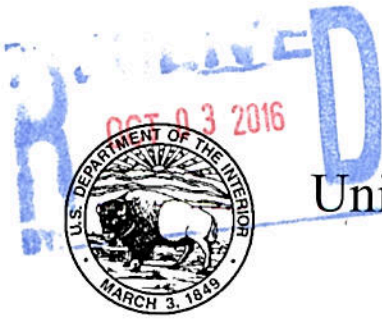




United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Post Office Box 1306
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



In Reply Refer To:
FWS/R2/NWRS/FOIA/064191
FWS-2016-00866 (Final)

SEP 29 2016

Mr. Ian Smith
Immigration Reform Law Institute
25 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Suite 335
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is a final response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated May 30, 2016, in which you requested the following information from fiscal year (FY) 2012 to the present, unless otherwise specified for San Andres, Lower Rio Grande Valley, Santa Ana, Laguna Atascosa, Kofa, Cabeza Prieta, Buenos Aires, San Bernardino, Leslie Canyon, Cibola National Wildlife Refuges (NWRs):

1. Any and all records of travel advisories, or records referring or relating to travel advisories, warning staff, the public and/or refuge-guests about illegal border-crossers, illegal border-activity or unlawful acts in general that have occurred or could potentially occur in the aforementioned areas.
2. Any and all original records referring or relating to illegal borders-crossers, illegal border-activity or unlawful acts in general that have caused damage (i.e. illegal trails, loss of vegetation, erosion, etc.) or could potentially cause damage to the ecosystems and/or habitats of threatened or endangered species or otherwise impact fish and wildlife in the aforementioned areas.
 - a. Any and all original records referring or relating to the costs associated with damages described in item 2.
3. Any and all original records showing the number of encounters, and any details of those instances, between illegal border-crossers or smugglers and agency staff or the public.
 - a. Any and all original records showing the number of crimes, and the details of those crimes, committed by illegal border-crossers and smugglers against agency staff or the public.

4. Any and all original records showing the number of law enforcement officers on staff (retained either permanently or temporarily) on an annual basis from FY2008 to the present.
5. Any and all original records detailing the amount of resources directed to deter illegal activity in the aforementioned areas.
6. Any and all images, motion or still, of suspected illegal border-crossers and/or smugglers travelling through the aforementioned areas from FY2013 to the present.

Your request was assigned tracking number FWS-2016-00866 and was forwarded to staff at the various Refuges for processing. Because of the general nature of your request, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) called you on June 18, 2016. During that call, you agreed that for Item 3, a summary of instances would suffice; and for Item 6, you would accept images from high-volume camera areas from FY2014-2016. Additionally, we discussed that there were no records for Item 5, as the Service's main purpose is resource protection and we do not have documentation of directed resources to deter illegal activities.

For this final response, we have reviewed 389 images and documents. Please note that 379 images were combined in two single portable document format (pdf) files. Of these records, we are providing seven documents to you in their entirety, and have withheld in part or full, the remaining four documents pursuant to Exemptions (b)(2), (b)(6), (b)(7)(c), and/or (b)(7)(e), as described below.

In two documents, the pdf files of images mentioned above, we have redacted the faces of individuals and the faces of Service law enforcement officers and U.S. Border Patrol agents pursuant to Exemption (b)(6) and (b)(7)(c). Exemption 6 allows an agency to withhold "personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy." 5 U.S.C. §552(b)(6).

The phrase "similar files" covers any agency records containing information about a particular individual that can be identified as applying to that individual. To determine whether releasing records containing information about a particular individual would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, we are required to balance the privacy interest that would be affected by disclosure against any public interest in the information.

Under the FOIA, the only relevant public interest to consider under the exemption is the extent to which the information sought would shed light on an agency's performance of its statutory duties or otherwise let citizens "know what their government is up to." See *DOD v. FLRA*, 510 U.S. 487, 497 (1994) (quoting *Reporters Comm.*, 489 U.S. at 773). The burden is on the requester to establish that disclosure would serve the public interest. When the privacy interest at stake and the public interest in disclosure have been determined, the two competing interests must be weighed against one another to determine which is the greater result of disclosure: the harm to personal privacy or the benefit to the public. The purposes for which the request for information is made does not impact this balancing test, as a release of information requested under the FOIA constitutes a release to the general public.

With respect to the identities of individuals captured in the images provided, we have determined that the individuals have a substantial privacy interest. Additionally, you have not provided information that explains a relevant public interest under the FOIA in the disclosure of this personal information and we have determined that the disclosure of this information would shed little or no light on the performance of the agency's statutory duties. Because the harm to personal privacy is greater than whatever public interest may be served by disclosure, release of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of this individual and we are withholding them under Exemption 6.

The Service routinely withholds the identities of Law Enforcement agents contained in these types of reports and similar files. We believe the identification of law enforcement agents is properly withheld under Exemption (b)(7)(C) as the information does not shed light on our agency's performance of its statutory duties, and, "could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy" (5 U.S.C. §552(b)(7)(C)).

Additionally we have withheld the following two documents in full pursuant to Exemptions (b)(2) and (b)(7)(e):

- An April 28, 2010, memorandum from the Refuge Manager to Cabeza Prieta NWR to refuge staff concerning border safety for employees and volunteers; and,
- A 2012 Station Safety Plan for Cabeza Prieta NWR.

The internal information in these two documents is used by exclusively by refuge staff and law enforcement personnel and they contain safety and emergency procedures. Exemption 2 exempts from mandatory disclosure records that are "related solely to the internal personnel rules and practices of an agency" (5 U.S.C. §552(b)(2)). This information is exempt from disclosure pursuant to FOIA Exemption (b)(2), as this material meets the three-part test for protection established by the Supreme Court opinion in *Milner v. Dep't of the Navy*, 131 S. Ct. 1259 (2011), in that this information, "relate[s] 'solely' to the agency's 'personnel' rules and practices" and is 'internal' and not typically made publicly available. *Id.*

Exemption (b)(7)(e) affords protection to all law enforcement information that "would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if such disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law" (5 U.S.C. §552(b)(7)(E)).

This response to your request was made in consultation with Justin Tade, Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior (Department). You may appeal this response and adequacy of our search to the Department FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer. If you choose to appeal, the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer must receive your FOIA appeal no later than 90 workdays from the date of this letter. Appeals arriving or delivered after 5 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday, will be deemed received on the next workday.

Your appeal must be made in writing. You may submit your appeal and accompanying materials to the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer by mail, courier service, fax, or email. All communications concerning your appeal should be clearly marked with the words: "FREEDOM

OF INFORMATION APPEAL." You must include an explanation of why you believe the Service response is in error. You must also include with your appeal copies of all correspondence between you and the Service concerning your FOIA request, including your original FOIA request and the Service's response. Failure to include with your appeal all correspondence between you and the Service will result in the Department rejection of your appeal, unless the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer determines (in the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer's sole discretion) that good cause exists to accept the defective appeal.

Please include your name and daytime telephone number (or the name and telephone number of an appropriate contact), email address and fax number (if available) in case the FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Officer needs additional information or clarification of your appeal. Department FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office Contact Information is:

Department of the Interior
Office of the Solicitor
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Appeals Office
1849 C Street, NW
MS-6556 MIB
Washington, DC 20240
Telephone: 202-208-5339
Fax: 202-208-6677
Email: FOIA.Appeals@sol.doi.gov

Additionally, the 2007 FOIA amendments created the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a non-exclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation and does not affect the timing of filing an appeal with the Department's FOIA & Privacy Act Appeals Officer. You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services
National Archives and Records Administration
8601 Adelphi Road - OGIS
College Park, MD 20740-6001
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Web: <https://ogis.archives.gov>
Telephone: 202-741-5770
Fax: 202-741-5769
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

You also may seek dispute resolution services from our FOIA Public Liaison, Carrie Hyde-Michaels at 703-358-2521 or via email at carrie_hyde-michaels@fws.gov.

For your information, Congress excluded three discrete categories of law enforcement and National security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. § 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV (2010)). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of

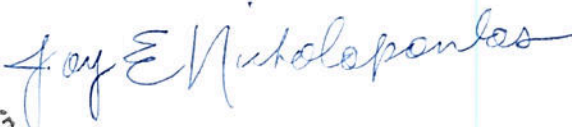
Mr. Ian Smith

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the FOIA. This is a standard notification that is given to all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

This completes the Southwest Region's response to your request. The fees incurred in processing your request were administratively waived accordance with 43 CFR 2.45. If you have any questions, please contact Assistant Refuges Supervisor, Monica Kimbrough, at 505-248-7419, or by email at monica_kimbrough@fws.gov.

Sincerely,


ACTING Regional Director

Enclosure (CD)

Mr. Ian Smith

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cc: FOIA Coordinator, Southwest Region, USFWS, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Assistant Refuge Supervisor-AZ/NM, Albuquerque, New Mexico
Southwest Regional Solicitor's Office, Albuquerque, New Mexico



United States Department of the Interior



Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

Vehicle Trails Associated with Illegal Border Activities on Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge – July 2011



Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ajo, AZ

Executive Summary

The Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge (CPNWR) lies in southwest Arizona and shares 56 miles of border with Mexico. Over the past decade, the refuge has experienced significant impacts associated with illegal border crossings and subsequent interdiction efforts by law enforcement. These illegal crossings include the smuggling of undocumented aliens (UDAs) of various nationalities and drugs. Our concern is that smuggling and interdiction activities have resulted in significant impacts to wilderness character, and put other trust resources such as the federally endangered Sonoran pronghorn at risk.

To assess the extent of impacts associated with illegal border crossings and subsequent interdiction activities, CPNWR conducted an inventory of off-road vehicular travel within the refuge. Using high resolution aerial photography from 2008, we mapped 12,824 km (7,968 miles) of vehicular trails within the refuge, including 12,455 km (7,739) miles in designated wilderness. The majority of these trails occurred in the broad alluvial valleys north of the El Camino del Diablo. The Growler Valley and Lechuguila Desert were the most significantly impacted. This inventory points to the need to develop a strategic plan designed to deter illegal border crossings along the Cabeza Prieta NWR and Mexican border.

Introduction

The CPNWR was established in 1939 for the conservation and development of natural wildlife and forage resources, primarily to assist in the recovery of desert bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis desertii*). Over the years, the refuge also became important as the core habitat for the remaining U.S. population of Sonoran pronghorn (*Antilocapra americana sonoriensis*), a federally endangered species pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. In 1990, the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act designated over 90 percent of the refuge as wilderness, forming the largest U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service managed wilderness area in the lower 48 states.

Current refuge management priorities include the protection of designated wilderness and ensuring the survival and recovery of the Sonoran pronghorn. The U.S. pronghorn population is estimated at 100 individuals in the wild and another 75 in a captive breeding program. The pronghorn occur within the Barry M. Goldwater Range (managed by the U.S. Air Force and Marine Corps), Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Bureau of Land Management lands in the Ajo area, and on the Refuge. The Refuge is centrally located between the other jurisdictions and, as the lead agency for recovery of the pronghorn, works with the other federal agencies and Arizona Game and Fish Department in implementing recovery actions.

In 2002, a year-long drought decimated the population, leaving just 21 pronghorn surviving in the U.S. Although this sharp population decline was attributed primarily to the impacts from a protracted drought event, this also was during a period of high illegal smuggling activity in important habitats utilized by pronghorn during the summer months. Since 2002, the refuge has worked with our partners to implement recovery actions that helped to increase the population. Despite the recent population increase, the Sonoran pronghorn continues to be at high risk of extinction. Prolonged drought and continued illegal smuggling activity may very well result in another population crash. In recent years, pronghorn have rarely been observed utilizing habitat within the southeastern portion of their range (i.e. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument) that

they had previously used during the summer months. This area has also witnessed considerable illegal smuggling activity in the past few years.

The Wilderness Act of 1964 mandates that wilderness character be preserved and includes specific prohibitions enacted to preserve those characteristics. The Act states:

“Except as specifically provided for in this Act, and subject to existing private rights, there shall be no commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and, except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act (including measures required in emergencies involving the health and safety of persons within the area), there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motorboats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport, and no structure or installation within any such area.”

Refuge staff strive to manage for wilderness character. Wilderness character is viewed as possessing four traits: Untrammeled; Natural; Undeveloped; and Providing opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. The untrammeled quality represents wilderness as areas where the landscape is unhindered and free from intentional modern human control and manipulation. The natural character of wilderness defines landscapes as ecological systems that are substantially free from the effects of modern civilization. The undeveloped quality of wilderness describes the landscape as having minimal evidence of modern human occupation or modification. Providing for outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation include those opportunities within wilderness areas for people to experience natural sights, sounds, freedom, risk, and the physical and emotional challenges of self-discovery.

However, the Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 recognized the need for United States Border Patrol (USBP) and other law enforcement agencies to gain and maintain operational control of the border. The Act states:

“Nothing in this Title, including the designation as wilderness of lands within the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, shall be construed as - (1) precluding or otherwise affecting continued border operations by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the Drug Enforcement Administration, or the United States Customs Service within such refuge, in accordance with any applicable interagency agreements in effect on the date of enactment of this Act; or (2) precluding the Attorney General of the United States or the Secretary of the Treasury from entering into new or renewed agreements with the Secretary concerning Immigration and Naturalization Service, Drug Enforcement Administration, or United States Customs Service border operations within such refuge, consistent with management of the refuge for the purpose for which such refuge was established and in accordance with laws applicable to the National Wildlife Refuge System.”

The Act allows for continued operations by border law enforcement personnel consistent with the 2006 document titled “Memorandum of Understanding Among U.S. Department of

Homeland Security and U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Department of Agriculture Regarding Cooperative National Security and Counterterrorism Efforts on Federal Lands along the United States' Borders" (MOU).

Under the MOU, the USBP may use existing administrative trails within designated wilderness and when necessary go off those trails. However, deviating off of approved administrative trails is only allowed under exigent/emergency circumstances. The USBP interprets this requirement broadly and often goes off approved administrative trails in pursuit of fresh tracks or other sign, or to respond to a signal fire or other information that may lead an agent to believe that UDAs or drug smugglers are in the area. We believe that the pursuit of UDAs /drug smugglers has created the greater proportion of trails. The refuge wilderness is often viewed as an area of conflict, where border law enforcement personnel are prohibited from implementing actions necessary to interdict illegal border activities. Over the last ten years, refuge staff have worked diligently with other Federal and state law enforcement agencies to ensure access is available to interdict illegal smuggling activity. This has been one of the most significant resource challenges refuge staff have worked on over the last ten years; balancing the need to protect the wilderness character of the refuge while allowing for the control of 56 miles of International Boundary with Mexico.

Over the last 10 years, the illegal movement of people and narcotics into the United States has significantly affected the CPNWR Wilderness Area. The very qualities that made the refuge worthy of designation as a unit of the National Wilderness Preservation System have made this an ideal location for the smuggling of people and contraband into the United States. CPNWR is located in one of the most remote sections of the Sonoran Desert. Due to the great distance from paved roads, rugged conditions, and lack of development, the refuge wilderness area has been used as a travel corridor for illegal border crossing and drug smuggling activities. These events, and the resulting interdiction efforts by the USBP, have resulted in significant impacts associated with a proliferation of trails driven by both smugglers and U.S. law enforcement agency personnel.

In 2003, the USBP in cooperation with CPNWR responded to the increased UDA and smuggling traffic by establishing a forward operating base in the south central portion of the refuge near the International border. The objective of the camp was to deter further illegal border crossings and to provide a continual USBP presence in one of the remotest sections along the Arizona-Mexico border. This action significantly reduced the amount of illegal smuggling activities via vehicles; nearly all vehicles entering the area were either apprehended or fled to Mexico. Additionally, the USBP constructed a vehicle barrier along the refuge's boundary with Mexico in 2007-2008, further reducing the number of vehicles illegally entering the U.S.

However, smuggling activities have continued to occur as groups of UDAs and drug smugglers have resorted to walking through the refuge. The conventional apprehension tactic used by USBP within CPNWR consists of identifying illegal activity and then directly pursuing that activity off-road. The MOU identifies the need for off-road pursuit of illegal activities when necessary and provides guidance for USBP agents on how off-road pursuit activities shall occur; they are instructed to use the method of pursuit with the least impacts to the environment. These methods of pursuit include: walking, pursuit on horseback, helicopters, ATV's and the use of

standard vehicles (typically $\frac{3}{4}$ ton vehicles). Because it is difficult to assess the amount of time that has passed since the illegal activity occurred and/or due to extreme temperatures, agents typically choose not to follow on foot. And because horses and helicopters are rarely available, interdiction activities are most commonly conducted in large motorized vehicles. However, within the last several years, USBP has begun to use smaller All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) during some pursuit events. Furthermore, UDA's and smugglers are typically apprehended in remote areas away from roads and must be transported back to roads for transfer to the USBP stations. The use of large vehicles for interdiction and transport of UDA's and smugglers have the greatest potential to impact Sonoran pronghorn, wilderness, and other trust resources. It must be noted that the refuge supports the USBP in the completion of their mission and the impacts from interdiction would not be occurring if illegal activity were not occurring in the area.

Impacts from off-road pursuit via vehicles can have negative effects on soils, vegetation and wildlife species. Studies have been conducted throughout the southwest on the impacts of off-road use. Studies on soil disturbance have concluded that areas with heavy off-road vehicle traffic are impacted from soil compaction, destruction of biotic and abiotic soil crusts, and damage to areas with desert pavement, a unique desert surface covered with closely packed rocks and sand. Vegetation is affected from these direct impacts of soil disturbance and indirectly through the alteration of hydrological processes. Additionally, fragile desert vegetation is easily crushed by direct contact with vehicles. Vehicular traffic impacts wildlife through crushing animal burrows or direct mortality, and prolonged traffic disturbance has been shown to modify animal movement patterns. Disruption to movement patterns is a major concern due to the potential impacts on the Sonoran pronghorn population. Damage to cultural resources and impacts to wilderness character are also a significant concern.

From 2001-2009 refuge staff attempted to indirectly monitor the extent of off-road vehicle impacts from smuggling and subsequent USBP interdiction activities. This monitoring consisted of walking numerous established east-west transects across the refuge and recording off-road impacts observed. Through the course of implementing this monitoring program, it became apparent there were seemingly incalculable vehicle tracks throughout the refuge, none of which existed prior to the designation of the area as wilderness. While this monitoring effort established trends in trail densities, staff were not able to efficiently and accurately map, or enumerate the extent and magnitude of trails found across the refuge. In November 2009, CPNWR initiated a project to inventory and classify the trails found within the refuge using a combination of remote sensing and field survey techniques. This project was intended to provide a spatial framework of the off-road vehicle tracks that currently exist throughout CPNWR. This information will be used as an analysis tool to further identify and quantify direct and indirect ecological impacts resulting from smuggling and associated interdiction efforts.

Study Area

CPNWR is located in southwestern Arizona adjacent to the International border; the study area consisted of 807,658 acres of the refuge, including 756,250 acres of wilderness (Figure 1). We defined six geographic regions in the study area, largely made up of flat valley bottoms where vehicular trail densities had been observed to be highest. From east to west, the regions consisted of: Childs Valley, Growler Valley, San Cristobal Valley, Mohawk Valley, Tule Desert and Lechuguila Desert. An area of 49,376 acres in the Northeast corner of the refuge was not

included in the study because that portion of the refuge was not photographed as part of the baseline 2008 aerial photo mission that was used as the base analysis for the study.

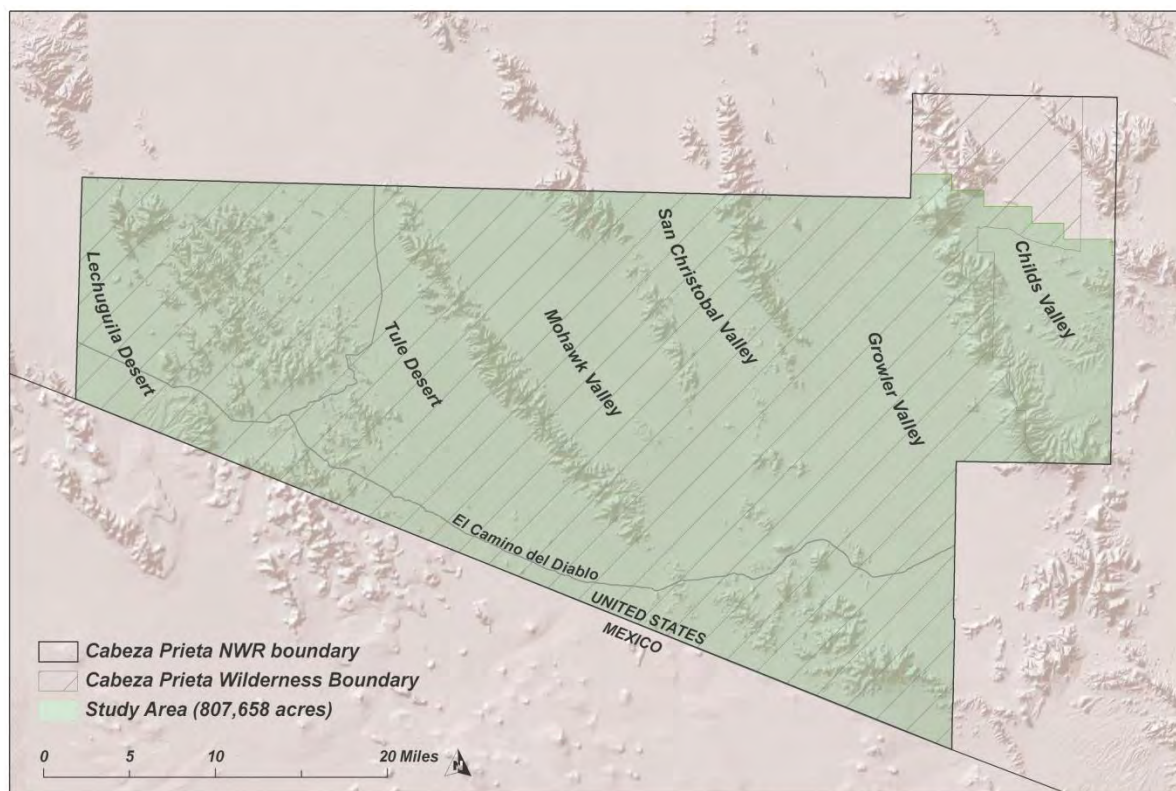


Figure 1. Project study area and associated geographic regions

The refuge is located in the Sonoran region of the Basin and Range Province of North America. This is an extensive system of fault block mountains trending north to south and are separated by broad alluvial valleys. Creosote (*Larrea tridentata*) desert shrubland encompassed the vast majority of the study area. Associated species include: white bursage (*Ambrosia dumosa*), triangle-leaf bursage (*Ambrosia delotidea*), wolfberry (*Lycium ssp*), ironwood (*Olneya tesota*), saguaro cactus (*Carnegiea gigantea*), and teddy bear cholla (*Opuntia bigelovii*). Valley bottoms can be characterized as alluvial, consisting largely of fine grain sandy to sandy loamy soils. Areas of desert pavement are evident and dispersed throughout some regions of the study area.

Methods

High resolution ortho-rectified aerial imagery and photo interpretation were used to inventory the extent of vehicle trails. We used a 30 cm ground sample distance (GSD) true color imagery set as the basis of the analysis. We obtained this through the Borderlands project in cooperation with the Department of Defense. Image acquisition dates range from October to November 2008. Imagery covered approximately 93% of the refuge and 100% of those areas adjacent to the Mexican and US border.

Photo interpretation was conducted to interpret vehicular trail delineation and classification. Trails were classified into 4 disturbance categories as defined below. Photographic examples of the 4 categories are found in Appendix A.

Class 1 - Tire tread impressions in soil, or soil berms built up around tire tracks. Undisturbed soil and/or vegetation growing between tracks

Class 2 – Multiple parallel Class 1 vehicle tracks with three or more crossings of tracks within 100 meters

Class 3 - Soil berms built up around tire tracks. Disturbed soil and no vegetation between tracks

Class 4 – Multiple parallel Class 3 vehicle tracks with three or more crossings of tracks within 100 meters

Trails were digitized on screen and stored in an ArcGIS geodatabase. We utilized a digital grid of 1.5 km² cells to maintain a systematic and comprehensive approach to the inventory. Each grid cell was photo-interpreted completely before the inventory of adjacent cells commenced. We assigned technicians different sections of the grid to prevent duplication of data from occurring. When called for, we conducted additional field calibrations to account for variations in soil texture and vegetation density that would have affected the accuracy and consistency of the analysis.

To assess data quality, we conducted an accuracy assessment at the conclusion of the inventory. The assessment tested the accuracy of the trail classification (i.e., how often the trail classes assigned by photo interpretation agreed with trail classes observed in the field). The assessment was conducted using an error matrix derived from paired photo interpreted trails and field observations. To acquire field observations 41 stratified random 1.5 km² grid cells were selected. Random selection was stratified by 2 conditions: distance from access trails (<.8 km) and photo interpreted trail density (> 12 km /1.5 km²) (Figure 2). Stratified conditions were used to ensure the appropriate amount of field data could be collected within the time and budget allotted by the project. Vehicular trails within each grid cell were evaluated at intercept points along randomly placed 1.5 km transects. Transect lines ran north-south or east-west, perpendicular to predominant photo interpreted trail direction. A total of 2,335 digitized trail intercept points were collected. Attribute data acquired included trail class (at time of field data collection) and interpretation of recent use. In addition to digitized trails, all trails not digitized were also recorded as intercept points along transects. A total of 518 non-digitized trail points were recorded. Due to the dynamic nature of trail impacts on the refuge, the 518 non-digitized trail intercept points could not be used in an assessment of trail density accuracy; we could not determine which trails were created before or after the acquisition date of the imagery.

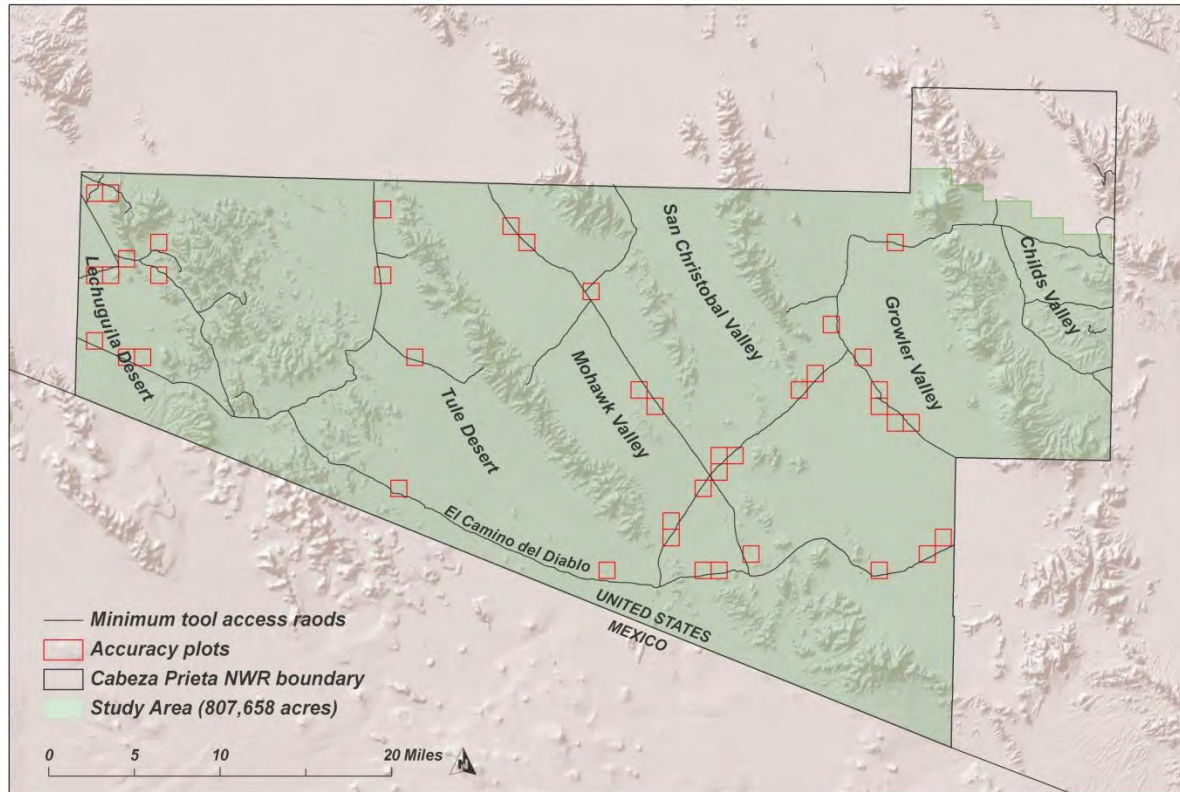


Figure 2. Accuracy assessment plot distribution

Results

In total 12,824 km (7,968 miles) of vehicular trails were inventoried with 12,455 km (7,739 miles) occurring in wilderness. We classified 98.8% as Class 1 (Figure 3). The overall classification accuracy was 98% ($K_{hat} = 0.97$) indicating strong agreement between classification results and field assessment. Due to the temporal difference between the base imagery acquisition (October-November 2008) and field assessment of the inventory (March 2010), it is not possible to determine the accuracy of trail density. The additional 518 non-digitized trail intercepts collected during the field accuracy assessment do indicate that a significantly higher trail density may have existed at the time of the 2008 aerial imagery acquisition and were not detected during the photo interpretation process. However, the un-digitized trails may have been created during the 15 months between the acquisition of photographs and the field assessment.

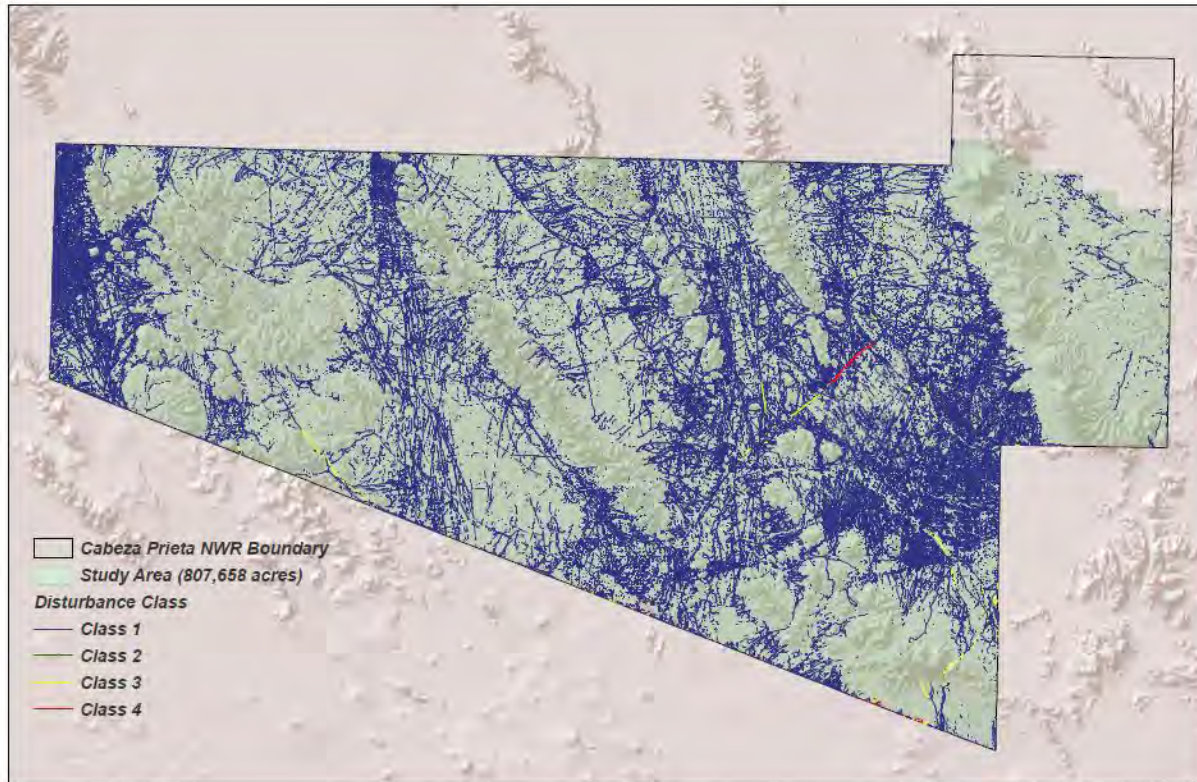


Figure 3. Digitized off road distribution and classification, October, 2008

To assess the spatial extent of vehicular trail disturbance a density analysis was conducted. We calculated the total distance of inventoried trails within each digital grid of 1.5 km^2 . Trail densities ranged from 0-80.0 km / 1.5 km^2 ($\approx$ 0-49.9 miles / 1 mile^2) (Figure 4, Table 1). High trail densities were primarily associated with flat broad alluvial valleys and areas north of El Camino del Diablo, the major east-west access road (Figure 3). Although these broad alluvial valleys contain finer grain soils that are more sensitive to topographic alterations that could be observed through photo interpretation, calculated trail densities were consistent with the results collected during the field accuracy assessment. Of the 6 geographic regions, the Growler Valley contained the highest mean trail density (14.7 km / 1.5 km^2 or $\approx$ 9.1 miles / 1 mile^2). Much of the high trail density in the Growler Valley can be attributed to a contiguous 22,500 hectares (55,599 acres) area north of the El Camino del Diablo road with a mean density of 29.9 km / 1.5 km^2 ($\approx$ 18.8 miles / 1 mile^2). The Childs Valley had the lowest trail density with a mean of 1.5 km / 1.5 km^2 ($\approx$ 0.91 miles / 1 mile^2).

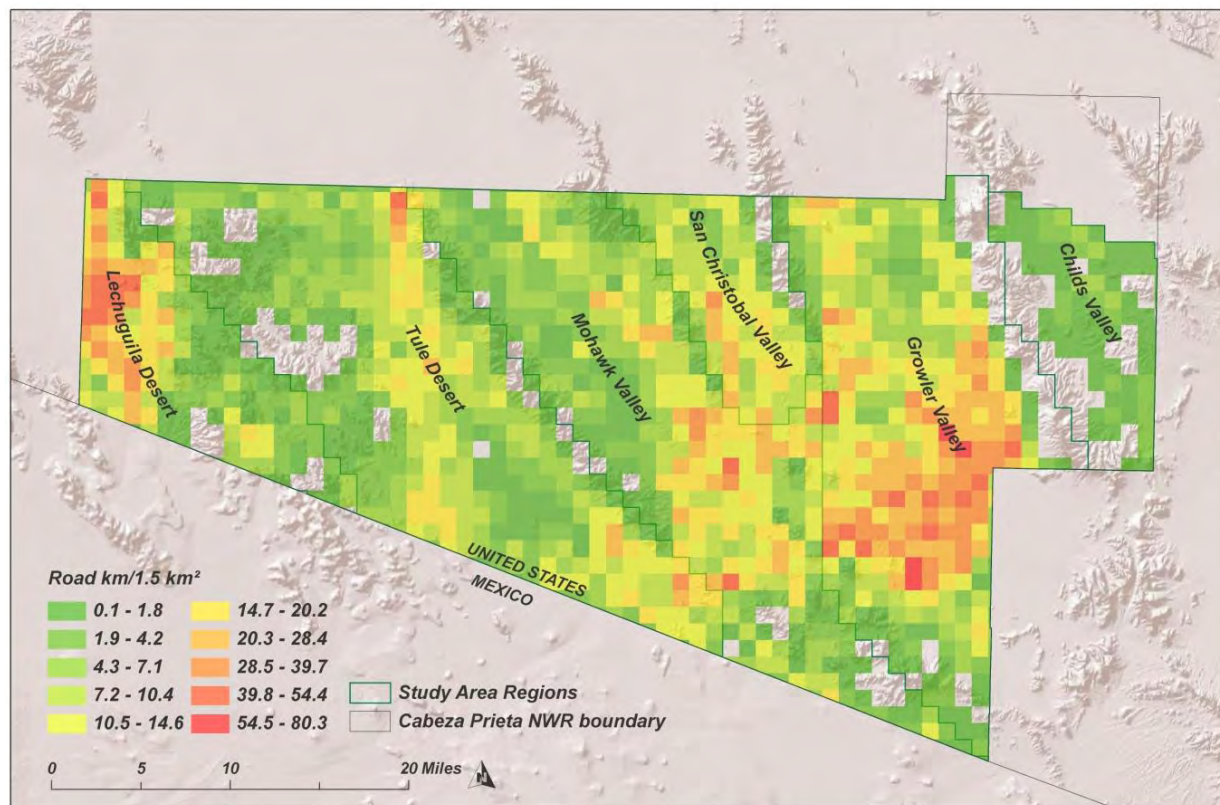


Figure 4. Vehicular trail density analysis, October/November, 2008

Table 1. Trail density summary by geographical region (kilometers)

Project Region	trail mean km ²	trail max km ²	trail sum km	region ha
Childs Valley	1.5 (0.9 mi)	6.1 (3.8 mi)	111.4 (69.2 mi)	25875 (63938.5 acres)
Growler Valley	14.7 (9.1 mi)	80.3 (49.9 mi)	4938.5 (3068.6 mi)	84150 (207939.2 acres)
San Cristobal Va.	9.9 (6.2 mi)	31.8 (19.7 mi)	904.4 (562.0 mi)	22050 (54486.7 acres)
Mohawk Valley	7.5 (4.7 mi)	48.3 (30.0 mi)	2606.8 (1619.8 mi)	82350 (203491.3 acres)
Tule Desert	6.4 (4.0 mi)	54.5 (33.9 mi)	2421.5 (1504.7 mi)	94050 (232402.6 acres)
Lechuguilla Desert	11.9 (7.4 mi)	53.0 (33.0 mi)	1845.6 (1146.8 mi)	37125 (91737.9 acres)

Discussion

We are disturbed over both the magnitude and extent of the impacts we recorded during this inventory; we did not expect to find almost 8,000 miles of vehicle trails through the CPNWR wilderness area. The frequent use of mechanized transport associated with illegal smuggling activities and interdiction efforts precludes opportunities for solitude. Furthermore, the amount of damage from off-road activities may be significantly impacting the natural quality of wilderness character by such means as altering hydrological process, affecting plant distribution, impacts to wildlife inhabiting tunnels and dens below the surface, and disrupting habitat use of wildlife where high intensity traffic areas may be avoided due to the frequent presence of humans and vehicles. It is possible the observed low population size and the current infrequent use of habitat areas by Sonoran pronghorn in the southeastern portion of their range may be in part due to the level of activity associated with illegal smuggling and subsequent interdiction

activities in this area. The unintentional establishment of a trail network inarguably compromises the undeveloped quality of the refuge wilderness.

From a wilderness stewardship perspective, the density and extent of the off-road travel is alarming. However, impacts to endangered species, plant and animal communities, and cultural resources are more significant than just the mere presence of tire tracks within wilderness. Past research of vehicle use in off-road areas have demonstrated significant impacts to soils, plants, and wildlife. Many of the direct and indirect effects currently occurring on the refuge are yet to be quantified. Direct impact concerns include: soil compaction, increased soil erosion, damage to soil crusts, altered hydrological processes, disruption of migration patterns for Sonoran pronghorn and other wildlife, wildlife mortality, damage to vegetation from vehicle impacts, damage to cultural resources and degradation of wilderness values. Indirect impact concerns include: alteration to the entire biotic community within CPNWR as a result of a disruption to surface hydrology patterns, and potential spread of invasive species. Furthermore, many of these impacts may be significantly interrelated; impacts from soil compaction and alteration of sheet flow events may affect plant distributions that may further impact pronghorn movements and habitat use. To protect federally endangered Sonoran pronghorn, wilderness values, and other trust resources found within CPNWR and to provide an informed plan to reduce the impact of illegal smuggling activities and the subsequent interdiction efforts on these refuge resources, additional information is required. The following actions should be considered to meet these challenges:

1. Conduct soils inventory and associated soil vulnerability analysis
2. Develop a hydro-geomorphic model (HGM) to examine trail impacts to surface hydrology and associated vegetation communities
3. Examine potential disturbance issues related to Sonoran pronghorn migration and human activities (This is currently being researched as part of the Sec. 7 consultation mitigation of the Ajo 1 project.)
4. Assess direct impact to vegetation resulting from vehicular off-road travel

In addition to suggesting further research to determine the breadth of impacts associated with off-road activities on the refuge, this study identifies the magnitude of off-road impacts associated with illegal smuggling and subsequent interdiction activities on the refuge. Although the interdiction efforts being conducted by the USBP are consistent with the MOU, the extent of the impacts suggests there is a need to reevaluate this strategy. This document is not intended to implicate the USBP as the source of the problem, but to illustrate the level of impacts associated with the current interdiction strategy employed. We recognize that all of the impacts discussed in this document were the result of the illegal smuggling of people and narcotics into the U.S. Given the level of impacts and the potential concerns to our ability to manage a species protected pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, and our ability to protect wilderness character pursuant to the Wilderness Act of 1964, it is necessary to develop a more proactive strategy that protects trust resources on the CPNWR, but also allows for the ability of the USBP to interdict illegal activity in this area.

The types of strategies capable of implementing a smuggling deterrence include the deployment of more personnel to the area and technological infrastructure that has been demonstrated to be

successful in other areas along the Arizona border. Systems such as ground-based radar and infra-red cameras deployed within high use areas would be a major asset in moving from an interdiction to a deterrence strategy. Other strategies such as increasing the number of horse patrols in the area would also be helpful.

It is important to note the deployment of these technological assets may need to occur within the refuge wilderness area. Given the amount of impacts observed, simply continuing with the current employed methodology will result in continued impacts as illustrated by this study. We must strive to work with USBP to develop a proactive deterrence strategy that may in the short term result in the placement of structures within wilderness to reduce the amount of impacts to wilderness, endangered species, cultural resources, and other trust resources.

The goals of USBP and CPNWR are not necessarily in conflict. One of the main goals of the USBP is to deter illegal activity from occurring. This concept of deterrence would meet the goals of both agencies. We must work with USBP to develop a deterrence strategy that when implemented will result in illegal activity no longer occurring in this area. Although this goal may not be easily obtained, it is imperative that we work cooperatively to ensure the successful completion of a strategy that benefits the missions of both agencies.

Appendix A: Disturbance classes

Class 1 - Tire tread impressions in soil, or soil berms built up around tire tracks. Undisturbed soil and/or vegetation growing between tracks



Class 2 - Parallel Class 1 vehicle tracks with three or more crossings of tracks within 100 meters



Class 3 - Soil berms built up around tire tracks. Disturbed soil and no vegetation between tracks



Class 4 - Parallel Class 3 vehicle tracks with three or more crossings of tracks within 100 meters





United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
12795 West Alameda Parkway
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287



June 29, 2016

Ian Smith
25 Massachusetts, NW, Suite 335
Washington DC 20001

Dear Mr. Smith:

Reference: Information regarding undocumented immigrants within National Park Service (NPS) units

Subject: Freedom of Information Act Request NPS-2016-00428

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated March 17, 2016, in which you requested the following information:

1. Any and all original records from FY2011 to the present showing the number of crimes committed by illegal immigrants and/or armed criminals against U.S. citizens on NPS-managed lands within 100 miles from the southern border.
2. Any and all original records from FY2011 to the present showing the number of acres of NPS-managed lands within 100 miles from the southern border closed to U.S. citizens due to danger from illegal immigrants and/or armed criminals.
3. Any and all original records from FY2011 to the present showing the number of warnings announced to US citizens to keep out of NPS-managed lands due to illegal immigrants and/or armed criminals.

