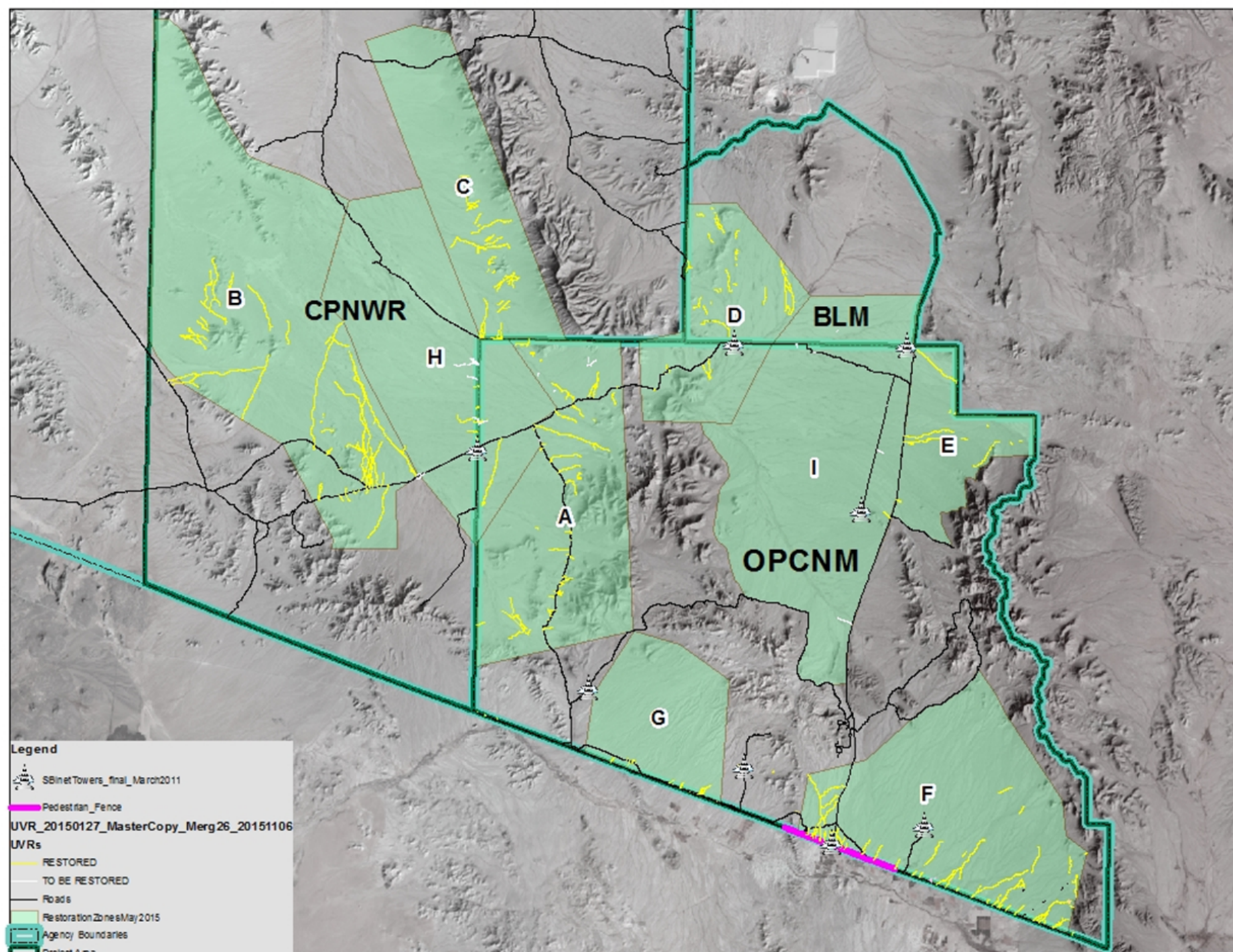


Miles of UVRs restored 2013-2015

	ORPI	CPNWR	BLM	Total Miles Restored	Total Acres Restored
DHS1	7.1	106.4	17.8	131.3	190.7
DHS2	99.1	0.0	0.0	99.1	144.2
Totals	106.2	106.4	17.8	230.4	334.9

Miles of UVRs to be restored- completion by Sept. 2016

	ORPI	CPNWR	BLM	Totals	Total Acres to be Restored
DHS1	3.6	4.4	0.1	8.1	11.8



Wild Pronghorn Returning to Restored Area



Wild Sonoran Pronghorn on WEVA-2014-0032 in Zone A - ORPI



WEVA-2014-0028 – Pre-restoration



WEVA-2014-0028 – Post-restoration.
Restoration completed with hand tools.



