

NLCS - Networking the Last Landscapes

Sustainable Places –
Extraordinary People

Or How to Tap the Enlightened Self-Interest,
Time, Talent, Skills and Treasury of Others



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Goal / Vision

1. Stop and reverse the trend of increasing levels of resource damage on the SDNM.
2. Develop local collaborative approaches to managing the SDNM
3. Build public awareness about management and stewardship of neighborhood and regional SDNM public lands.
4. Increase BLM engagement and visibility in community life and government planning.
5. Cultivate formal and informal partnerships involving local communities facilitated by open and shared communication networks, with ability to address real-time issues.
6. Enhance short and long-term BLM resource management capacity through partnerships with local cities, two counties, volunteer organizations and agency partners.
7. Foster public goodwill and political support and capital for effective conservation of SDNM resources.

Network Objectives

1. Become effective member of Valley Forward. DD: done 2008.
2. Develop agreement for Boy Scouts of American and Mormon Battalion to coordinate 3,000 volunteers and conduct restoration & reclamation projects. DD: done September 2008.
3. Develop a SDNM Volunteer Project How To Restore Guide: DD: ½ done, and ongoing.
4. Establish Friends of the SDNM group to coordinate and organize land management and volunteer efforts. DD: Process initiated September 2008, in place by FY-2010.
5. Hire BLM – SDNM Community Planner Liaison. DD: proposal before management Nov. 2008.
6. Initiate informal relationship with Arizona Wilderness Coalition and Wilderness Society for stewardship activities. DD ongoing and meeting Nov. 2008.
7. Initiate partnership agreement with the Sonoran Institute to facilitate partnership and network activities in West Valley communities. DD: Ongoing, met with Sept. 2008, develop contract by Sept. 2009.
8. Initiate OHV Ambassador and OHV outdoor education program with State Parks. DD: on-the-ground by October 2009.

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Network Partners

➤ **Partners with Volunteers Agreements**

- Boy Scouts of America
- Mormon Battalion Association

➤ **Partners With Assistance Agreements**

- International Sonoran Desert Alliance
- City of Gila Bend
- SCA, University of Chicago, Southwest Conservation Corps

➤ **Partners /Venders**

- Liz Madison Consulting

➤ **Potential Partners - Plans/Landscapes**

- Sonoran Institute
- Arizona State University – College of Sustainability

➤ **Informal Partnerships**

- Arizona Wilderness Coalition, Sierra Club, Wilderness Society

➤ **Intra/Inter Agency Partners**

- Maricopa County Parks and Recreation
- Arizona State Parks
- Valley Forward
- Hidden Valley SW Valley Transportation Planning Group
- Maricopa Association of Governments
- Maricopa County DEQ – Air Quality

➤ **Partners With MOU**

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
- Barry M. Goldwater Air Force Range

➤ **Potential Partners - Residents/Recreation**

- Cities of Maricopa, Goodyear, Buckeye
- Wells Fargo Bank
- OHV Ambassador Program
- National Rifle Association
- Arizona State Tourism Board
- Arizona Republic Newspaper – Arizona Highways

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When – Stage of Network Development

November 1, 2008:

Network accomplishments to date:

1. Active member of Valley Forward business, citizen, and government partnership.
2. Boy Scout and Mormon Battalion Association agreements in place.
3. Develop agreements for first generation Butterfield Closure citizen and volunteer working groups.
4. Ongoing development of a SDNM Volunteer Project Management Guide.
5. Friends of SDNM process discussed with interested publics.
6. Met with Sonoran Institute 9/08 per their West Valley Sonoran Desert Protection Proposal.
7. Southwest Conservation Corps On-Site Project Coordinator in place by 12/01/08.

July 1, 2009:

Describe the anticipated development of the network by this date

1. BLM Community Planner in place.
2. Develop and finalize volunteer agreement with the Arizona Wilderness Coalition for stewardship activities.

3. Finalize partnership agreement with the Sonoran Institute to facilitate partnership and network activities in West Valley communities.
4. Complete final negotiations for start of OHV Ambassador and OHV outdoor education program with State Parks.

Where – Network Geography

Where does this network operate? In the communities surrounding the SDNM. Communities: Buckeye, Gila Bend, Maricopa, Goodyear. Organizations: Sonoran Institute, Arizona State Parks. OHV users and dealer networks. On site, off site, in cyberspace, etc.