This request was made for the following NPS Intermountain Region parks: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument; Tumacácori National Historical Park; Coronado National Memorial; Chiricahua National Monument; Chamizal National Monument; Guadalupe Mountains National Park; Fort Davis National Historical Site; Big Bend National Park; Amistad National Recreation Area; Palo Alto Battlefield National Historical Site; and, Padre Island National Seashore.

I have attached two files, containing a total of approximately 383 pages, which are being released to you in part. The first file "16-428_Smith_AMIS_ResponsiveDocuments_Final" contains 232 pages and represents all documents submitted by Amistad National Recreation Area. The second file "16-428_Smith_ORPI_ResponsiveDocuments_Final" contains 151 pages

and represents all documents submitted by Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. After a thorough search of our files, the remaining Intermountain Regional parks listed in your request have determined that they did not locate records responsive to your request.

As stated above, we have withheld information based on Exemption 6 and Exemption 7.

Exemption 6 allows an agency to withhold “personnel and medical files and similar files the disclosure of which would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.” 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6). The phrase “similar files” covers any agency records containing information about a particular individual that can be identified as applying to that individual. See *United States Dep’t of State v. Washington Post Co.*, 456 U.S. 595, 602 (1982). To determine whether releasing records containing information about a particular individual would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, we are required to balance the privacy interest that would be affected by disclosure against any public interest in the information. See *United States Dep’t of Justice v. Reporters Comm. for Freedom of Press*, 489 U.S. 749, 773-75 (1989).

Under the FOIA, “the only relevant public interest” to consider under the exemption is “the extent to which the information sought would ‘she[d] light on an agency’s performance of its statutory duties’ or otherwise let citizens ‘know what their government is up to.’” *United States Dep’t of Def. v. Fed. Labor Relations Auth.*, 510 U.S. 487, 495-96 (1994) (quoting *Reporters Comm.*, 489 U.S. at 775). The burden is on the requester to establish that disclosure would serve the public interest. See *National Archives and Records Admin. v. Favish*, 541 U.S. 157, 171-72 (2004). When the privacy interest at stake and the public interest in disclosure have been determined, the two competing interests must be weighed against one another to determine which is the greater result of disclosure: the harm to personal privacy or the benefit to the public. The purposes for which the request for information is made do not impact this balancing test, as a release of information requested under the FOIA constitutes a release to the general public. See *Reporters Comm.*, 489 U.S. at 771.

The information that has been withheld under Exemption 6 consists of personal information such as dates of birth, social security numbers and home addresses. We have determined that the individuals to whom this information pertains have a substantial privacy interest in withholding it. Additionally, you have not provided information that explains a relevant public interest under the FOIA in the disclosure of this personal information and we have determined that the disclosure of this information would shed little or no light on the performance of the agency’s statutory duties. Because the harm to personal privacy is greater than whatever public interest may be served by disclosure, release of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of the privacy of these individuals.

Exemption 7 protects from disclosure “records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes” if the records fall within one or more of six specific bases for withholding set forth in subparts (a) through (f). 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(7)(a)-(f). The information we are withholding under Exemption 7 are protected under subpart E. Exemption 7(E) protects law enforcement records if their release would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigation or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions if the disclosure could reasonably be expected to risk circumvention of the law. For

the materials that have been withheld under 7(E), we have determined that they are techniques for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions.

Vanessa Lacayo, National Park Service, Intermountain Region FOIA Coordinator is responsible for this response. Michael Williams, Attorney, Office of the Solicitor was consulted.

You have the right to appeal this response. You may file an appeal by writing to:

Freedom of Information Act Appeals Officer
Office of the Solicitor
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS-6556-MIB,
Washington, D.C. 20240
foia.appeals@sol.doi.gov

Your appeal must be received no later than 30 workdays after the date of this final response. The appeal should be marked, both on the envelope and the face of the appeal letter, with the legend "FREEDOM OF INFORMATION APPEAL." Your appeal should be accompanied by a copy of your original request and copies of all correspondence between yourself and the National Park Service related to this request, along with any information you have which leads you to believe the records are available, including where they might be found, if the location is known to you. Please note that appeals received after 5 p.m. EST will be considered to have been received as of the following day.

Also as part of the 2007 OPEN Government Act FOIA amendments, the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) was created to offer mediation services to resolve disputes between FOIA requesters and Federal agencies as a nonexclusive alternative to litigation. Using OGIS services does not affect your right to pursue litigation.

You may contact OGIS in any of the following ways:

Office of Government Information Services (OGIS)
National Archives and Records Administration
Room 2510
8601 Adelphi Road
College Park, MD 20740-6001

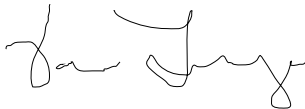
E-mail: ogis@nara.gov
Phone: 301-837-1996
Fax: 301-837-0348
Toll-free: 1-877-684-6448

Additionally, because the National Park Service creates and maintains law enforcement records, we are required by the Department of Justice to provide the following information, even though it may or may not apply to your specific request. Congress excluded three discrete categories of

law enforcement and national security records from the requirements of the FOIA. See 5 U.S.C. 552(c) (2006 & Supp. IV 2010). This response is limited to those records that are subject to the requirements of the FOIA. This is a standard notification that we are required to give all our requesters and should not be taken as an indication that excluded records do, or do not, exist.

Should you have any further questions regarding this request, please feel free to contact me. I can be reached at the address above or by phone at 303-969-2062. My e-mail address is Vanessa_lacayo@nps.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vanessa Lacayo', with a stylized, cursive script.

Vanessa Lacayo
NPS FOIA Officer

Briefing Statement

BUREAU: National Park Service
ISSUE: Border Challenges
LOCATION: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
DATE: September 19, 2011

Key Points:

- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument's (ORPI) border setting creates significant and unique challenges due to drugs, other contraband, and illegal undocumented immigrants that are routinely smuggled through the monument by vehicle and on foot.
- These illegal border activities directly affect ORPI's visitation and resources and create the potential for violent crime within the monument's boundaries.
- The top three priorities for ORPI are 1) employee and visitor safety, 2) resource protection and 3) visitor accessibility.
- ORPI has the reputation as being a "hardship" duty station and recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers has been challenging.
- As participants in the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) of Arizona and as part of the Border Anti-Narcotics Network (BANN) Task Force, ORPI, along with the Pima County Sheriff's Dept, U.S. Customs and Border Patrol (CBP), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS), and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, have developed an interagency partnership and conduct joint operations.

Background:

- ORPI encompasses 330,689 acres and shares 30 miles of the international border with Mexico. Ninety-four percent of the monument is congressionally designated wilderness.
- There is established infrastructure in Mexico that supports illegal smuggling operations and provides access to the entire border of ORPI. Smugglers use sophisticated methods to avoid detection, including extensive counter-surveillance of law enforcement.
- Highway 85 is a major north-south travel route through the monument and provides a convenient corridor for smuggling.
- Park visitors and staff can be at risk as they may encounter drug traffickers and illegal immigrants. Undocumented immigrants are also at risk from unscrupulous coyotes and from extreme temperatures in the summer.
- Since 2007, ORPI has implemented the principles of Operational Leadership in planning and day-to-day operations. The majority of park employees and many park researchers have participated in and completed the 16-hour NPS curriculum.
- In 2006, DOI completed construction on a vehicle barrier along 30 miles of the border between ORPI and Mexico. The barrier has been highly successful in reducing illegal vehicle traffic from coming north and in reducing southbound traffic trying to escape arrest. Since construction of the vehicle barrier, the use of road spikes has decreased 80 percent.
- In 2008, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) completed a 5.2-mile pedestrian fence in the Lukeville area to block illegal crossings. The pedestrian fence has been somewhat effective in reducing human traffic, but it is frequently breached.

- (b) (7)(E)

Current Status:

- Illegal border activities involve foot and off-road vehicle travel through ORPI's wilderness. This cross-border activity causes resource damage, including the creation of illegal roads and trails, littering, wildland fires, graffiti, and destruction of native ecosystems.
- Approximately 45 percent of the park is open to the public and NPS administrative use.
- (b) (7)(E)
- While human health and safety, resource protection and the visitor experience are top priorities for ORPI, the level of illegal activities necessitates that NPS law enforcement perform illegal aliens and drug traffic deterrence activities. The table below illustrates these efforts and hours spent on backcountry patrols and protection details. Rangers hiked over 800 miles in the backcountry during 2010.

Calendar Year	Immigration Arrests	Drug Seizures	Pounds of Marijuana	Backcountry Patrols (hrs)	Protection Details (hrs)
2010 Total	326	37	9055	779	868
2011 to date	121	37	14,232	na	na

- Border Patrol (BP) staffing at the Ajo Station has increased from less than 50 agents in 2004 to more than 400 agents currently.
- The pedestrian fence and vehicle barrier – plus the increase in BP agents and ORPI's focus of law enforcement resources on a core part of the monument - represent the best chance for success at achieving "terrain denial" given the overlapping enforcement strategies.

Position of Interested Parties:

Illegal immigration and border issues continue to be of national interest to humanitarian groups, such as Humane Borders; Federal, State and county law enforcement agencies, including the Tucson and Yuma Sectors of BP; the TON; other land management agencies, including FWS and BLM; local groups, including the International Sonoran Desert Alliance; and international partners, such as the Pinacate International Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.

Contact: Lee Baiza, Superintendent, 520-387-6849, ext. 7500



December 2, 2010

Border Challenges

Issues

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument's (ORPI) border setting creates significant and unique challenges due to drugs, other



NPS law enforcement officer on patrol near a restored smuggling route.

contraband, and illegal undocumented immigrants that are routinely smuggled through the monument by vehicle and on foot.

These illegal border activities directly affect ORPI's visitation and resources and create the potential for violent crime within the monument's boundaries. The top three priorities for ORPI are 1) employee and

visitor safety, 2) resource protection and 3) visitor accessibility.

ORPI has the reputation as being a "hardship" duty station and recruitment and retention of law enforcement officers has been challenging.

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There is established infrastructure in Mexico that supports illegal smuggling operations and provides access to the entire border of ORPI. Smugglers use sophisticated methods to avoid detection, including extensive counter-surveillance of law enforcement. Highway 85 is a major north-south travel route through the monument and provides a convenient corridor for smuggling.

Park visitors and staff can be at risk as they may encounter drug traffickers and illegal immigrants. Undocumented immigrants are also at risk from unscrupulous coyotes and from extreme temperatures in the summer.

Since 2007, ORPI has implemented the principles of Operational Leadership in planning and day-to-day operations. The majority of park employees and many park researchers have participated in and completed the 16-hour NPS curriculum.

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Illegal border activities involve foot and off-road vehicle travel through ORPI's wilderness. This cross-border activity causes resource damage, including the creation of illegal roads and trails, littering, wildland fires, graffiti, and destruction of native ecosystems. Approximately 45 percent of the park is open to the public and NPS administrative use.

(b) (7)(E)

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While human health and safety, resource protection and the visitor experience are top priorities for ORPI, the level of illegal activities necessitates that NPS law enforcement perform illegal aliens and drug traffic deterrence activities. The table on the following page, illustrates these efforts and hours spent on backcountry patrols and protection details.



NPS drug interdiction during a routine traffic stop.

Border Patrol (BP) staffing at the Ajo Station has increased from less than 50 agents in 2004 to more than 350 agents currently.

The pedestrian fence and vehicle barrier – plus the increase in BP agents and ORPI's focus of law enforcement resources on a core part of the monument - represent the best chance for success at achieving “terrain denial” given the overlapping enforcement strategies.

(b) (7)(E)

Cooperators

Illegal immigration and border issues continue to be of national interest to humanitarian groups, such as Humane Borders; Federal, State and county law enforcement agencies, including the Tucson and Yuma Sectors of BP; the TON; other land management agencies, including FWS and BLM; local groups, including the International Sonoran Desert Alliance; and international partners, such as the Pinacate International Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.



Abandoned vehicle in wilderness



Despite ongoing border impacts in some areas of ORPI, a number of sites remain relatively pristine.

Month 2010	Immigration Arrests	Drug Seizures	Pounds of Marijuana	Backcountry Patrols (hrs)	Protection Details (hrs)
January	36	3	743	110	29
February	45	4	570	20	50
March	53	5	1435	43	130
April	29	6	1063	125	30
May	36	4	1760	55	74
June	38	2	526	83	44
July	22	2	543	42	54
August	3	3	524	-	43
September	7	2	248	6	24
Total	269	31	7412	484	478

NPS law enforcement statistics for January through September 2010.

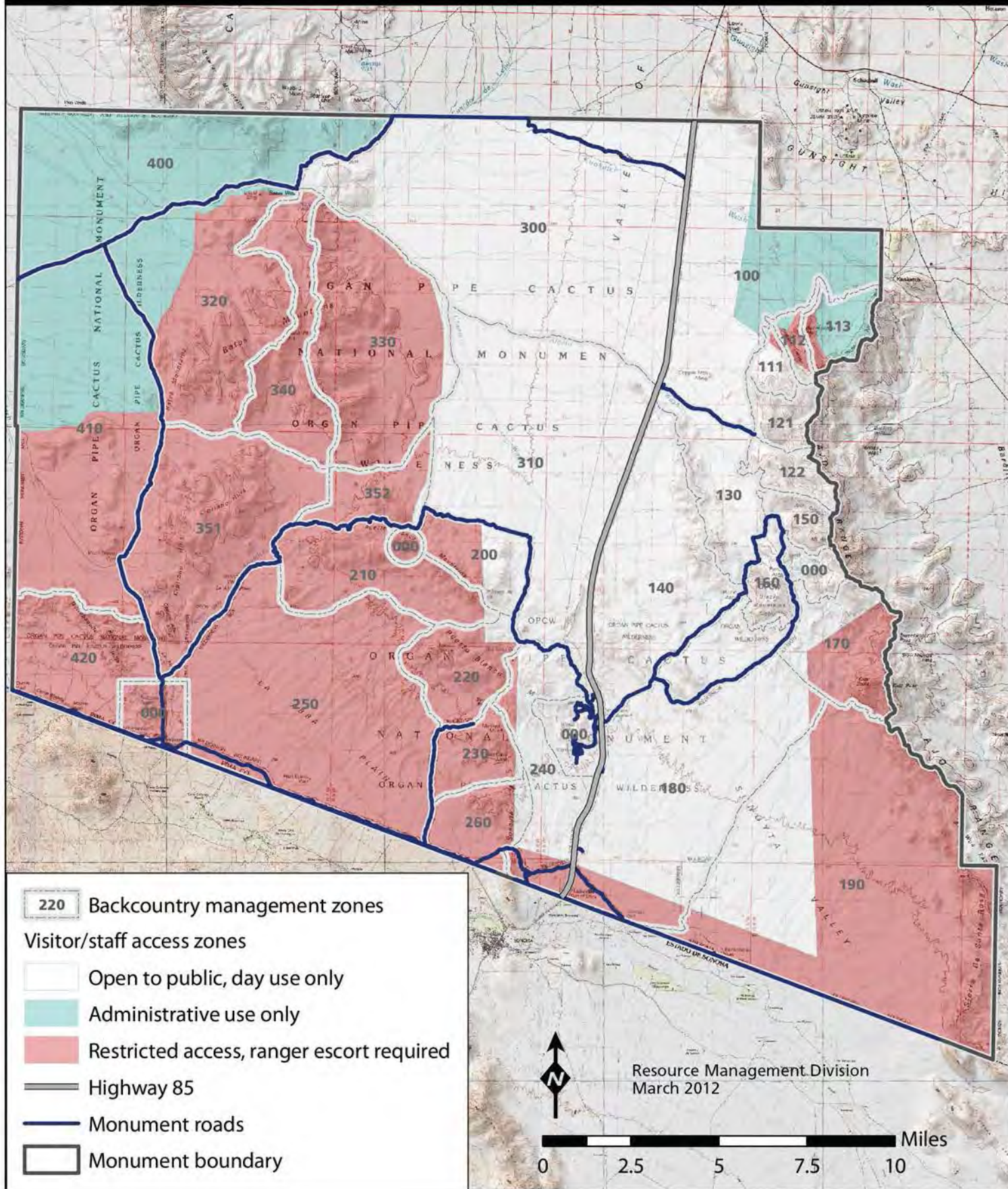
Contact: Lee Baiza, Superintendent, 520-387-6849, ext. 7500

Backcountry Access Zones

March 2012

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

Arizona

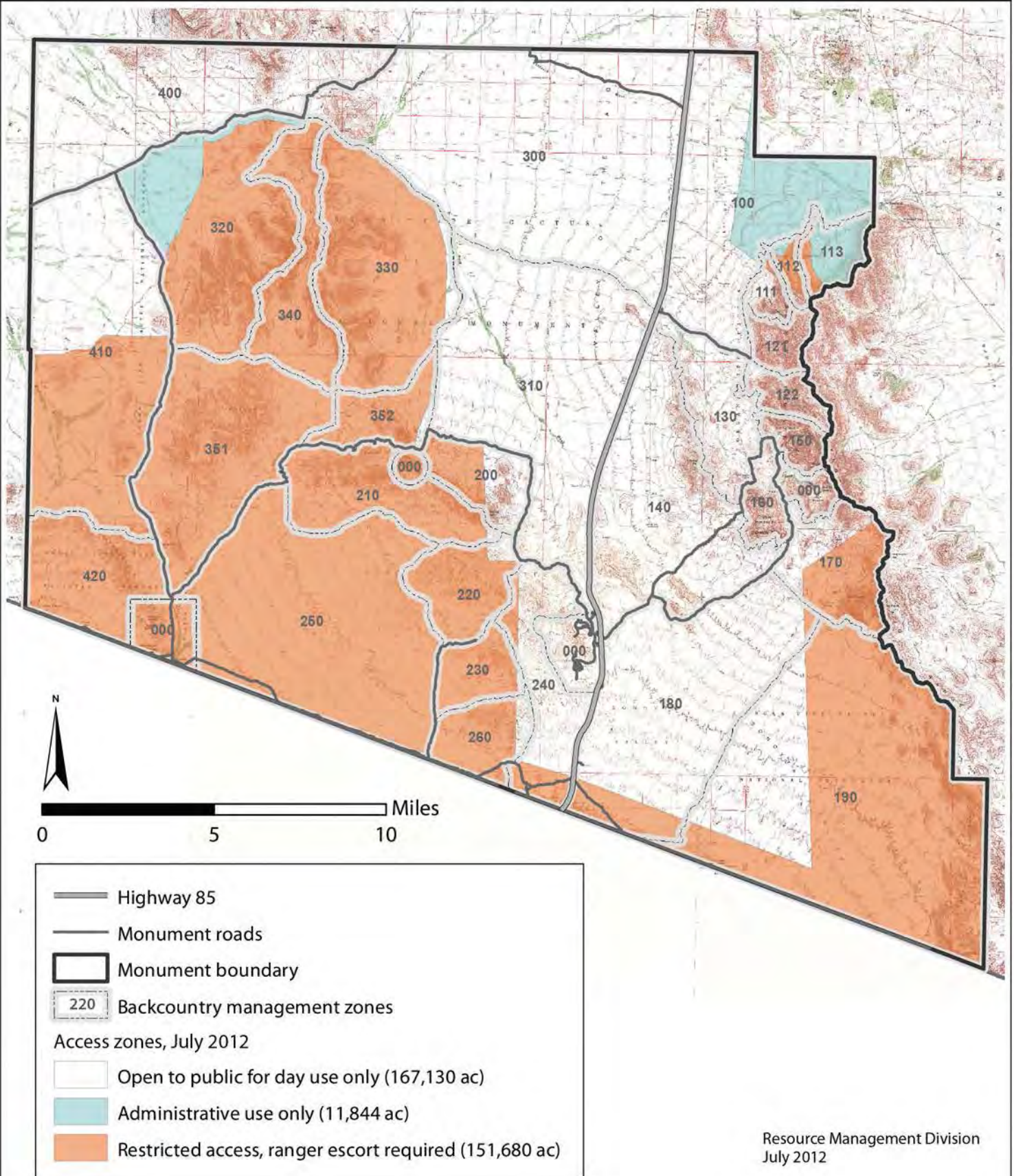


Backcountry Access Zones

July 19, 2012

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

Arizona



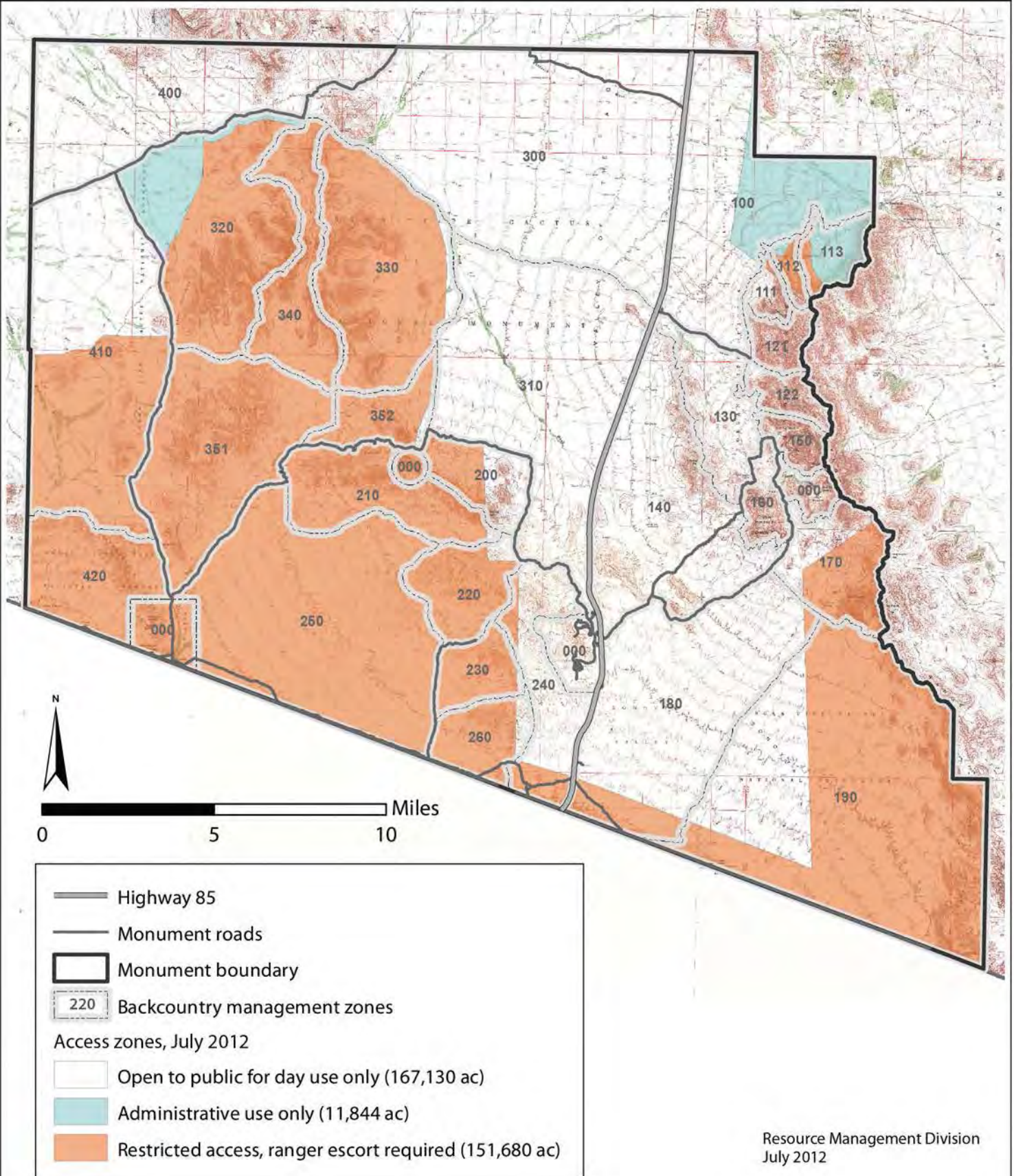
Resource Management Division
July 2012

Backcountry Access Zones

July 19, 2012

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

Arizona

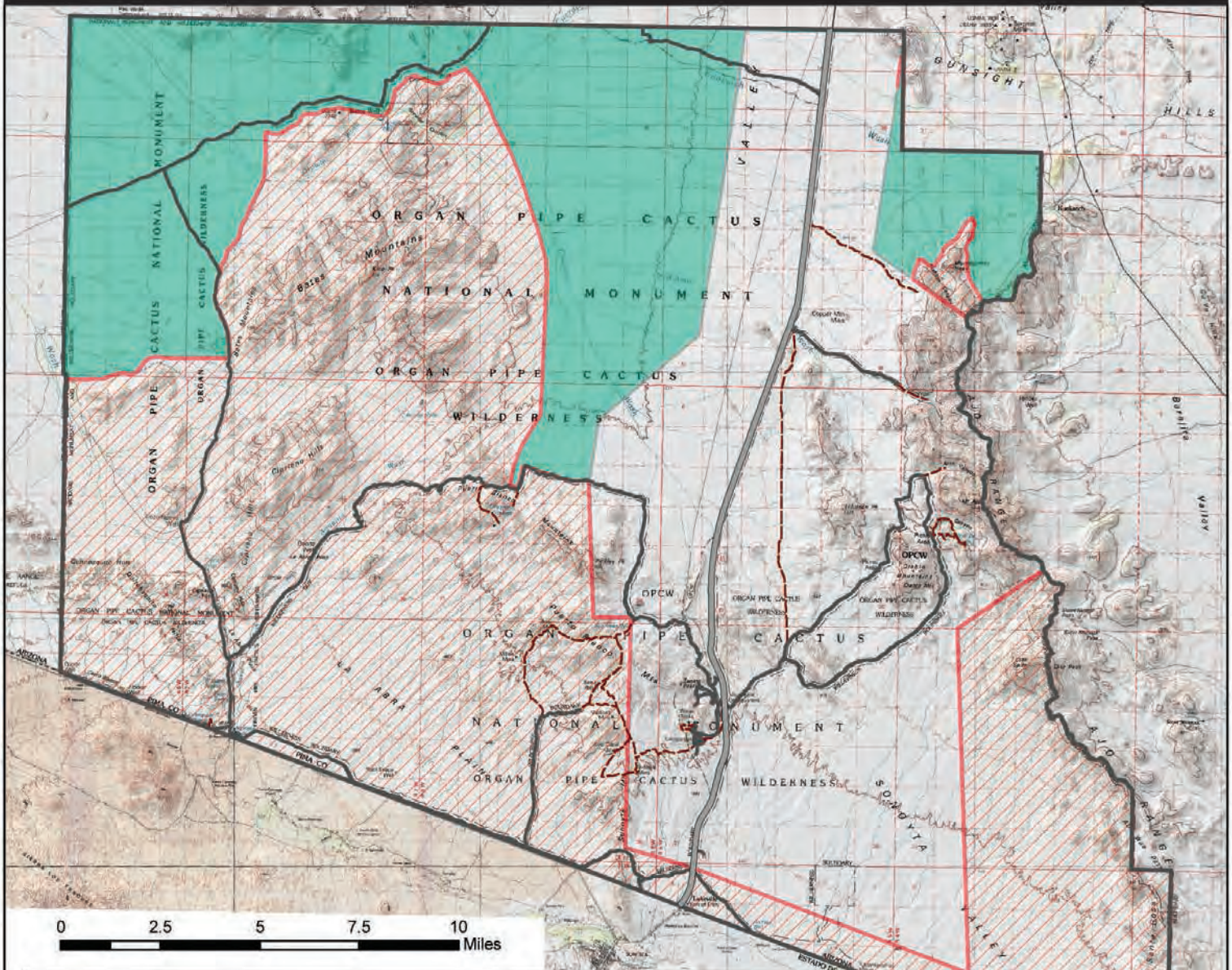


Resource Management Division
July 2012

Backcountry Access Zones (Effective November 2009)

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

Arizona



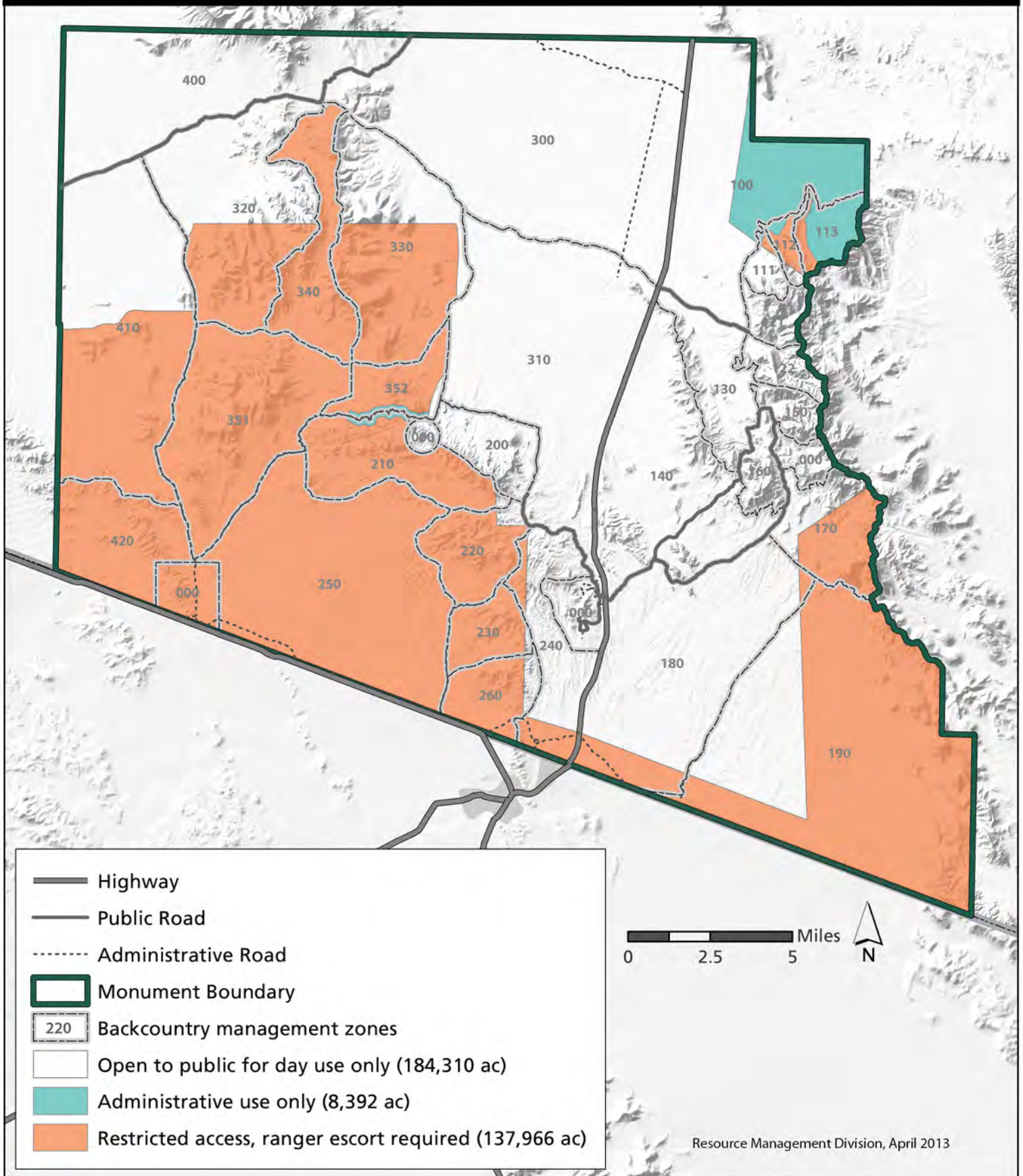
Resource Management Division

March 2010

Backcountry Access Zones, April 2013

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

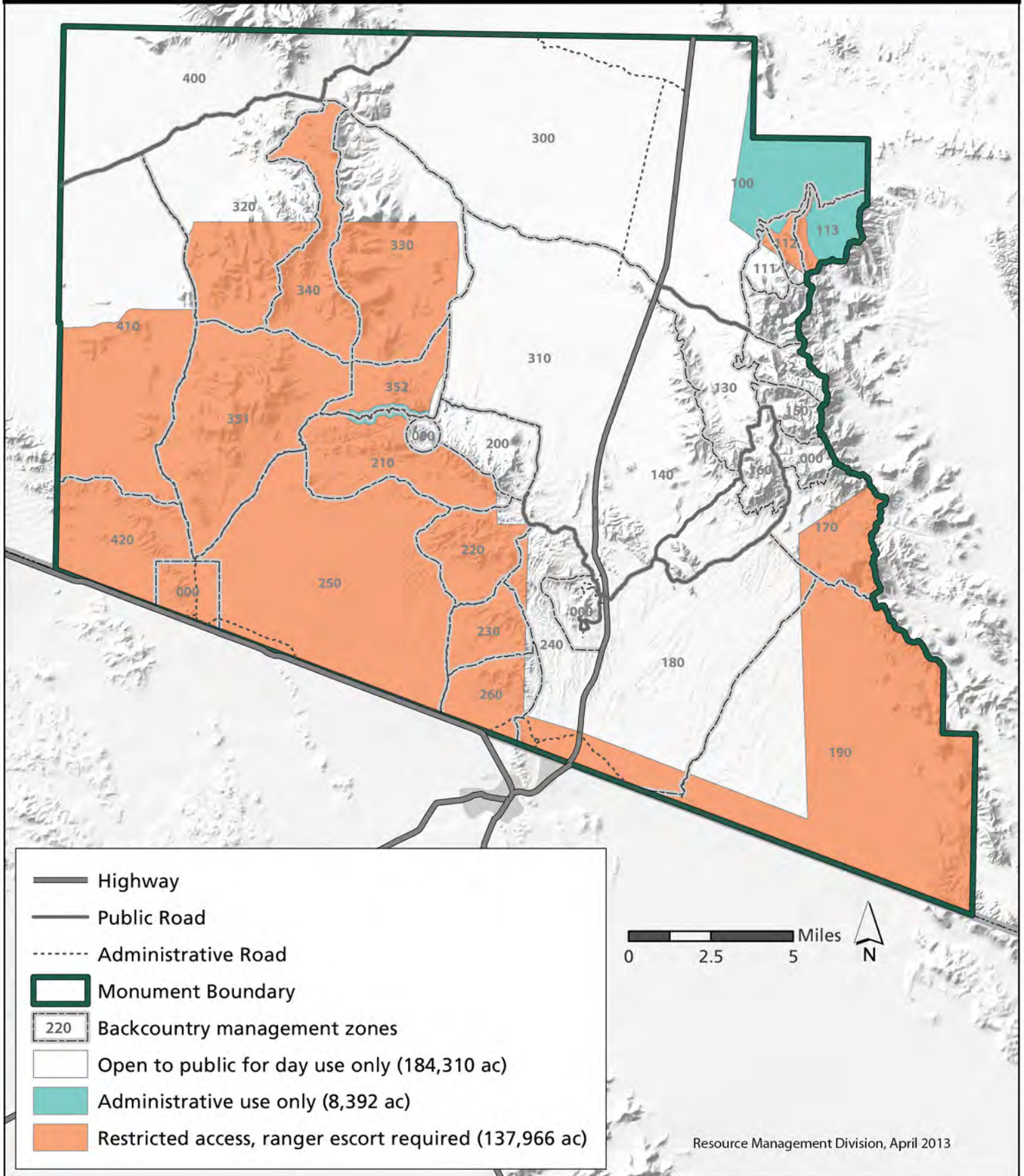
Arizona



Backcountry Access Zones, April 2013

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

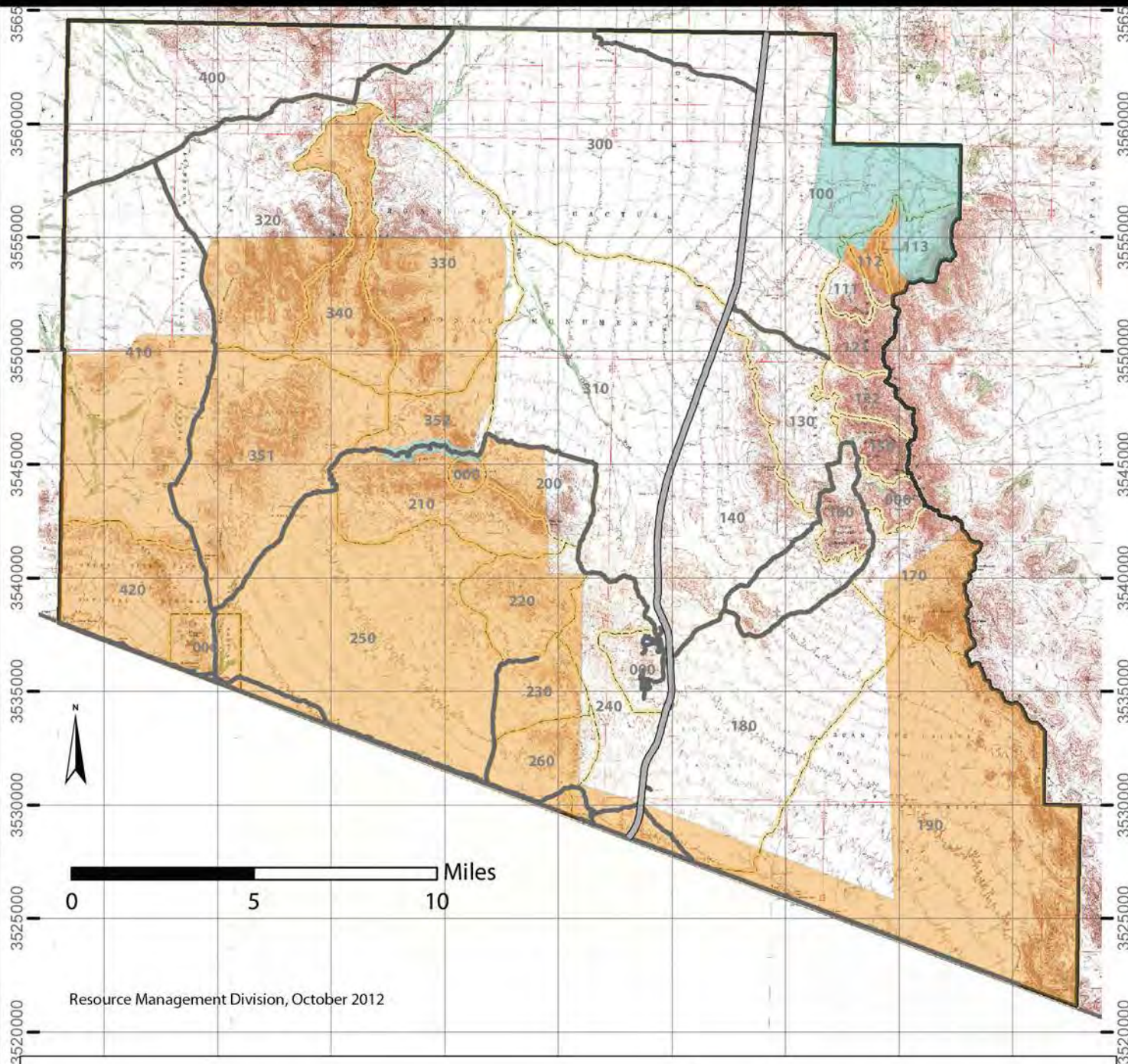
Arizona



Backcountry Access Zones, November 2012

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

Arizona



Resource Management Division, October 2012

— Highway 85

— Monument roads

□ Monument boundary

□ 220 Backcountry management zones

Proposed access zones

□ Open to public for day use only (181,998 ac)

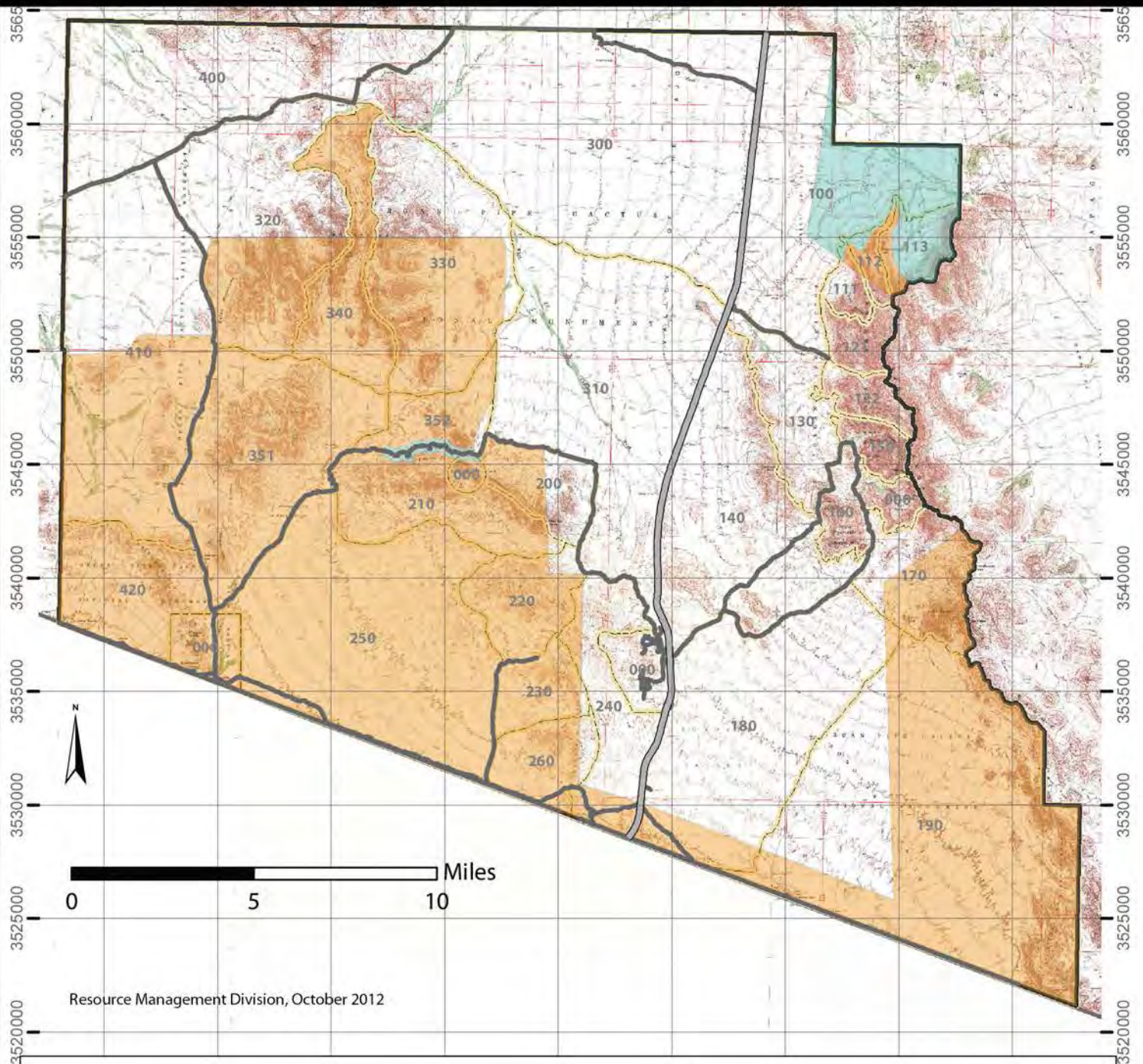
□ Administrative use only (8,480 ac)

□ Restricted access, ranger escort required (140,189 ac)

Backcountry Access Zones, November 2012

Organ Pipe Cactus N.M.