CPZB-2014-0054 – Post mechanical treatment



CPZB-2014-0054 – Post vertical mulching



AVEB-2014-0003 - Post mechanical treatment



AVEB-2014-0003 - Post vertical mulching



CPNH-2014-0001A – Pre-restoration



CPNH-2014-0001A – Post manual restoration



CPZC-2014-0001- Post mechanical treatment



CPZC-2014-0001- Post vertical mulching



BLMD-2014-0027 – Post mechanical
treatment



BLMD-2014-0027 – Post vertical mulching

Next steps in 2016

Reassess restored routes to monitor effectiveness of restoration efforts evaluating:

- Any new disturbance
- Effectiveness of erosion control devices
- Percent survivorship of nursery transplants
- Seedling germination in seeded areas

Reassessing the balance of temporary tactical infrastructure need and restoration.

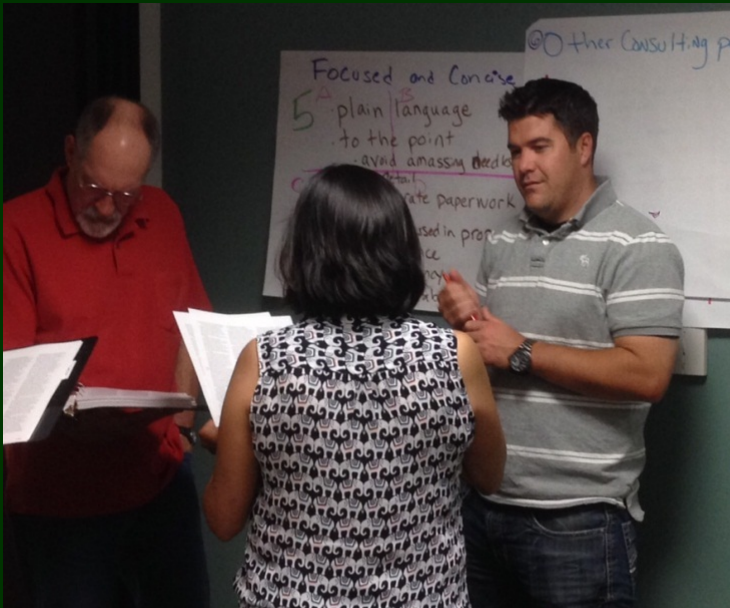
Science Associated With Restoration

- Soil compaction study - USGS
- Archeological surveys - NPS staff & archeology contractor
- Biological soil crust study – Northern Arizona University



Transplanting a Saguaro salvaged from International Border Fence Construction

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Training



Momentum





Co- Agency familiarization



Border Patrol Interpretive Program



Species of Common Concern Meeting



Colorado High School GOAL Academy



Ajo Copper News

50¢



Ajo, Pima County, Arizona

Tuesday, January 26, 2016

Volume 92, Number 21, ©2016



Career-oriented field trips are being planned for Ajo High School students to expose them to daily life at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and at the US Border Patrol Ajo Station.

Ajo School District Teacher Collaboration

Visitor Center Kiosk

- Park Overview
- Equipment at the park
- Horses
- NPS Programs
- Public Lands Liaison Agent Program
- Landscape Restoration
- BP Forward Operating Base
- Rescue Scenario



Future NPS/BP Road Mgt. Strategy



February 10, 2016



Interpretive Program at the International Border

2015 Wilderness Stewardship Award



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Intermountain Region
12795 West Alameda Parkway
Lakewood, CO 80228



WILDERNESS CHAMPION: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is recognized for their interagency effort to restore approximately 200 acres of Organ Pipe Cactus and Cabeza Prieta wilderness areas. Park staff directed restoration efforts implemented by a Saguaro Trail Crew and a restoration contractor on NPS, USFWS, and BLM lands. This effort was completed using the minimum tool required to preserve wilderness character and the effort improved Sonoran Pronghorn and Lesser-long nosed bat habitat. Restoration involved erasing vehicle tracks, improving grade to reestablish surface hydrology, planting native species from a park-grown nursery, and then monitoring the areas to ensure long term natural conditions. They are also recognized for creating a partnership with US Border Patrol with a specific goal of integrating wilderness stewardship into all park operations. This cultural shift means park staff work closely with Border Patrol agents to ensure wilderness preservation is woven into each decision. Wilderness training has been a focus for Park Service staff and Border Patrol agents who have attended Regional Arthur Carhart training, Intermountain Regional training, and a park-specific unit training course. Their commitment to refine and communicate a shared vision and integrate wilderness stewardship within all park operations has been outstanding in promoting wilderness accountability, consistency, and continuity.

Starry, Starry Night Initiative at Organ Pipe Cactus

- Seeking international dark sky certification
- Actively surveying the quality of the night sky
- Expanding public awareness of the night sky through new interpretive programs

2016

National Park Service.
CENTENNIAL

Visitor Use Since Increased Access (Sept. 2014)

- Ranger program attendance up 71% through February 26th 2016.
- Park Facebook page “likes” up 400%
- Some Facebook posts have reached over 450,000 people
- Campground nights up 103%
- Visitor Center visitation up 101%





Twin Peaks Campground, February 2016