What communities and stakeholders will your network support, engage, reach? Communities listed above, conservation community, OHV users, wilderness enthusiasts, desert tortoise and bighorn sheep advocate support groups, Butterfield Stage and history enthusiasts, target shooting and NRA groups, and the Mormon community.

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Bottom Line: Benefits of the Network

Present

- Build capacity to quickly position tangible resource protection resources on-the-ground
- Manage current recreation uses to immediately curtail inappropriate recreation, rectifying ongoing resource damage, and embarking on field-based outdoor education and Tread-Lightly principals
- Maintain appropriate motorized and non-motorized recreation opportunities while minimizing impacts, over the time period required for building partnerships

Future

- Conserve natural and cultural resources through collaborative private, public and agency management
- Capacity building to add tangible resources on-the-ground, in schools, communities and agencies
- Maintain high quality and sustainable motorized and non-motorized recreation while maintaining monument objects and enhancing ecological processes.
- More proactive BLM management, getting what we want in the future, having more fun, and we have easier less stressful jobs too
- BLM expands its capacity to create innovative solutions and build sustainable relationships and continues to do what it does best
- Our partners do what they do best
- Both agencies, partners, and communities look good, feel good, and are empowered
- Resources and communities benefit

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	Evaluation Criteria	Comments
1	Advance strategic priorities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Yes – short-term restoration projects may be successful (1 to 3 year range) addressing equally short-term Conservation, Protection and Restoration Goals. 2. Advancing long-term strategic priorities for the above, along with the Communities and Partnerships, and Recreation, Education and Visitor Services Goals have a better chance of success with identified Network and Partnership initiatives.
2	Leverage BLM funding	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Applied and awarded \$280,000 for Butterfield Recreation Project 9/08, Arizona State Parks (ASP). 2. Borderlands Kolbe Funds Earmark - \$300,000. 3. RTP funds for Restoring damaged lands - \$20,000, ASP and DOT. 4. RTP funds for road and trail maintenance - \$53,000. 5. Earmark for Anza Trail Restoration - \$20,000.
3	Demonstrate big-picture thinking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sonoran Institute launching major proposal to protect West Maricopa County wilderness, monument and recreation, by maintaining a connected and vibrant open space landscape. We need to participate in this process. Huge area involved – big picture!
4	Demonstrate entrepreneurship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monument Manager reaches out to Valley Forward and Sonoran Institute 2. Pursues all funding sources, including non-traditional. 3. Empower volunteers to organize and supervise round-based projects. 4. Manager willing to participate in regional planning, zoning and transportation planning, play the spoiler, and have upper manager support.
5	Management of volunteer and assistant agreements and contracts	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empower volunteers to organize and supervise round-based projects. Working with Boy Scouts and Mormon Battalion Association. 2. Can above process (#1) be presented to and acted upon by other groups?
6	Demonstrate effective external and internal communication	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still needs to be demonstrated and determined based on demands on manager's time, and only two full time office staff for 486,000 acre monument.
7	Actions promoting sustainability of the network	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Still needs to be demonstrated based on demands on manager's time. 2. This will be successful if local community liaison is hired by BLM to full-time network.
8	Potential as a network model	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To be determined.

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Lessons Learned in Network Management

- Leverage existing and evolving community organizations, networks, partners, and organizations.
(It makes no sense in the short term to start from scratch when there are partnerships and networks in place.)
- Land use planning is an effective way to build and use networks and partnerships, but current planning models are cumbersome, complex and time consuming.
(Planning timeframes need to be speeded up to sustain public interest and encourage/allow more public involvement.)
- Draw together issues shared by surrounding communities. Thus we can effectively work the network with common interests, not locale-specific narrow problems.
(Core issues are open space, public access for recreation, travel management, volunteering, repairing land damage, maintaining landscapes and wildlife habitat, and transportation corridors.)

Challenges to Network Management

- Lack of BLM staffing capacity to initiate high-priority partnership actions and participate in all communities and with all agencies equally
- Our potential partners & networks are fully engaged; planners, leaders, managers & citizens struggle to fit everything in
- Distance and time, hard to get to all the citizens, organizations and communities
- BLM Bureaucracy and lack of flexibility, red tape, financial constraints
- Failure of BLM to deliver
- Wrong publics, wrong time, wrong problem, wrong network

Do we want to manage this in 2012?



SDNM OHV Impacts

**SDNM
Urban
Interface
Wildcat
Dump**