Arizona



Resource Management Division, October 2012

Highway 85

Monument roads

Monument boundary

220 Backcountry management zones

Proposed access zones

Open to public for day use only (181,998 ac)

Administrative use only (8,480 ac)

Restricted access, ranger escort required (140,189 ac)



**National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior**

**Organ Pipe Cactus
National Monument**

10 Organ Pipe Drive
Ajo, AZ 85321

Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit
Requirements and Other
Restrictions Imposed Under
Discretionary Authority.

520.387.6849 phone
520.387.7144 fax

Approved:

Lee Baiza, Superintendent

Date: _____

Under the provision of Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1 - 7, the following Superintendent's Orders (compendium) are established for Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Unless otherwise noted, these orders apply in addition to the provisions contained in parts 1 - 7 of Title 36 CFR.

§ 1.5 Closures and public use limits

(1) The following roads are closed to vehicular traffic except for use by National Park Service, other Federal, state or local agencies, and other individuals in accordance with approved General Management or Resources Management & Research Plans, and the 2006 Department of Homeland Security/Department of Interior Memorandum of Understanding:

- Road to the sewage lagoon
- Road to the maintenance storage yard – road to heliport (Tiger Cage area)
- Road to the monument pistol range
- Power line road
- Border road – entire length from Lukeville east to the SE corner and from Lukeville west to the west boundary.
- Camino de los Republicos
- South Puerto Blanco
- North Puerto Blanco Road, past the first five miles
- Old Stack property road access
- Old VIP/Well Road
- Roads to the maintenance complex and to park residence area
- Road to the vegetative recycle area (east of Highway 85)
- North Boundary Road west of HW 85 to the Bates Well Road (Armenta Road)
- Pozo Nuevo Road
- Senita Basin Road
- Tower 310 Road
- Armenta Road
- 100K Water Tank Access Road
- 50K Water Tank Access Road

(2) The following public use limits carrying capacities/maximum party sizes will apply to the different backcountry camping zones. In the interest of visitor safety, all backcountry areas are closed to overnight use. Day use hiking restrictions may also be in effect. Visitors are directed to obtain current information at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

(3) Night Closures – Hiking at night is prohibited unless accompanied by designated NPS representative.

§ 1.6 Permits

(f) In compliance with CFR 36, Sec 1.7, the following is a compilation of activities requiring special use permits.

2.5 Research Specimen

- (a) Taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals

For Threatened and Endangered Species, CFR 50, Part 3, Federal Fish & Wildlife License/Permit.

2.10 Camping and Food Storage

- (a) Camping permits required: Designate sites or areas: establish conditions for camping

2.12 Audio Disturbances

- (a) (2) Developed areas - operating a power saw.
- (a) (3) Non developed areas - operating portable engines
- (a) (4) Operating a public address system

2.17 Aircraft and air delivery

- (a) (3) Delivering or retrieving a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means

2.23 Recreation Fees

- (b) Entrance/Recreation Fee

2.37 Non-commercial soliciting

2.38 Explosives

- (a) Using, possessing, storing, or transporting of explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials
- (b) Using or possessing fireworks or firecrackers

2.50 Special Events

- (a) Sports events, pageants, regattas, public spectator attractions, entertainment, ceremonies, or similar events

2.51 Public Assemblies, meetings

- (a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades, and other public expressions of views

2.52 Sale/Distribution of printed matter

- (a) The sale or distribution of printed matter

2.53 Memorialization

- (a) The scattering of human ashes from cremation

5.1 Advertisements Commercial notices or advertisements shall not be displayed, posted, or distributed

5.3 Business Operations

Engaging in or soliciting any business in park areas

5.5 Commercial Photography

- (a) Motion pictures, television
- (b) Still photography

5.7 Construction of buildings or other facilities

§ 2.1 Preservation of natural, cultural and archeological resources.

(c)(1) The following may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption:

- Organ pipe cactus fruit
- Saguaro cactus fruit
- Prickly pear cactus fruit
- Jojoba beans
- Wolfberry fruit

(c)(2)(i) Quantities of fruits that can be collected are limited to one (1) kilo (2.2 pounds) per adult per day.

§ 2.2 Wildlife Protection

(e) The use of artificial light to view wildlife within the monument is prohibited.

§ 2.10 Camping and Food Storage

TWIN PEAKS CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

Vehicles

- Camping with a permit is allowed on a first come first come, first served basis.
- Maximum RV length is 40' (motor homes measured bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels measured from hitch point to rear bumper).
- One RV and two vehicles is the maximum allowed at each site.
- Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited.
- Mirrors extending more than 6" to side will be removed or folded in when not towing trailer/vehicle.

Tent Campers

- Two tents are allowed per site.
- The maximum site occupancy is 6 people.
- Tents are allowed to use tent pads/gravel area, but not natural vegetation areas.

Quiet Hours

- Quiet hours are 10:00 PM to 6:00 AM.
- Unreasonable idling of recreational vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited.
- Generators are allowed between 8:00 AM – 10:00 AM, 4:00 PM – 6:00PM.

Water Usage/Sanitation

- Wash dishes at campsite.
- Dispose of dish water and gray water at waste sinks by bathrooms, or dump station in main campground.
- Outside faucets are strictly for drinking water. It is prohibited to hook up a hose or similar device to these faucets.
- Sewage can be disposed of at the dump station.

Electricity

- Outlets in bathrooms are for the use of personal portable convenience items, such as electric razors.
- No electrical extension cords may be plugged to bathroom outlets. Using extension cords for providing power to the site, vehicle, or rechargeable items is prohibited.

- Electrical hookups are not available at each site.

Fires

- The burning of native Sonoran Desert woods or vegetation is prohibited, unless visitor has a valid BLM or other agency collecting permit for any native woods (i.e. mesquite), or written permission from a private landowner in accordance with the state plant law.
- Burning charcoal, milled lumber, Presto Logs, and obvious non-native woods, is permitted.
- All fires must be confined to grills provided on each site.
- Ground fires are prohibited.

Pets

- Pets must be on a leash or under physical restraint at all times.
- Pets are allowed on the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, but not on the Desert View, Victoria Mine, and other trails; or in the restrooms.

Wildlife, Rocks, and Plants

- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- The removal or defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited.
- Shrubs and trees are not to be used as anchors for tents or for clotheslines.

GROUP CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

- The Group Campground is for organized groups and available only by reservation.
- Reservations are accepted no more than six months in advance.
- Camping is limited to 14 days from January 15-April 30, and 30 days from May 1-January 14.
- RV (motor homes, trailers, tent trailers) camping is available on sites 1 & 2.
- RV/tent camping is available on site 1 only.
- Tent camping is available on sites 3, 4, and 5, with parking available near each site. No RV parking is allowed at these sites. Tents are limited to marked perimeter.
- Check out time is 11 am.

The maximum number of people and units:

Site Number	# People	# Tents	# RVs
1	45	15	7
2	40	0	13
3	18	6	0
4	24	8	0
5	24	8	0

Vehicles

- Maximum RV length is 40' (motor homes measured bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels measured from hitch point to rear bumper).
- Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited.
- Mirrors extending more than 6" to side will be removed or folded in when not towing trailer/vehicle.

Quiet Hours

- Quiet hours are 10:00 pm-6:00 am.
- Unreasonable idling of vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited.
- Generators are allowed between 8:00 am-10:00 am, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Water Usage/Sanitation

- Wash dishes at campsite.
- Dispose of dish water and gray water at waste sinks by bathrooms, or dump station in main campground.
- Outside faucets are strictly for drinking water. It is prohibited to hook up a hose or similar device to these faucets.
- Sewage can be disposed of at the dump station.

Electricity

- Outlets in bathrooms are for the use of personal portable convenience items, such as electric razors.
- No electrical extension cords may be plugged to bathroom outlets. Using extension cords for providing power to the site, vehicle, or rechargeable items is prohibited.
- Electrical hookups are not available at each site.

Fires

- The burning of native Sonoran Desert woods or vegetation is prohibited, unless visitor has a valid BLM or other agency collecting permit for any native woods (i.e. mesquite), or written permission from a private landowner in accordance with the state plant law.
- Burning charcoal, milled lumber, Presto Logs, and obvious non-native woods, is permitted.
- All fires must be confined to grills provided on each site.
- Ground fires are prohibited.

Pets

- Pets must be on a leash or under physical restraint at all times.
- Pets are allowed on the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, but not on the Desert View, Victoria Mine, and other trails; or in the restrooms.

Wildlife, Rocks, and Plants

- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- The removal or defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited.
- Shrubs and trees are not to be used as anchors for tents or for clotheslines.

ALAMO PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND**Camping Limit**

- Permits are required. The park entrance fee and camping permit fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site. Permit must be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle so the number can be read through the windshield. Vehicles without a current permit are subject to citation or towing at the owners expense.
- Length of stay is limited to 7 consecutive days, with a break of at least 30 days before a new permit can be issued.
- Camping is limited to 4 established sites. Maximum capacity is 5 people per site, with a maximum of 20 people for the entire campground.
- Campers may use sleeping bags, tents, passenger cars, pickups with camper shells or small camper units mounted in the bed of a pickup truck, or vans with pop-up type sleeper units. All other recreational vehicles must use Twin Peaks Campground or private facilities outside the monument.

Vehicles

- Each vehicle must display a permit.
- Vehicles must be parked within the space provided at the assigned campsite, and no more than 2 vehicles per site are allowed.
- Parking for day use/backcountry is provided on the south side of parking lot, near the pit toilet.

- Motor homes and trailers are not permitted.
- Unregistered vehicles are subject to citation/towing at the owner's expense.

Quiet Hours

- Quiet hours are 10 pm-6 am.
- No generators are allowed.
- Idling of recreational vehicles for more than 5 minutes at any time of the day is prohibited.

Water Usage/Sanitation

- No water is available.
- A pit toilet is provided.

Electricity

- No electricity is available.

Fires

- Wood fires are not permitted.
- Grills provided may be used for charcoal fires only.

Pets

- Pets are permitted at the Alamo Primitive Campground, but must stay within the campground area and be under physical restraint at all times.
- Pets may not be left unattended at the campsite.
- Pets are not allowed on trails.

Wildlife, Rocks, and Plants

- Feeding wildlife is prohibited.
- The removal or defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited.
- Shrubs and trees are not to be used as anchors for tents or for clotheslines.

BACKCOUNTRY CAMPING – TEMPORARILY CLOSED

In the interest of visitor safety, all zones within the monument are closed to backcountry overnight use. Day use hiking restrictions may also be in effect. Visitors are directed to obtain current information at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Zone #	Zone Name	Carrying Capacity	Largest Party Size
100	Kuakatch	8	6
111	Grass Canyon	4	4
112	Pitahaya Canyon	4	4
113	Montezuma Wash	4	4
121	North Alamo Canyon	4	4
122	South Alamo Canyon	4	4
130	Tillotson Peak East	6	6
140	Tillotson Peak West	8	6
150	Arch Canyon	6	4
160	Diablo Canyon	4	4
170	Diaz Spire	6	4
180	Sonoyta Valley West	8	8
190	Sonoyta Valley East	8	8
200	Pinkley Peak North	8	6
210	Pinkley Peak South	10	7

220	Senita Basin North	8	6
230	Senita Basin South	6	4
240	Victoria Mine	8	6
250	La Abra Plain	10	8
260	Sonoyta Mountains	6	4
300	Ajo Valley North	15	8
310	Ajo Valley South	15	8
320	Bates Mountain West	10	6
330	Bates Mountain East	10	6
340	Bates Valley	8	6
351	Cipriano Hills	8	6
352	N Puerto Blanco Mts	4	4
400	Growler Wash	15	8
410	Cristobal Wash	15	8
420	Quitobaquito Hills	10	6

Camping Limits

- Backcountry camping permits are required for overnight stays and can be obtained at the Visitor Center. Permits are issued on a first come-first serve basis.
- Permits will be placed on dash of vehicles, so the number on the back can be read through the windshield.
- Camping is limited to 14 days in any 90 day period. No more than 2 consecutive nights can be spent at the same campsite.
- No camping is allowed within ½ mile of any road, historic site, trails or water source.

Vehicles

- Campers will park in the pull-out or parking area specified on their backcountry permit.
- Permit must be displayed in window.

Sanitation

- Campsites are to be left clean and all trash is to be carried out.
- Human waste is to be carried out or buried in a "cat hole" (6" deep hole preferably in a sandy wash bed) and covered after use.

Fires

- Only containerized stoves fires are permitted in backcountry areas.

Pets

- Pets are permitted at the Alamo Primitive Campground, but must stay within the campground area and be under physical restraint at all times.
- Pets may not be left unattended at the campsite.
- Pets are not allowed on trails.

§ 2.13 Fires

(a)(1) Fires are only permitted in government provided grills, self provided grills, and/or containerized stoves at the Twin Peaks, Group, Alamo Primitive Campgrounds. Only containerized stove fires are permitted in designated picnic areas and backcountry. Wood fires are not permitted at Alamo Primitive Campground.

(b) Fires shall be extinguished upon termination of use by smothering with clean water.

§ 2.15 Pets

Pets are prohibited in all of the backcountry and trails except for the Palo Verde, and the Twin Peaks Campground Perimeter Trail. Pets are allowed in both the Alamo and Twin Peaks Campgrounds as well as public areas such as the Visitor Center area. Walking of pets is permitted on North Puerto Blanco Road. The road from the Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, the Campground roads, Alamo Canyon Road, and Ajo Mountain Loop Road.

(a)(5) - Pet excrements shall be removed.

(e) Park residents may keep pets in accordance with Organ Pipe Cactus Pet Policy as approved May, 2011. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders.

§ 2.16 Horses and Pack Animals

(b) Horses and pack animals are allowed in areas of the Monument including the backcountry, except in areas closed to public use, developed areas including the following: All Campgrounds, Visitor Center, Picnic Areas, Quitobaquito, the road from the Visitor Center to the campground, and all maintained trails. Horses may be ridden on the Monument's gravel roads.

- Horses, mules, burros, and llamas are designated as pack animals.
- Horse and pack stock users are required to obtain a backcountry permit for overnight trips.
- Hunting or scouting (camps used to scout future hunts of big game in adjoining USFW lands) camps are prohibited.
- Maximum group size for day trips is six people and seven horses.
- Campsites must be one mile from and out of sight of front country facilities and roads, and one half mile from any designated trail or historic site.
- Campsites and tethering must be a minimum of one half mile from any non-flowing water source. All manure dropped in or near any water source must be immediately removed to avoid contamination.
- Horses must be picketed in locations which least damage the vegetation. Animals may not be tied to trees or other vegetation.
- Grazing is not allowed in the park and horse and pack animals are required to carry feed for overnight trips. In the backcountry the use of loose hay or grain containing viable seeds is prohibited. Stock users are required to carry supplemental feed such as pellets or rolled grains on all trips.
- All parties are required to scatter manure upon vacating a campsite. Animals that remain in an area longer than twelve hours should be rotated to a new picket site and any manure at the old site should be scattered no less than one hundred feet from any campsite.
- Any commercially guided horse or pack stock trip must be provided by an outfitter authorized to operate under the incidental business permit procedures of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

§ 2.21 Smoking

(a) Smoking is prohibited in the following areas:

- Visitor Center and all offices and work buildings
- Visitor contact stations (entrance stations, campground entrance station, office)
- Campground amphitheater.
- paint storage room
- Gas Pumps to a diameter of 50 feet
- Propane storage area
- Air quality monitoring stations
- All government owned vehicles
- Shared residential quarters (Dorms)
- Multi-purpose buildings

- All public rest rooms
- Anywhere posted as non-smoking

§ 2.22 Property

(a) (2) Visitors on authorized backcountry trips are permitted to leave vehicles unattended for the period specified on their camping permits. Vehicles so parked must display permit number so as to be visible from outside vehicle.

§ 2.23 Recreation Fees

(b) Visitors passing through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument lands, via the Bates Well Road, either while exiting or entering the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, may do so without paying an entrance fee, provided that they have secured an entry permit from the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and that they do not use Monument lands for recreational purposes. Vehicles are not allowed to park within park boundaries unless a park entrance permit is purchased.

§ 2.35 Alcoholic Beverage and Controlled Substances

(a)(3)(i)(A) Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in the Visitor Center area and the campground amphitheater.

§ 2.51 Public Assemblies, Meetings

(e) The areas listed below are designated public assembly area:

The picnic area across the parking lot from the Visitor Center.

The paved area near the mail boxes at the south end of the parking lot at the Visitor Center

(f) Due to the public congestion which this area receives, no more than 10 persons may be permitted to assemble in this area at one time.

§ 2.52 Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter

(e) The sale or distribution of printed matter is permitted only in the following areas:

The picnic area across the parking lot from the Visitor Center.

The paved area near the mail boxes at the south end of the parking lot at the Visitor Center

§ 2.62 Memorialization

(b) The scattering of human ashes from cremation is permitted only with a permit issued by the Superintendent. Ashes may only be scattered in undeveloped areas, except springs, ponds and tinajas. The remains must meet appropriate state laws prior to dispersal.

- Crosses and small memorials along HW 85 is permitted only with approval of the Superintendent.

§ 3.21 Swimming and Bathing

(a) (1) Swimming or bathing is prohibited in any sources of water primarily utilized by wildlife.

§ 4.21 Speed Limits

The speed limit of the road from the visitor center to the monument campground is 25 miles per hour. The maximum speed limit on the monument unpaved roads is 25 miles per hour.

Briefing Statement

BUREAU: National Park Service
ISSUE: Ajo 1 SBInet Project Mitigation Measures
LOCATION: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
DATE: March 28, 2011

Key Points:

- In response to high levels of illegal border activity, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has undertaken the Ajo1 SBInet project. The project is intended to (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED]
- The project area overlaps considerably with Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bat ranges. Both of these species are listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act.
- As a means of understanding and minimizing the effects of the Ajo1 SBInet project on Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bats, the National Park Service (NPS) has become engaged in multiple mitigation projects.

Background:

- ORPI encompasses 516 square miles (330,689 acres) and shares 30 miles of the international border with Mexico. Ninety-four percent of the monument is congressionally designated wilderness.
- ORPI protects 90 percent of the organ pipe cactus' range in the U.S. The monument has been designated as an International Biosphere Reserve, and as such, serves as a benchmark for monitoring and understanding changes in the Sonoran Desert region.
- Approximately 45 percent of the park is open to the public and for NPS administrative use.
- DHS funding is being provided to FWS and NPS, in support of mitigation projects to reduce the impacts to threatened and endangered species on DOI lands within the SBInet project area. These projects meet the conditions set forth in Biological Opinion 22410-F-2009-0089 issued for the DHS SBInet Tower Construction project.

Current Status:

DHS is providing approximately \$3 million dollars to NPS to mitigate impacts to the Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bat. NPS is cooperating with Arizona Game and Fish Department and is in the initial stages of implementing the mitigation actions shown in the table below.

Implementation Lead Agency	Task	Funding Amount	Duration (years)	Started (Y/N)
National Park Service	Unauthorized Vehicle Routes (UVR) Assessment – NPS is coordinating an inventory of foot trails and UVR's. This inventory will quantify the level of impacts to determine which areas will be considered for restoration.	\$200,000	2	Y
	UVR Closure and Restoration – using the inventory information from the UVR Assessment, NPS will conduct restoration activities throughout the Ajo 1 project area where UVR's are detected.	\$1,750,000	4	Y
	Temporary/emergency Sonoran Pronghorn Food and Water Plots – establish and operate up to five emergency stations.	\$23,000	1	Y
	Monitor Copper Mountain's Lesser Long-Nosed Bat Maternity Roost – NPS will monitor this roost for five years in order to document potential effects of the Ajo 1 towers on the population's health.	\$17,500	5	Y
	Tower site monitoring and restoration – Monitor and restore areas that were temporarily impacted by SBlNet tower construction and the former USBP camp at Bates Well.	\$77,000	4	Y
Arizona Game & Fish Department	Conduct Sonoran Pronghorn Aerial Monitoring- aerial monitoring and tracking for the next 5 years	\$346,000	5	Y
	Pronghorn Relocation Effort – move pronghorn back into the Valley of the Ajo if they do not move on their own by 9/20/12. Implementation of this action will occur pending a decision by the Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Management Team.	\$20,000	1	N
	Establish a Second Pronghorn Population in southern Arizona – compliance for this project has been completed and a preferred location has been identified.	\$470,000	5	Y
	Conduct Weekly Aerial Surveys During Pronghorn Fawning – These surveys were planned for the 2010 fawning season. Based on information available these surveys were not needed.	\$14,000	1	N
	Study to Identify Unknown Lesser Long-Nosed Bat Roosts – to determine occupancy patterns in the SBlNet Ajo action area. To begin in FY11.	\$140,000	2	Y

Position of Interested Parties:

The NPS is cooperating with counterparts from FWS, BLM, AZGFD, and DHS to implement the mitigation actions described above.

Contact: Lee Baiza, Superintendent, 520-387-6849 ext. 7500

Briefing Statement

BUREAU:	National Park Service
ISSUE:	Border-related resource management impacts
LOCATION:	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
DATE:	January 19, 2011

Key Points:

- Illegal activities and interdiction efforts occur regularly throughout Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) and have serious impacts on the natural and cultural resources.
- The Resource Division at ORPI spends considerable time in support of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) activities. This includes preparing and reviewing environmental and biological assessments; monitoring impacts; reviewing construction plans; taking part in field trips to discuss impacts and mitigation measures; and implementing mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

Background:

- ORPI protects 90 percent of the organ pipe cactus' range in the U.S. and serves as a benchmark for monitoring and understanding changes in the Sonoran Desert region.
- Ninety-four percent of the monument is congressionally designated wilderness.
- ORPI shares 30 miles of the international border with Mexico.
- Hundreds of miles of unauthorized roads and trails occur throughout the monument. Some have been created by illegal activities and others are the result of interdiction efforts.
- A 30 mile vehicle barrier completed in 2006, was relatively effective in reducing illegal vehicular traffic; however, vehicular impacts continue. Five miles of pedestrian fence, was completed in 2008 and has had some localized effect in reducing human traffic; however, pedestrian fence breaches continue to occur regularly.
- (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED]
- The local number of Border Patrol (BP) agents has increased from approximately 50 in 2004 to more than 350 currently. The corresponding increase in BP traffic has resulted in increased impacts to natural and cultural resources throughout ORPI from off-road travel.

Current Status:

- Approximately 45 percent of the park is open to the public and for NPS administrative use.
- Staff efforts to conduct monitoring and resource management are challenged by 'closure areas', areas in the park where there are high levels of illegal immigration and smuggling activities. Staff must be accompanied by law enforcement in these areas and their availability is often limited.
- Cultural resources, including historic structures, throughout the monument are being defaced and dismantled by illegal crossers. Monitoring the condition of cultural resource sites is made difficult by limited access.
- The hundreds of miles of off-road vehicle routes and illegal trails have resulted in soil compaction and erosion, loss of vegetation, and disruption of hydrologic processes. ORPI and others are currently conducting research to quantify these impacts.
- Channel geomorphology along the pedestrian fence is being monitored. Three of six channels being measured show a loss of more than 50 percent of the channel capacity. DHS/ Corp of Engineers have implemented a *Drainage Improvement Project* (DIP) at eight drainages in ORPI. NPS staff have serious concerns about the design and effectiveness of

these improvements. The improvements already appear to be out-of-date due to floods that occurred in July of 2008 and January of 2010. The DIP did not account for these significant changes in channel capacity in their design.

- ORPI has three endangered species and all are monitored on a regular basis. Mitigation measures are implemented as necessary to reduce adverse impacts from border-related activities:
 - o The Sonoran pronghorn is *critically endangered* and very sensitive to human presence. It is being impacted by existing levels of border related activities.
 - o An important maternity roost of endangered lesser long-nosed bats occurs in the park. Illegal activities occur throughout its range and have caused entire sites to be abandoned.
 - o The only population of the endangered Quitobaquito pupfish that exists in the park is adjacent to the international border. Lack of access to this site limits recurring and effective management actions.
- NPS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) and DHS are currently working together on almost \$3 million of mitigation projects to ameliorate impacts to threatened and endangered species from the construction of the (b) (7)(E) . This work will include inventory and restoration of existing unauthorized vehicular routes, and species specific mitigation actions. Please see related briefing (b) (7)(E) .

Position of Interested Parties:

- ORPI, BLM, FWS, AZGF and DHS are working closely together to mitigate the impacts of border activities on a number of wildlife species, including the Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bat.
- ORPI has cooperated with DHS on a number of proposals to build infrastructure in the monument, including the pedestrian fence and (b) (7)(E) . Please see the related briefing, *Cooperation on DHS Security Initiatives*, for more details.
- ORPI is cooperating with the US Geological Survey and other border parks to develop research protocols to quantify the severity of impacts on vegetation and soils.

Contacts: Lee Baiza, Superintendent, 520-387-5849, ext. 7500

Briefing Statement

BUREAU:	National Park Service
ISSUE:	Border-related resource management impacts
LOCATION:	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
DATE:	July 12, 2012

Key Points:

- Illegal activities and interdiction efforts occur regularly throughout Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) and have serious impacts on the natural and cultural resources.
- ORPI staff spend considerable time in support of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) activities. This includes preparing and reviewing environmental and biological assessments; monitoring impacts; reviewing construction plans; taking part in field trips to discuss impacts and mitigation measures; and implementing mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

Background:

- ORPI protects 90 percent of the organ pipe cactus' range in the U.S., and serves as a benchmark for monitoring and understanding changes in the Sonoran Desert region.
- Ninety-four percent of the monument is congressionally designated wilderness.
- ORPI shares 30 miles of the international border with Mexico.
- Thousands of miles of unauthorized roads and trails occur throughout the monument. Some have been created by illegal activities and others are the result of interdiction efforts.
- A 30 mile vehicle barrier completed in 2006, was relatively effective in reducing illegal vehicular traffic; however, barrier breaches and vehicular impacts continue. Five miles of pedestrian fence was constructed in 2008 and has had some localized effect in reducing human traffic.
- (b) (7)(E)
- The local number of Border Patrol (BP) agents has increased from approximately 50 in 2004 to almost 500 currently. The corresponding increase in BP traffic has resulted in increased impacts to natural and cultural resources throughout ORPI from off-road travel.

Current Status:

- Approximately 50 percent of the park is open to the public and for NPS administrative use.
- Staff efforts to conduct monitoring and resource management are challenged by 'closure areas', areas in the park where there are high levels of illegal immigration and smuggling activities resulting in safety concerns. Staff must be accompanied by law enforcement in these areas and their availability is often limited.
- Cultural resources, including historic structures, throughout the monument are being defaced and dismantled by illegal crossers. Monitoring the condition of cultural resource sites is made difficult by limited access.
- The thousands of miles of off-road vehicle routes and illegal trails have resulted in soil compaction and erosion, loss of vegetation, and disruption of hydrologic processes. ORPI and others are currently conducting research to quantify these impacts.
- Channel geomorphology along the pedestrian fence is being monitored. Some of six channels being measured show a loss of more than 70 percent of the channel capacity. DHS/ Corp of Engineers have implemented a *Drainage Improvement Project* (DIP) at eight drainages in ORPI. NPS staff shared serious concerns about the design and effectiveness of these improvements. Such concerns were justified in July of 2011 when the DIP gate system was overwhelmed by flooding and debris, causing a breach in the adjacent pedestrian fence.
- ORPI has three endangered species and all are monitored on a regular basis. Mitigation measures are implemented as necessary to reduce adverse impacts from border-related activities:

- o The Sonoran pronghorn is *critically endangered* and very sensitive to human presence. It is being impacted by existing levels of border related activities.
- o An important maternity roost of endangered lesser long-nosed bats occurs in the park. Illegal activities occur throughout its range and have caused entire sites to be abandoned.
- o The only population of the endangered Quitobaquito pupfish that exists in the park is adjacent to the international border. Lack of access to this site limits recurring and effective management.
- NPS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) and DHS are currently working together on almost \$3 million of mitigation projects to ameliorate impacts to threatened and endangered species from the construction of the (b) (7)(E). This work includes inventory and restoration of existing unauthorized vehicular routes, and species specific mitigation actions. Please see related briefing (b) (7)(E).
- Additional work is being conducted on invasive species, including exotic plants and trespass/feral livestock that occur within the park. Fences are frequently breached by cross border violators and interdiction forces to facilitate quick passage. Consequently, trespass cattle and feral burros are an increasing problem within the area and result in serious safety issues for travelers on State Route 85. An interagency working group estimates there are 100 or more animals in the vicinity of the monument.

Challenges

Monument staff are challenged to balance NPS programmatic needs with the need to address border related issues. Many monument staff currently spend over half of their time dealing in one way or another with border issues. Monument also receives assistance on border issues from NPS Southern Arizona Group Office, Sonoran Desert Inventory and Monitoring Network and Intermountain Region offices, among others. Even given this considerable dedication of time and resources existing staffing levels fall far short of needs.

Position of Interested Parties:

- ORPI, BLM, FWS, AZGF, Barry M. Goldwater Range, and DHS are working together to mitigate the impacts of border activities on a number of wildlife species, including the Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bat.
- ORPI is cooperating with the agencies listed above, and the Tohono O'odham Nation and Arizona Department of Agriculture to resolve this issue.
- ORPI has cooperated with DHS on a number of proposals to build infrastructure in the monument, including the pedestrian fence and (b) (7)(E). Please see the related briefing, *Cooperation on DHS Security Initiatives*, for more details.
- ORPI is cooperating with the US Geological Survey and other border parks to develop research protocols to quantify the severity of impacts on vegetation and soils.

Contact: Lee Baiza, Superintendent, 520-387-6849, ext. 7500

Briefing Statement

BUREAU:	National Park Service
ISSUE:	Border-related resource management impacts
LOCATION:	Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
DATE:	September 19, 2011

Key Points:

- Illegal activities and interdiction efforts occur regularly throughout Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) and have serious impacts on the natural and cultural resources.
- The Resource Division at ORPI spends considerable time in support of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) activities. This includes preparing and reviewing environmental and biological assessments; monitoring impacts; reviewing construction plans; taking part in field trips to discuss impacts and mitigation measures; and implementing mitigation measures to reduce impacts.

Background:

- ORPI protects 90 percent of the organ pipe cactus' range in the U.S. and serves as a benchmark for monitoring and understanding changes in the Sonoran Desert region.
- Ninety-four percent of the monument is congressionally designated wilderness.
- ORPI shares 30 miles of the international border with Mexico.
- Hundreds of miles of unauthorized roads and trails occur throughout the monument. Some have been created by illegal activities and others are the result of interdiction efforts.
- A 30 mile vehicle barrier completed in 2006, was relatively effective in reducing illegal vehicular traffic; however, vehicular impacts continue from interdiction efforts. Five miles of pedestrian fence, was completed in 2008 and has had some localized effect in reducing human traffic; however, pedestrian fence breaches continue to occur regularly.
- A network of (b) (7)(E) [REDACTED]
- The local number of Border Patrol (BP) agents has increased from approximately 50 in 2004 to almost 500 currently. The corresponding increase in BP traffic has resulted in increased impacts to natural and cultural resources throughout ORPI from off-road travel.

Current Status:

- Approximately 45 percent of the park is open to the public and for NPS administrative use.
- Staff efforts to conduct monitoring and resource management are challenged by 'closure areas', areas in the park where there are high levels of illegal immigration and smuggling activities resulting in safety concerns. Staff must be accompanied by law enforcement in these areas and their availability is often limited.
- Cultural resources, including historic structures, throughout the monument are being defaced and dismantled by illegal crossers. Monitoring the condition of cultural resource sites is made difficult by limited access.
- The hundreds of miles of off-road vehicle routes and illegal trails have resulted in soil compaction and erosion, loss of vegetation, and disruption of hydrologic processes. ORPI and others are currently conducting research to quantify these impacts.
- Channel geomorphology along the pedestrian fence is being monitored. Some of six channels being measured show a loss of more than 70 percent of the channel capacity. DHS/ Corp of Engineers have implemented a *Drainage Improvement Project* (DIP) at eight drainages in ORPI. NPS staff

shared serious concerns about the design and effectiveness of these improvements. Such concerns were justified in July of 2011 when the DIP gate system was overwhelmed by flooding and debris, causing a breach in the adjacent pedestrian fence. The breach has been temporarily repaired.

- ORPI has three endangered species and all are monitored on a regular basis. Mitigation measures are implemented as necessary to reduce adverse impacts from border-related activities:
 - o The Sonoran pronghorn is *critically endangered* and very sensitive to human presence. It is being impacted by existing levels of border related activities.
 - o An important maternity roost of endangered lesser long-nosed bats occurs in the park. Illegal activities occur throughout its range and have caused entire sites to be abandoned.
 - o The only population of the endangered Quitobaquito pupfish that exists in the park is adjacent to the international border. Lack of access to this site limits recurring and effective management actions.
- NPS, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), US Fish and Wildlife Services (FWS), Arizona Game and Fish Department (AZGF) and DHS are currently working together on almost \$3 million of mitigation projects to ameliorate impacts to threatened and endangered species from the construction of the (b) (7)(E). This work includes inventory and restoration of existing unauthorized vehicular routes, and species specific mitigation actions. Please see related briefing (b) (7)(E).
- Additional work is being conducted on invasive species, including exotic plants and feral livestock occur within the park. Border related activities are facilitating their expansion and the NPS is working to address these issues.

Position of Interested Parties:

- ORPI, BLM, FWS, AZGF and DHS are working closely together to mitigate the impacts of border activities on a number of wildlife species, including the Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bat.
- ORPI has cooperated with DHS on a number of proposals to build infrastructure in the monument, including the pedestrian fence and (b) (7)(E). Please see the related briefing, *Cooperation on DHS Security Initiatives*, for more details.
- ORPI is cooperating with the US Geological Survey and other border parks to develop research protocols to quantify the severity of impacts on vegetation and soils.

Contacts: Lee Baiza, Superintendent, 520-387-6849, ext. 7500

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Arizona



Border-Related Resource Management Impacts

December 2, 2010

Background

Illegal activities and interdiction efforts occur regularly throughout Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) and have serious impacts on the natural and cultural resources. The Resource Division at ORPI spends considerable time in support of Department of Homeland Security (DHS) activities. This included preparing and reviewing environmental and biological assessments; monitoring impacts; reviewing construction plans; taking part in field trips to discuss impacts and mitigation measures; and implementing mitigation measures to reduce impacts.



ORPI protects 90 percent of the organ pipe cactus' range in the U.S. and serves as a benchmark for monitoring and understanding changes in the Sonoran Desert region. Ninety-four percent of the monument is congressionally designated wilderness. ORPI shares 30 miles of the international border with Mexico. Due to the monument's proximity to the border, hundreds of miles of unauthorized roads and trails occur throughout the monument. Some have been created by illegal activities and others are the result of interdiction efforts.

A 33 mile vehicle barrier, completed in 2006, was relatively effective in reducing illegal vehicular traffic; however, vehicular impacts continue. Five miles of pedestrian fence, completed in 2008, has had some localized effect in reducing human traffic; however, pedestrian breaches continue to occur regularly throughout the monument. A network of 10 SBInet

towers (camera and relay towers) is being constructed in and around ORPI that will detect and relay the movement of illegal traffic throughout the monument and adjacent lands.

The number of local Border Patrol (BP) agents has increased from approximately 50 in 2004 to more than 350 currently. The corresponding increase in BP traffic has resulted in increased impacts to natural and cultural resources throughout ORPI from off-road travel.



Current Status

Approximately 45 percent of the park is open to the public and for NPS administrative use. Staff efforts to conduct monitoring and resource management are challenged by 'closure areas', areas in the park where there are high levels of illegal immigration and smuggling activities. Staff must be accompanied by law enforcement in these areas and their availability is often limited. Cultural resources, including historic structures, throughout the monument are being defaced and dismantled by illegal crossers. Monitoring the condition of cultural resource sites is made difficult by limited access. The hundreds of miles of off-road vehicle routes and illegal trails have resulted in soil compaction and erosion, loss of vegetation, and disruption of hydrologic processes. ORPI and others are currently conducting research to quantify these impacts.

Channel geomorphology along the pedestrian fence is being monitored. Two of six channels show a loss of more than 50 percent of the channel capacity. DHS/ Corp of Engineers are in the process of implementing a *Drainage Improvement Project* at eight drainages in

ORPI. NPS staff has serious concerns about the design and effectiveness of these improvements. The design already appears to be out-of-date due to a large flood that occurred in January of 2010 that significantly changed the morphology of several channels that was not accounted for in the design.

ORPI has three endangered species and all are monitored on a regular basis. Mitigation measures are implemented as necessary to reduce adverse impacts from border-related activities:

- The **Sonoran pronghorn** is *critically endangered* and very sensitive to human presence. It is being impacted by existing levels of border related activities.
- An important maternity roost of endangered **lesser long-nosed bats** occurs in the park. Illegal activities occur throughout its range and have caused entire sites to be abandoned.
- The only population of the endangered **Quitobaquito pupfish** that exists in the park is adjacent to the international border. Lack of access to this site limits recurring and effective management actions.



Sonoran Pronghorn



Lesser Long-nosed Bat



Quitobaquito pupfish

NPS, BLM, FWS, AGFD and DHS are currently working together on almost \$3 million of mitigation projects to ameliorate impacts to threatened and endangered species from the construction of the SBInet towers. This work will include inventory and restoration of existing unauthorized vehicular routes, and species specific mitigation actions. Please see related briefing *SBInet Mitigation*.

Cooperating Agencies

ORPI, DHS, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Arizona Game and Fish Dept. are working closely together to mitigate the impacts of border activities on a number of wildlife species, including the Sonoran pronghorn and lesser long-nosed bat. ORPI has cooperated with DHS on a number of proposals to build infrastructure in the monument, including the pedestrian fence and SBInet towers. Please see the related briefing, *Cooperation on DHS Security Initiatives*, for more details. ORPI is cooperating with the U.S. Geological Survey and other border parks to develop research protocols to quantify the severity of impacts on vegetation and soils



33 Mile Vehicle Barrier



DHS Pedestrian Fence

Contact: Lee Baiza, Superintendent
520-387-6849, ext. 7500

Briefing Statement

BUREAU: National Park Service
ISSUE: Situation Update
LOCATION: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
DATE: November 2, 2011

Key Points:

- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) continues to experience high levels of illegal border related traffic, resulting in impacts to natural and cultural resources. ORPI's location, access and topography result in conditions favorable for illegal traffic.
- AZ State Route 85 (SR85) is a major corridor that runs through the heart of ORPI and is used by roughly a million travelers every year. SR85 is a primary artery to Puerto Penasco, Mexico, a popular vacation destination. Conversely, SR85 also provides access to two major US metropolitan areas – Phoenix and Tucson. The illegal traffic attempts to blend in with vacation travelers and local residents.
- Sonoyta, Mexico (population approximately 18,000), lies just south of the international border. The proximity of this population center and established roads that parallel the monument's entire southern boundary, provides immediate access and allows for the establishment of illegal operations immediately adjacent to ORPI. The southern portion of the monument is relatively level and easily traversed, however, more than 25% of the monument is rugged mountain ranges affording cover for illegal operations and complicating detection and interdiction efforts.
- Since 2006, DOI and DHS have combined their efforts to construct deterrence/detection infrastructure, deploy new technology, and increase man power in order to gain operational control of border.
- ORPI is 94% congressionally designated wilderness and is an International Biosphere Reserve with unparalleled wilderness and natural and cultural resource values. ORPI is surrounded by tribal and other federally managed lands where there are few maintained roads from which to conduct interdiction efforts.

Background

- In 2003, approximately 90% of the monument was closed. In 2004-2005 ORPI increased VRP staff from 5-12, due to receipt of additional base funds. Additional Border Initiatives funding (2008) was allocated to five border parks, and ORPI VRP staffing reached 20 rangers. Increased VRP staffing, more stringent safety requirements, and increased cooperation with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has resulted in opening up almost 30% of the park to visitors and 50% for administration.
- The construction of vehicle barrier in 2006 was a critical DOI investment that greatly enhanced safety, and clearly marked the monument's southern boundary. The vehicle barrier reduced northbound illegal vehicle traffic by approximately 95%, and closed off southbound escape routes during pursuit. This significantly reduced the exposure of National Park Service (NPS) and CBP agents to high speed – high risk vehicle chases.
- DHS constructed five miles of pedestrian fence with the cooperation of NPS (2007). The pedestrian fence is focused on the urban setting around Sonoyta, Mexico. The fence has resulted in multiple flooding events due to complications related to drainage.
- NPS cooperated with DHS on the deployment of SBInet surveillance towers (2009-2010) that have resulted in increased detection of illegal traffic. The technology has changed illegal traffic patterns to a west-east route, adding to transit time in the monument and resulting in a higher probability of exposure. As part of SBInet, NPS constructed roads to two of the towers and a horse trailer pullout along SR85 to help facilitate CBP operations.
- Lengthy and complicated negotiations from 2007 to 2010 resulted in the helicopter deployment of multiagency radio repeater equipment on Mount Ajo, in a building purchased by NPS. The repeater increased safety and communications for DHS OTIA, CBP, Pima County, Bureau of Land Management, and NPS.

- ORPI cooperated with DHS and their contractors on the completion of a Roads Study to determine roads in need of major maintenance and repair (2010).

Current Status

- NPS and CBP have cooperated on Trident/Trident Surge operations where the agencies combined forces to deter cross border traffic (2011). The operations were highly successful and directly benefited park visitors and staff by allowing public tours to Quitobaquito, a popular destination that has been closed to visitation since 2003. ORPI is highly supportive of future Trident operations.
- ORPI is using the DHS Roads Study to work with CBP to establish the Tactical Infrastructure Maintenance and Repair (TIMR) program for the monument (2011).
- ORPI and DHS cooperated on the relocation of a Forward Operating Base to a more strategic location for CBP (2011), and resulted in a net benefit to natural and cultural resources in the monument. ORPI recently commented on an environmental assessment to expand the capacity of the base from 10-32 agents. NPS is drafting a Special Use Permit for this proposed expansion.
- NPS is currently in discussions with DHS for the design and deployment of the Remote Visibility Surveillance System (RVSS) towers. RVSS proposes construction of two new towers along the border and outside of wilderness, and retrofitting of two existing SBInet towers.
- ORPI and CBP continually negotiate locations for the deployment of Mobile Surveillance Systems and rescue beacons to respond to changing traffic patterns.
- There has been a significant increase in CBP staffing levels from 2004-present. ORPI continues to be challenged by the amount of off-road vehicle travel and the subsequent impacts to natural and cultural resources. Monument staff are working to understand the extent and nature of these impacts in order to facilitate the development of long-range restoration plans.
- NPS frequently provides review and comments on DHS environmental assessments, US Fish and Wildlife and State Historic Preservation Office consultation for projects including: pedestrian fence, SBInet, FOB, and TIMR.
- ORPI has created a liaison position that will be assigned at CBP, Ajo Station, to participate in their musters and will be collocated in their new facility. This position will participate in operational and intelligence planning.
- With the assistance of the Intermountain Regional Office, ORPI is creating a new environmental education position to share the NPS mission and multi-agency resource stewardship practices. This position will support CBP detailing agents that rotate through FOB at ORPI, Camp Grip on Cabeza Prieta, and Papago Camp on the Tohono O'odham Nation. The individual will be the point of contact for CPB detailers to both the Ajo and Welton Stations.
- On May 2011, the ORPI superintendent submitted a request to the Chief Patrol Agent at Tucson Sector to use buildings associated with existing CBP Ajo Station at Why, AZ. On June, 2011, the Chief of US CBP signed approval authorizing NPS to occupy old buildings upon completion of new CBP facilities. Proposed move date for NPS is August 2012. NPS is currently working on the MOU for this agreement.
- The monument accepted the transfer of manufactured units from DHS Customs excess utilization program. Units will be used for temporary VRP and Resource Management offices. As a result, ORPI will gain three housing units for required occupancy positions.
- The CBP Ajo Station Agent in Charge and the ORPI Superintendent meet bi-weekly to discuss changing trends, operations, and challenges.

