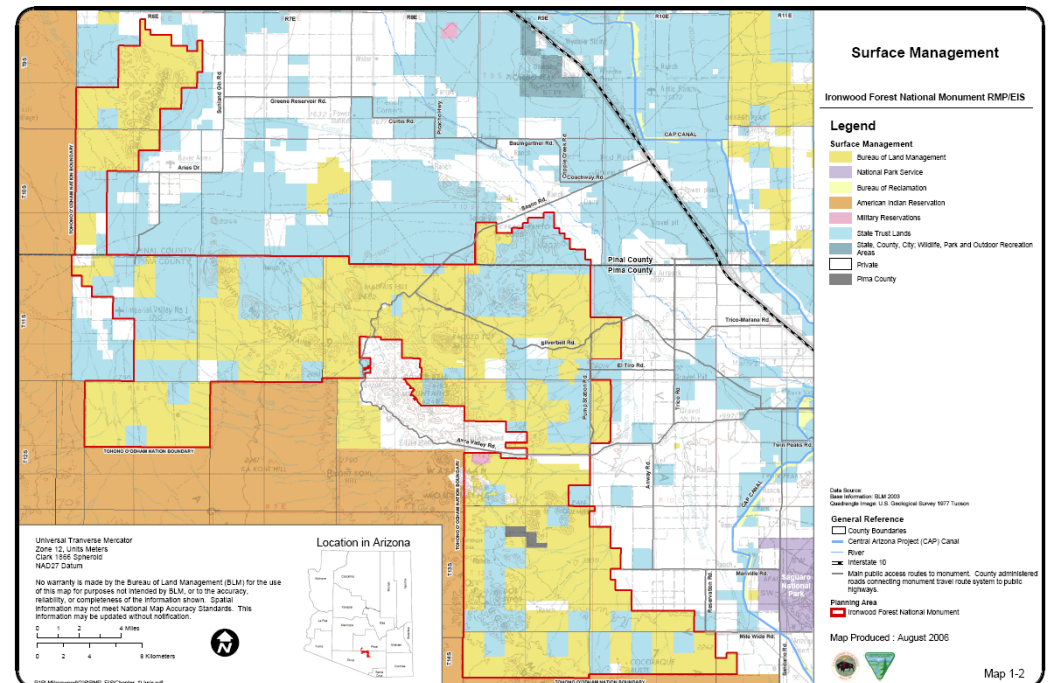


Partnering and Networking at Ironwood Forest National Monument

**A Network Initiative
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October 6, 2010**

Partnering and Networking at Ironwood Forest National Monument

- IFNM created in 2000, located near Tucson, Arizona
- Purpose: protect monument objects
- Broad community support for monument, 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

- Establish Assistance agreement with Friends of Ironwood Forest and Buffelgrass Coordination Center
- Establish continuous working relationship with primary user groups by involving them with IFNM project at least 2x/year
- Increase the ability or capacity to get field work done by building a devoted volunteer group and using them at least 10x/year
- Establish agreement with Town of Marana to get shared space and set up a IFNM Info Center
- Utilize various groups, depending on specific interest, to assist in Travel Management implementation when plan is completed
- Gather info from current/past scientific studies and advertise opportunities for more research to U of A, Desert Museum, others
- Establish an environmental education program on-site or through local venues

Formal and Informal Network Partnerships

➤ Partners with Volunteer Agreements

- Friends of Ironwood Forest
- Heritage Highlands Hiking Club
- AZ Native Plant Society
- Individuals

➤ Partners With Assistance Agreements

- Southern Arizona Buffelgrass Coordination Center
- Friends of Ironwood Forest
- Town of Marana

➤ Partners Under Contract

- Southwest Conservation Corp
- Town of Marana
- Arizona Sonora Desert Museum

➤ Intra/Inter Agency Partners

- Sonoran Desert National Monument
- Saguaro National Park
- Coronado National Forest
- Arizona State Land Department

➤ Partners With MOU

- Pima County
- National Park Service

➤ Informal Partnerships

- Tohono O'odham Nation
- Environmental Organizations
- Ranchers and Neighborhood Associations

➤ Potential Partners

- Tucson Audubon
- Herp Society
- University of Arizona
- Visitors

Stage of Network Development

The status of network development at IFNM varies depending on the specific partnership being developed. Generally, our status can be described as migrating from the “cocoon” to the “butterfly” stage:

- ✓ Visioning – **complete**
- ✓ Conceptual – **complete**
- ✓ Research and Development – **ongoing**
- ✓ Implementation Planning – **ongoing**
- ✓ Active – **beginning stages**
- ✓ Evaluating – **coming soon**

What are you doing at this stage to manage the network and move to the next stage?

We have put some of the partnership “paperwork” behind us and are moving forward in developing work-plans and implementing actions based on our formal and informal agreements. We have focused on celebrating our initial successes and we are harnessing that energy to do bigger things.

Network Geography

Communities of Place, Identify and Interest

Where does your network operate?

The network operates on four general levels, depending on the issue at hand:

1. Ironwood Forest National Monument
2. Tucson Basin
3. Sonoran Desert
4. National Landscape Conservation System

Who benefits from the development of your network?

All network partners, formal and informal, have something to gain from the development of the network. We make this the primary message when recruiting organizations into the network.

On a much larger scale, I would say that the taxpaying public benefit because of ability we have as a network to share resources and leverage each others' expertise. This makes government (BLM) run more efficiently, especially in lean times.

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

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 just beginning to see the fruits of leveraged funding.
3	Demonstrates big-picture thinking	A challenge – easy to get distracted by one particular issue. Expanding our network involvement will help with this.
4	Demonstrates entrepreneurship	This has so far been one of the major benefits of our young network.
5	Management of formal agreements and contracts	Working through the paperwork . . .
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	TBD, but I have great expectations

Lessons Learned About Network Management

- List two to three lessons learned about network management that you wish to share with colleagues within your agency
 1. **Don't be "offended" or "threatened" by potential partners.**
 2. **Cultivate networking with your staff; be an example of it and incorporate them into the process.**
 3. **Don't put it off until when you have time or when you feel you have everything under control internally.**

- List one to two lessons learned about network management that changed the way you interact with partners
 1. **When meeting with a partner, ask what they want and internalize the response.**
 2. **Share information readily.**