Contact: Lee Baiza, Superintendent, 520-387-6849 ext. 7500

Version	Acres open to public	Administrative use	Restricted
Nov-09	104,756	71,433	154,615
Mar-12			
Jul-12	156,699	22,270	151,680
Nov-12	181,998	8,480	140,189
Apr-13	184,310	8,392	137,966

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Superintendent's Compendium

Revised June 2012

COMPENDIUM of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority by the Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

In accordance with the delegated authority provided by regulations as published under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the management, protection, and public use of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained elsewhere in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7.

The closures and restrictions delineated in this compendium do not apply to official/administrative use or applications (36 CFR 1.2(d) and 1.5(a)).

Written determinations, which explain the justification behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, appear in this document as italicized print.

Section 1.6(f) states that a list of activities that require a permit must be maintained. That list appears in this document under 1.6.

This compendium will remain in effect until specifically amended or supplemented by the Superintendent.

Recommended:

Matthew D. Vandzura
Chief Ranger

Date

Approved:

Lee Baiza
Park Superintendent

Date

PART 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has used the discretionary authority granted by Chapter 1 of the 36 CFR 1.5(a) to establish certain closures. These closures and public use limits are necessary for the administration of the park in concert with its enabling legislation and NPS management policies for the benefit and safety of park visitors and the protection of park natural and cultural resources.

Section 1.5 – Visiting Hours, Public Use Limits, Closures and Area Designations for Specific Use or Activities

- (a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours - No special determinations at this time.

Road Closures – The following roads are closed to vehicular traffic except for use by the National Park Service, other Federal, state or local agencies, and other individuals in accordance with approved General Management or Resource Management & Research Plans:

DEVELOPED AREA

- Road to the Sewage Lagoon
- APS Power Line Road
- Road to the Monument Shooting Range
- Road to the Vegetative Recycle Area
- All roads which access the Maintenance Complex and the Park Residential Area
- Road to the Well Complex off of the Twin Peaks Campground Road

Determination: These areas exist to facilitate the overall management of the monument and may include areas that are unsafe for the public or contain equipment and other items of value including, sensitive information.

BACKCOUNTRY AREAS

The following roads are closed. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center

- The Border Road (within the Roosevelt Easement) – including the entire length from Lukeville to the east boundary and from Lukeville to the Cabeza Prieta NWR boundary
- Camino de Dos Republicas
- South Puerto Blanco Drive
- Pozo Nuevo Road
- North Puerto Blanco Drive (passed the gate at the Pinkley Picnic Area)
- North Boundary Road from Highway 85 to the Bates Well Road

- Road accessing the former “Stack Property” (west of Lukeville)

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry roads are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Closures – See attachment A.

The following Backcountry Use Zones, as identified on the Trails Illustrated Map of Organ Pipe Cactus NM are closed to visitors. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in Attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

000 (Quitoboquito and Dripping Springs, not Twin Peaks)
100 (most of 100, see attachment A)
112
112
170 (most of 170, see attachment A)
190 (most of 190, see attachment A)
200
210
220
230
260
320
330
340
351
352
420

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry areas are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Camping – No backcountry camping is currently authorized

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Section 1.6 – Permits

(f) A valid permit issued by the Superintendent’s Office is required for the following activities consistent with applicable legislation, federal regulations and administrative policies:

- (1) Public Use Activities: athletic events, races, tournaments, parades or other special events (§ 1.5)
- (2) Collecting Research Specimen: taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals (§ 2.5)
- (3) For threatened and/or endangered species a valid Federal Fish & Wildlife License/Permit is required (50 CFR, Part 3)
- (4) Camping and Food Storage: permits required for designated sites (§ 2.10)
- (5) Audio Disturbances: operating a power saw in a developed area [§ 2.12(a)(2)] or operating portable engines in a non-developed area [§ 2.12(a)(3)]
- (6) Operation of a public address or amplification system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to 36 CFR 2.50 or 2.51 (§ 2.12)
- (7) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means (§ 2.17)
- (8) Non-commercial soliciting (§ 2.17)
- (9) Explosives: using, possessing, storing or transporting of explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials [§ 2.38(a)] or using or possessing fireworks or firecrackers [§ 2.38(b)]
- (10) Conducting a public spectator event, pageant, wedding, ceremony, organized event similar activities (§ 2.50)
- (11) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations and other public expressions of views that are likely to diminish or effect the visitor experience of others (§ 2.51)
- (12) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising (§ 2.52)
- (13) Memorialization – Scattering human or animal ashes from cremation (§ 2.62)
- (14) Advertisements – Display, posting or distribution (§ 5.1)
- (15) Engaging in or soliciting any business – requires a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations.
- (16) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings, crews, other than bona fide newsreel or new television. [§ 5.5(a)]

- (17) Still photography of props, models, or sets, or other articles of commerce for the purpose of commercial advertising. [§ 5.5(b)]
- (18) Construction of buildings or other facilities (§ 5.7)

Determination: Permit systems authorized and issued pursuant to specific regulations in this chapter, except Section 1.5, need not be supported by a written determination unless required by the specific authorizing regulation [48 FR 30262].

PART 2 - RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

Section 2.1- Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

(c)(1) Collection of a reasonable amount of native fruit is permitted for personal use or consumption. Quantities of fruits that can be collected are limited to (1) kilogram [2.2 pounds] per adult, per day. Commercial collecting of native fruits is prohibited to ensure that fruits are available for recreational collecting and to prevent the ecosystem from being adversely affected.

The following species are classified as native fruits for the purposes of collecting:

- Organ Pipe Cactus Fruit
- Saguaro Cactus Fruit
- Prickley Pear Cactus Fruit
- Jojoba Fruit
- Wolfberry Fruit

Determination: The removal of native fruits in limited quantities does not have an adverse impact on park resources. Commercial harvesting of fruits would deny visitors the opportunity to experience the monument in its natural state.

Section 2.2- Wildlife Protection

(e) The use of artificial light to view wildlife within the monument is prohibited.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected while being artificially illuminated. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating. The proliferation of poor quality outdoor lighting is the principle threat to the night sky. Reducing the number of multiple lighting systems will allow for activities focused on public enjoyment of dark skies.

Section 2.10 – Camping and Food Storage

TWIN PEAKS CAMPGROUND

Vehicles:

- The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site.
- Camping with a permit is allowed on a first-come, first-served basis
- Maximum RV length is (35) feet [vehicles are measured from bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels are measured from hitch point to rear bumper]
- One RV per campsite, with two vehicle maximum
- Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited
- Mirrors extending more than (6) inches to side will be removed or folded in when not towing a trailer or vehicle

Tent Camping:

- Two tent maximum per campsite
- Maximum site occupancy is (6) persons
- Tents will only be erected on the provided tent pads (gravel area)

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.*

Stay Limits

Camping is limited to (21) calendar days during the peak season which is designated as November 15th – April 15th.

Camping is limited to a maximum of (28) calendar days during any one calendar year.

Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Water Usage

Washing vehicles is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.

Quiet Hours

10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. daily

Unreasonable idling of recreational vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Generator Hours

Generators may be operated from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Electrical Outlets

Are for the use of personal portable convenience items such as electric razors and blow dryers.

Plugging electrical extension cords into bathroom outlets is prohibited.

Operating appliances, lights and accessories by hooking up to electrical outlets is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Wood Fires

Using native Sonoran Desert woods or vegetation for fires is prohibited, unless the visitor possesses a valid BLM or other agency collecting permit for native woods (i.e mesquite) or written permission from a private landowner in accordance with State plant laws. Burning charcoal, milled lumber, presto logs and obvious non-native woods is otherwise permitted.

Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

All fires must be extinguished prior to leaving the campsite.

Determination: Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.

GROUP CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site.

The Group Campground is for organized groups and available only by reservation.

Reservations are accepted no more than six months in advance.

Camping is limited to 14 days from January 15-April 30, and 30 days from May 1-January 14.

RV (motorhomes, trailers, tent trailers) camping is available at sites 1 & 2.

RV/tent camping is available at site 1 only.

Tent camping is available at sites 3, 4 and 5, with parking available near each site. RV parking is not allowed at these sites. Tents are limited to the marked perimeter.

Check out time is 11 am.

The maximum number of people and units:

Site Number	# People	# Tents	# RVs
1	45	15	7
2	40	0	13
3	18	6	0
4	24	8	0
5	24	8	0

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Vehicles

Maximum RV length is 40' (motorhomes measured bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels measured from hitch point to rear bumper).

Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited.

Mirrors extending more than 6" to side will be removed or folded in when not towing trailer/vehicle.

Determinations:

1. *Length restrictions are imposed due to the space that is available within the campground sites. Larger vehicles in the small space available make it likely to run over or into vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek.*
2. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
3. *Mirrors extending more than 6" are much more likely to cause "mirror slaps" with other vehicles in such constricted areas. Mirrors extending more than 6" are also more acceptable to catching vegetation in the constricted area of the campground.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10:00 pm-6:00 am. Unreasonable idling of vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited.

Generators are allowed between 8:00 am-10:00 am, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage

Water is available at the outside faucets or at the restrooms. It is prohibited to hook up a hose or similar device to these faucets. Hoses for filling tanks with potable water are available at the dump station. Dispose of gray water in the sanitary sink in the restroom building or at the dump station. Sewage can be disposed of at the dump station.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
2. *Proper disposal of gray water and sewage is in compliance with 36 CFR 2.14 – Sanitation and Refuse.*

Electricity

Electrical hookups are not available. Using extension cords for providing power to the site, vehicle, or rechargeable items is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of

electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Fires

Ground fires and collecting/burning of native vegetation are prohibited. Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

Determinations:

- 1. Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
- 2. Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets must be on a leash or under physical restraint at all times. Pets are allowed on the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, but not on the Desert View, Victoria Mine, and other trails; Pets are not permitted in the restrooms. Pet areas are marked and available around the outside of the Campground Perimeter Trail.

Pet excrements shall be removed – 36 CFR 2.15 (a)(5).

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Wildlife, Rocks, and Plants

Feeding wildlife is prohibited.

The removal or defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited.

Shrubs and trees are not to be used as anchors for tents or for clotheslines.

Determinations:

- 1. The feeding of wildlife is prohibited not only for the visitor's safety but for the wildlife to stay wild and not depend on human support for food. 36 CFR 2.2(a)(2)-Wildlife Protection.*
- 2. To provide for future generations with the same views and enjoyment of the environment as our generation has the defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited. 36 CFR 2.1 Resource protection*

ALAMO PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

Permits are required. The park entrance fee and camping permit fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site. Permit must be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle so the number can be read through the windshield.

Vehicles without a current permit are subject to citation or towing at the owners expense. Length of stay is limited to 7 consecutive days, with a break of at least 30 days before a new permit can be issued.

Camping is limited to 4 established sites. Maximum capacity is 5 people per site, with a maximum of 20 people for the entire campground.

Campers may use sleeping bags, tents, passenger cars, pick-ups with camper shells or small camper units mounted in the bed of a pickup truck, or vans with pop-up style sleeper units.

All other recreational vehicles must use Twin Peaks Campground or private facilities outside the monument.

Determinations:

- 1. Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
- 2. Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
- 3. Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.*

Vehicles

Each vehicle must display a permit. Vehicles must be parked within the space provided at the assigned campsite, and no more than 2 vehicles per site are allowed.

Parking for day use/backcountry is provided on the south side of parking lot, near the pit toilet. Motorhomes and trailers are not permitted. Unregistered vehicles are subject to citation/towing at the owner's expense.

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Due to limited and restrictive space larger vehicles and unregistered vehicles are not allowed at this location.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10 pm-6 am.

No generators are allowed.

Idling of vehicles for more than 5 minutes at any time of the day is prohibited.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage/Sanitation

Water is not available. Pit toilets are provided.

Electricity

Electricity is not available.

Fires

Wood fires are not permitted. Grills provided may be used for charcoal fires only.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets are permitted at the Alamo Primitive Campground, but must stay within the campground area and be under physical restraint at all times.

Pets may not be left unattended at the campsite. Pets are not allowed on trails.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry permits are not being issued at this time. See Section 1.5, regarding closure areas.

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

36 CFR SECTION 2.13 (a)(1)(b) - Fires

Fires are permitted in government provided grills, self-provided grills, and/or containerized stoves at the Twin Peaks Campground, to include the group sites and the Alamo Primitive Campground. Only containerized stove fires are permitted in designated picnic areas and the backcountry.

Wood fires are not permitted at Alamo Primitive Campground.

Fires shall be extinguished upon termination of use by smothering with clean water.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.15 - Pets

Pets are prohibited in all backcountry areas and trails except for the Palo Verde Trail and the Twin Peaks Campground Perimeter Trail. Pets are permitted in public areas, such as the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area. Pets are also permitted in both Alamo Campground and the Twin Peaks Campground. Walking of pets is permitted on North Puerto Blanco Road, the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, Alamo Canyon Road, and Ajo Mountain Loop Road.

(a)(5) - Pet excrements shall be removed.

(e) Park residents may keep pets in accordance with Organ Pipe Cactus Pet Policy as approved October 11, 1983. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

36 CFR SECTION 2.16 (a) (b) - Horses and Pack Animals

Horses, mules, burros and llamas are designated as "pack animals" .

Horses and pack animals are allowed in areas of the Monument including the backcountry, except in areas closed to public use, developed areas including the following: All Campgrounds, the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area, Picnic Areas, the road from the Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, and all maintained trails. Horses may be ridden on the Monument's gravel roads.

- Horse and pack stock users are required to obtain a backcountry permit for overnight trips.
- Hunting or scouting (camps used to scout future hunts of big game in adjoining USFW lands) camps are prohibited.
- Maximum group size for day trips is six people and seven horses.
- All manure dropped in or near any water source must be immediately removed to avoid contamination.
- Horses must be picketed in locations which least damage the vegetation. Animals may not be tied to trees or other vegetation.

- Any commercially guided horse or pack stock trip must be provided by an outfitter authorized to operate under the incidental business permit procedures of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Determinations:

1. *In the interest of visitor safety, stock use is not authorized in the closed areas due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.*
2. *Based on the information and impact reports these rules have been imposed to allow for minimal damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of the National Park Service that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
3. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.20 – Skating, Skateboards and Similar Devices

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.21 (a) – Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in the following areas:

- Visitor Center and all offices and work buildings
- Visitor contact stations (entrance stations, campground entrance station, office)
- Campground amphitheater.
- paint storage room
- Gas Pumps to a diameter of 50 feet
- Propane storage area
- Air quality monitoring stations
- All government owned vehicles
- Shared residential quarters (Dorms)
- Multi-purpose building
- All public rest rooms
- All other areas posted as non-smoking

All federal buildings and structures are closed to smoking pursuant to Executive Order 13058.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to smoking to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.22 (a) (2) - Property

Visitors on authorized backcountry trips are permitted to leave vehicles unattended for the period specified on their camping permits. Vehicles so parked must appropriately display the permit.

****See section 1.5****

Determination: Leaving property unattended is at the owners own risk. Permits must be visible and within compliance or the property may be impounded.

36 CFR SECTION 2.23 (b) - Recreation Fees

Visitors passing through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument lands, via the Bates Well Road, either while exiting or entering the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, may do so without paying the park entrance fee; provided that the party has secured an entry permit from the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and that the intent of the use of park lands is not for recreational purposes. Vehicles are not allowed to park within monument boundaries unless a park entrance permit is purchased.

Determination: Park fees must be secured before recreating within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. If your intent is to pass through the Monument a park fee is not required.

36 CFR SECTION 2.35 (3)(i)(A) - Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances

The following areas are closed to the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or that has been opened, or whose seal is broken or the contents of which have been partially removed: in the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area and the Twin Peaks Campground amphitheater.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to consumption of alcohol to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.38 – Explosives

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.51(e)(f) - Locations Available For Public Assemblies

The following area is designated for Public Assemblies with a permit from the Superintendent's Office: the area adjacent to the bicycle rack in front of the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Due to the public congestion this area receives, no more than 10 persons may be permitted to assemble at one time.

Determination: This area has been determined to be the most appropriate location for public assemblies due to its location and availability.

36 CFR SECTION 2.52(c)(e) - Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter

The sale or distribution of printed matter is permitted for only the area adjacent to the bicycle rack in front of the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Determination: Due to the area allowed for public assemblies this is the only area allowed for printed matter.

36 CFR SECTION 2.62 (a)(b) – Memorialization

Erection of monuments requires approval from the Director.

The scattering of human ashes from cremation is only allowed with a permit issued by the Superintendent. Ashes may only be scattered in undeveloped areas, excluding springs, ponds and tinajas. The remains must meet appropriate state laws prior to dispersal.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas are allowed for memorialization.

36 CFR SECTION 3.21(a) (1) - Swimming and bathing

Swimming or bathing is prohibited in any sources of water primarily utilized by wildlife.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected with human influence. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating.

36 CFR SECTION 4.11 – Vehicle Load, Weight and Size Limits

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 4.21 – Speed Limits

The speed limit on the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground is designated 25 miles per hour. The maximum speed limit for all unpaved roads within the

Monument is 25 miles per hour.

Determination: Due to the condition and location of these roads, the speed limit has been designated to be 25 miles per hour for the safety of the individuals driving, people walking or biking on the roads and for the wildlife located near or on the roads.

36 CFR SECTION 4.31 – Hitchhiking

No special determinations at this time.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Superintendent's Compendium

Revised June 2013

COMPENDIUM of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority by the Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

In accordance with the delegated authority provided by regulations as published under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the management, protection, and public use of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained elsewhere in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7.

The closures and restrictions delineated in this compendium do not apply to official/administrative use or applications (36 CFR 1.2(d) and 1.5(a)).

Written determinations, which explain the justification behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, appear in this document as italicized print.

Section 1.6(f) states that a list of activities that require a permit must be maintained. That list appears in this document under 1.6.

This compendium will remain in effect until specifically amended or supplemented by the Superintendent.

Recommended:

Matthew D. Vandzura
Chief Ranger

6/17/13

Date

Approved:

Jim Richardson
Acting Park Superintendent

6/17/13

Date

PART 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has used the discretionary authority granted by Chapter 1 of the 36 CFR 1.5(a) to establish certain closures. These closures and public use limits are necessary for the administration of the park in concert with its enabling legislation and NPS management policies for the benefit and safety of park visitors and the protection of park natural and cultural resources.

Section 1.5 – Visiting Hours, Public Use Limits, Closures and Area Designations for Specific Use or Activities

- (a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours - No special determinations at this time for developed areas. All backcountry areas, scenic drives, and wilderness areas are closed after sunset and prior to sunrise.

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry areas are closed at night due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Road Closures – The following roads are closed to vehicular traffic except for use by the National Park Service, other Federal, state or local agencies, and other individuals in accordance with approved General Management or Resource Management & Research Plans:

DEVELOPED AREA

- Road to the Sewage Lagoon
- APS Power Line Road
- Road to the Monument Shooting Range
- Road to the Vegetative Recycle Area
- All roads which access the Maintenance Complex and the Park Residential Area
- Road to the Well Complex off of the Twin Peaks Campground Road

Determination: These areas exist to facilitate the overall management of the monument and may include areas that are unsafe for the public or contain equipment and other items of value including sensitive information.

BACKCOUNTRY AREAS

The following roads are closed. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center

- The Border Road (within the Roosevelt Easement) – including the entire length from Lukeville to the east boundary and from Lukeville to the Cabeza Prieta NWR boundary
- Camino de Dos Republicas

- South Puerto Blanco Drive
- Pozo Nuevo Road
- North Puerto Blanco Drive (passed the gate at the Pinkley Picnic Area)
- North Boundary Road from Highway 85 to the Bates Well Road
- Road accessing the former “Stack Property” (west of Lukeville)

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry roads are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Closures – See attachment A.

The following Backcountry Use Zones, as identified on the Trails Illustrated Map of Organ Pipe Cactus NM are closed to visitors. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in Attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

000 (Quitoboquito, not Twin Peaks or Dripping Springs)
 100 (most of 100, see attachment A)
 112
 112
 170 (most of 170, see attachment A)
 190 (most of 190, see attachment A)
 210
 220
 230
 260
 320 (southern half of 320)
 330 (southern half of 330)
 340
 351
 352
 420

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry areas are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Camping – No backcountry camping is currently authorized

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Section 1.6 – Permits

(f) A valid permit issued by the Superintendent's Office is required for the following activities consistent with applicable legislation, federal regulations and administrative policies:

1. Public Use Activities: athletic events, races, tournaments, parades or other special events (§ 1.5)
2. Collecting Research Specimen: taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals (§ 2.5)
3. For threatened and/or endangered species a valid Federal Fish & Wildlife License/Permit is required (50 CFR, Part 3)
4. Camping and Food Storage: permits required for designated sites (§ 2.10)
5. Audio Disturbances: operating a power saw in a developed area [§ 2.12(a)(2)] or operating portable engines in a non-developed area [§ 2.12(a)(3)]
6. Operation of a public address or amplification system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to 36 CFR 2.50 or 2.51 (§ 2.12)
7. Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means (§ 2.17)
8. Non-commercial soliciting (§ 2.17)
9. Explosives: using, possessing, storing or transporting of explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials [§ 2.38(a)] or using or possessing fireworks or firecrackers [§ 2.38(b)]
10. Conducting a public spectator event, pageant, wedding, ceremony, organized event similar activities (§ 2.50)
11. Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views require a permit when the activity involves more than 25 persons or is requested for a location outside the identified designated areas. [§2.51(a)]
12. Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising requires a permit when the activity involves more than 25 persons or is requested for a location outside the identified designated areas. §2.52(c)
13. Memorialization – Scattering human or animal ashes from cremation (§ 2.62)
14. Advertisements – Display, posting or distribution (§ 5.1)

15. Engaging in or soliciting any business – requires a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations.
16. Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings, crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television. [§ 5.5(a)]
17. Still photography of props, models, or sets, or other articles of commerce for the purpose of commercial advertising. [§ 5.5(b)]
18. Construction of buildings or other facilities (§ 5.7)

Determination: Permit systems authorized and issued pursuant to specific regulations in this chapter, except Section 1.5, need not be supported by a written determination unless required by the specific authorizing regulation [48 FR 30262].

PART 2 - RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

Section 2.1- Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

(c)(1) Collection of a reasonable amount of native fruit is permitted for personal use or consumption. Quantities of fruits that can be collected are limited to (1) kilogram [2.2 pounds] per adult, per day. Commercial collecting of native fruits is prohibited to ensure that fruits are available for recreational collecting and to prevent the ecosystem from being adversely affected.

The following species are classified as native fruits for the purposes of collecting:

- Organ Pipe Cactus Fruit
- Saguaro Cactus Fruit
- Prickley Pear Cactus Fruit
- Jojoba Fruit
- Wolfberry Fruit

Determination: The removal of native fruits in limited quantities does not have an adverse impact on park resources. Commercial harvesting of fruits would deny visitors the opportunity to experience the monument in its natural state.

Section 2.2- Wildlife Protection

(e) The use of artificial light to view wildlife within the monument is prohibited.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected while being artificially illuminated. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating. The proliferation of poor quality outdoor lighting is the principle threat to the night sky. Reducing the number of multiple lighting systems will allow for activities focused on public enjoyment of dark skies.

Section 2.10 – Camping and Food Storage

TWIN PEAKS CAMPGROUND

Vehicles:

- The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site.
- Camping with a permit is allowed on a first-come, first-served basis
- Maximum RV length is (35) feet [vehicles are measured from bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels are measured from hitch point to rear bumper]
- One RV per campsite, with two vehicle maximum
- Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited
- Mirrors extending more than (6) inches to side will be removed or folded in when not towing a trailer or vehicle

Tent Camping:

- Two tent maximum per campsite
- Maximum site occupancy is (6) persons
- Tents will only be erected on the provided tent pads (gravel area)

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.*

Stay Limits

Camping is limited to (21) calendar days during the peak season which is designated as November 15th – April 15th.

Camping is limited to a maximum of (28) calendar days during any one calendar year.

Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Water Usage

Washing vehicles is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.

Quiet Hours

10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. daily

Unreasonable idling of recreational vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Generator Hours

Generators may be operated from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Electrical Outlets

Are for the use of personal portable convenience items such as electric razors and blow-dryers. Plugging electrical extension cords into bathroom outlets is prohibited. Operating appliances, lights and accessories by hooking up to electrical outlets is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Wood Fires

Using native Sonoran Desert woods or vegetation for fires is prohibited, unless the visitor possesses a valid BLM or other agency collecting permit for native woods (i.e mesquite) or written permission from a private landowner in accordance with State plant laws. Burning charcoal, milled lumber, presto logs and obvious non-native woods is otherwise permitted.

Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

All fires must be extinguished prior to leaving the campsite.

Determination: Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.

GROUP CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site.

The Group Campground is for organized groups and available only by reservation.

Reservations are accepted no more than six months in advance.

Camping is limited to 14 days from January 15-April 30, and 30 days from May 1-January 14.

RV (motorhomes, trailers, tent trailers) camping is available at sites 1 & 2.

RV/tent camping is available at site 1 only.

Tent camping is available at sites 3, 4 and 5, with parking available near each site. RV parking is not allowed at these sites. Tents are limited to the marked perimeter.

Check out time is 11 am.

The maximum number of people and units:

Site Number	# People	# Tents	# RVs
1	45	15	7
2	40	0	13
3	18	6	0
4	24	8	0
5	24	8	0

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Vehicles

Maximum RV length is 40' (motorhomes measured bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels measured from hitch point to rear bumper).

Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited.

Mirrors extending more than 6" to side will be removed or folded in when not towing trailer/vehicle.

Determinations:

1. *Length restrictions are imposed due to the space that is available within the campground sites. Larger vehicles in the small space available make it likely to run over or into vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek.*
2. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
3. *Mirrors extending more than 6" are much more likely to cause "mirror slaps" with other vehicles in such constricted areas. Mirrors extending more than 6" are also more acceptable to catching vegetation in the constricted area of the campground.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10:00 pm-6:00 am. Unreasonable idling of vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited.

Generators are allowed between 8:00 am-10:00 am, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage

Water is available at the outside faucets or at the restrooms. It is prohibited to hook up a hose or similar device to these faucets. Hoses for filling tanks with potable water are available at the dump station. Dispose of gray water in the sanitary sink in the restroom building or at the dump station. Sewage can be disposed of at the dump station.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
2. *Proper disposal of gray water and sewage is in compliance with 36 CFR 2.14 – Sanitation and Refuse.*

Electricity

Electrical hookups are not available. Using extension cords for providing power to the site, vehicle, or rechargeable items is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Fires

Ground fires and collecting/burning of native vegetation are prohibited. Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets must be on a leash or under physical restraint at all times. Pets are allowed on the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, but not on the Desert View, Victoria Mine, or any other trails. Pets are not permitted in the restrooms. Pet areas are marked and available around the outside of the Campground Perimeter Trail.

Pet excrements shall be removed – 36 CFR 2.15 (a)(5).

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Wildlife, Rocks, and Plants

Feeding wildlife is prohibited.

The removal or defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited.

Shrubs and trees are not to be used as anchors for tents or for clotheslines.

Determinations:

1. *The feeding of wildlife is prohibited not only for the visitor's safety but for the wildlife to stay wild and not depend on human support for food. 36 CFR 2.2(a)(2)-Wildlife Protection.*
2. *To provide for future generations with the same views and enjoyment of the environment as our generation has the defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited. 36 CFR 2.1 Resource protection*

ALAMO PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

Permits are required. The park entrance fee and camping permit fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site. Permit must be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle so the number can be read through the windshield.

Vehicles without a current permit are subject to citation or towing at the owners expense. Length of stay is limited to 7 consecutive days, with a break of at least 30 days before a new permit can be issued.

Camping is limited to 4 established sites. Maximum capacity is 5 people per site, with a maximum of 20 people for the entire campground.

Campers may use sleeping bags, tents, passenger cars, pick-ups with camper shells or small camper units mounted in the bed of a pickup truck, or vans with pop-up style sleeper units.

All other recreational vehicles must use Twin Peaks Campground or private facilities outside the monument.

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include,*

but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Vehicles

Each vehicle must display a permit. Vehicles must be parked within the space provided at the assigned campsite, and no more than 2 vehicles per site are allowed.

Parking for day use/backcountry is provided on the south side of parking lot, near the pit toilet. Motorhomes and trailers are not permitted. Unregistered vehicles are subject to citation/towing at the owner's expense.

Determinations:

- 1. Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
- 2. Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
- 3. Due to limited and restrictive space larger vehicles and unregistered vehicles are not allowed at this location.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10 pm-6 am.

No generators are allowed.

Idling of vehicles for more than 5 minutes at any time of the day is prohibited.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage/Sanitation

Water is not available. Pit toilets are provided.

Electricity

Electricity is not available.

Fires

Wood fires are not permitted. Grills provided may be used for charcoal fires only.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets are permitted at the Alamo Primitive Campground, but must stay within the campground area and be under physical restraint at all times.

Pets may not be left unattended at the campsite. Pets are not allowed on trails.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry permits are not being issued at this time. See Section 1.5, regarding closure areas.

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

36 CFR SECTION 2.13 (a)(1)(b) - Fires

Fires are permitted in government provided grills, self-provided grills, and/or containerized stoves at the Twin Peaks Campground, to include the group sites and the Alamo Primitive Campground. Only containerized stove fires are permitted in designated picnic areas and the backcountry.

Wood fires are not permitted at Alamo Primitive Campground.

Fires shall be extinguished upon termination of use by smothering with clean water.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.15 - Pets

Pets are prohibited in all backcountry areas and trails except for the Palo Verde Trail and the Twin Peaks Campground Perimeter Trail. Pets are permitted in public areas, such as the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area. Pets are also permitted in both Alamo Campground and the Twin Peaks Campground. Walking of pets is permitted on North Puerto Blanco Road, the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, Alamo Canyon Road, and Ajo Mountain Loop Road.

(a)(5) - Pet excrements shall be removed.

(e) Park residents may keep pets in accordance with Organ Pipe Cactus Pet Policy as approved October 11, 1983. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

36 CFR SECTION 2.16 (a) (b) - Horses and Pack Animals

Horses, mules, burros and llamas are designated as "pack animals".

Horses and pack animals are allowed in areas of the Monument including the backcountry, except in areas closed to public use, developed areas including the following: All Campgrounds, the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area, Picnic Areas, the road from the Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, and all maintained trails. Horses may be ridden on the Monument's gravel roads.

- Horse and pack stock users are required to obtain a backcountry permit for overnight trips.
- Hunting or scouting (camps used to scout future hunts of big game in adjoining USFW lands) camps are prohibited.
- Maximum group size for day trips is six people and seven horses.
- All manure dropped in or near any water source must be immediately removed to avoid contamination.

- Horses must be picketed in locations which least damage the vegetation. Animals may not be tied to trees or other vegetation.
- Any commercially guided horse or pack stock trip must be provided by an outfitter authorized to operate under the incidental business permit procedures of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Determinations:

1. *In the interest of visitor safety, stock use is not authorized in the closed areas due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.*
2. *Based on the information and impact reports these rules have been imposed to allow for minimal damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of the National Park Service that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
3. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.20 – Skating, Skateboards and Similar Devices

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.21 (a) – Smoking

All federal buildings and structures are closed to smoking pursuant to Executive Order 13058. Specifically smoking is prohibited in the following areas:

- Visitor Center and all offices and work buildings
- Visitor contact stations (entrance stations, campground entrance station, office)
- Campground amphitheater.
- paint storage room
- Gas Pumps to a diameter of 50 feet
- Propane storage area
- Air quality monitoring stations
- All government owned vehicles
- Shared residential quarters (Dorms)
- Multi-purpose building
- All public rest rooms
- All other areas posted as non-smoking

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to smoking to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.22 (a) (2) - Property

Visitors on authorized backcountry trips are permitted to leave vehicles unattended for the period specified on their camping permits. Vehicles so parked must appropriately display the permit.

****See section 1.5****

Determination: Leaving property unattended is at the owners own risk. Permits must be visible and within compliance or the property may be impounded.

36 CFR SECTION 2.23 (b) - Recreation Fees

Visitors passing through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument lands, via the Bates Well Road, either while exiting or entering the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, may do so without paying the park entrance fee, provided that the party has secured an entry permit from the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and that the intent of the use of park lands is not for recreational purposes. Vehicles are not allowed to park within monument boundaries unless a park entrance permit is purchased.

Determination: Park fees must be secured before recreating within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. If your intent is to pass through the Monument a park fee is not required.

36 CFR SECTION 2.35 (3)(i)(A) - Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances

The following areas are closed to the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or that has been opened, or whose seal is broken or the contents of which have been partially removed: in the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area and the Twin Peaks Campground amphitheater.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to consumption of alcohol to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.38 – Explosives

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.51(e)(f) - Locations Available For Public Assemblies

The following locations are designated for no permit required First Amendment activities involving groups of less than 25 persons:

The southern portion of the picnic area west of the visitor center (see Attachment B)

The eastern portion of the post office box pull-out south of the visitor center (see Attachment B)

Determination: This area has been determined to be the most appropriate location for public assemblies due to its location and availability.

36 CFR SECTION 2.52(c)(e) - Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter

Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising requires a permit when the activity involves more than 25 persons or is requested for a location outside the identified designated areas. §2.52(c)(e)

Determination: Due to the area allowed for public assemblies this is the only area allowed for printed matter.

36 CFR SECTION 2.62 (a)(b) – Memorialization

Erection of monuments requires approval from the Director.

The scattering of human ashes from cremation is only allowed with a permit issued by the Superintendent. Ashes may only be scattered in undeveloped areas, excluding springs, ponds and tinajas. The remains must meet appropriate state laws prior to dispersal.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas are allowed for memorialization.

36 CFR SECTION 3.21(a) (1) - Swimming and bathing

Swimming or bathing is prohibited in any sources of water primarily utilized by wildlife.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected with human influence. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating.

36 CFR SECTION 4.11 – Vehicle Load, Weight and Size Limits

No special determinations at this time.

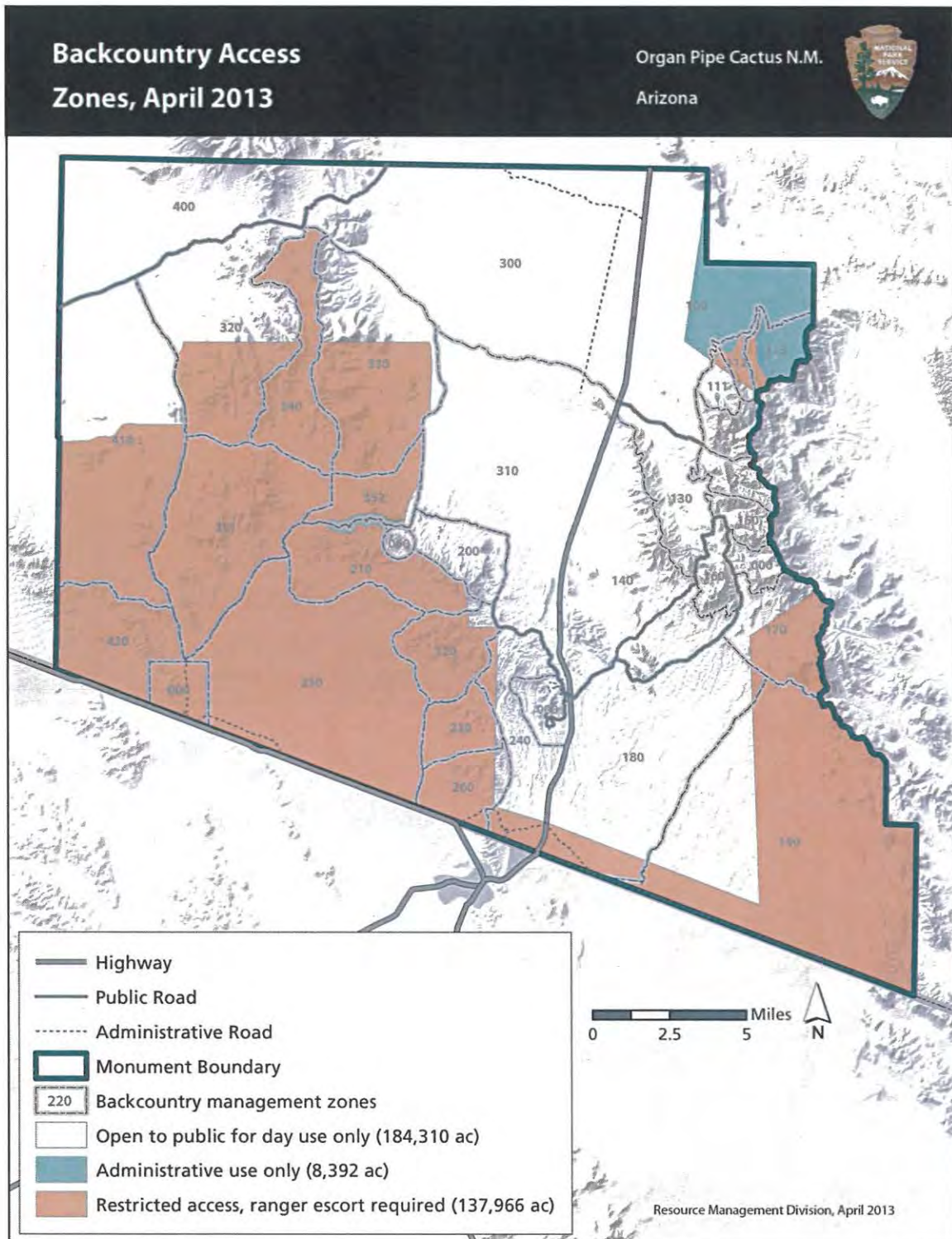
36 CFR SECTION 4.21 – Speed Limits

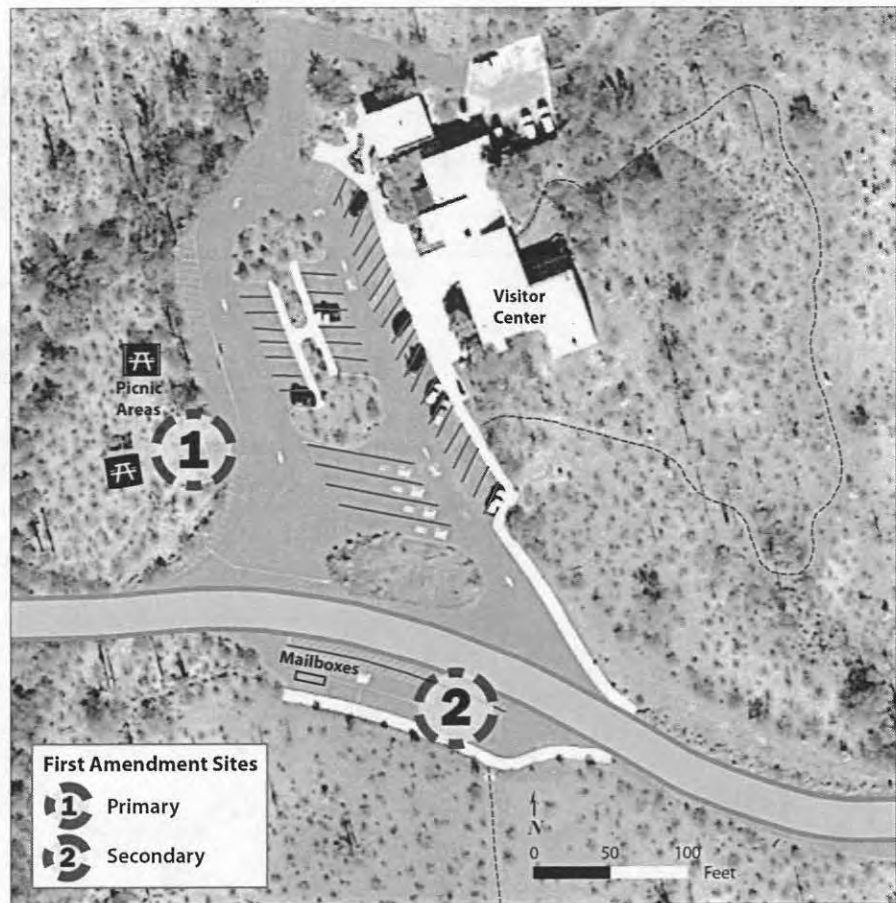
The speed limit on the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground is designated 25 miles per hour. The maximum speed limit for all unpaved roads within the Monument is 25 miles per hour.

Determination: Due to the condition and location of these roads, the speed limit has been designated to be 25 miles per hour for the safety of the individuals driving, people walking or biking on the roads and for the wildlife located near or on the roads.

36 CFR SECTION 4.31 – Hitchhiking

No special determinations at this time.





Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Superintendent's Compendium

Revised June 2013

COMPENDIUM of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority by the Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

In accordance with the delegated authority provided by regulations as published under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the management, protection, and public use of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained elsewhere in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7.

The closures and restrictions delineated in this compendium do not apply to official/administrative use or applications (36 CFR 1.2(d) and 1.5(a)).

Written determinations, which explain the justification behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, appear in this document as italicized print.

Section 1.6(f) states that a list of activities that require a permit must be maintained. That list appears in this document under 1.6.

This compendium will remain in effect until specifically amended or supplemented by the Superintendent.

Recommended:

Matthew D. Vandzura
Chief Ranger

Date

Approved:

Jim Richardson
Acting Park Superintendent

Date

PART 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has used the discretionary authority granted by Chapter 1 of the 36 CFR 1.5(a) to establish certain closures. These closures and public use limits are necessary for the administration of the park in concert with its enabling legislation and NPS management policies for the benefit and safety of park visitors and the protection of park natural and cultural resources.

Section 1.5 – Visiting Hours, Public Use Limits, Closures and Area Designations for Specific Use or Activities

- (a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours - No special determinations at this time for developed areas. All backcountry areas, scenic drives, and wilderness areas are closed after sunset and prior to sunrise.

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry areas are closed at night due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Road Closures – The following roads are closed to vehicular traffic except for use by the National Park Service, other Federal, state or local agencies, and other individuals in accordance with approved General Management or Resource Management & Research Plans:

DEVELOPED AREA

- Road to the Sewage Lagoon
- APS Power Line Road
- Road to the Monument Shooting Range
- Road to the Vegetative Recycle Area
- All roads which access the Maintenance Complex and the Park Residential Area
- Road to the Well Complex off of the Twin Peaks Campground Road

Determination: These areas exist to facilitate the overall management of the monument and may include areas that are unsafe for the public or contain equipment and other items of value including, sensitive information.

BACKCOUNTRY AREAS

The following roads are closed. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center

- The Border Road (within the Roosevelt Easement) – including the entire length from Lukeville to the east boundary and from Lukeville to the Cabeza Prieta NWR boundary
- Camino de Dos Republicas

- South Puerto Blanco Drive
- Pozo Nuevo Road
- North Puerto Blanco Drive (passed the gate at the Pinkley Picnic Area)
- North Boundary Road from Highway 85 to the Bates Well Road
- Road accessing the former “Stack Property” (west of Lukeville)

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry roads are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Closures – See attachment A.

The following Backcountry Use Zones, as identified on the Trails Illustrated Map of Organ Pipe Cactus NM are closed to visitors. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in Attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

000 (Quitoboquito, not Twin Peaks or Dripping Springs)
 100 (most of 100, see attachment A)
 112
 112
 170 (most of 170, see attachment A)
 190 (most of 190, see attachment A)
 210
 220
 230
 260
 320 (southern half of 320)
 330 (southern half of 330)
 340
 351
 352
 420

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry areas are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Camping – No backcountry camping is currently authorized

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Section 1.6 – Permits

(f) A valid permit issued by the Superintendent's Office is required for the following activities consistent with applicable legislation, federal regulations and administrative policies:

1. Public Use Activities: athletic events, races, tournaments, parades or other special events (§ 1.5)
2. Collecting Research Specimen: taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals (§ 2.5)
3. For threatened and/or endangered species a valid Federal Fish & Wildlife License/Permit is required (50 CFR, Part 3)
4. Camping and Food Storage: permits required for designated sites (§ 2.10)
5. Audio Disturbances: operating a power saw in a developed area [§ 2.12(a)(2)] or operating portable engines in a non-developed area [§ 2.12(a)(3)]
6. Operation of a public address or amplification system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to 36 CFR 2.50 or 2.51 (§ 2.12)
7. Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means (§ 2.17)
8. Non-commercial soliciting (§ 2.17)
9. Explosives: using, possessing, storing or transporting of explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials [§ 2.38(a)] or using or possessing fireworks or firecrackers [§ 2.38(b)]
10. Conducting a public spectator event, pageant, wedding, ceremony, organized event similar activities (§ 2.50)
11. Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views require a permit when the activity involves more than 25 persons or is requested for a location outside the identified designated areas. [§2.51(a)]
12. Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising requires a permit when the activity involves more than 25 persons or is requested for a location outside the identified designated areas. §2.52(c)
13. Memorialization – Scattering human or animal ashes from cremation (§ 2.62)
14. Advertisements – Display, posting or distribution (§ 5.1)

15. Engaging in or soliciting any business – requires a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations.
16. Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings, crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television. [§ 5.5(a)]
17. Still photography of props, models, or sets, or other articles of commerce for the purpose of commercial advertising. [§ 5.5(b)]
18. Construction of buildings or other facilities (§ 5.7)

Determination: Permit systems authorized and issued pursuant to specific regulations in this chapter, except Section 1.5, need not be supported by a written determination unless required by the specific authorizing regulation [48 FR 30262].

PART 2 - RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

Section 2.1- Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

(c)(1) Collection of a reasonable amount of native fruit is permitted for personal use or consumption. Quantities of fruits that can be collected are limited to (1) kilogram [2.2 pounds] per adult, per day. Commercial collecting of native fruits is prohibited to ensure that fruits are available for recreational collecting and to prevent the ecosystem from being adversely affected.

The following species are classified as native fruits for the purposes of collecting:

- Organ Pipe Cactus Fruit
- Saguaro Cactus Fruit
- Prickley Pear Cactus Fruit
- Jojoba Fruit
- Wolfberry Fruit

Determination: The removal of native fruits in limited quantities does not have an adverse impact on park resources. Commercial harvesting of fruits would deny visitors the opportunity to experience the monument in its natural state.

Section 2.2- Wildlife Protection

(e) The use of artificial light to view wildlife within the monument is prohibited.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected while being artificially illuminated. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating. The proliferation of poor quality outdoor lighting is the principle threat to the night sky. Reducing the number of multiple lighting systems will allow for activities focused on public enjoyment of dark skies.

Section 2.10 – Camping and Food Storage

TWIN PEAKS CAMPGROUND

Vehicles:

- The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site.
- Camping with a permit is allowed on a first-come, first-served basis
- Maximum RV length is (35) feet [vehicles are measured from bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels are measured from hitch point to rear bumper]
- One RV per campsite, with two vehicle maximum
- Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited
- Mirrors extending more than (6) inches to side will be removed or folded in when not towing a trailer or vehicle

Tent Camping:

- Two tent maximum per campsite
- Maximum site occupancy is (6) persons
- Tents will only be erected on the provided tent pads (gravel area)

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.*

Stay Limits

Camping is limited to (21) calendar days during the peak season which is designated as November 15th – April 15th.

Camping is limited to a maximum of (28) calendar days during any one calendar year.

Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Water Usage

Washing vehicles is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.

Quiet Hours

10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. daily

Unreasonable idling of recreational vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Generator Hours

Generators may be operated from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Electrical Outlets

Are for the use of personal portable convenience items such as electric razors and blow-dryers. Plugging electrical extension cords into bathroom outlets is prohibited. Operating appliances, lights and accessories by hooking up to electrical outlets is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Wood Fires

Using native Sonoran Desert woods or vegetation for fires is prohibited, unless the visitor possesses a valid BLM or other agency collecting permit for native woods (i.e mesquite) or written permission from a private landowner in accordance with State plant laws. Burning charcoal, milled lumber, presto logs and obvious non-native woods is otherwise permitted.

Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

All fires must be extinguished prior to leaving the campsite.

Determination: Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.

GROUP CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site. The Group Campground is for organized groups and available only by reservation.

Reservations are accepted no more than six months in advance.

Camping is limited to 14 days from January 15-April 30, and 30 days from May 1-January 14.

RV (motorhomes, trailers, tent trailers) camping is available at sites 1 & 2.

RV/tent camping is available at site 1 only.

Tent camping is available at sites 3, 4 and 5, with parking available near each site. RV parking is not allowed at these sites. Tents are limited to the marked perimeter.

Check out time is 11 am.

The maximum number of people and units:

Site Number	# People	# Tents	# RVs
1	45	15	7
2	40	0	13
3	18	6	0
4	24	8	0
5	24	8	0

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Vehicles

Maximum RV length is 40' (motorhomes measured bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels measured from hitch point to rear bumper).

Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited.

Mirrors extending more than 6" to side will be removed or folded in when not towing trailer/vehicle.

Determinations:

1. *Length restrictions are imposed due to the space that is available within the campground sites. Larger vehicles in the small space available make it likely to run over or into vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek.*
2. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
3. *Mirrors extending more than 6" are much more likely to cause "mirror slaps" with other vehicles in such constricted areas. Mirrors extending more than 6" are also more acceptable to catching vegetation in the constricted area of the campground.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10:00 pm-6:00 am. Unreasonable idling of vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited.

Generators are allowed between 8:00 am–10:00 am, 4:00 pm–6:00 pm.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage

Water is available at the outside faucets or at the restrooms. It is prohibited to hook up a hose or similar device to these faucets. Hoses for filling tanks with potable water are available at the dump station. Dispose of gray water in the sanitary sink in the restroom building or at the dump station. Sewage can be disposed of at the dump station.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
2. *Proper disposal of gray water and sewage is in compliance with 36 CFR 2.14 – Sanitation and Refuse.*

Electricity

Electrical hookups are not available. Using extension cords for providing power to the site, vehicle, or rechargeable items is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Fires

Ground fires and collecting/burning of native vegetation are prohibited. Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets must be on a leash or under physical restraint at all times. Pets are allowed on the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, but not on the Desert View, Victoria Mine, or any other trails. Pets are not permitted in the restrooms. Pet areas are marked and available around the outside of the Campground Perimeter Trail.

Pet excrements shall be removed – 36 CFR 2.15 (a)(5).

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Wildlife, Rocks, and Plants

Feeding wildlife is prohibited.

The removal or defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited.

Shrubs and trees are not to be used as anchors for tents or for clotheslines.

Determinations:

1. *The feeding of wildlife is prohibited not only for the visitor's safety but for the wildlife to stay wild and not depend on human support for food. 36 CFR 2.2(a)(2)-Wildlife Protection.*
2. *To provide for future generations with the same views and enjoyment of the environment as our generation has the defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited. 36 CFR 2.1 Resource protection*

ALAMO PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

Permits are required. The park entrance fee and camping permit fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site. Permit must be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle so the number can be read through the windshield.

Vehicles without a current permit are subject to citation or towing at the owners expense. Length of stay is limited to 7 consecutive days, with a break of at least 30 days before a new permit can be issued.

Camping is limited to 4 established sites. Maximum capacity is 5 people per site, with a maximum of 20 people for the entire campground.

Campers may use sleeping bags, tents, passenger cars, pick-ups with camper shells or small camper units mounted in the bed of a pickup truck, or vans with pop-up style sleeper units.

All other recreational vehicles must use Twin Peaks Campground or private facilities outside the monument.

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include,*

but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Vehicles

Each vehicle must display a permit. Vehicles must be parked within the space provided at the assigned campsite, and no more than 2 vehicles per site are allowed.

Parking for day use/backcountry is provided on the south side of parking lot, near the pit toilet. Motorhomes and trailers are not permitted. Unregistered vehicles are subject to citation/towing at the owner's expense.

Determinations:

- 1. Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
- 2. Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
- 3. Due to limited and restrictive space larger vehicles and unregistered vehicles are not allowed at this location.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10 pm-6 am.

No generators are allowed.

Idling of vehicles for more than 5 minutes at any time of the day is prohibited.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage/Sanitation

Water is not available. Pit toilets are provided.

Electricity

Electricity is not available.

Fires

Wood fires are not permitted. Grills provided may be used for charcoal fires only.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets are permitted at the Alamo Primitive Campground, but must stay within the campground area and be under physical restraint at all times.

Pets may not be left unattended at the campsite. Pets are not allowed on trails.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry permits are not being issued at this time. See Section 1.5, regarding closure areas.

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

36 CFR SECTION 2.13 (a)(1)(b) - Fires

Fires are permitted in government provided grills, self-provided grills, and/or containerized stoves at the Twin Peaks Campground, to include the group sites and the Alamo Primitive Campground. Only containerized stove fires are permitted in designated picnic areas and the backcountry.

Wood fires are not permitted at Alamo Primitive Campground.

Fires shall be extinguished upon termination of use by smothering with clean water.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.15 - Pets

Pets are prohibited in all backcountry areas and trails except for the Palo Verde Trail and the Twin Peaks Campground Perimeter Trail. Pets are permitted in public areas, such as the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area. Pets are also permitted in both Alamo Campground and the Twin Peaks Campground. Walking of pets is permitted on North Puerto Blanco Road, the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, Alamo Canyon Road, and Ajo Mountain Loop Road.

(a)(5) - Pet excrements shall be removed.

(e) Park residents may keep pets in accordance with Organ Pipe Cactus Pet Policy as approved October 11, 1983. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

36 CFR SECTION 2.16 (a) (b) - Horses and Pack Animals

Horses, mules, burros and llamas are designated as "pack animals".

Horses and pack animals are allowed in areas of the Monument including the backcountry, except in areas closed to public use, developed areas including the following: All Campgrounds, the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area, Picnic Areas, the road from the Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, and all maintained trails. Horses may be ridden on the Monument's gravel roads.

- Horse and pack stock users are required to obtain a backcountry permit for overnight trips.
- Hunting or scouting (camps used to scout future hunts of big game in adjoining USFW lands) camps are prohibited.
- Maximum group size for day trips is six people and seven horses.
- All manure dropped in or near any water source must be immediately removed to avoid contamination.

- Horses must be picketed in locations which least damage the vegetation. Animals may not be tied to trees or other vegetation.
- Any commercially guided horse or pack stock trip must be provided by an outfitter authorized to operate under the incidental business permit procedures of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Determinations:

1. *In the interest of visitor safety, stock use is not authorized in the closed areas due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.*
2. *Based on the information and impact reports these rules have been imposed to allow for minimal damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of the National Park Service that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
3. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.20 – Skating, Skateboards and Similar Devices

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.21 (a) – Smoking

All federal buildings and structures are closed to smoking pursuant to Executive Order 13058. Specifically smoking is prohibited in the following areas:

- Visitor Center and all offices and work buildings
- Visitor contact stations (entrance stations, campground entrance station, office)
- Campground amphitheater.
- paint storage room
- Gas Pumps to a diameter of 50 feet
- Propane storage area
- Air quality monitoring stations
- All government owned vehicles
- Shared residential quarters (Dorms)
- Multi-purpose building
- All public rest rooms
- All other areas posted as non-smoking

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to smoking to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.22 (a) (2) - Property

Visitors on authorized backcountry trips are permitted to leave vehicles unattended for the period specified on their camping permits. Vehicles so parked must appropriately display the permit.

****See section 1.5****

Determination: Leaving property unattended is at the owners own risk. Permits must be visible and within compliance or the property may be impounded.

36 CFR SECTION 2.23 (b) - Recreation Fees

Visitors passing through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument lands, via the Bates Well Road, either while exiting or entering the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, may do so without paying the park entrance fee, provided that the party has secured an entry permit from the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and that the intent of the use of park lands is not for recreational purposes. Vehicles are not allowed to park within monument boundaries unless a park entrance permit is purchased.

Determination: Park fees must be secured before recreating within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. If your intent is to pass through the Monument a park fee is not required.

36 CFR SECTION 2.35 (3)(i)(A) - Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances

The following areas are closed to the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or that has been opened, or whose seal is broken or the contents of which have been partially removed: in the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area and the Twin Peaks Campground amphitheater.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to consumption of alcohol to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.38 – Explosives

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.51(e)(f) - Locations Available For Public Assemblies

The following locations are designated for no permit required First Amendment activities involving groups of less than 25 persons:

The southern portion of the picnic area west of the visitor center (see Attachment B)

The eastern portion of the post office box pull-out south of the visitor center (see Attachment B)

Determination: This area has been determined to be the most appropriate location for public assemblies due to its location and availability.

36 CFR SECTION 2.52(c)(e) - Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter

Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising requires a permit when the activity involves more than 25 persons or is requested for a location outside the identified designated areas. §2.52(c)(e)

Determination: Due to the area allowed for public assemblies this is the only area allowed for printed matter.

36 CFR SECTION 2.62 (a)(b) – Memorialization

Erection of monuments requires approval from the Director.

The scattering of human ashes from cremation is only allowed with a permit issued by the Superintendent. Ashes may only be scattered in undeveloped areas, excluding springs, ponds and tinajas. The remains must meet appropriate state laws prior to dispersal.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas are allowed for memorialization.

36 CFR SECTION 3.21(a) (1) - Swimming and bathing

Swimming or bathing is prohibited in any sources of water primarily utilized by wildlife.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected with human influence. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating.

36 CFR SECTION 4.11 – Vehicle Load, Weight and Size Limits

No special determinations at this time.

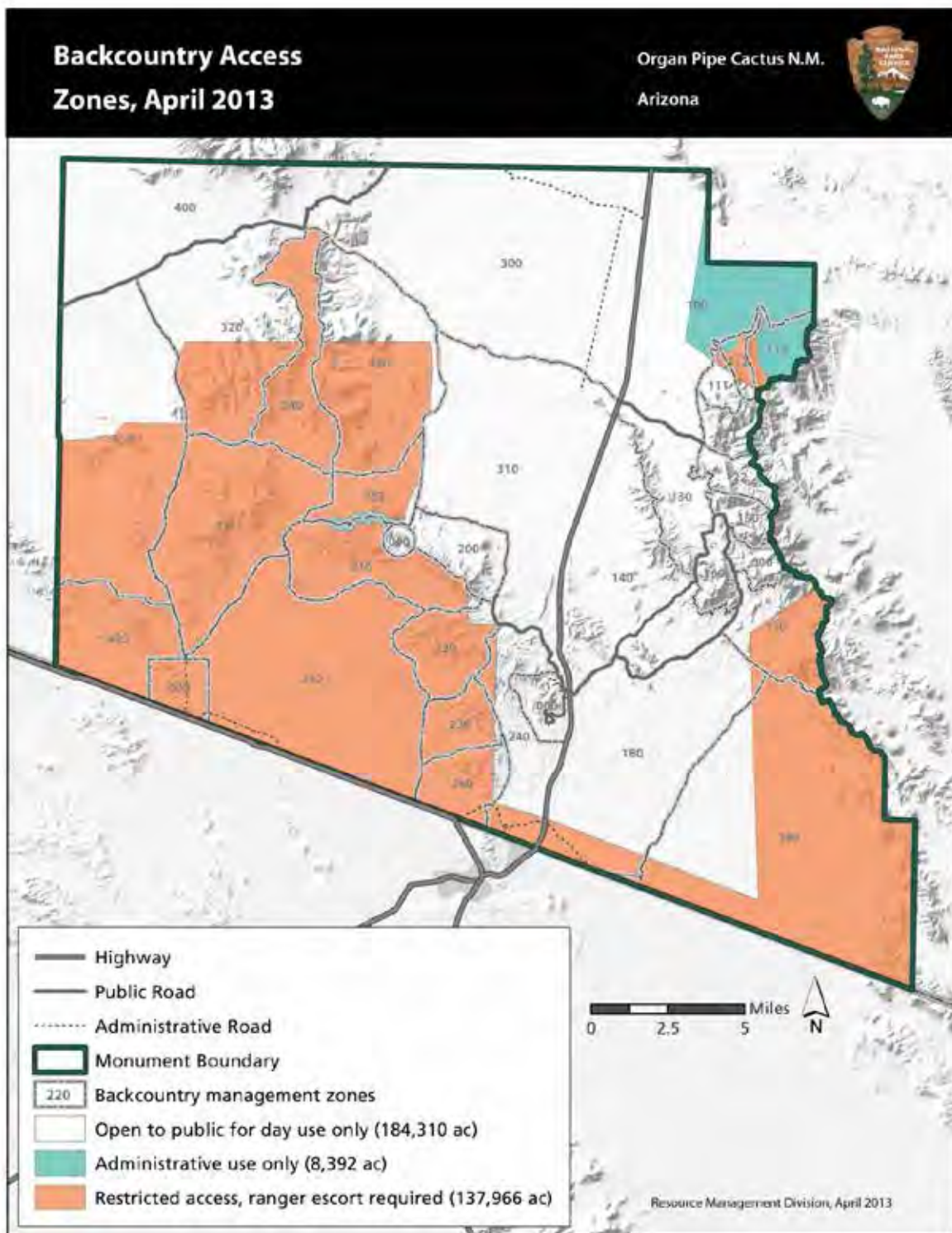
36 CFR SECTION 4.21 – Speed Limits

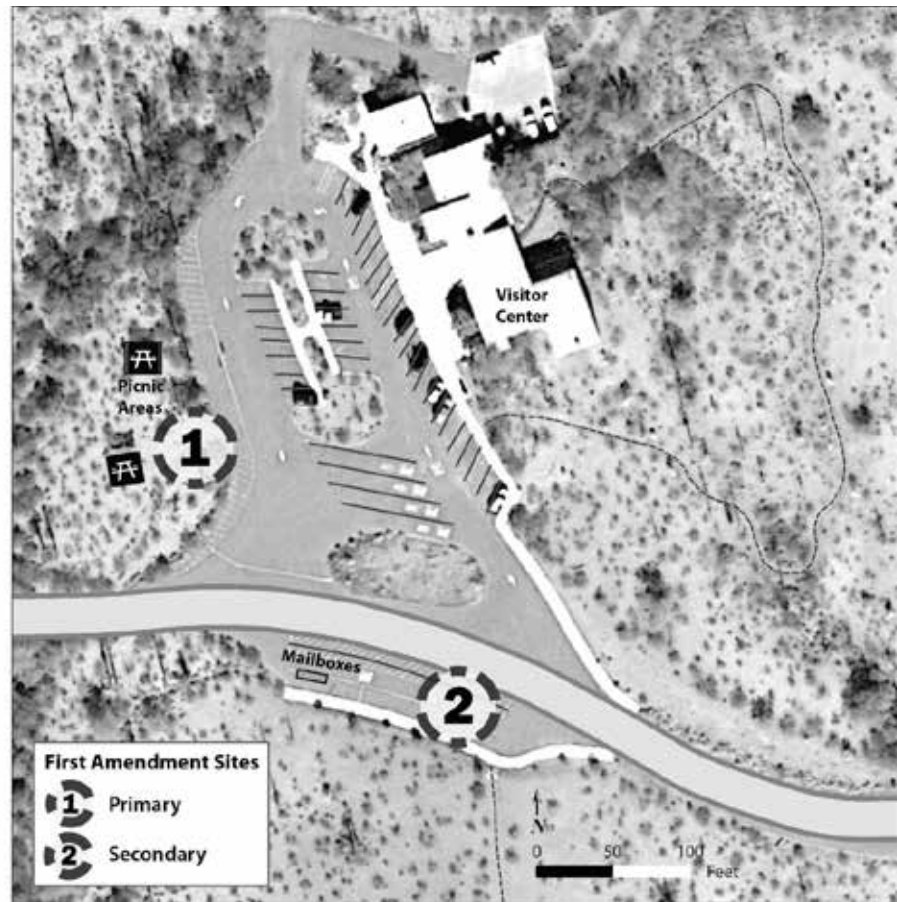
The speed limit on the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground is designated 25 miles per hour. The maximum speed limit for all unpaved roads within the Monument is 25 miles per hour.

Determination: Due to the condition and location of these roads, the speed limit has been designated to be 25 miles per hour for the safety of the individuals driving, people walking or biking on the roads and for the wildlife located near or on the roads.

36 CFR SECTION 4.31 – Hitchhiking

No special determinations at this time.





Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



ORGAN PIPE CACTUS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Superintendent's Compendium

Revised June 2012

COMPENDIUM of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority by the Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

In accordance with the delegated authority provided by regulations as published under Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR), Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following regulatory provisions are established for the management, protection, and public use of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service.

Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained elsewhere in Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1, Parts 1 through 7.

The closures and restrictions delineated in this compendium do not apply to official/administrative use or applications (36 CFR 1.2(d) and 1.5(a)).

Written determinations, which explain the justification behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, appear in this document as italicized print.

Section 1.6(f) states that a list of activities that require a permit must be maintained. That list appears in this document under 1.6.

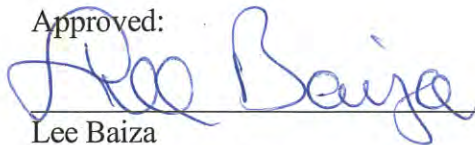
This compendium will remain in effect until specifically amended or supplemented by the Superintendent.

Recommended:


Matthew D. Vandzura
Chief Ranger

5/8/12
Date

Approved:


Lee Baiza
Park Superintendent

5/11/12
Date

PART 1 - GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Superintendent of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has used the discretionary authority granted by Chapter 1 of the 36 CFR 1.5(a) to establish certain closures. These closures and public use limits are necessary for the administration of the park in concert with its enabling legislation and NPS management policies for the benefit and safety of park visitors and the protection of park natural and cultural resources.

Section 1.5 – Visiting Hours, Public Use Limits, Closures and Area Designations for Specific Use or Activities

- (a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours - No special determinations at this time.

Road Closures – The following roads are closed to vehicular traffic except for use by the National Park Service, other Federal, state or local agencies, and other individuals in accordance with approved General Management or Resource Management & Research Plans:

DEVELOPED AREA

- Road to the Sewage Lagoon
- APS Power Line Road
- Road to the Monument Shooting Range
- Road to the Vegetative Recycle Area
- All roads which access the Maintenance Complex and the Park Residential Area
- Road to the Well Complex off of the Twin Peaks Campground Road

Determination: These areas exist to facilitate the overall management of the monument and may include areas that are unsafe for the public or contain equipment and other items of value including sensitive information.

BACKCOUNTRY AREAS

The following roads are closed. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center

- The Border Road (within the Roosevelt Easement) – including the entire length from Lukeville to the east boundary and from Lukeville to the Cabeza Prieta NWR boundary
- Camino de Dos Republicas
- South Puerto Blanco Drive
- Pozo Nuevo Road
- North Puerto Blanco Drive (passed the gate at the Pinkley Picnic Area)
- North Boundary Road from Highway 85 to the Bates Well Road

- Road accessing the former “Stack Property” (west of Lukeville)

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry roads are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Closures – See attachment A.

The following Backcountry Use Zones, as identified on the Trails Illustrated Map of Organ Pipe Cactus NM are closed to visitors. This closure is under quarterly evaluation, the most recent map and list of closures can be found at <http://www.nps.gov/orpi> and in Attachment A of this document. Visitors may also obtain the most current information on closures at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

000 (Quitobquito and Dripping Springs, not Twin Peaks)
 100 (most of 100, see attachment A)
 112
 112
 170 (most of 170, see attachment A)
 190 (most of 190, see attachment A)
 200
 210
 220
 230
 260
 320
 330
 340
 351
 352
 420

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, these backcountry areas are closed due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Backcountry Camping – No backcountry camping is currently authorized

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

Section 1.6 – Permits

(f) A valid permit issued by the Superintendent’s Office is required for the following activities consistent with applicable legislation, federal regulations and administrative policies:

- (1) Public Use Activities: athletic events, races, tournaments, parades or other special events (§ 1.5)
- (2) Collecting Research Specimen: taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals (§ 2.5)
- (3) For threatened and/or endangered species a valid Federal Fish & Wildlife License/Permit is required (50 CFR, Part 3)
- (4) Camping and Food Storage: permits required for designated sites (§ 2.10)
- (5) Audio Disturbances: operating a power saw in a developed area [§ 2.12(a)(2)] or operating portable engines in a non-developed area [§ 2.12(a)(3)]
- (6) Operation of a public address or amplification system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to 36 CFR 2.50 or 2.51 (§ 2.12)
- (7) Delivery or retrieval of a person or object by parachute, helicopter or other airborne means (§ 2.17)
- (8) Non-commercial soliciting (§ 2.17)
- (9) Explosives: using, possessing, storing or transporting of explosives, blasting agents, or explosive materials [§ 2.38(a)] or using or possessing fireworks or firecrackers [§ 2.38(b)]
- (10) Conducting a public spectator event, pageant, wedding, ceremony, organized event similar activities (§ 2.50)
- (11) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations and other public expressions of views that are likely to diminish or effect the visitor experience of others (§ 2.51)
- (12) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising (§ 2.52)
- (13) Memorialization – Scattering human or animal ashes from cremation (§ 2.62)
- (14) Advertisements – Display, posting or distribution (§ 5.1)
- (15) Engaging in or soliciting any business – requires a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations.
- (16) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings, crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television. [§ 5.5(a)]

- (17) Still photography of props, models, or sets, or other articles of commerce for the purpose of commercial advertising. [§ 5.5(b)]
- (18) Construction of buildings or other facilities (§ 5.7)

Determination: Permit systems authorized and issued pursuant to specific regulations in this chapter, except Section 1.5, need not be supported by a written determination unless required by the specific authorizing regulation [48 FR 30262].

PART 2 - RESOURCE PROTECTION, PUBLIC USE AND RECREATION

Section 2.1- Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources

(c)(1) Collection of a reasonable amount of native fruit is permitted for personal use or consumption. Quantities of fruits that can be collected are limited to (1) kilogram [2.2 pounds] per adult, per day. Commercial collecting of native fruits is prohibited to ensure that fruits are available for recreational collecting and to prevent the ecosystem from being adversely affected.

The following species are classified as native fruits for the purposes of collecting:

- Organ Pipe Cactus Fruit
- Saguaro Cactus Fruit
- Prickley Pear Cactus Fruit
- Jojoba Fruit
- Wolfberry Fruit

Determination: The removal of native fruits in limited quantities does not have an adverse impact on park resources. Commercial harvesting of fruits would deny visitors the opportunity to experience the monument in its natural state.

Section 2.2- Wildlife Protection

(e) The use of artificial light to view wildlife within the monument is prohibited.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected while being artificially illuminated. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating. The proliferation of poor quality outdoor lighting is the principle threat to the night sky. Reducing the number of multiple lighting systems will allow for activities focused on public enjoyment of dark skies.

Section 2.10 – Camping and Food Storage

TWIN PEAKS CAMPGROUND

Vehicles:

- The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site.
- Camping with a permit is allowed on a first-come, first-served basis
- Maximum RV length is (35) feet [vehicles are measured from bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels are measured from hitch point to rear bumper]
- One RV per campsite, with two vehicle maximum
- Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited
- Mirrors extending more than (6) inches to side will be removed or folded in when not towing a trailer or vehicle

Tent Camping:

- Two tent maximum per campsite
- Maximum site occupancy is (6) persons
- Tents will only be erected on the provided tent pads (gravel area)

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.*

Stay Limits

Camping is limited to (21) calendar days during the peak season which is designated as November 15th – April 15th.

Camping is limited to a maximum of (28) calendar days during any one calendar year.

Check-out time is 11:00 a.m.

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Water Usage

Washing vehicles is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.

Quiet Hours

10:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. daily

Unreasonable idling of recreational vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Generator Hours

Generators may be operated from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Electrical Outlets

Are for the use of personal portable convenience items such as electric razors and blow dryers.

Plugging electrical extension cords into bathroom outlets is prohibited.

Operating appliances, lights and accessories by hooking up to electrical outlets is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Wood Fires

Using native Sonoran Desert woods or vegetation for fires is prohibited, unless the visitor possesses a valid BLM or other agency collecting permit for native woods (i.e mesquite) or written permission from a private landowner in accordance with State plant laws. Burning charcoal, milled lumber, presto logs and obvious non-native woods is otherwise permitted.

Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

All fires must be extinguished prior to leaving the campsite.

Determination: Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.

GROUP CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

The park entrance fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site.

The Group Campground is for organized groups and available only by reservation.

Reservations are accepted no more than six months in advance.

Camping is limited to 14 days from January 15-April 30, and 30 days from May 1-January 14.

RV (motorhomes, trailers, tent trailers) camping is available at sites 1 & 2.

RV/tent camping is available at site 1 only.

Tent camping is available at sites 3, 4 and 5, with parking available near each site. RV parking is not allowed at these sites. Tents are limited to the marked perimeter.

Check out time is 11 am.

The maximum number of people and units:

Site Number	# People	# Tents	# RVs
1	45	15	7
2	40	0	13
3	18	6	0
4	24	8	0
5	24	8	0

Determination: Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.

Vehicles

Maximum RV length is 40' (motorhomes measured bumper to bumper, trailers and fifth wheels measured from hitch point to rear bumper).

Washing vehicles in the campground is prohibited.

Mirrors extending more than 6" to side will be removed or folded in when not towing trailer/vehicle.

Determinations:

1. *Length restrictions are imposed due to the space that is available within the campground sites. Larger vehicles in the small space available make it likely to run over or into vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek.*
2. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of the limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
3. *Mirrors extending more than 6" are much more likely to cause "mirror slaps" with other vehicles in such constricted areas. Mirrors extending more than 6" are also more acceptable to catching vegetation in the constricted area of the campground.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10:00 pm-6:00 am. Unreasonable idling of vehicles during quiet hours is prohibited.

Generators are allowed between 8:00 am-10:00 am, 4:00 pm-6:00 pm.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage

Water is available at the outside faucets or at the restrooms. It is prohibited to hook up a hose or similar device to these faucets. Hoses for filling tanks with potable water are available at the dump station. Dispose of gray water in the sanitary sink in the restroom building or at the dump station. Sewage can be disposed of at the dump station.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting water use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of limited water within the Monument and controls costs.*
2. *Proper disposal of gray water and sewage is in compliance with 36 CFR 2.14 – Sanitation and Refuse.*

Electricity

Electrical hookups are not available. Using extension cords for providing power to the site, vehicle, or rechargeable items is prohibited.

Determination: Restricting electrical use by visitors reduces the overall consumption of

electricity within the monument and controls costs.

Fires

Ground fires and collecting/burning of native vegetation are prohibited. Fires must adhere to the restrictions in Section 2.13.

Determinations:

- 1. Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
- 2. Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets must be on a leash or under physical restraint at all times. Pets are allowed on the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, but not on the Desert View, Victoria Mine, and other trails; Pets are not permitted in the restrooms. Pet areas are marked and available around the outside of the Campground Perimeter Trail.

Pet excrements shall be removed – 36 CFR 2.15 (a)(5).

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Wildlife, Rocks, and Plants

Feeding wildlife is prohibited.

The removal or defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited.

Shrubs and trees are not to be used as anchors for tents or for clotheslines.

Determinations:

- 1. The feeding of wildlife is prohibited not only for the visitor's safety but for the wildlife to stay wild and not depend on human support for food. 36 CFR 2.2(a)(2)-Wildlife Protection.*
- 2. To provide for future generations with the same views and enjoyment of the environment as our generation has the defacing of any rock or plant is strictly prohibited. 36 CFR 2.1 Resource protection*

ALAMO PRIMITIVE CAMPGROUND

Camping Limit

Permits are required. The park entrance fee and camping permit fee must be paid at the Visitor Center prior to camping or occupying a site. Permit must be placed on the dashboard of the vehicle so the number can be read through the windshield.

Vehicles without a current permit are subject to citation or towing at the owners expense. Length of stay is limited to 7 consecutive days, with a break of at least 30 days before a new permit can be issued.

Camping is limited to 4 established sites. Maximum capacity is 5 people per site, with a maximum of 20 people for the entire campground.

Campers may use sleeping bags, tents, passenger cars, pick-ups with camper shells or small camper units mounted in the bed of a pickup truck, or vans with pop-up style sleeper units.

All other recreational vehicles must use Twin Peaks Campground or private facilities outside the monument.

Determinations:

- 1. Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
- 2. Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
- 3. Camping duration limits are intended to prevent domination of a campsite or the area by a relative few and to more equitably allocate use of the area. Time limits are also intended as a means to prevent an accumulation of impacts to camping areas. Such impacts include, but are not limited to: improvements to campsites, accumulation of body wastes and litter, expansion of campsite areas and trails and similar resource impacts.*

Vehicles

Each vehicle must display a permit. Vehicles must be parked within the space provided at the assigned campsite, and no more than 2 vehicles per site are allowed.

Parking for day use/backcountry is provided on the south side of parking lot, near the pit toilet. Motorhomes and trailers are not permitted. Unregistered vehicles are subject to citation/towing at the owner's expense.

Determinations:

1. *Limitations on the number of vehicles and people at a site minimize damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of a National Park Service campground that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of campground experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
2. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Nothing in this paragraph precludes long-term day use of the park by visitors.*
3. *Due to limited and restrictive space larger vehicles and unregistered vehicles are not allowed at this location.*

Quiet Hours

Quiet hours are 10 pm-6 am.

No generators are allowed.

Idling of vehicles for more than 5 minutes at any time of the day is prohibited.

Determination: Regulating noise within the Monument provides opportunities for a range of visitor experiences.

Water Usage/Sanitation

Water is not available. Pit toilets are provided.

Electricity

Electricity is not available.

Fires

Wood fires are not permitted. Grills provided may be used for charcoal fires only.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

Pets

Pets are permitted at the Alamo Primitive Campground, but must stay within the campground area and be under physical restraint at all times.

Pets may not be left unattended at the campsite. Pets are not allowed on trails.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

Backcountry Camping

Backcountry permits are not being issued at this time. See Section 1.5, regarding closure areas.

Determination: In the interest of visitor safety, backcountry camping is not authorized due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.

36 CFR SECTION 2.13 (a)(1)(b) - Fires

Fires are permitted in government provided grills, self-provided grills, and/or containerized stoves at the Twin Peaks Campground, to include the group sites and the Alamo Primitive Campground. Only containerized stove fires are permitted in designated picnic areas and the backcountry.

Wood fires are not permitted at Alamo Primitive Campground.

Fires shall be extinguished upon termination of use by smothering with clean water.

Determinations:

1. *Restricting campfires to designated containers reduces the severity and number of areas impacted by campfires and reduces the chance of a wildfire igniting from sparks or other debris.*
2. *Collecting/burning of native vegetation is prohibited – 36 CFR 2.1(a)(4) – Preservation of natural resources - wood gathering/firewood prohibited.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.15 - Pets

Pets are prohibited in all backcountry areas and trails except for the Palo Verde Trail and the Twin Peaks Campground Perimeter Trail. Pets are permitted in public areas, such as the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area. Pets are also permitted in both Alamo Campground and the Twin Peaks Campground. Walking of pets is permitted on North Puerto Blanco Road, the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, Alamo Canyon Road, and Ajo Mountain Loop Road.

(a)(5) - Pet excrements shall be removed.

(e) Park residents may keep pets in accordance with Organ Pipe Cactus Pet Policy as approved October 11, 1983. That policy is hereby adopted and made part of these orders.

Determination: Throughout all National Parks, pets must adhere to 36 CFR 2.15. These restrictions have been implemented for pet safety, visitor safety, wildlife safety and resource perseverance.

36 CFR SECTION 2.16 (a) (b) - Horses and Pack Animals

Horses, mules, burros and llamas are designated as "pack animals" .

Horses and pack animals are allowed in areas of the Monument including the backcountry, except in areas closed to public use, developed areas including the following: All Campgrounds, the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area, Picnic Areas, the road from the Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground, and all maintained trails. Horses may be ridden on the Monument's gravel roads.

- Horse and pack stock users are required to obtain a backcountry permit for overnight trips.
- Hunting or scouting (camps used to scout future hunts of big game in adjoining USFW lands) camps are prohibited.
- Maximum group size for day trips is six people and seven horses.
- All manure dropped in or near any water source must be immediately removed to avoid contamination.
- Horses must be picketed in locations which least damage the vegetation. Animals may not be tied to trees or other vegetation.

- Any commercially guided horse or pack stock trip must be provided by an outfitter authorized to operate under the incidental business permit procedures of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Determinations:

1. *In the interest of visitor safety, stock use is not authorized in the closed areas due to the high frequency of cross-border illegal activity.*
2. *Based on the information and impact reports these rules have been imposed to allow for minimal damage to vegetation and topography as well as help maintain the characteristics of the National Park Service that visitors seek. Less restrictive measures would not provide adequate protection to park resources or provide reasonable opportunities or the type of experience the public seeks when visiting the monument.*
3. *Limiting camping to specific areas is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of the environmental and scenic values, protection of natural resources, implementation of management responsibilities and equitable use of facilities and avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities.*

36 CFR SECTION 2.20 – Skating, Skateboards and Similar Devices

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.21 (a) – Smoking

Smoking is prohibited in the following areas:

- Visitor Center and all offices and work buildings
- Visitor contact stations (entrance stations, campground entrance station, office)
- Campground amphitheater.
- paint storage room
- Gas Pumps to a diameter of 50 feet
- Propane storage area
- Air quality monitoring stations
- All government owned vehicles
- Shared residential quarters (Dorms)
- Multi-purpose building
- All public rest rooms
- All other areas posted as non-smoking

All federal buildings and structures are closed to smoking pursuant to Executive Order 13058.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to smoking to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.22 (a) (2) - Property

Visitors on authorized backcountry trips are permitted to leave vehicles unattended for the period specified on their camping permits. Vehicles so parked must appropriately display the permit.

****See section 1.5****

Determination: Leaving property unattended is at the owners own risk. Permits must be visible and within compliance or the property may be impounded.

36 CFR SECTION 2.23 (b) - Recreation Fees

Visitors passing through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument lands, via the Bates Well Road, either while exiting or entering the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, may do so without paying the park entrance fee; provided that the party has secured an entry permit from the Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge and that the intent of the use of park lands is not for recreational purposes. Vehicles are not allowed to park within monument boundaries unless a park entrance permit is purchased.

Determination: Park fees must be secured before recreating within Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. If your intent is to pass through the Monument a park fee is not required.

36 CFR SECTION 2.35 (3)(i)(A) - Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances

The following areas are closed to the consumption of alcoholic beverages and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or that has been opened, or whose seal is broken or the contents of which have been partially removed: in the Kris Eggle Visitor Center area and the Twin Peaks Campground amphitheater.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas have been closed to consumption of alcohol to provide a healthy and safe atmosphere for all individuals.

36 CFR SECTION 2.38 – Explosives

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 2.51(e)(f) - Locations Available For Public Assemblies

The following area is designated for Public Assemblies with a permit from the Superintendent's Office: the area adjacent to the bicycle rack in front of the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Due to the public congestion this area receives, no more than 10 persons may be permitted to assemble at one time.

Determination: This area has been determined to be the most appropriate location for public assemblies due to its location and availability.

36 CFR SECTION 2.52(c)(e) - Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter

The sale or distribution of printed matter is permitted for only the area adjacent to the bicycle rack in front of the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Determination: Due to the area allowed for public assemblies this is the only area allowed for printed matter.

36 CFR SECTION 2.62 (a)(b) – Memorialization

Erection of monuments requires approval from the Director.

The scattering of human ashes from cremation is only allowed with a permit issued by the Superintendent. Ashes may only be scattered in undeveloped areas, excluding springs, ponds and tinajas. The remains must meet appropriate state laws prior to dispersal.

Determination: Due to the health and safety factors these areas are allowed for memorialization.

36 CFR SECTION 3.21(a) (1) - Swimming and bathing

Swimming or bathing is prohibited in any sources of water primarily utilized by wildlife.

Determination: Animal's natural habits and activities can be adversely affected with human influence. Some of these activities include feeding, resting and mating.

36 CFR SECTION 4.11 – Vehicle Load, Weight and Size Limits

No special determinations at this time.

36 CFR SECTION 4.21 – Speed Limits

The speed limit on the road from the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to the Twin Peaks Campground is designated 25 miles per hour. The maximum speed limit for all unpaved roads within the

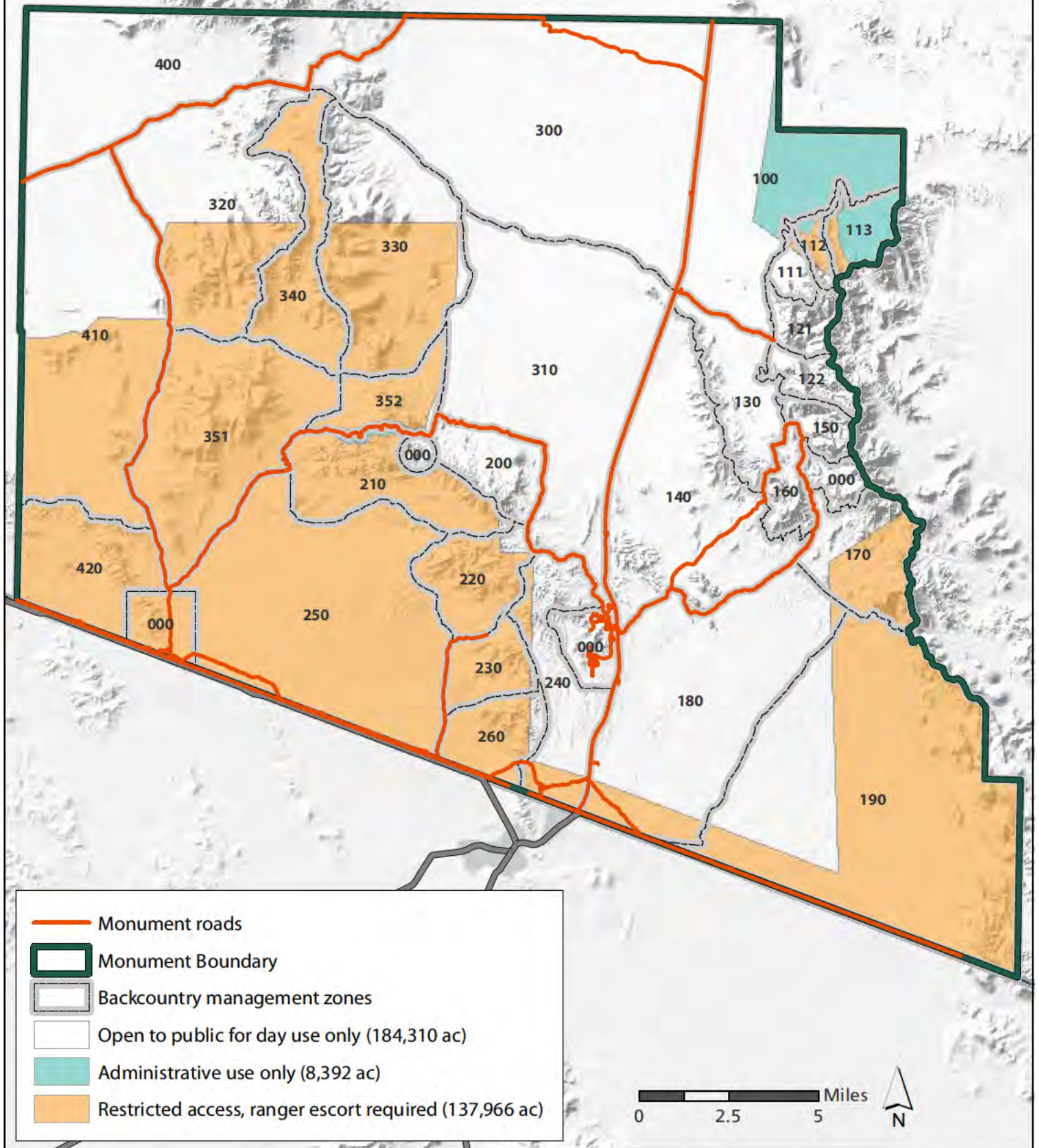
Monument is 25 miles per hour.

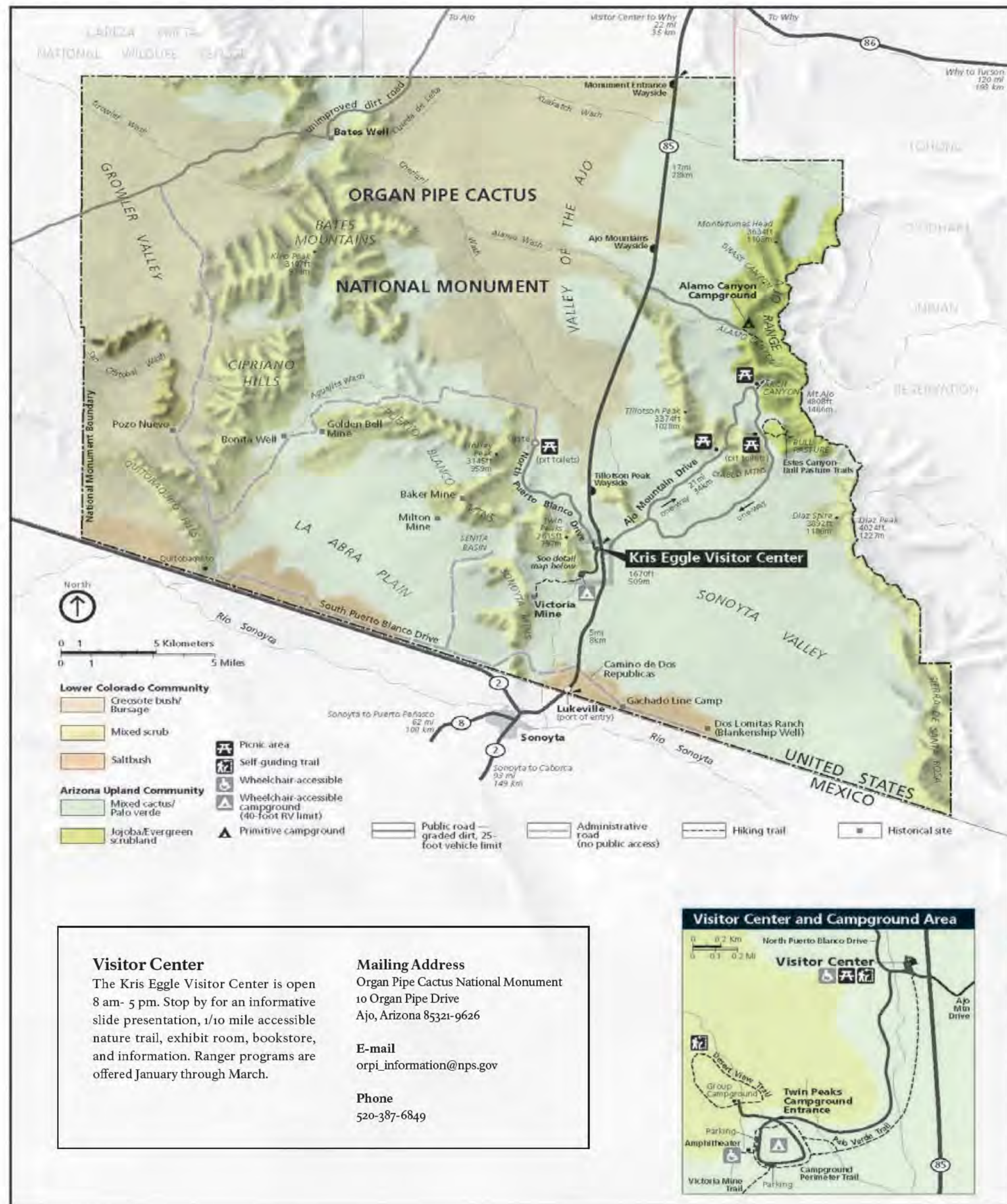
Determination: Due to the condition and location of these roads, the speed limit has been designated to be 25 miles per hour for the safety of the individuals driving, people walking or biking on the roads and for the wildlife located near or on the roads.

36 CFR SECTION 4.31 – Hitchhiking

No special determinations at this time.

Backcountry Zones and April 2013 Closure Status





Organ Pipe Cactus

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
2010-2011



Welcome to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

What draws us

into the desert is

the search

for something intimate

in the remote.

~ Edward Abbey

This is a vibrant desert of life, a forest of towering cacti, a home to creatures found nowhere else on earth. Blistered by baking summer sun and deluged with torrential monsoon storms, this is a land of extremes, of unexpected paradoxes. Situated in the Sonoran Desert, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument showcases a flourishing ecosystem of species evolved to exist in a harsh environment.

The Sonoran Desert encompasses a large portion of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Local species are specifically adapted to live in this region's peculiar climatic conditions. Times of scorching heat are punctuated by two rainy seasons, which bring periods of intense growth and flowering of desert vegetation. In turn, the life cycles of wildlife are based on the seasonal availability of food. Life in the Sonoran Desert is dictated by the heavens, reliant on rain and sun for sustenance.

Early peoples of this region relied on the environment for life-giving sustenance. The Tohono O'odham people have lived in concert with the land for generations, making a home in the desert by using local resources for survival. Harvesting succulent fruit of the organ pipe and saguaro cacti, hunting mule deer and bighorn sheep, the Tohono O'odham are interwoven with the Sonoran Desert, a people dependent on desert bounty.

During the mid-1600s, Spanish explorers and missionaries arrived in the Sonoran Desert and were later followed by settlers, ranchers and miners. Over the centuries development and land use threatened the delicate desert ecosystem. By the 1930s concerned citizens stepped up to protect an endangered desert. How is it possible to convince a government thousands of miles away there is value in strong and silent saguaros, in coyotes trotting through arroyos, in organ pipe cacti reaching for the skies? How can people who have never experienced the marvels of a desert be persuaded these landscapes are more than barren desolation?

Through the words and petitions of many individuals, in 1937 President Franklin D. Roosevelt was convinced of the national importance of the Sonoran Desert and used his executive powers to create Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. Years later the United Nations declared the Monument an International Biosphere Reserve for its diversity, rare and endangered species, rich cultural history and ecosystem of international importance.

Today as we stroll the trails around the monument, watch the sun rise over the mountains, and hear cactus wrens calling, we are seeing the Sonoran Desert as generations have before us. In a land of the desert sun and lofty cactus is a wealth of life waiting to be discovered.

Superintendent's Welcome

Welcome to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument! America's National Parks are about caring for the land, the wildlife, and our spirit as a people. The National Parks serve as shining examples of America's foresight, a deep love for country, and a generosity that is evidenced by the preservation of so many representative habitats, biomes, and histories. The National Parks provide places to discover the meaning of our spirit, our country and our world through preservation of natural ecosystems and cultural traditions.

During your visit enjoy the opportunity to camp, hike, bird, photograph, watch wildlife and explore the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. Join a park ranger for an activity or explore and discover the Monument for yourself. Experience your America and enjoy your stay at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument!

Lee Baiza
Superintendent



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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Protecting 516 square miles of Sonoran Desert, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is a sanctuary for diverse and endangered species. This park was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 and has since been recognized as a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations. Over 95% of Organ Pipe Cactus is designated wilderness. Come explore the wonders and the wild of the Sonoran Desert!

Superintendent

Lee Balza

Mailing Address

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
10 Organ Pipe Drive
Ajo, Arizona 85321-9626

Phone

520-387-6849

E-mail

orpi_information@nps.gov

Web site

<http://www.nps.gov/orpi>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Early settlers encountering towering skeletons were reminded of church pipe organs and called these cacti organ pipes. If you cut them open do think they would be hollow?

Organ Pipe Cactus

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is one of the few places in the United States where you can see large stands of organ pipe cacti.



An organ pipe cactus produces its first flowers at age 35. The flowers blossom at night and are wilted by mid-morning the next day.

Organ pipes can live to be 150 years old!



Just before and during the summer rains the organ pipe fruit ripens and splits open to reveal its red pulpy flesh.



Creatures of the Sonoran Desert feast on the juicy fruit and disperse the seeds across the desert.

Average height at maturity is 15 ft.

Columnar cacti such as the organ pipe and saguaro can form these mutant growths called "crisates".



Information and Services

Emergencies

For 24-hour emergency response, call 911 or 623-580-5515. The closest medical clinic is the Desert Senita Community Health Center in Ajo, 520-387-5651. The closest hospitals are in Phoenix and Tucson.

Visitor Center

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center is open daily 8 am- 5 pm except Thanksgiving and Christmas. An orientation program, short accessible nature trail, exhibits and bookstore are available. Ranger programs are offered January through March.

Entrance Fees

\$8 per vehicle, \$4 per pedestrian or bicyclist. Pass is good for seven days. Entrance is free with Interagency and Organ Pipe Cactus Annual, Golden Age, Access, and Senior Passes.

Accessibility

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center, restrooms and 1/10 mile nature trail are fully accessible.

Pets

Pets must be on a leash at all times. Pets are allowed in campgrounds, picnic areas, the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, and monument roads.

Camping

(see page 11 for map and details)

Fires

Fires are permitted only in campground fire grills, using Presto® Logs, charcoal, or firewood. Gathering dead or down wood is prohibited.

Lost & Found

Contact the Kris Eggle Visitor Center 520-387-6849 ext. 7302.

Firearms

As of February 22, 2010, a new federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Arizona, and local laws, to possess firearms in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all applicable state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the monument; these are signed at public entrances. If you have questions, please contact the Kris Eggle Visitor Center 520-387-6849 ext. 7302.

Camping

There are two campgrounds at Organ Pipe Cactus, Twin Peaks and Alamo. Twin Peaks is the main developed campground near the Kris Eggle Visitor Center. Alamo is a primitive campground at the entrance to Alamo Canyon.

Twin Peaks Campground: Open all year. Fee: \$12 per night or \$6 for holders of Golden Age/Access/Senior Passes. 40 foot maximum vehicle length. Generator use permitted 8 am-10 am and 4 pm-6 pm. Sites are first-come, first-served, no reservations.

Facilities: Restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, fire pits, dump station. No hookups.



Alamo Primitive Campground:

Open all year. Fee \$8 per night or \$4 with a Pass. Obtain required permit at visitor center. Open to tents, pickup campers, and vans only; all vehicles must be under 15 feet in length. No generators. Limited to four tent sites which may fill early, especially in winter. No advance reservations.

Facilities: Pit toilet, picnic tables, grills. *Water unavailable.*

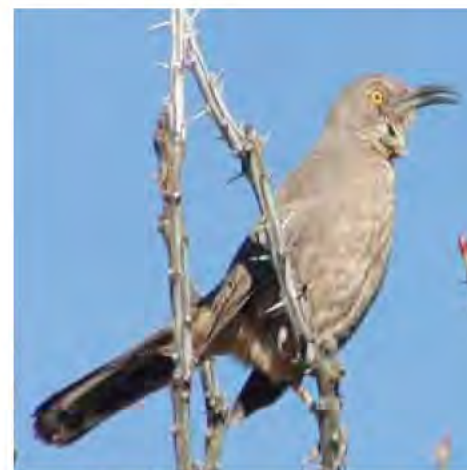
Bird Guide

What bird is that?

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument hosts over 270 bird species, from year-round regulars to neo-tropical migrants. With an incredible range of topography and habitat, the monument provides home and sustenance to a diverse variety of birds. Many birds in Organ Pipe Cactus are seasonal visitors, stopping over during the cool winter months to forage and continue south.

Pictured here are some of the most commonly seen permanent residents in the monument. How do they survive the extreme, hot summers? Some birds combat the heat by slimming their feathers close to their bodies to minimize the insulating feather warmth. Others reserve their activity to the cool early mornings, or hide in the shade of a bush or rock during the heat of the day. Birds also maintain a normally high core body temperature and expel heat from their bodies through scaly legs. These qualities allow birds to survive and endure hot desert summers.

The best places for bird watching are along the Alamo Canyon Trail and behind the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.



Curve-billed Thrasher



Northern Cardinal



Costa's Hummingbird



Gambel's Quail



Cactus Wren



Gila Woodpecker

Teddy Bear Cholla

Flower Guide

When does the Sonoran Desert bloom?

If you are lucky, you may see the desert carpeted in flowers. After heavy winter rains plants burst into bloom, some flowering only days after receiving water. Other flowers wait patiently for the summer rains to come.

Sonoran Desert wildflowers grow quickly and in large numbers following rains. Once the soil dries, plants die back. Desert wildflowers are not only beautiful, but they are essential to the survival of many desert creatures.



Buckhorn Cholla



Pincushion Cactus



Teddy Bear Cholla



Mexican Gold Poppy



Mojave Lupine



Fairy Duster



Desert Marigold

Blooming Seasons	Winter Rain					Summer Rain					Winter Rain	
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cacti												
Organ Pipe												
Saguaro												
Cholla												
Prickly Pear												
Other Perennials												
Palo Verde												
Ironwood												
Fairy Duster												
Brittlebush												
Ocotillo												
Annuals												
Globemallow												
Mex. Gold Poppy												
Lupine												
Desert Marigold												
Chuparosa												

NOTE: The blooming times of all annuals and many perennials depend upon the amount of rain and the time of year when the rain falls. The chart is only an average.



How do you say that?

Ajo: AH-ho. Spanish for garlic; also a Tohono O’odham word for a copper-colored pigment.

Bajada: ba-HAH-dah. The rocky slopes of a mountain range. Many diverse species take advantage of the bajadas’ well drained, gravelly soil. It is a good place to look for wildlife.

Cholla: CHOY-uh. A group of cacti known for painful spines and easily detachable, jointed branches. Sometimes called “jumping cactus”.

Gila: HEE-lah. As in Gila Monster, Gila Woodpecker and Gila River.

Ocotillo: OH-koh-TEE-yo. A very thorny plant, often mistaken for a cactus. The ocotillo has the ability to sprout leaves within 48 hours of rain.

Saguaro: sa-WA-roh. Arizona’s tallest cactus and a major indicator species for the Sonoran Desert.



Hedgehog Cactus

Planning Your Visit

What can I do here?

In one hour

Explore the Sonoran Desert by driving the 10 mile round-trip North Puerto Blanco Scenic Drive. This graded dirt road is accessible to passenger vehicles but not recommended for motor homes or trailers over 25 feet.

Visit the Kris Eggle Visitor Center for an informative presentation, 1/10 mile accessible nature trail, and exhibit room.

Join a park ranger or volunteer for an interpretive talk or hike. See today’s programs posted at the visitor center.

In two or three hours

Walk the easy 1.2-mile Desert View Nature Trail from the campground to experience the Sonoran Desert landscape and learn about the desert plants and animals

Tour the beautiful 21-mile Ajo Mountain Scenic Loop. This graded dirt road winds through the Ajo Mountains and provides stunning views of organ pipes, saguaros and other cacti. Not recommended for motor homes or trailers over 25 feet.



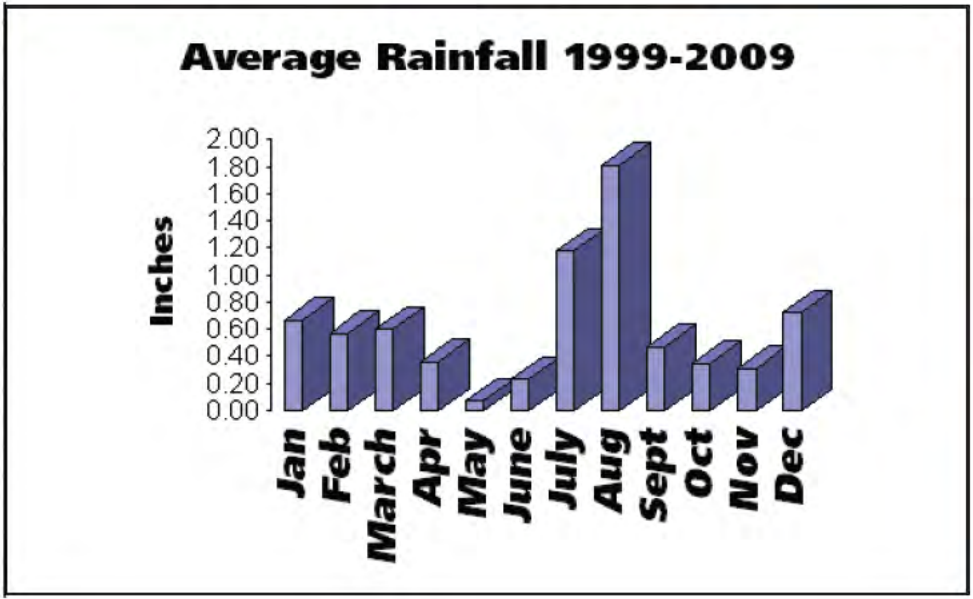
Ranger program



Ajo Mountain Scenic Loop



Summer storm



In half a day

Hike one of the monument’s trails, such as the Arch Canyon trail, the Victoria Mine trail, or Alamo Canyon.

For a more strenuous trail, hike the rugged Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture trail into a unique ecosystem high in the Ajo Mountains.

In a full day

With a full day to explore Organ Pipe Cactus, you can immerse yourself in the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Combine the Ajo Mountain Scenic Loop with some of the hiking trails and a stop at the visitor center. Ask visitor center staff for further suggestions.

Nearby Attractions

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge
Register at Visitor Center for free permit.
North Second Street
Ajo, AZ 85321
(520)387-6483

Tohono O’odham National Museum & Cultural Center
Federal Route 19
Fresnal Canyon Rd.
Topawa, AZ 85639
(520)383-0201

El Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar, Sonora, Mexico
The sister park to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Mexico’s El Pinacate has huge volcanic craters and crunchy cinder cones. Located 31 miles west of Sonoyta on Highway 2.
Estación Biologica
Carretera Mexico 8 km 52
Puerto Peñasco, Sonora
01 (638) 384-9007

International Sonoran Desert Alliance
Art Gallery
401 W. Esperanza
Ajo, AZ 85321
(502)387-6858

Weather

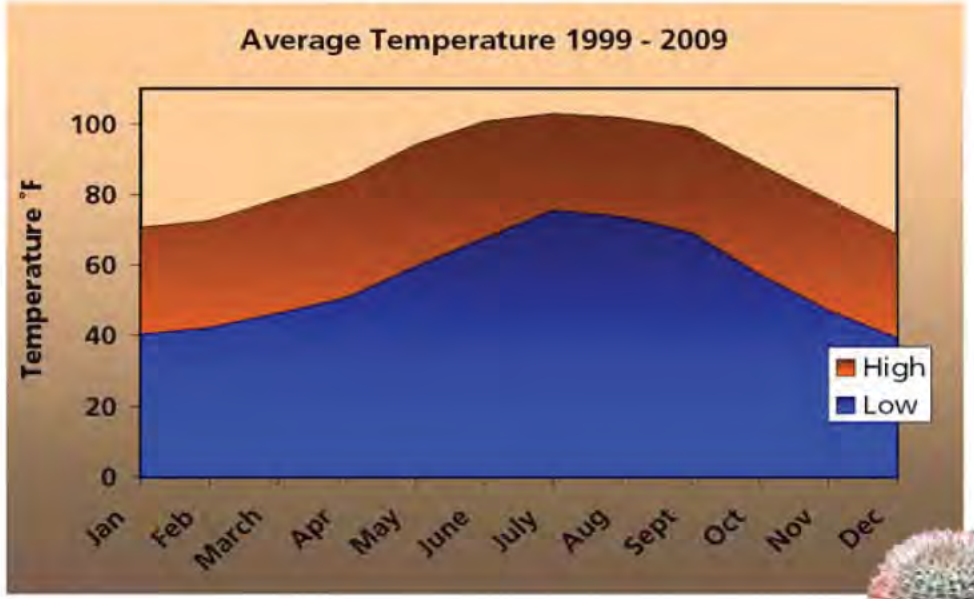
A desert with two rainy seasons? The Sonoran Desert has two wet seasons, with violent thunderstorms and heavy rain in the summer months followed by gentle showers in the winter.

Most visitors to Organ Pipe Cactus come between January and March, when the days are warm and nights are cool.

When should I visit?

Rainy winters can bring beautiful wildflower blooms beginning in February (see Flower Guide page 10).

Summer months have extreme weather conditions. April - July are hot and dry. Late summer months bring monsoons with occasional heavy rains and flash floods.



Barrel Cactus

Trail Guide



Alamo Canyon trail



Victoria Mine trail



Bull Pasture - Estes Canyon trails



View from Bull Pasture Trail

Fishhook Pincushion Cactus

Trail	Distance/ Time (round-trip)	Description
Visitor Center Nature Trail	0.15 miles 5-10 minutes 	Easy brick path from Visitor Center with exhibits. Accessible to scooters and wheelchairs.
Campground Perimeter	1 mile 20-30 minutes 	Easy loop around Twin Peaks Campground. Pets allowed.
Palo Verde	2.6 miles 1.5-2 hours 	Easy trail between Twin Peaks Campground and Visitor Center with views of the Ajo Range. Pets allowed.
Alamo Canyon	2 miles 1.5 hours	Easy trail to historic ranching site. Recommended for birding. Footing can be rough.
Desert View	1.2 miles 45-60 minutes	Easy loop trail to beautiful vistas. Ideal for sunrise and sunset. Benches provided.
Victoria Mine	4.5 miles 2 hours	Easy trail meandering across the Sonoran Desert to historic mining structures. Crosses several arroyos (washes). Benches provided. Mines are closed. For your safety do not enter mines.
Arch Canyon	2 miles 1 hour	Easy-Moderate trail steadily climbing into canyon. Good views of arch and oak-juniper environment.
Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture	4.1 miles 2-3 hours	Difficult loop trail with steep grade and exposed cliffs. Spectacular views of monument and Mexico. Estes Canyon is great for birding.

Staying Safe in the Desert

The desert is a wondrous, magical place! To enjoy it safely keep the following in mind...

- Carry and drink plenty of water; at least one gallon per person per day.
- Sun protection is important. Remember to wear lots of sunscreen and protective clothing.
- Ouch! Desert vegetation is spiky, so avoid contact. Spines may be removed with tweezers.
- Flash floods occur instantly and are dangerous. Avoid washes when rain is threatening.
- Never enter a flooded roadway. Wait for the water to subside and it is safe to cross.
- Do not stick your hands or feet anywhere you cannot see. That is where snakes, scorpions, and spiders hide.
- Hike with a partner. Let someone else know where you are going and when you plan to return.



Life of a Saguaro

Ancient icon of the Sonoran Desert, the saguaro (sa WAH ro) cactus flourishes across Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The saguaro, like many cacti, was originally a tropical plant which has endured millennia of geologic and climatic changes. Geared and equipped for survival, this tall columnar cactus has stood the test of time and adapted to extreme desert conditions. How does the saguaro survive today in the Sonoran Desert?

Baby saguaros come from tiny seeds the size of a poppy seed. Vulnerable to intense sun or trampling from animals, young saguaros that sprout under a sheltering bush or tree are



most likely to survive to adulthood. Vegetation such as creosote bush and palo verde trees serve as “nurse plants” to young saguaros, providing shade and protection from harsh sun, wind, and rain. Over the first few decades of life, a saguaro focuses all of its energy on vertical growth until it towers over its nurse plant. Eventually it may kill the nurse plant by depriving it of water and nutrients.

To live in the arid Sonoran Desert, saguaros are masters of water storage. Thick accordion-like skin covers the flesh of the cactus in wavy pleats that are tight and pinched in times of drought. During heavy rains the folds swell as the saguaro guzzles copious quantities of water, storing up to 70 gallons of water per foot. How much water could be inside a full grown 30-foot saguaro cactus?

After living several decades, a saguaro bursts

into flower. Huge blossoms garnish the top of the cactus during warm summer nights, attracting moths and bats to feed on the nectar and pollinate the cactus. Later, the sweet fruit will be a feast for desert creatures, which spread thousands of saguaro seeds across the desert.

A saguaro may live up to two centuries, enduring droughts, floods, storms, and host a myriad of creatures. Gila woodpeckers scoop out homes for themselves in the soft flesh of the saguaro, endangered Lesser long-nosed bats gain sustenance from the nectar, and bobcats sleep atop the spiny crown of the cactus.

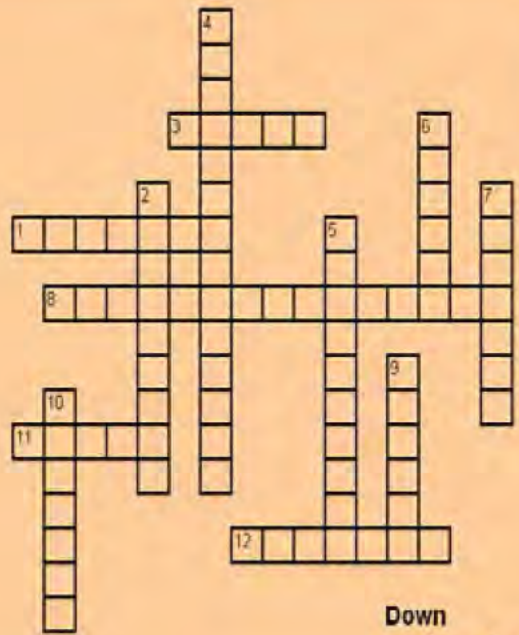
At the end of a long life, a saguaro may topple during a storm or wilt with old age. The green flesh falls away to reveal a barren skeleton of woody bones. From birth to death the saguaro stands as an ancient sentinel of the desert.

Hey kids!
Did you know you can be a Junior Park Ranger? It's lots of fun and you learn all kinds of cool stuff about Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument! Stop by the Kris Eggle Visitor Center to get your Junior Ranger Book.



The Gila Monster (HEE-luh) is one of only two venomous lizards found in the world. They are difficult to find because they spend most of their life underground.

For Kids Only!



You can get this cool Junior Ranger badge when you finish your Junior Ranger Book!

Across

1. Tallest cactus in the United States.
3. Necessary for life in the desert.
8. Namesake of the Monument.
11. This ground bird has a plume on its head.
12. Bird that eats dead stuff.

Down

2. Large fuzzy burrowing spider.
4. Pecks holes in the saguaro cactus.
5. Relative of the cottontail rabbit.
6. What kind of ecosystem is this?
7. Weather that occurs in summer months.
9. Go ask a Park _____.
10. An endangered fish of the desert.

P	M	A	N	S	T	S	L	E	J	E	T	O	Y	O	C	Z
H	G	I	L	A	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	U	R	V	G	W
A	K	T	K	G	F	N	T	A	X	Z	T	G	Y	O	X	C
I	L	P	E	U	Q	O	M	B	C	D	A	R	A	Q	I	H
N	A	L	T	A	K	R	I	A	I	N	S	T	O	N	P	O
O	N	W	O	R	K	A	U	N	P	J	S	L	A	M	N	L
P	G	F	S	O	M	N	W	I	H	R	K	C	E	H	D	L
E	S	T	O	D	B	D	P	M	C	G	L	F	Z	S	Y	A
P	B	R	E	K	C	E	P	D	O	O	W	A	L	I	G	C
L	C	U	R	Z	C	S	O	G	V	N	M	L	A	F	X	B
A	P	B	C	A	G	E	E	T	P	Q	R	K	S	P	T	U
S	M	R	C	H	P	R	O	N	G	H	O	R	N	U	W	V
N	H	T	Q	O	N	T	S	K	L	O	A	N	U	P	E	D
I	U	J	L	O	X	N	B	W	C	H	I	J	S	B	H	J
S	A	D	A	J	A	B	V	Q	V	R	E	K	C	I	L	F

- PRONGHORN
- SONORAN DESERT
- ORGAN PIPE CACTUS
- SAGUARO
- GILA WOODPECKER
- FLICKER
- COYOTE
- GILA MONSTER
- VOLCANIC
- CHOLLA
- CREOSOTE
- PHAINOPEPLAS
- BAJADAS
- PUPFISH
- SUN



Ocotillo

Organ Pipe Cactus

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument



Tillotson Peak

Welcome to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

The Making of a Monument

Until slightly more than 100 years ago only a few people inhabited this part of the Sonoran Desert. Except for Native Americans, most were transient.

Early in the 20th century, a few intrepid scientific explorers visited this region. They compiled copious data along with photographs and drawings of the plants, wildlife and geology. When their scientific reports were published, news of their discoveries of previously undocumented plants and animals spread worldwide.

By 1920, miners were commercially mining the copper deposits in Ajo. The incursions of ranchers, miners, hunters, and others left roads, trails, buildings and mine tailings throughout the area.

As commerce expanded across the desert, there were those who sought to protect its natural wonders. In the 1920s, the Tucson Natural History Association, later known as the Tucson Audubon Society, conducted tourist excursions here. People from around the world came to see cactus country.

In the early 1930s the National Park Service (NPS) began changing its emphasis from “mountaintop” scenery to preservation of representative ecosystems. The Valley of the Ajo presented a unique opportunity. The desert landscape was subtle, (See **Making ...** page 7) yet it contained a wide diversity of native wildlife and plants. The Park Service evaluated the area and recommended that it be made a national monument.

Early in 1937, the director of the NPS drafted a proclamation and sent it to the Secretary of the Interior. He signed it and passed it on to President Franklin D. Roosevelt who signed the proclamation on April 13, 1937, using the authority granted in the Antiquities Act of 1906. His action set aside a representative sample of the Sonoran Desert and named it after a unique and spectacular cactus found only here: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

As they watched the monument boundary being fenced, some local residents began a heated battle of words with the U.S. government: Western independence vs. government regulations, and local economic interests vs. the National Park Service. For many years, angry letters flew between all parties. Ranching and mining finally came to an end in the mid-1970s when most of Organ Pipe Cactus was declared a wilderness area.

Today, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument preserves its historic sites amid unique flora and fauna as a truly representative sample of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem.

Superintendent's Welcome



Superintendent Lee Baiza

Welcome to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. We work hard to make your visit a pleasant, memorable and safe experience. Our knowledgeable and capable staff is ready to answer your questions so you can enjoy the unique Sonoran Desert landscape and the cultural and historical sites in the monument.

Kris Eggle Visitor Center, with its newly remodeled exhibit and museum area, is both interesting and beautiful. Our educational book and gift store has many items to help you remember your visit. We continue to improve our park infrastructure which includes replacement of the visitor center roof, and paving in Twin Peaks Campground and other developed areas of the monument.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has a cultural partnership with El Pinacate Y Gran Desierto de Altar, our sister national park just across the border in Mexico. You will find information and educational items about both parks in the bookstore at the visitor center maintained by our partner the Western National Parks Association.

Hiking trails, self guided auto tours and ranger led walks and talks are here to help you explore the landscape. Information about these activities can be found at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is near the border, so there are cross-border incursions. If you see something or someone suspicious, simply continue on your way and notify a ranger or other park employee.

I hope you enjoy your time here and will return often.

Lee Baiza, Superintendent
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Protecting 516 square miles of Sonoran Desert, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is a sanctuary for diverse and endangered species. The park was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 and has since been recognized as a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations. Over 95 percent of Organ Pipe Cactus is designated wilderness. Come explore the wonders and the wild of the Sonoran Desert!

Superintendent

Lee Baiza

Mailing Address

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
10 Organ Pipe Drive
Ajo, AZ 85321-9626

Phone

520-387-6849

E-mail

orpi_information@nps.gov

Web site

<http://www.nps.gov/orpi>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Organ Pipe Cactus: Fun Facts

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is one of the few places in the United States where you can see large stands of organ pipe cacti.



An organ pipe cactus produces its first flowers at age 35. The flowers blossom at night and are wilted by mid-morning the next day.

Organ pipe cactus
may live 150 years.



Early settlers who encountered dead cacti were reminded of church pipe organs and called these cacti organ pipes. If you cut them open do you think they would be hollow?



Just before and during the summer rains, the organ pipe fruit ripens and splits open to reveal its red pulpy flesh.



Creatures of the Sonoran Desert feast on the juicy fruit and disperse the seeds across the desert.

Average height at
maturity is 15 feet.



Columnar cacti such as the organ pipe and saguaro can form these unusual growths called "crisates."

Information and Services

Emergencies

For 24-hour emergency response, call 911 or 623-580-5515. The closest medical clinic is the Desert Senita Community Health Center in Ajo, 520-387-5651. The closest hospitals are in Phoenix and Tucson.

Visitor Center

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center is open daily 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving and Christmas. It includes an orientation program, short accessible nature trail, exhibits and bookstore are available. Ranger led talks, tours and hikes are offered January through March.

Camping

See page 4 for details and map on page 12.

Entrance Fees

\$8 per vehicle, \$4 per pedestrian or bicyclist. Pass is good for seven days. Entrance is free with Interagency and Organ Pipe Cactus Annual, Golden Age, Access, and Senior passes.

Accessibility

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center, restrooms and 1/10 mile nature trail are fully accessible.

Pets

Pets must be on a leash at all times. Pets are allowed in campgrounds, picnic areas, the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, and monument roads.

Fires

At Twin Peaks Campground, fires are permitted only in campground fire grills, using pressed logs, charcoal, or firewood. Gathering dead or down wood is prohibited. Wood fires are prohibited at Alamo Campground.

Lost and Found

Contact the Kris Eggle Visitor Center at 520-387-6849 ext. 7302.

Western National Parks Association

The Association is our partner and operator of the park bookstore, located in the visitor center lobby. It sells educational books, post cards, local arts and cultural items.

Firearms

As of Feb. 22, 2010, federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Arizona and local laws to possess firearms in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the monument. These are identified by signs at public entrances. If you have questions, please contact the Arizona Department of Public Safety at (800) 256-6280 or visit their website http://www.azdps.gov/Services/Concealed_Weapons/.

Your Fees at Work



New museum displays inside the Kris Eggle Visitor Center

Here at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, visitors can see tangible evidence of improvements paid for with entrance and campground fees.

The most recent is remodeling of the Kris Eggle Visitor Center museum display. From a few beautiful photographs to eight interactive displays depicting the monument's natural history and the importance of the Tohono O'odham local Native American culture, this change was entirely funded with fees collected at Organ Pipe Cactus. A state-of-the-art sound system in the visitor center auditorium now enhances visitor enjoyment of the park video and other presentations.

Outside the visitor center, the picnic area ramadas also were funded with fee money. Except for the addition of metal wire to tie the shelters together for safety, they were built in the traditional manner by workers from the Tohono O'odham Nation. The visitor center nature trail received a facelift by replacement of the asphalt walkway with red brick pavers and new interpretive signs.

Fees also paid for signs and landscaping that welcome visitors to the monument at the north and south entrances. In addition, the Twin Peaks Campground amphitheater was rehabilitated, including new projection and sound equipment.

Fee money supports the Youth Conservation Corps teams that periodically work in the monument to rehabilitate trails, such as they recently did on the Estes Canyon / Bull Pasture loop.

Looking forward, new wayside exhibits are planned for the Victoria Mine, Tillotson Peak and Ajo Mountains Waysides.



Interpretive signs and trail at visitor center built with fee dollars.

WNPA: The Bookstore People



Janet Castro, WNPA Store Manager with visitor.

"Western National Parks Association (WNPA) promotes preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation and research." This statement is the guiding principle under which WNPA operates.

In partnership with the NPS, Western National Parks Association operates the bookstore in the Kris Eggle Visitor Center. It offers a wide selection of books and educational materials about birds, wildflowers, plants, ecology, geology, history and archaeology. There are also postcards, bookmarks, Native American artwork, tee and sweatshirts, and hats for sun protection.

Proceeds from this and other bookstores at national parks across the West are used in direct support of education, interpretation and research in the parks as well as outreach programs to schools and communities.

VIPs: Our Volunteers are Something

Dictionary definition - Vol*un*teer: somebody who works for nothing.



Volunteer Sherri Rivenburgh assisting a visitor.

Volunteers in the National Park Service work in unique settings, preserve this country's natural and cultural legacy, and help visitors discover the resources, meanings and values in each park. Many tasks would go undone without the help from the unique group of Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP). Ask volunteers at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument why they are willing to work for nothing. Many will answer that it isn't for nothing. Besides receiving a free campsite and living in the park, They have many more reasons.

Mary and Kenn Hoover walk miles over rough terrain in all types of weather. They spend many hours stooped over to yank, dig and tear out buffleggrass, an invasive plant species that is trying to gain a root hold in the park.

Asked why they would do such labor intensive work for no pay, Kenn replied, "To give back something, be productive and be a part of something, to feel needed." Mary added: "You can't travel 365 days a year and now I look forward to Fridays. There is a sense of community among the volunteers. It just feels good to come back."

VIPs have an ever-increasing role in national parks, performing a variety of jobs. There are work groups called divisions in national parks. At Organ Pipe Cactus, every division benefits from the work of VIPs. Each division sets its own schedule for VIPs based on the work load and difficulty of the work. To find out what positions are available at Organ Pipe Cactus, visit www.volunteer.gov or inquire at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Whether working behind the scenes or with visitors, VIPs make a difference by helping to connect you with your parks.

Want to Volunteer?

Go online to www.volunteer.gov. Or, just call or visit your closest national park and ask at the visitor center about how to find opportunities to volunteer.

4 Planning Your Visit

What can I do in this Sonoran Desert Wonderland?



Barrel Cactus

In one hour....

Explore the Sonoran Desert by driving the 10 mile round-trip North Puerto Blanco Scenic Drive. This graded dirt road is accessible to passenger vehicles but not recommended for motor homes or trailers over 25 feet.

Visit the Kris Eggle Visitor Center for an informative presentation, 1/10-mile nature trail, and exhibit room.

During the winter, join a park ranger or volunteer for an interpretive talk or hike. Ask about the schedule in the visitor center.



Ranger guided walk.

In two or three hours....

Walk the easy 1.2-mile Desert View Nature Trail from the campground to experience the Sonoran Desert landscape and learn about its many desert plants and animals

Tour the beautiful 21-mile Ajo Mountain Scenic Loop. This graded dirt road winds through the Ajo Mountains and provides stunning views of organ pipes, saguaros and other cacti. Not recommended for motor homes or trailers over 25 feet.



Ajo Mountain Drive scenic loop.

In half a day....

Hike one of the monument's trails, such as the Arch Canyon trail, the Victoria Mine trail, or Alamo Canyon.

For a more strenuous outing, hike the rugged Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture trail into a unique ecosystem high in the Ajo Mountains.

In a full day....

Immerse yourself in the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Combine the Ajo Mountain Scenic Loop with some of the hiking trails and a stop at the visitor center. Ask visitor center staff for further suggestions.

Nearby Attractions

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

Register at visitor center for free permit.
North Second St.
Ajo, AZ 85321
(520)387-6483

Tohono O'odham National Museum and Cultural Center

Federal Route 19
Fresnal Canyon Road
Topawa, AZ 85639
(520)383-0201

El Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar, Sonora, Mexico

The sister park to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Mexico's El Pinacate has huge volcanic craters and cinder cones. Located 31 miles west of Sonoyta on Highway 2.

Estación Biológica
Carretera Mexico 8 km 52
Puerto Peñasco, Sonora
01 (638) 384-9007

International Sonoran Desert Alliance

Art Gallery
401 W. Esperanza
Ajo, AZ 85321

Ranger Talks and Walks

At Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, park rangers continue the time-honored tradition of leading tours hikes and talks every winter from early January through March. Schedules and descriptions for guided walks, van tours, evening programs, and patio talks are posted in Kris Eggle Visitor Center and on the bulletin board at Twin Peaks Campground.

Rangers and volunteers are happy to provide information and answer your questions. Subjects and presentation styles are varied. One evening you may visit with an early Arizona rancher or miner portrayed in costume by a ranger or volunteer. The next night it might be a conversation with a bat or a vulture. Other topics may include the night sky, Organ Pipe Wilderness, or the biology of the desert tortoise, history and more. These presentations will help you to understand and appreciate your priceless heritage at Organ pipe Cactus National Monument..



Volunteer Randa Weber with visitors at Birdseye Point along the Ajo Mountain guided van tour.

Camping

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has two distinctly different campgrounds. **Twin Peaks** is the main, developed campground near the park visitor center. **Alamo** is a more remote, primitive campground at the entrance to Alamo Canyon, about ten miles northeast of the visitor center,.

Twin Peaks Campground: Open all year. Fee: \$12 per night or \$6 for holders of Golden Age/Access/Senior Passes. 40-foot maximum vehicle length. Generator use permitted 8 am-10 pm and 4 pm-6 pm. Sites are first-come, first-served. No reservations. 34 tent sites/174 RV sites.

Facilities: Restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, fire pits, showers, dump station. No RV hookups.



Alamo Primitive Campground: Open all year. Fee \$8 per night or \$4 with a Golden Age/Access/Senior Pass. Obtain required permit at visitor center. Open to tents, pickup campers, and vans only. No generators. Limited to four tent sites which may fill early, especially in winter. No advance reservations.

Facilities: Pit toilet, picnic table, grill.
No Water available.

Your Trail Guide to Organ Pipe Cactus

Fishhook Pincushion Cactus



Alamo Canyon trail



Victoria Mine trail



Bull Pasture - Estes Canyon trails



Along the Campground Perimeter Trail

Trail	Distance/ Time (round-trip)	Description
Visitor Center Nature Trail	0.10 miles 5-10 minutes 	Easy brick path from Visitor Center with exhibits. Accessible to scooters and wheelchairs.
Campground Perimeter	1 mile 20-30 minutes 	Easy loop around Twin Peaks Campground. Pets allowed.
Palo Verde	2.6 miles 1.5-2 hours 	Easy trail between Twin Peaks Campground and Visitor Center with views of the Ajo Range. Pets allowed.
Alamo Canyon	2 miles 1.5 hours	Easy trail to historic ranching site. Recommended for birding. Footing can be rough.
Desert View	1.2 miles 45-60 minutes	Easy loop trail to beautiful vistas. Ideal for sunrise and sunset. Benches provided.
Victoria Mine	4.5 miles 2 hours	Easy trail meandering across the Sonoran Desert to historic mining structures. Crosses several arroyos (washes). Benches provided. Mines are closed. For your safety, do not enter mines.
Arch Canyon	2 miles 1 hour	Easy-moderate trail that steadily climbs into canyon. Good views of arch and oak-juniper environment.
Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture	4.1 miles 2-3 hours	Difficult loop trail with steep grade and exposed cliffs. Spectacular views of monument and Mexico. Estes Canyon is great for birding.
 Dogs on leash OK  Accessible		

Staying Safe in the Desert



The desert is a wondrous, magical place-
To enjoy it safely keep the following in mind:

- Carry and drink plenty of water - at least one gallon per person a day.
- Sun protection is important. Remember to wear sunscreen and protective clothing.
- Desert vegetation is spikey, so avoid contact. Spines can be removed with tweezers.
- Flash floods occur instantly and are dangerous. Avoid washes when rain is threatening.
- Never enter a flooded roadway. Wait for the water to subside and it is safe to cross.
- Do not put your hands or feet anywhere you cannot see. That is where snakes, scorpions, and spiders often hide.
- Hike with a partner. Let someone else know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Cross-border incursions do occur. If you should encounter someone or a group traveling cross country with backpacks, bundles or black water bottles, do not make contact. Report suspicious activity or people to a ranger, or call 911 if your phone has a signal.

Alamo Canyon: Birdie Del Miller's Dream



Alamo Ranch Houses: Miller (L-now gone) Gray (R)

Tucked away in remote Alamo Canyon is a four-site primitive campground, a favorite spot for campers who want to experience "roughing it" in the Sonoran Desert. Intrepid adventurers gladly sleep on the ground with only a thin tent for shelter from the elements, bring their drinking water in jugs, cook over a camp stove and use a pit toilet just for the privilege of living under the cloudless blue desert sky by day and the brilliant stars by night while being lulled to sleep by the soft peaceful southing of the canyon wind through the palo verde and mesquite. So beautiful! So idyllic! Who couldn't spend the rest of their life in this paradise?

Pioneer rancher Birdie Del Miller, that's who!

Actually, Birdie would have gladly spent her whole life in this paradise, but the difficulties of making a living here presented too great a challenge. Historically, inhabitants have been few and far between in this section of the Sonoran Desert. Life was brutal here...even though there was more water in Alamo Canyon than out on the desert floor, it wasn't abundant. And access to water makes all the difference to life in the desert. Birdie was not the only person to make this discovery in her effort to establish a home here.

Miners made a brief attempt. In 1913 two men established mining claims and prospected the Alamo in hopes of

discovering valuable mineral deposits to make their fortunes. No tangible history remains of their efforts, but presumably they were not successful in these endeavors as the following year they sold their holdings to William G. and Birdie Del Miller. Birdie paid \$750 to miners Hubstader and Powell for the mining claim and "a well that wouldn't water our saddle horses," which made digging a second well imperative if she and Bill were going to have any success raising cattle in these rigorous surroundings.

A moonshiner gave the remote canyon a try—at some point during the Hubstader-Powell era, an enterprising producer of boot-leg liquor established a still in the back reaches of the Alamo. Adventurous Birdie always wanted to go in search of it, but her mother, who ranched a few miles north at Gunsight, feared for her safety, so Birdie never found it. There is no record of the revenue out of Ajo ever finding it either; the repeal of Prohibition ended profitability of white mule sales in the area, if the rum-runner ever made a profit, since a distillery operation requires a water supply too, causing the whisky peddler to move on.

Bill and Birdie built a two-room adobe house, dug two wells, installed a windmill and cement tank, and started ranching in the canyon. Birdie had her own brand—the KW; she was a good wrangler and worked as hard as anyone. Just like the other cowhands, she slept on the ground using her saddle as a pillow when working cattle overnight. She had a sense of humor, often directed toward Bill, and she loved to attend the dances at the local Papago (a name early Spanish explorers called the Tohono O'odham) village, where she would dance all night.

Birdie liked this life "out in the country," even though living in this remote site meant occasionally she had to improvise and use "burro grease" (lard made from fat rendered from the local wild burros) for cooking. Birdie would have stayed in the Alamo the rest of her life, but she couldn't make a profit ranching there. Living

conditions were too severe...and it seemed her livestock too frequently was adopted and spirited off to Mexico. So, in 1928 Birdie sold her grazing rights to the Gray family, a local ranching dynasty, and moved to Gunsight five miles north. Even though she and Bill moved away, Birdie maintained a love for and an interest in the Alamo. She kept the mining claim, although she never worked it; and she held the title to the ranch improvements for another 20 years, but never lived there again.

Birdie and Bill were the pioneers of Alamo; they made do as best they could with what little they had...but it wasn't enough to overcome the challenges of living in this unforgiving desert environment. The Gray Partnership, the next (and last) ranchers in Alamo Canyon, had more resources...they built their house of fired adobe brick rather than mud, and their corrals of stone instead of sticks... and stayed 40 years.

Today, campers who pitch their state-of-the-art tents in Alamo Campground and confront the same challenges the early inhabitants met—stifling heat, no water, and few amenities—can readily identify with Birdie. Even 100 years later modern camping gear does little to alleviate the brutal conditions of the Sonoran Desert.



Alamo Corral

Bates Well: Rube Daniels' Home on the Range

How would you like to live 30 miles from nowhere in an arid canyon between two ranges of creosote covered hills offering no view, with about 1000 mooing cows for company? Sound attractive? probably not.

Rube Daniels thought Bates Well was a delightful place. Well, maybe that's a stretch, although he did think it was nice enough that he bought it twice. Living in the desert requires a special type of individual. An individual with the determination and perseverance to succeed in an inhospitable and unforgiving land. One who doesn't need a life of ease or convenience. One who can adapt to harsh conditions and overcome hardship. The area that would become Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument provides none of the former and plenty of the latter, and Rube Daniels didn't want to live anywhere else.

Ruben Daniels may have been more familiar with the Organ Pipe Cactus region than anybody else of his era. He lived, ranched and prospected all over the area. When the Carnegie Expedition explored the Sonoran Desert/Pinacate in 1908, Rube was one of their guides. He was a deputy sheriff in Ajo and good friends with border lawman Jeff Milton, accompanying Milton on many of his exploits. He, with Ajo rancher Tom Childs, prospected throughout the region.

Rube lived for a while at Quitobaquito and married Juan Jose Orosco's daughter Viviana with whom he had six children. He ran cattle at Bates Well before Bates Well

was a real ranch, and he bought and sold the ranch twice.

Rube also mined. He was one of the persistent original backers of the Ajo copper mines along with Tom Childs, Sam Clark and M.G. Levy. In 1911, Colonel Greenway's Chief Geologist, Ira B. Joralemon, wrote, "Tom Childs and Rube Daniels ran a few bony cattle among the mesquites that lined the desert washes, while they did their assessment work on the copper claims they hoped might someday be worth something."

In spite of their tattered clothes and unrelenting poverty,



Rube Daniels

Tom and Rube were real men. Their eyes were clear and steady from looking a hundred miles off across the desert and there wasn't an ounce of crookedness in their make-up. There weren't any truer friends or more dangerous, straight shooting enemies on the border, men who would look you in the eye and tell you what was right.

The first well to bear the name Bates was dug by George C. Bates around 1886. The first time the Bates ranch site came into Rube's possession was in 1913, possibly having been given to him by W. B. Bates, the original occupant. As soon as Rube took possession of the well, it collapsed.

A dependable water supply is of major importance in raising cattle. Rube intended to raise cattle. He dug a new well right next to the old one, but the new one collapsed also. Undaunted, Rube built corrals and ranch structures, and in 1915 dug yet another well. This well was a few hundred yards south of the first two, at the mouth of Growler Wash, and it held up for quite a few years—maybe because it was called Daniels Well instead of Bates Well.

Rube, like many early settlers, dug his wells in washes, by hand, on the premise that rain water flowing through the wash would sink in the sand, and if he dug deep enough he would find it. Most of his wells were 20-25 feet deep,

See Bates Well - page 7 top

Bates Well... continued from Page 6

and might yield a couple of feet of water in the bottom. These hand-dug wells generally were not year-round sources of water. Water could be found in them after the rainy seasons, but it dried up in the summer heat or during a prolonged period of drought. Places where reliable water sources could be tapped in the Valley of the Ajo were few and far between.

Feed was scarce in the mountains, limiting the number of cattle that could be pastured there. Rube ran between 1000 and 2000 cattle, and worked hard to do so.

In 1917 Rube sold the rights to Bates Well and the ranch to brothers John and Samuel McDaniel for \$17,000, but he and his family continued to live on the site and run cattle there. By 1920, Rube was ranging over 2,000 head of cattle on Bates Well Ranch.

In 1919, Colonel John Greenway, the manager of Ajo's New Cornelia Copper Mine, sought to purchase rights of way for a railroad line that would have connected Ajo with Puerto Peñasco (Rocky Point), Mexico. The railroad would have gone through Growler Pass, very close to Bates Well, and would have provided a site close to the ranch for loading cattle, eliminating the need to drive them 40 miles across the dry desert to a shipping point.

However, one thing after another delayed the railroad construction. The McDaniel Brothers couldn't wait it out and sold all their cattle. So in 1922, for \$1500, Rube resumed ownership. The railroad was never built.

In 1924 Rube suffered a serious stroke, causing loss of speech, so he sold the Bates Well Ranch back to the McDaniel Brothers. In 1926 at the age of 48, Rube died, having outlived his wife and four of his six children. Ownership of the Bates

Well Ranch was eventually taken over solely by John McDaniel, who, in 1935, sold out to Henry D. Gray



After Henry D. Gray bought the ranch, it continued as a working ranch until 1976. This is how it looked in its later days.

Henry D. Gray: The Last Rancher at Bates Well



Henry D. Gray

"I might as well," grumbled Henry Gray to the scenery, as he was riding from the Alamo to Bates Well across the hot, dry, cactus-populated Valley of the Ajo for the umpteenth time, "buy this ranch and not have to ride over here every other day to chase these miserable cows back home again!"

He was complaining about having to ride 15 miles from the Gray Ranch site in Alamo Canyon to the Bates Well Ranch three or four times a week to herd his cattle back onto his own ranch. So, Henry D. Gray bought it and all water rights from John T. McDaniel in 1935 for \$2500.

But amenities were scarce when Henry moved in. There was a little house, a couple of brush structures (jacals), two hand dug wells, a windmill, tank and watering troughs. Henry went up to the abandoned village at the Growler mine and dragged down a two-room house. He also took lumber and tin to build a hay barn, bunkhouse and tack shed. Outbuildings and corral fences were constructed of natural materials. The corrals were built of mesquite, using "sandwich" (retaque) construction method: a double line of posts were set in the ground about a foot apart astride the proposed fence line. Smaller poles, mostly of mesquite, were then laid lengthwise on top of each other in between the posts to make a woven wall, or fence. Temporary outbuildings were walled with saguaro ribs or ocotillo stems and roofed with those, or with corrugated tin salvaged from the mine.

The original Bates Well and the first well that Daniels dug, right beside the old Bates, had collapsed. Then Daniels dug what is called Daniels Well...almost in the mouth of Growler Wash, a quarter of a mile or so from the original well. The well referred to as Daniels Well was in use at Bates Well Ranch when Henry took possession in 1935. When Henry bought the ranch, he used water from the Daniels Well. "Bought the ranch" is a misrepresentation of fact here - Henry paid Johnny McDaniel for the buildings and stock, but the land was state land, so neither party had title, and no deed was ever owned by Henry - nor, presumably, Bates, Daniels, the McDaniel Brothers or Behan.

In 1942, Henry brought in the house and located it near site of the original Bates Well. Daniels Well supplied a reliable flow of water for his cattle until a 1951 Growler Wash flood washed it out. In 1953, Henry dug (drilled) a replacement for Daniels Well, but he located it in his front yard, not a quarter mile away in the wash. This well provided enough water for the ranch and its cattle, and Henry settled in. His death in 1976 brought an end to ranching on Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

Abraham Armenta: The Lone Farmer



Some of the original buildings are still on the Armenta farm and ranch site.

Only two early ranching-era settlers in the area that would become Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument protected their labor-intensive investments by homesteading their properties. One was Bobby Gray, youngest member of the ranching Gray Family, the other was Abraham Armenta.

As a pioneer, Abraham Armenta was a late-comer—settling in the Valley of the Ajo in the late 1920's. As an entrepreneur, he was a first and only. All the other intrepid Sonoran Desert dwellers in the Organ Pipe area were either

ranchers or miners; Abe Armenta was a farmer. The older brother of the large Armenta family whose father worked for the Phelps-Dodge mine in Ajo, Abraham moved his wife and children to this arid site and built an adobe and brick, tin-roofed, two-room house and some ocotillo and saguaro rib outbuildings, including a chicken coop. He dug a shallow well a few hundred yards west of the house and constructed a "charco"—a shallow tank for water confinement.

Armenta laid out his fields near his water source and planted squash, watermelon, and corn (50¢ a dozen) which he sold to the grocers and restaurants in Ajo. The crops were meager, but provided enough for family use and



Charco (water tank) constructed by Abe Armenta. It is now dry, but still visible at the site.

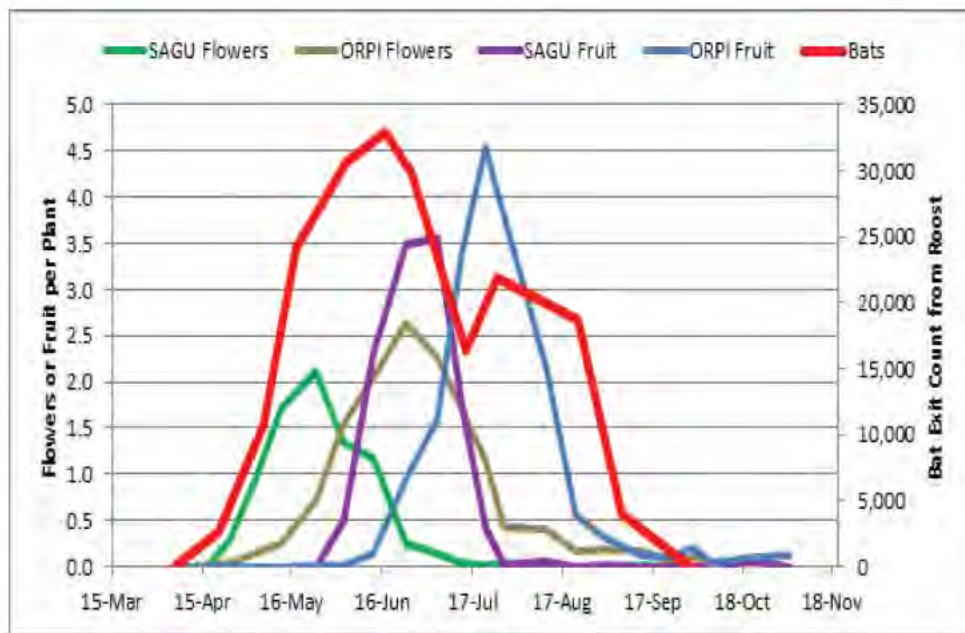
brought in some ready cash from sales. Using his house, outbuildings and produce as evidence of improvements, Abe submitted his application for a homestead claim on his land on July 21, 1934, and four years later, March 21 1938, he was issued his patent for 320 acres. In an effort to increase production, Armenta dug a second well in 1935; at 229 feet he struck water. Alas, still not reliable enough to consistently meet his needs...by 1943 both wells were dry, and Armenta gave up the farming effort and moved on, leaving behind only some dilapidated buildings to show where a man had strived to conquer the desert and make it provide his family with the necessities of life.



Armenta ranch house, partially restored, as it looks today.

Research Today

Bats, Cactus, Flowers and Fruit



Organ pipe and saguaro cacti grow together throughout the bajadas and rocky slopes of the monument, providing important resources for wildlife and humans. Biologists are interested in knowing how the ecology of these iconic species changes over time. To help answer this question, we established a phenology (time line) plot near headquarters in 2009 and another near Alamo campground in 2010 to monitor seasonal changes in flower and fruit productivity. Observations were made approximately every 10 days on nearly 150 plants in the two sites.

The endangered lesser long-nosed bat is a migratory species that has a large maternity colony in the monument in warmer months. These bats leave the maternity roost at night to forage on nectar, pollen, and fruit of organ pipe, saguaro and other columnar cacti. Since 1989, biologists have monitored exit counts of the bats every two weeks or so during summer.

Data from cacti and bats provide a unique opportunity to compare the timing and amount of food productivity with activity patterns of the bats. The graphic above shows average number of cactus flowers or fruit per plant (left axis) and number of bats counted exiting the maternity roost (right axis) over time for both saguaro and organ pipe cactus. Peak productivity differs for the two cactus species, with saguaro preceding organ pipe. The pattern for bats is two phased where the first peak coincides with saguaro flowers, organ pipe flowers, and saguaro fruit and the second peak coincides mainly with organ pipe fruit. The second peak may be caused by the inclusion of young bats after many adults migrated to other areas.

More Study is needed to determine what, if any relationship between the bat's activity increase and organ pipe fruit ripening exists.



Lesser long-nosed bat feeding on cactus flower

Sonoran Pronghorn



The Sonoran Pronghorn Recovery Team, including Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, is reintroducing the endangered Sonoran pronghorn back into its historic habitat. Down to about two dozen animals in the wild in 2002, the wild herd has been bolstered through captive breeding since 2006.

In 2011-2012, 11 captive-bred pronghorn were reintroduced into the monument. Another 13 were translocated to Kofa National Wildlife Refuge, to begin a second captive breeding program to repopulate western Arizona. The total wild population in the US is now about 110.

The released pronghorn have ear tags and radio collars so biologists can monitor their movements, habitation, health and mortality. It is hoped that over time, areas now unpopulated will support sustainable new wild populations.

The fastest land animals in North America, pronghorn can sprint at up to 60 miles an hour and can run at 40 miles an hour for miles. Adult males weigh 100 - 130 pounds and females about 75 - 100 pounds.

Pronghorn does usually bear one or two fawns from mid-March to mid-July. The two to four pound fawns are up and running in about one hour, and will be weaned in four months. Does usually begin to breed at age 18 months, and continue for life, which can be up to nine years in the wild and 15 years in captivity.

Project cooperators with NPS include Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge, U.S. Air Force Barry M. Goldwater Range, U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Reserva de la Biosfera El Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar in Mexico, Phoenix Zoo, US Marine Corps, US Border Patrol, and others.

Sonoran pronghorn are very shy, and at times live on the edge of having enough food and water. Causing them to run or relocate can worsen the effects of these stresses. Observing pronghorn and all wildlife from a distance will ensure their safety and yours.



Sonoran pronghorn.

When photographing any wildlife, it is best to use a longer telephoto lens to lessen the chances of injury to you or the animal being photographed. Approaching too closely can startle wildlife and cause unintended reactions from animals and people. Use of a telephoto lens allows photography from a safe distance.

Summer Wings Over the Sonoran Desert

In the dusky twilight hours, thousands of furry, winged creatures take to the skies. Flapping over the Sonoran Desert, faces yellow with pollen, these bats are the few remaining individuals of the endangered lesser long-nosed bat. In decline because of habitat disturbance and an overharvested food source (agave), the lesser long-nosed bat finds seasonal sanctuary as a summer visitor to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

From their winter grounds in central Mexico, pregnant females leave the males to fly north. Driven by hunger, they follow a trail of night blooming cacti to Organ Pipe Cactus by early summer. Their arrival is just in time for

the blooming of the saguaro and organ pipe cacti.

Saguaro and organ pipe flowers burst into bloom in the shadow of the night, opening their musky perfumed white petals to the stars. Lesser long-nosed bats find the sweet scent irresistible. Hovering like a hummingbird, a bat pokes its nose deep into a tubular flower and uses its long, brush-tipped tongue to lick up the syrupy nectar inside. As a bat slurps dinner, its furry face becomes coated in powdery pollen. As the bats feast from flower to flower, they also act as primary pollinators for the local cacti.

During the summer, the female bat gives birth to a baby bat pup. The young bats roost in communal colonies in caves or old mine shafts, relying on their mothers to nurse and care for them.

As summer days pass, cactus flowers wilt and fade, eventually to be replaced by fruit. Bats feast on the fruits with relish, devouring the juicy pulp and ingesting tiny cactus seeds. As the bats fly across the desert, they disperse seeds to new locations, sowing the beginnings of a new generation of cactus.

Lesser long-nosed bats stay in the monument until the supply of cactus

fruit is gone. As summer ends, females and young begin the long journey south into Mexico. These endangered creatures of the night are intertwined with the health and ecology of the Sonoran Desert.

Why are Lesser Long-nosed Bats Endangered?

With a range spanning two countries and a variety of habitats, the future of lesser long-nosed bats is threatened. One challenge is human disturbance. When people enter bat roosting caves or mines, bats can be frightened away from their home and young.

Another serious problem is the overharvest of agave (century plants) in Mexico. Agave plants are harvested for the production of tequila, but agave flowers are a major winter food source for lesser long-nosed bats. Bats serve an important role in the survival of agave by pollinating the flowers. Ironically as the agave is overharvested and bat numbers decrease, fewer agave are pollinated and thus fewer plants grow. A delicate balance of the natural world, bats and agave rely on each other for survival. Today Lesser long-nosed bats are an endangered species with an unknown future.



Lesser long-nosed bat and saguaro flower

Weather



Desert Rainbow

One thing weather is certain to do is change. In this respect, it is no different at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument than anywhere else. In spring it seems that things most often turn from good to better and then return to good.

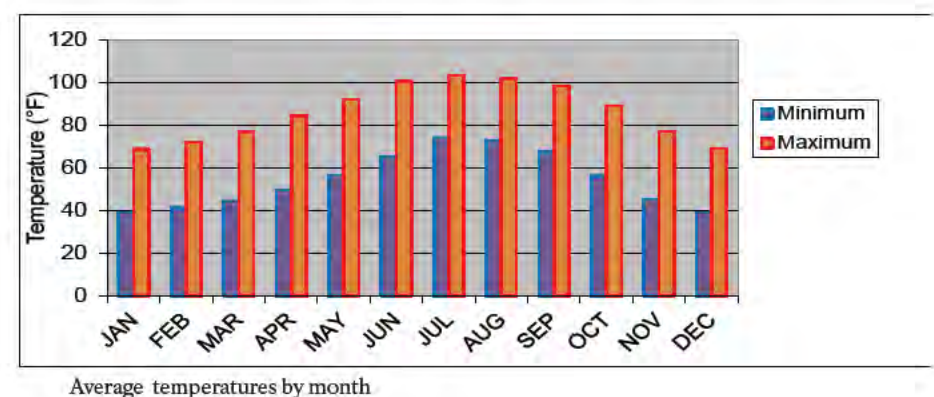
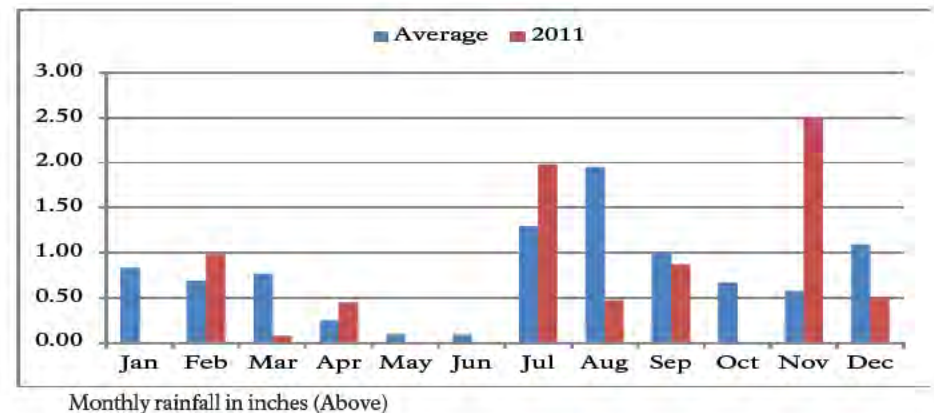
A few soft rains will cause wildflowers to spring from the desert in profusion. The "Blooming Seasons" chart on page 11 gives a good indication of when to come for the best chance of catching the show. For poppies and lupine that would most likely be from early February to mid-April. Winter at Organ Pipe is the gentle time.

Hot days are in store from June through September. Summer monsoons can bring quick, heavy showers and flash floods in the washes. It is dangerous to try to cross a wash when it is flooded, even in a large vehicle, so caution is in order. The muddy-looking water is actually a heavy mix of sand, rocks and woody debris from upstream. It can pack a wallop. Occasionally

lightning comes with the storms.

Summer is the best time to get a glimpse of Gila monsters and desert tortoises. They often emerge from dens around dawn and dusk.

The charts to the right may help in planning your visit for weather that suits you. The upper chart shows rainfall by month. The blue bars indicate averages from more than 50 years of records. The red bars are for 2011. The lower chart shows average temperatures by month, with violet indicating the lows and orange the highs.



Ocotillo: It's Not a Cactus?

Looking very much like an overgrown, upside-down spider waving its arms in the air an ocotillo may appear to be dead one day and spring to life with bright green leaves in a matter of a few days after a rain. It has long sharp thorns which may lead some to think it must be a cactus. In reality, it is a shrub common to the Chihuahuan, Sonoran and lower Mojave deserts of the U.S. and Mexico.

Ocotillo seems to defy our common idea of “shrub.” From a distance the plant looks dead. A closer look may reveal bits of green in a very woody, rough-textured bark. That indicates the plant is alive. Look even more closely and you will see the small circles on top of the base of the thorns and the place where leaves form. Most of the time the shrub is leafless and dormant, just waiting for rain.

When rain comes, as either gentle, soaking rain of winter or pounding thunderstorms in summer, it will trigger an amazing transformation. Within 48 hours, the stems turn greener, and new leaf buds appear. A few days later, the ocotillo will be hiding those nasty thorns under a luxurious coat of green leaves.

If you are fortunate and visit Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument from late February through early April, you may see clusters of flaming red flowers atop those wavy stems.

These flowers are magnets for migrating and resident hummingbirds, orioles, pollinating insects and other nectar-lovers.

Once the ocotillo finishes blooming, the soil dries and the plant uses its last spurt of rain-induced energy, the leaves turn yellow to red, a hint of Autumn in the wrong season.

This is the sign that ocotillo is ready to rest. This upside-down spider of a shrub is returning to its drab, dead-looking dormant stage until the next rain.



Ocotillo in full leaf



Dormant ocotillo



Ocotillo flowers and buds

Birds, Birds, Birds:

A Who's Who in Organ Pipe Cactus

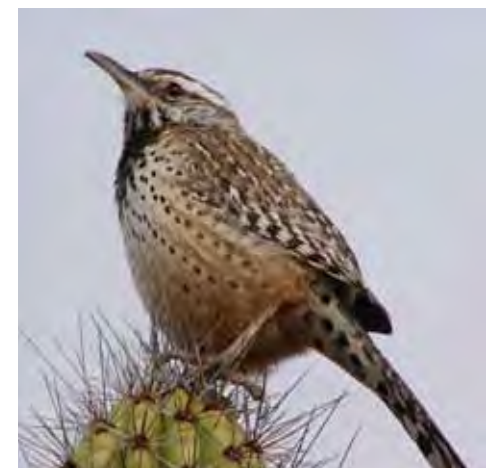
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument hosts over 270 bird species, from year-round regulars to neo-tropical migrants. With an incredible range of topography and habitat, the monument provides home and sustenance to a diverse variety of birds. Many birds in Organ Pipe Cactus are seasonal visitors, stopping over during the cool winter months to forage and continue south.

Pictured here are some of the most commonly seen permanent residents in the monument. How do they survive the extreme, hot summers? Some birds combat the heat by slimming their feathers close to their bodies to minimize the insulating feather warmth. Others reserve their activity to the cool early mornings, or hide in the shade of a bush or rock during the heat of the day. Birds also maintain a normally high core body temperature and expel heat through scaly legs. These qualities allow birds to endure hot desert summers.

The best places for bird watching are along the Alamo Canyon Trail and behind the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.



Curve-billed thrasher



Cactus wren



Northern cardinal



Costa's hummingbird



Gambel's quail



Gila woodpecker

Flower Guide

When Does the Sonoran Desert Bloom?

If you are lucky, you may see the desert carpeted in flowers. After heavy winter rains, plants burst into bloom, some flowering only days after receiving water. Other plants wait patiently for the summer rains to come.

Sonoran Desert wildflowers grow quickly and in large numbers after it rains. Once the soil dries, plants die back. Desert wildflowers are not only beautiful, but they are essential to the survival of many desert creatures.



Buckhorn cholla



Pincushion cactus



Teddy bear cholla



Mexican gold poppy



Mojave lupine



Fairy duster



Desert marigold

Blooming Seasons	Winter Rain				Summer Rain				Winter Rain			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cacti												
Organ Pipe												
Saguaro												
Cholla												
Prickly Pear												
Other Perennials												
Palo Verde												
Ironwood												
Fairy Duster												
Brittlebush												
Ocotillo												
Annuals												
Globemallow												
Mex. Gold Poppy												
Lupine												
Desert Marigold												
Chuparosa												

NOTE: The blooming times of all annuals and many perennials depend upon the amount of rain and the time of year when the rain falls. The chart is only an average.



Spring wildflower display

How do you say that?

Ajo: AH-ho. Spanish for garlic; also a Tohono O’odham word for a copper-colored pigment.

Bajada: ba-HAH-dah. The rocky slopes of a mountain range. Many diverse species take advantage of the bajadas’ well drained, gravelly soil. They are good places to look for wildlife.

Cholla: CHOY-yuh. A group of cacti known for painful spines and easily detachable, jointed branches. Also called “jumping cactus.”

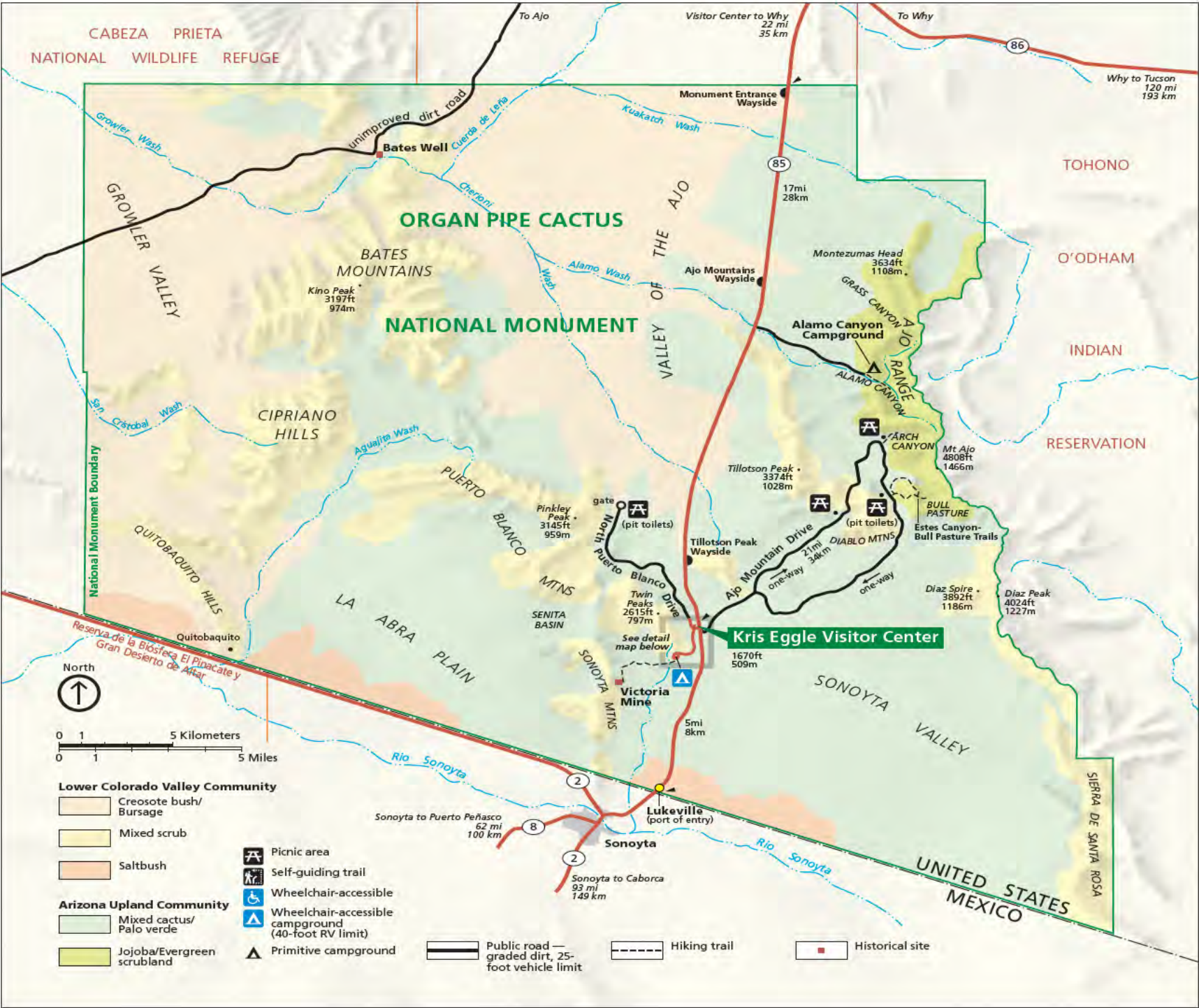
Gila: HEE-lah. As in Gila monster, Gila woodpecker and Gila River.

Ocotillo: OH-koh-TEE-yo. A very thorny plant, often mistaken for a cactus. The ocotillo has the ability to sprout leaves within 48 hours of rain.

Saguaro: sa-WA-roh. Arizona’s tallest cactus (growing to over 70 feet - usually 45 to 50 feet) and a major indicator species for the health of the Sonoran Desert.



Hedgehog cactus



Visitor Center

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center is open 8 am- 5 pm January - March. Please check times for the remainder of the year. Stop by for an informative slide presentation, a 1/10 mile stroll on the handicapped-accessible nature trail, nature and museum exhibit room, bookstore, and answers from a park ranger or volunteer at the information counter.

Ranger led talks, walks and guided tours are offered from January through March.

Mailing Address

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
10 Organ Pipe Drive
Ajo, Arizona 85321-9626

E-mail
orpi_information@nps.gov

Phone
520-387-6849

Website
www.nps.gov/orpi

Visitor Center and Campground Area



Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Ajo Mountains

Welcome to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

This is a vibrant desert of life, a forest of giant cacti, a home to creatures found nowhere else on earth. Blistered by scorching summer sun and deluged with torrential monsoon storms, this is a land of extremes, of unexpected paradoxes. Situated in the Sonoran Desert, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument showcases a variety of flourishing species adapted to exist in a harsh environment.

The Sonoran Desert encompasses portions of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico. Local species are specifically adapted to live in this region's unusual climatic conditions. Times of baking heat are punctuated by two rainy seasons, which bring periods of intense growth and flowering of desert vegetation. In turn, the life cycles of wildlife are based on the seasonal availability of food. Life in the Sonoran Desert is dictated by the heavens, reliant on rain and sun for survival.

Early peoples of this region relied on the environment for sustenance. The O'odham people have lived in concert with the land for generations, making a home in the desert by using local resources for survival. Harvesting succulent fruit of the organ pipe and saguaro cacti, hunting mule deer and bighorn sheep, the O'odham people are interwoven with the Sonoran Desert.

During the mid-1600s, Spanish explorers and missionaries arrived in the Sonoran Desert and were later followed by settlers, ranchers and miners. Over the centuries development and land use threatened the delicate desert environment.

By the 1930s concerned citizens stepped up to protect an endangered desert. Their challenge was to convince a government thousands of miles away that there is value in saguaro and organ pipe cacti, bighorn sheep on rocky slopes or pronghorn on a desert plain. How can people who have never experienced the marvels of a desert be persuaded these landscapes are more than barren desolation?

Through the words and petitions of many individuals, President Franklin D. Roosevelt was convinced of the national importance of the Sonoran Desert and used his executive powers to create Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument on April 13, 1937.

On October 26, 1976 the United Nations declared the Monument an International Biosphere Reserve for its diversity, rare and endangered species, rich cultural history and ecosystem of international importance.

Today as we stroll the trails around the monument, watch the sun rise over the mountains, and hear cactus wrens calling, we are seeing the Sonoran Desert as generations have before us. In a land of the desert sun and unique cactus is a wealth of life waiting to be discovered.

*The first gust of hot wind
hits you like a blow.*

*Followed by cool
moisture on the wind.*

*Next the scent of the rain
on the creosote the smell
of rain in the desert.*

The aroma of home.

Welcome to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument! America's National Parks are about caring for the land, the wildlife, and our spirit as a people.

The National Parks serve as shining examples of America's foresight, a deep love for country, and a generosity that is evidenced by the preservation of so many representative habitats, biomes, and histories. The National Parks provide places to discover the meaning of our spirit, our country and our world through preservation of natural ecosystems and cultural traditions.

During your visit enjoy the opportunity to camp, hike, bird, photograph, watch wildlife and explore the beauty of the Sonoran Desert. Join a park ranger for an activity or explore and discover the Monument for yourself. Experience your America and enjoy your stay at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument!

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Protecting 516 square miles of Sonoran Desert, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is a sanctuary for diverse and endangered species. The park was established by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1937 and has since been recognized as a Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations. Over 95 percent of Organ Pipe Cactus is designated wilderness. Come explore the wonders and the wild of the Sonoran Desert!

Superintendent
Vacant

Mailing Address
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
10 Organ Pipe Drive
Ajo, AZ 85321-9626

Phone
520-387-6849

E-mail
orpi_information@nps.gov

Web site
<http://www.nps.gov/orpi>

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Early settlers who encountered dead cacti were reminded of church pipe organs and called these cacti organ pipes. Just like tubes of the pipe organ the bones of these cactui are hollow

Organ Pipe Cactus: Fun Facts

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument is one of the few places in the United States where you can see large stands of organ pipe cacti.



An organ pipe cactus produces its first flowers at age 35. The bat pollinated flowers blossom at night and are closed by mid-morning the next day.

Organ pipe cactus may live 150 years.



Just before and during the summer rains, the organ pipe fruit ripens and splits open to reveal its red pulpy flesh.



Creatures of the Sonoran Desert feast on the juicy fruit and disperse the seeds across the desert.



Average height at maturity is 15 feet.



Columnar cacti such as the organ pipe and saguaro can form these unusual growths called "cristates."

Information and Services

Emergencies

For 24-hour emergency response, call 911. The closest medical clinic is the Desert Senita Community Health Center in Ajo, 520-387-5651. The closest hospitals are in Phoenix and Tucson.

Visitor Center

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center is open daily 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. except Thanksgiving and Christmas. It includes an orientation program, short accessible nature trail, exhibits and bookstore are available. Ranger led talks, tours and hikes are offered January through March.

Camping

See page 4 for details and map on page 12.

Entrance Fees

\$8 per vehicle, \$4 per pedestrian or bicyclist. Pass is good for seven days. Entrance is free with Interagency and Organ Pipe Cactus Annual, Golden Age, Access, and Senior passes.

Accessibility

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center, restrooms and 1/10 mile nature trail are fully accessible.

Pets

Pets must be on a leash at all times. Pets are allowed in campgrounds, picnic areas, the Palo Verde and Campground Perimeter trails, and monument roads.

Javelina



Fires

At Twin Peaks Campground, fires are permitted only in campground fire grills, using pressed logs, charcoal, or firewood. Wood fires are prohibited at Alamo Campground. Gathering dead or down wood is prohibited.

Lost and Found

Contact the Kris Eggle Visitor Center at 520-387-6849 ext. 7302.

Western National Parks Association

The Association is our partner and operator of the park bookstore, located in the visitor center lobby. It sells educational books, post cards, local arts and cultural items.

Firearms

As of Feb. 22, 2010, federal law allows people who can legally possess firearms under federal, Arizona and local laws to possess firearms in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

It is the visitor's responsibility to understand and comply with all state, local, and federal firearms laws. Federal law prohibits firearms in certain facilities in the monument. These are identified by signs at public entrances. If you have questions, please contact the Arizona Department of Public Safety at (800) 256-6280 or visit their website http://www.azdps.gov/Services/Concealed_Weapons/.

Your Fees at Work



New museum displays inside the Kris Eggle Visitor Center

Here at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, visitors can see tangible evidence of improvements paid for with entrance and campground fees.

The most recent is remodeling of the Kris Eggle Visitor Center museum display. From a few beautiful photographs to eight interactive displays depicting the monument's natural history and the importance of the Tohono O'odham local Native American culture, this change was entirely funded with fees collected at Organ Pipe Cactus. A state-of-the-art sound system in the visitor center auditorium now enhances visitor enjoyment of the park video and other presentations.

Outside the visitor center, the picnic area ramadas also were funded with fee money. Except for the addition of metal wire to tie the shelters together for safety, they were built in the traditional manner by workers from the Tohono O'odham Nation. The visitor center nature trail received a face-lift by replacement of the asphalt walkway with red brick pavers and new interpretive signs.

Fees also paid for signs and landscaping that welcome visitors to the monument at the north and south entrances. In addition, the Twin Peaks Campground amphitheater was rehabilitated, including new projection and sound equipment.

Fee money supports the Youth Conservation Corps teams that periodically work in the monument to rehabilitate trails, such as they recently did on the Estes Canyon / Bull Pasture loop.

Looking forward, new wayside exhibits are planned for the Victoria Mine, Tillotson Peak and Ajo Mountains Waysides.



Interpretive signs and trail at visitor center built with fee dollars.

WNPA: The Bookstore People



Myrna Dollar, WNPA Store Manager with visitor.

"Western National Parks Association (WNPA) promotes preservation of the national park system and its resources by creating greater public appreciation through education, interpretation and research." This statement is the guiding principle under which WNPA operates.

In partnership with the NPS, Western National Parks Association operates the bookstore in the Kris Eggle Visitor Center. It offers a wide selection of books and educational materials about birds, wildflowers, plants, ecology, geology, history and archaeology. There are also postcards, bookmarkers, Native American artwork, tee and sweatshirts, and hats for sun protection.

Proceeds from this and other bookstores at national parks across the West are used in direct support of education, interpretation and research in the parks as well as outreach programs to schools and communities.

VIPs: Our Volunteers are Something

Dictionary definition - Vol*un*teer: somebody who works for nothing.



Volunteer Sherri Rivenburgh assisting a visitor.

Volunteers in the National Park Service work in unique settings, preserve this country's natural and cultural legacy, and help visitors discover the resources, meanings and values in each park. Many tasks would go undone without the help from the unique group of Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP). Ask volunteers at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument why they are willing to work for nothing. Many will answer that it isn't for nothing. Besides receiving a free campsite and living in the park. They have many more reasons.

Mary and Kenn Hoover walk miles over rough terrain in all types of weather. They spend many hours stooped over to yank, dig and tear out buffleggrass, an invasive plant species that is trying to gain a root hold in the park.

Asked why they would do such labor intensive work for no pay, Kenn replied, "To give back something, be productive and be a part of something, to feel needed." Mary added: "You can't travel 365 days a year and now I look forward to Fridays. There is a sense of community among the volunteers. It just feels good to come back."

VIPs have an ever-increasing role in national parks, performing a variety of jobs. There are work groups called divisions in national parks. At Organ Pipe Cactus, every division benefits from the work of VIPs. Each division sets its own schedule for VIPs based on the work load and difficulty of the work. To find out what positions are available at Organ Pipe Cactus, visit www.volunteer.gov or inquire at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.

Whether working behind the scenes or with visitors, VIPs make a difference by helping to connect you with your parks.

Want to Volunteer?

Go online to www.volunteer.gov. Or, just call or visit your closest national park and ask at the visitor center about how to find opportunities to volunteer.

4 Planning Your Visit

What can I do in this Sonoran Desert Wonderland? In one hour....

Explore the Sonoran Desert by driving the 10 mile round-trip North Puerto Blanco Scenic Drive. This graded dirt road is accessible to passenger vehicles but not recommended for motor homes or trailers over 25 feet.

Visit the Kris Eggle Visitor Center for an informative presentation, 1/10-mile nature trail, and exhibit room.

During the winter, join a park ranger or volunteer for an interpretive talk. Ask about the schedule in the visitor center.



Ranger guided walk.

In two or three hours....

Walk the easy 1.2-mile Desert View Nature Trail from the campground to experience the Sonoran Desert landscape and learn about its many desert plants and animals.

Tour the beautiful 21-mile Ajo Mountain Scenic Loop. This graded dirt road winds through the Ajo Mountains and provides stunning views of organ pipes, saguaros and other cacti. Not recommended for motor homes or trailers over 25 feet.



Ajo Mountain Drive scenic loop.

In half a day....

Hike one of the monument's trails, such as the Arch Canyon trail, the Victoria Mine trail, or Alamo Canyon.

For a more strenuous outing, hike the rugged Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture trail into a scenic vista high in the Ajo Mountains.

In a full day....

Immerse yourself in the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. Combine the Ajo Mountain Scenic Loop with some of the hiking trails and a stop at the visitor center. Ask visitor center staff for further suggestions.



Barrel Cactus

Nearby Attractions

Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge

Register at visitor center for free permit.

North Second St.
Ajo, AZ 85321
(520)387-6483

Tohono O'odham National Museum and Cultural Center

Federal Route 19
Fresnal Canyon Road
Topawa, AZ 85639
(520)383-0201

El Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar, Sonora, Mexico

The sister park to Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Mexico's El Pinacate has huge volcanic craters and cinder cones. Located 31 miles southwest of Sonoyta on Highway 8.

Estación Biológica
Carretera Mexico 8 km 52
Puerto Peñasco, Sonora
01 (638) 384-9007

International Sonoran Desert Alliance

Art Gallery
401 W. Esperanza
Ajo, AZ 85321
(502)387-6858

Ranger Talks and Walks

At Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, park rangers continue the time-honored tradition of leading tours hikes and talks every winter from early January through March. Schedules and descriptions for guided walks, van tours, evening programs, and patio talks are posted in Kris Eggle Visitor Center and on the bulletin board at Twin Peaks Campground.

Rangers and volunteers are happy to provide information and answer your questions. Subjects and presentation styles are varied. One evening you may visit with an early Arizona rancher or miner portrayed in costume by a ranger or volunteer. The next night it might be a conversation with a bat or a vulture. Other topics may include the night sky, Organ Pipe Wilderness, or the biology of the desert tortoise, history and more. These presentations will help you to understand and appreciate your priceless heritage at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.



Volunteer Randa Weber with visitors at Birdseye Point along the Ajo Mountain guided van tour.

Camping

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has two distinctly different campgrounds. **Twin Peaks** is the main, developed campground near the park visitor center. **Alamo** is a more remote, primitive campground at the entrance to Alamo Canyon, about ten miles northeast of the visitor center.

Twin Peaks Campground: Open all year. Fee: \$12 per night or \$6 for holders of Golden Age/Access/Senior Passes. 40-foot maximum vehicle length. Generator use permitted 8 am-10 am and 4 pm-6 pm. Sites are first-come, first-served. No reservations. 34 tent sites/174 RV sites.

Facilities: Restrooms, drinking water, picnic tables, fire pits, showers, dump station. No RV hookups.

Alamo Primitive Campground: Open all year. Fee \$8 per night or \$4 with a Golden Age/Access/Senior Pass. Obtain required permit at visitor center. Open to tents, pickup campers, and vans only. No generators. Limited to four tent sites which may fill early, especially in winter. No advance reservations.

Facilities: Pit toilet, picnic table, grill. *No Water available.*



Alamo Campground, campsite

Clear desert skies make Alamo Campground
a must for nighttime stargazing

Your Trail Guide to Organ Pipe Cactus

Fishhook Pincushion Cactus



Alamo Canyon trail



Victoria Mine trail



Bull Pasture - Estes Canyon trails



Along the Campground Perimeter Trail

Trail	Distance/ Time (round-trip)	Description
Visitor Center Nature Trail	0.10 miles 5-10 minutes 	Easy brick path from Visitor Center with exhibits. Accessible to scooters and wheelchairs.
Campground Perimeter	1 mile 20-30 minutes 	Easy loop around Twin Peaks Campground. Pets allowed.
Palo Verde	2.6 miles 1.5-2 hours 	Easy trail between Twin Peaks Campground and Visitor Center with views of the Ajo Range. Pets allowed.
Alamo Canyon	2 miles 1.5 hours	Easy trail to historic ranching site. Recommended for birding. Footing can be rough.
Desert View	1.2 miles 45-60 minutes	Easy loop trail to beautiful vistas. Ideal for sunrise and sunset. Benches provided.
Victoria Mine	4.5 miles 2 hours	Easy trail meandering across the Sonoran Desert to historic mining structures. Crosses several arroyos (washes). Benches provided. Mines are closed. For your safety, do not enter mines.
Arch Canyon	2 miles 1 hour	Easy-moderate trail that steadily climbs into canyon. Good views of arch and oak-juniper environment.
Estes Canyon-Bull Pasture	4.1 miles 2-3 hours	Difficult loop trail with steep grade and exposed cliffs. Spectacular views of monument and Mexico. Estes Canyon is great for birding.
 Dogs on leash OK  Accessible		

Staying Safe in the Desert



The desert is a wondrous, magical place-To enjoy it safely keep the following in mind:

- Carry and drink plenty of water - at least one gallon per person a day.
- Sun protection is important. Remember to wear sunscreen and protective clothing.
- Desert vegetation is spikey, so avoid contact. Spines can be removed with tweezers.
- Flash floods occur instantly and are dangerous. Avoid washes when rain is threatening.
- Never enter a flooded roadway. Wait for the water to subside and it is safe to cross.
- Do not put your hands or feet anywhere you cannot see. That is where snakes, scorpions, and spiders often hide.
- Hike with a partner. Let someone else know where you are going and when you plan to return.
- Cross-border incursions do occur. If you should encounter someone or a group traveling cross country with backpacks, bundles or black water bottles, do not make contact. Report suspicious activity or people to a ranger, or call 911 if your phone has a signal.

Quitobaquito

An Oasis in the Sonoran Desert

Water...cool, clear water! That's what early travelers approaching Quitobaquito Springs (or A'al Waippia) pictured as they faced the arid desert region which would become Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. They found fish and mud turtles paddling about in a picturesque waterway, and water flowing from the springs was neither cool (75-80 degrees Fahrenheit) nor clear (with a touch of arsenic, sodium chloride, and sodium bicarbonate chloride.). But it was water!

The earliest naturalists to record information on the quality of the spring water had differing opinions: William T. Hornaday - 1907, "...glorious spring of clear and cold water..." Carl Lumholtz - 1910, "...a tiny stream, fed by springs, carrying beautiful, limpid water amid banks white with mineral salts..." and Kirk Bryan - 1917, "The temperature of the water was 80.3 degrees Fahrenheit."

Quitobaquito natural springs, at the base of the Quitobaquito Hills, have been a source of life-giving water for wildlife and humans over thousands of years. Because of its importance to travelers and native peoples, this oasis is the oldest continuously inhabited site within the monument. The springs are fed through the fractured granite (50-65 million years old) of the Quitobaquito Hills, northeast of the springs. Southwest corner of Monument



Geologists studying these hills postulate that rocks broke along fracture zones during earthquakes millions of years ago. Deep basins between mountain ranges filled with loose sediment, carried by streams off the mountains. Loose sediment-filled valleys or plains, some up to 5,000 feet in depth, allow water to move easily below the surface, thus protecting desert rain water from rapid evaporation. The Valley of the Ajo, Sonoyta Valley, Growler Valley, and La Abra Plain, are well suited to be aquifers. The water source for Quitobaquito is the large underground aquifer beneath La Abra Plain.

Water in the aquifer under La Abra Plain comes from rain that has fallen on the Cipriano Hills and Puerto Blanco Mountains to the northeast. Water seeps into the ground and moves slowly into the aquifer through thin deposits of rock and sand. Water in the aquifer is dammed by the hills but, because of the fractured granite, and water interacting with minerals in the granite, the dam leaks. Water can pass through the fractured rocks to the surface, feeding the springs of Quitobaquito.

Carbon-14 dating of the spring water from Quitobaquito indicates that the water is between 500 to 2,000 years old. The rate of flow of the springs, depending on the time of year and amount of rainfall, varies between 13 and 18 gallons per minute. The spring flows into a man made pond that provides water and homes for a diverse community of plants, birds and mammals, including the endangered Quitobaquito pupfish, and the Sonoyta mud turtle.

Quitobaquito Springs has been a stopping point for many travelers throughout its history: it was a stop along the salt trail to the Gulf of California where American Indians went to gather salt and shells, a critical water stop along El Camino de Diablo, (the Devils Highway) of the Spanish explorers and missionaries, and a rest stop for miners on the way to the gold fields of California in the 1850s. The springs also provided water for the nomadic ancestors of the Hia'Ced O'odham to raise a few crops south of Quitobaquito. The Hia'Ced traded with peoples of the north who journeyed along the salt path, and hunted in the lands surrounding Quitobaquito.



Quitobaquito Pond

As the Europeans began to explore and settle the Western Hemisphere, Spain sent a Jesuit priest, Father Eusebio Kino, to explore the "Pimeria Alta", and to establish missions. Father Kino mapped routes of travel, including this water source, and established the small San Sergio Rancheria at Quitobaquito. He stopped here frequently as he journeyed to and from the Gila River area and California. Would-be settlers came and went at Quito, establishing trading posts or stores, trying their hand at mining, residing at the springs for a short time then moving on. Few could handle the isolation and loneliness.

In the 1850s permanent settlers modified the water flow from the springs; they channeled the water into a low, swampy area and built an earthen dam to create a small pond. This provided a predictable water supply for crops and travelers. Expeditions, explorers, researchers, and surveyors followed. They came to survey a railroad route, establish a stage coach line, mark the new Mexican-American boundary as a result of the treaty ending the Mexican-American War, map water holes, search out prospective gold mines, cross the Devil's Highway to the California gold fields, or drum up business with Mexico. No matter why they came, or where they were going, their paths led through Quitobaquito...that's where the water was. Cool, clear, water...

Climate Change

Throughout our planet's history change has been a constant. A significant change today is the warming of our climate. Today there are strong indications that the warming trend will continue and have a significant impact on life. Weather patterns will change with the possibility of more violent storms in some areas and extended or continuing droughts in others. These changes don't happen in isolation; the effects will in some way impact all our lives.

Climate change will also have an impact on the nations parks and monuments. In some parks the impact is becoming apparent. Many of the glaciers in Glacier National Park have nearly disappeared and the rest are shrinking. At Death Valley and Joshua Tree National Parks a warming climate would initially cause the Joshua trees, juniper and pinion pine to retreat to higher elevations or disappear from those parks. A warming climate may expand the range of the saguaro and organ pipe cactus north and east of their current areas of growth. One day saguaro cactus may grow in the Chihuahuan desert at Big Bend National Park. Hollywood westerns would then be correct.

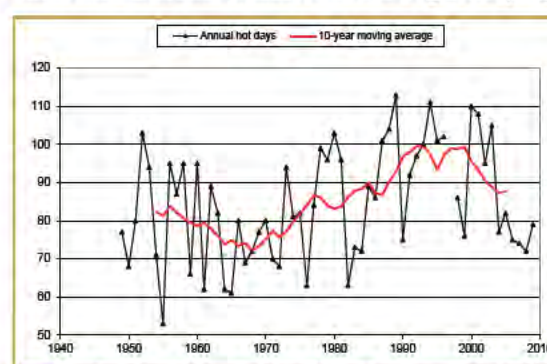
Here in the Sonoran desert there has been an extended drought with decreasing rainfall. The average temperature has increased by two degrees since 1980. The blooming of wildflowers has come earlier if at all. Many of the plants are also shifting to higher, cooler elevations. If the warming continues, some of our plants that exist only in the cool high elevations of the Ajo Mountains will dwindle or may disappear.

Another consequence of the warming trend here is the loss of water sources for the wildlife. Without water, animals will move to where there is water or will perish.

There is an ongoing debate about climate change; some argue there is no climate change others agree it is happening but dispute the causes or that human activities are a factor in the issue. The scientific community and federal agencies have conducted extensive research on climate change. This research provides compelling arguments that human activity while not necessarily the cause of global warming is a factor in how rapidly it is now occurring.



Since the National Weather Service began keeping reliable records of annual



Annual number of days with maximum temperatures of 100°F or more, at Organ Pipe Cactus N.M. since 1949.

temperatures, the 20 warmest years on record have happened since 1981 and the 10 warmest have been in the last 12 years. The chart to the left shows the number of days with temperatures of 100 degrees or more since 1949

The National Park Service director has initiated a Call to Action, committing the service to "Go Green" by reducing its carbon footprint before

the NPS Centennial in 2016. To do so, the NPS must challenge itself to view all of its activities and programs through a lens of sustainability and take advantage of green opportunities whenever possible.

The Service can demonstrate how resource stewardship and sustainability are connected; working together with visitors, it can make a difference. The NPS also collaborates with communities around the country to support local recreation, conservation, and heritage preservation efforts. Working together with these partners can have a substantial effect on the global effort to use resources more wisely. NPS staff members are all empowered to be agents of change in this effort, with each office and individual making a valuable contribution. Together, NPS can make our parks and programs models of conservation and preservation by incorporating sustainability opportunities at the individual level and throughout the programs and operations that we manage and work with every day.

Is it safe to visit?

The southern boundary of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument borders Mexico for 30 miles. Illegal border activities occur in Organ Pipe including the smuggling of drugs and humans. You are very unlikely to encounter illegal activity. Smugglers and migrants want to evade detection and therefore try to avoid contact with other people. They often travel at night and sleep during the day, decreasing the likelihood of running into Monument visitors. In rare instances when smugglers or migrants do approach a visitor it is usually because they are lost, need water or are in medical distress.

How to Stay Safe

You can reduce your likelihood of encountering illegal activity by avoiding unofficial hiking trails. Stay in areas of the park that are open to the public and only hike during the day. Be aware of your surroundings. If you hear or see activity that is suspicious you should leave the area and report it.

It is generally a good idea to hike with others or to inform someone of where you are going and when you will return. Few areas of the monument have cell phone coverage, and coverage is sporadic and should not be relied upon.

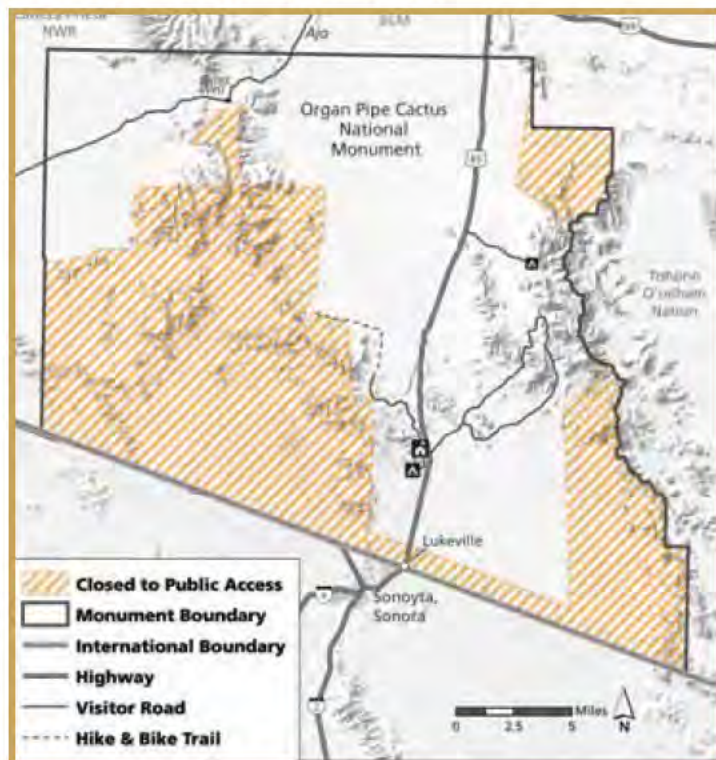
If you do come into contact with individuals who are involved in illegal activity you should minimize that contact. You should not provide water or food as they may continue on and become distressed, needing assistance in an area where there is no help available. Continue to drive and call for help without inviting strangers into your vehicle. You should never pick up hitchhikers.

When parked, secure your vehicle and keep valuables, water, and food out of sight. Remember you are in a desert and should carry supplies of water and light snacks while taking a scenic drive or hiking one of the trails. Simply breathing while riding in a vehicle you can lose more than a quart of water per day. If you are hiking, the rate of water loss can increase to more than a quart per hour.

Hiking trails can be rugged. You may encounter loose rocks and severe inclines with steep drop-offs. It is advised to hike with a friend or group and always let someone know where you will be hiking and when you expect to return. Bring and drink plenty of water.

Cactus and many other plants use thorns as a means of defense or to propagate and spread by hitching a ride on you; so you should always be aware of your surroundings and avoid contact with plants that can grab, scratch, or poke you.

The Monument is home to many animals, including birds and reptiles. Some of these animals can be dangerous if cornered or handled. The handling of these animals is illegal and can put both you and the animals at risk of injury. A few animals are poisonous. Do not put your hands or feet into areas that you can not see.



You are advised to avoid contact with anyone who might be involved in illegal activity. If you do see or encounter them please alert the park rangers or Border Patrol, who are trained and equipped to provide medical assistance.

For further information ask for our safety brochure at the visitor center

Wilderness:

Why are parts of the wilderness closed?

As much as we would like to have the entire monument open to the visiting public it just isn't always feasible.

When wilderness areas came into being, Park Service managers became responsible for insuring that wilderness areas remain as undisturbed as possible. What this means to visitors is that sometimes areas have to be closed to allow them to recover from excessive human use.

Another reason for closures is to preserve a feature of the landscape that is critical to endangered plants or as habitat protection for wildlife that needs to be left undisturbed.

Here at Organ Pipe we close portions of the monument during the fawning of the Sonoran pronghorn to enhance the chances that the next generation of this extremely endangered subspecies of the North American pronghorn will survive.



Sonoran pronghorn fawn

Other portions may be closed for public safety reasons to deter the interaction of visitors and smugglers or human traffickers. Our law enforcement rangers and Border Patrol are heavily engaged in efforts to reduce these activities.

Park managers and outside partners conduct quarterly reviews of these closures to determine if some areas impacted by these activities can be reopened to visitor use. To date these reviews have opened more than 80,000 acres of wilderness to day use for visitors.

Wilderness

September 3, 2014 is the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Wilderness Act into law.

Celebrate with your own visit to a Wilderness Area.

Research

CAMERAS USED TO SPY ON WILDLIFE

Preservation of natural resources, including wildlife, is central to the National Park Service mission and the missions of other resource management agencies in the United States and Mexico. A growing concern for land managers is human activities including construction of border fences which are barriers to many animals, impacting wildlife communities and animal movement.

Why spy on wildlife? In 2009-2010, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (Arizona) and El Pinacate and Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Sonora, Mexico) placed motion-detection camera traps in a cooperative study of animal activity in adjacent protected lands. Camera studies can provide information on what species inhabit or visit specific locations, how many animals are present in a certain area, what areas provide preferred movement corridors and what influence humans may have on animal behavior.

During the study, many animal activities were caught on camera: foraging with vegetation or prey in mouth, resting, digging, flying or walking. Some animals were curious about the camera. Kit foxes were recorded spraying the camera at several sites. Of the 17 mammal species recorded on camera, coyotes and desert cottontails were the most common. Nineteen bird species were identified.

There were limitations to the study. Many animals were too small for the camera to detect, some were not active at ground level at the camera location, and some (i.e. reptiles) have body temperatures similar to the surrounding environment so were not detected by the camera's tripping mechanism. Despite these limitations, results from the sister park camera study suggest that wildlife cameras can be a useful tool for determining animal occupancy, relative abundance, distribution and activity patterns. This can be especially valuable in large areas where direct observation by field workers over long periods of time is not practical.

The 2009-2010 pilot camera study was motivated by land managers' concerns over the effects of increased human activity and infrastructure on the border—including road and fence construction-- on wildlife communities and animal movement in adjacent natural areas in the Sonoran Desert. Wildlife camera studies are currently ongoing in both El Pinacate and Organ Pipe Cactus N.M. , with the potential to increase understanding of animal use of water holes, human disturbance in wildlife habitat, movement pathways, and distribution of rare species such as bighorn sheep and Sonoran pronghorn.



Javelina



Gambel's Quail



Camera Trap



Packrat



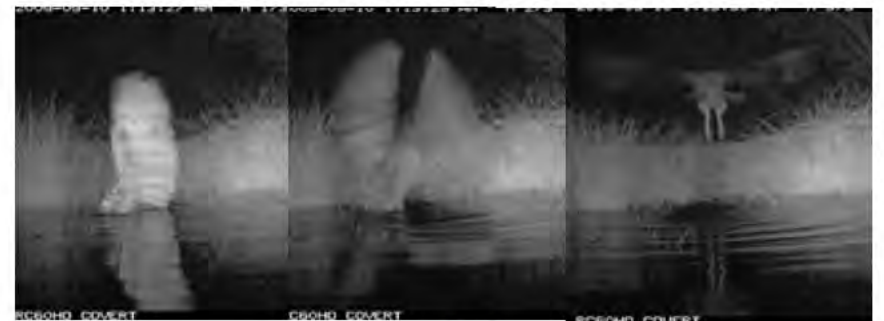
Bobcat with prey



Wily Fox



Curious Bobcat



Great Horned Owl

When photographing any wildlife, it is best to use a longer telephoto lens to lessen the chances of injury to you or the animal being photographed. Approaching too closely can startle wildlife and cause unintended reactions from animals and people.

A variety of wildlife captured with a single camera trap



Fox



Desert Cottontail



Coyote



Bobcat



Mule Deer

Sonoran Desert Dark Skies

We all have a personal connection to the night sky. The stars are at peace, drifting slowly through the darkness and into our deepest being. We are free at night. We can contemplate, brood, imagine. Every culture through all of human time has its own imaginary sky, full of myths and mystics and supernatural explanations for natural phenomena.

The Navajo believed that the moon was made by First Man and First Woman from mica, sea shells, lightning and water. They recruited Old Man to carry the new moon into the sky to follow the sun and light the night, giving him a headdress of eagle feathers to wear on the journey. Old Man struggled on the ascent until East Wind gave him an airborne assist. But the wind also blew the feathers into Old Man's eyes and when he reached the sky his path was hidden. Now he wanders along, sometimes carrying the moon higher, sometimes lower. We can see this from month to month as the moon wanders among the stars.

The Yakama believe that a hunter slew a great elk and stretched the skin on the ground, using wooden pegs to secure it. When the skin was ready he threw it into the sky, where the lights behind shine through the peg holes as stars.

At Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, our neighbors the Tohono O'odham view the stars as cornmeal strewn across the dark fabric of the night sky. Native Americans saw the skies as a part of an organic whole with the earth and all the trees, rocks, animals and people on it. Other cultures saw in the sky the work of gods, powerful but flawed super-humans who interfered with human affairs. People have used the night sky for navigation, as a guide to seasonal planting and harvesting, or a signal for a time to celebrate or mourn. England's famous Stonehenge is matched by similar structures in Central America and Illinois, at Cahokia. In every case, people have connected with the stars in a meaningful, practical way.

Due to its desert location, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument enjoys clean, clear, dry air that seems to make the stars, planets and constellations closer, more approachable. The Big Dipper is obvious at any season at night, and Orion and Cygnus rule during the winter and summer, respectively. Can you spot Andromeda and the Pleiades in the autumn, or Scorpius due south in the summer? The summer Milky Way is almost bright enough to read by, and even in January it can be easily seen behind Cassiopeia. Even a low-power pair of binoculars can reveal galaxies and nebulae tucked into every corner of the sky.

Most of the Monument's visitors take an aesthetic view of the stars, connecting with ancient cultures in an appreciation of its grandeur. Organ Pipe Cactus provides an opportunity to enjoy this spectacle that is steadily fading from sight in the United States as unshielded lights blot out the stars. An estimated two-thirds of Americans

cannot see the Milky Way, our home galaxy, from their homes. Their best chance to connect with the night is at one of the national parks, many of which have adopted the preservation of the night sky as a part of their mission. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument fulfills its mission as a protective harbor for the stars, for all of us to enjoy.

The Endangered Night Sky

At night, from any high point in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, we can see signs of Phoenix, Tucson, Ajo, and nearby communities. Their lighting casts a domelike glow onto the sky, blotting out stars and constellations. This evidence of waste is called light pollution, and it threatens not just the night sky, not just humans, but also the sleeping patterns, migration and feeding habits of animals. The famous image of the United States at night, below, is the best graphic illustration of the results of poor lighting. Why can we see these lights from space? Aren't they supposed to be illuminating the ground? As with any other type of pollution, each of us can make a difference—and save some money as well.

- . Reduce the wattage of the bulbs in your outdoor fixtures
- . Maintain their effectiveness by using shields to prevent light from shining upward and focus it only where it is needed.
- . Use motion sensors on outdoor lights so they are lit only when needed.

For more information, contact the International Dark Association at www.darksky.org.



NASA Image Visible Earth (<http://visibleearth.nasa.gov/>)

Weather



Desert Rainbow

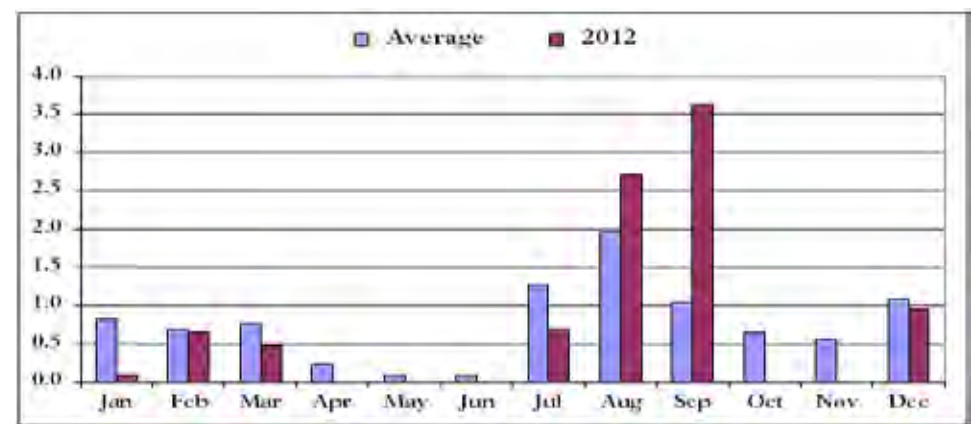
One thing weather is certain to do is change. In this respect, it is no different at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument than anywhere else. In spring it seems that things most often turn from good to better and then return to good.

A few soft rains will cause wildflowers to spring from the desert in profusion. The "Blooming Seasons" chart on page 11 gives a good indication of when to come for the best chance of catching the show. For poppies and lupine that would most likely be from early February to mid-April. Winter at Organ Pipe is the gentle time.

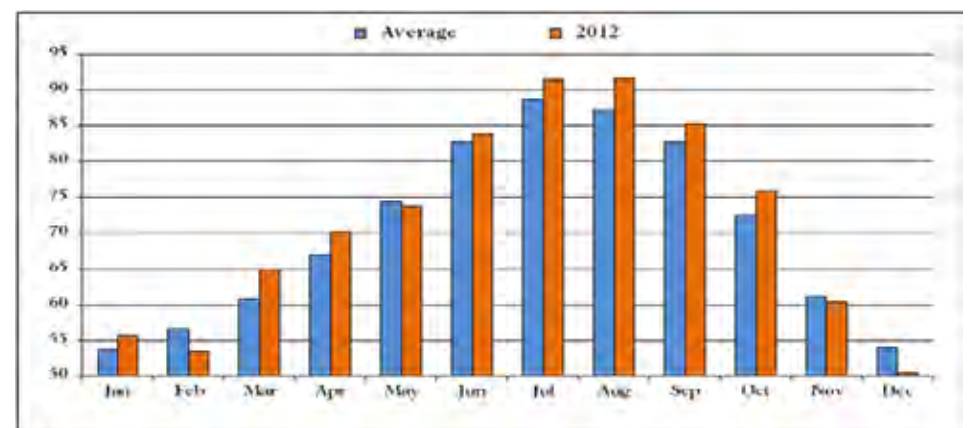
Hot days are in store from June through September. Summer monsoons can bring quick, heavy showers and flash floods in the washes. It is dangerous to try to cross a wash when it is flooded, even in a large vehicle, so caution is in order. The muddy-looking water is actually a heavy mix of sand, rocks and woody debris from upstream. It can pack a wallop. Frequently lightning accompanies these storms and can be a hazard to hikers.

Summer is the best time to get a glimpse of Gila monsters and desert tortoises. They often emerge from dens around dawn and dusk.

The charts to the right may help in planning your visit for weather that suits you. The upper chart shows rainfall by month. The blue bars indicate averages from more than 50 years of records. The red bars are for 2011. The lower chart shows average temperatures by month, with violet indicating the lows and orange the highs.



Monthly rainfall in inches



Average daily temperatures by month

Ocotillo: It's Not a Cactus?

Depending on when it last rained the ocotillo may look like a bundle of sticks in the ground or frozen burst of green fireworks with flaming red tips when in leaf and blooming. It has long sharp thorns which may lead some to think it must be a cactus. In reality, it is a shrub common to the Chihuahuan, Sonoran and lower Mojave deserts of the U.S. and Mexico.

Ocotillo seems to defy our common idea of "shrub." From a distance the plant looks dead. A closer look may reveal bits of green in a very woody, rough-textured bark. That indicates the plant is alive. Look even more closely and you will see the small circles on top of the base of the thorns and the place where leaves form. Most of the time the shrub is leafless and dormant, just waiting for rain.

When rain comes, as either gentle, soaking rain of winter or pounding thunderstorms in summer, it will trigger an amazing transformation. Within 48 hours, the stems turn greener, and new leaf buds appear. A few days later, the ocotillo will be hiding those nasty thorns under a luxurious coat of green leaves.

If you are fortunate and visit Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument from late February through early April, you may see clusters of flaming red flowers atop those wavy stems.

These flowers are magnets for migrating and resident hummingbirds, orioles, pollinating insects and other nectar-lovers.

Once the ocotillo finishes blooming, the soil dries and the plant uses its last spurt of rain-induced energy, the leaves turn yellow to red, a hint of Autumn in the wrong season.

This is the sign that ocotillo is ready to rest. This upside-down spider of a shrub is returning to its drab, dead-looking dormant stage until the next rain.



Ocotillo in full leaf



Dormant ocotillo



Ocotillo flowers and buds

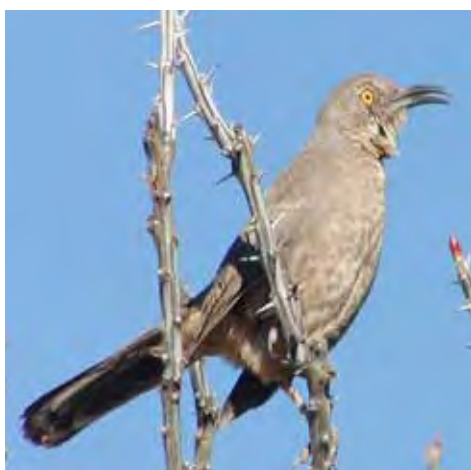
Birds, Birds, Birds:

A Who's Who in Organ Pipe Cactus

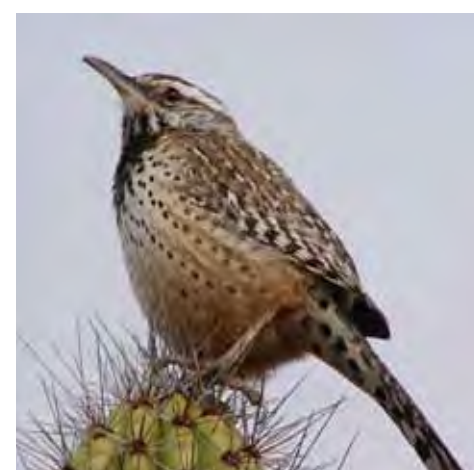
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument hosts over 270 bird species, from year-round regulars to annual migrants. With an incredible range of topography and habitat, the monument provides home and sustenance to a diverse variety of birds. Many birds in Organ Pipe Cactus are seasonal visitors, stopping over during the cool winter months to forage and continue south.

Pictured here are some of the most commonly seen permanent residents in the monument. How do they survive the extreme, hot summers? Some birds combat the heat by slimming their feathers close to their bodies to minimize the insulating feather warmth. Others reserve their activity to the cool early mornings, or hide in the shade of a bush or rock during the heat of the day. Birds also maintain a normally high core body temperature and expel heat through scaly legs. These qualities allow birds to endure hot desert summers.

The best places for bird watching are along the Alamo Canyon Trail and behind the Kris Eggle Visitor Center.



Curve-billed thrasher



Cactus wren



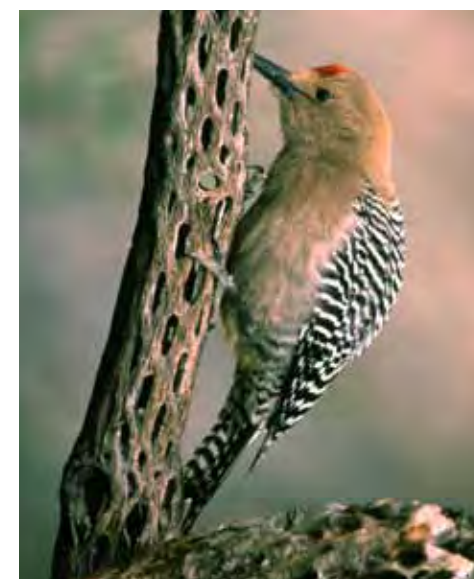
Phainopepla [fey-ahy-noh-**pep**-luh]



Costa's hummingbird



Gambel's quail



Gila woodpecker

Flower Guide

When Does the Sonoran Desert Bloom?

If you are lucky, you may see the desert carpeted in flowers. After heavy winter rains, plants burst into bloom, some flowering only days after receiving water. Other plants wait patiently for the summer rains to come.

Sonoran Desert wildflowers grow quickly and in large numbers after it rains. Once the soil dries, plants die back. Desert wildflowers are not only beautiful, but they are essential to the survival of many desert creatures.



Buckhorn cholla



Pincushion cactus



Teddy bear cholla



Mexican gold poppy



Mojave lupine



Fairy duster



Desert marigold

Blooming Seasons	Winter Rain						Summer Rain			Winter Rain		
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cacti												
Organ Pipe												
Saguaro												
Cholla												
Prickly Pear												
Other Perennials												
Palo Verde												
Ironwood												
Fairy Duster												
Brittlebush												
Ocotillo												
Annuals												
Globemallow												
Mex. Gold Poppy												
Lupine												
Desert Marigold												
Chuparosa												

NOTE: The blooming times of all annuals and many perennials depend upon the amount of rain and the time of year when the rain falls. The chart is only an average.



Spring wildflower display

How do you say that?

Ajo: AH-ho. Spanish for garlic; also a Tohono O’odham word for a copper-colored pigment.

Bajada: ba-HAH-dah. The gravelly plains that slope away from the base of a mountain range. Many diverse species take advantage of the bajadas’ well drained, gravelly soil. They are good places to look for wildlife.

Cholla: CHOY-yuh. A group of cacti known for painful spines and easily detachable, jointed branches. Also called “jumping cactus.”

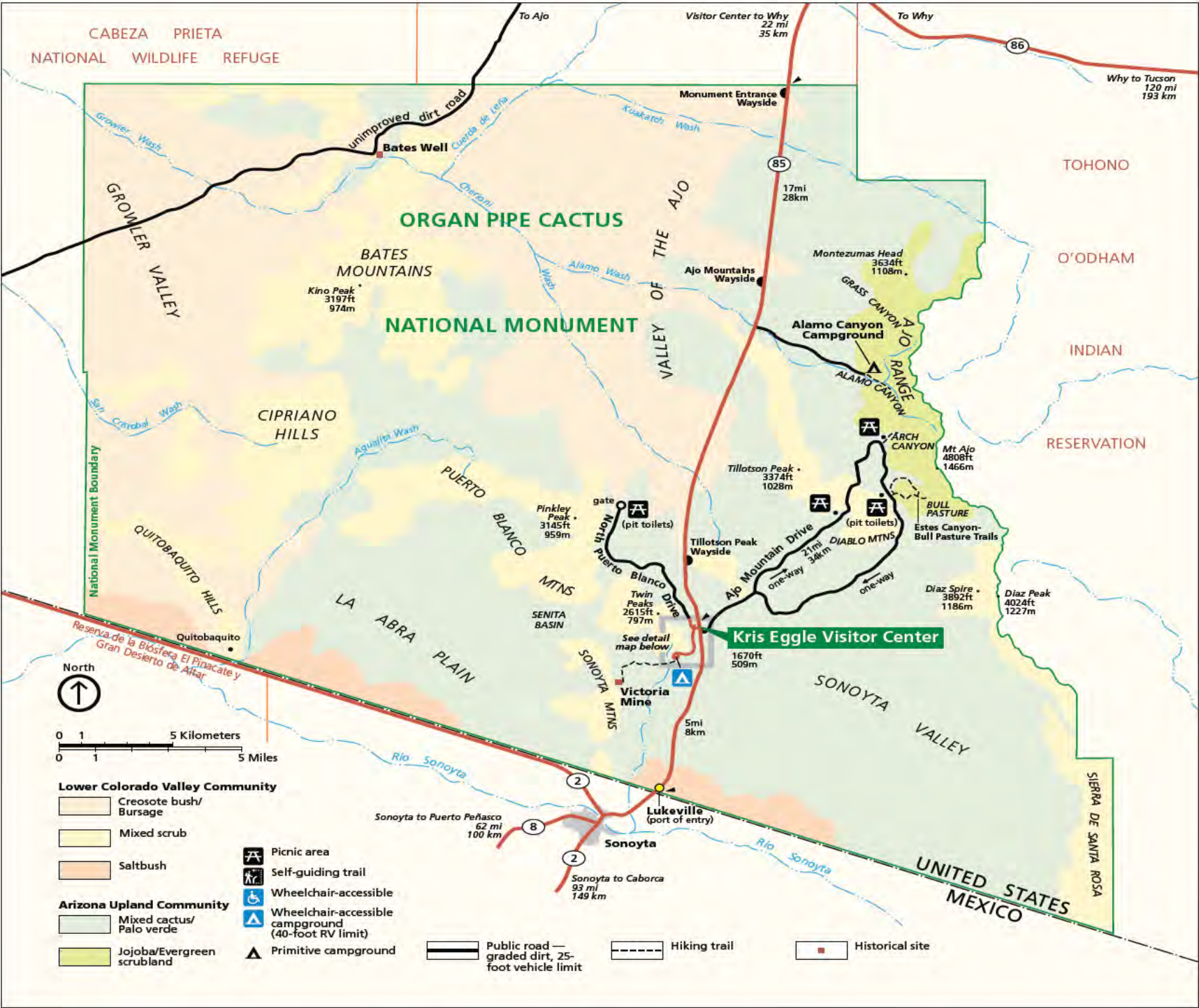
Gila: HEE-lah. As in Gila monster, Gila woodpecker and Gila River.

Ocotillo: OH-koh-TEE-yo. A very thorny plant, often mistaken for a cactus. The ocotillo has the ability to sprout leaves within 48 hours of rain.

Saguaro: sa-WA-roh. Arizona’s tallest cactus (growing to over 70 feet - usually 45 to 50 feet) and a major indicator species for the health of the Sonoran Desert.



Hedgehog cactus



Visitor Center

The Kris Eggle Visitor Center is open 8 am - 5 pm. Stop by for an informative slide presentation, a 1/10 mile stroll on the handicapped-accessible nature trail, nature and museum exhibit room, bookstore, and answers from a park ranger or volunteer at the information counter.

Ranger led talks, walks and guided tours are offered from January through March.

Mailing Address

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument
10 Organ Pipe Drive
Ajo, Arizona 85321-9626

E-mail
orpi_information@nps.gov

Phone
520-387-6849

Website
www.nps.gov/orpi

Visitor Center and Campground Area



TIS message
Revised: 3/13

Welcome to Organ Pipe national Monument. This unit of the National Park Service was established in 1937 to preserve and protect a representative sample of the Sonoran Desert ecosystem. We protect part of the largest wilderness areas in the United States and are a designated International Biosphere Reserve by the United Nations. This place is waiting for your discovery.

We can help you get started at the Kris Eggle Visitor Center, which is located south of here near milepost 75 and is open daily from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., except Thanksgiving and Christmas. Maps, restrooms, information, exhibits, bookstore, orientation video and picnic area are available.

You can head out on one of the monument's two scenic drives. Both are graded dirt roads designed for standard passenger vehicles. The 21 mile Ajo Mountain Drive is a one-way loop road that winds through the foothills of the Ajo Mountains with access to hiking trails and picnic areas. An informational guide book is available in the visitor center. The Puerto Blanco Drive is a shorter two-way drive with a picnic area and beautiful view across the Valley of the Ajos.

An \$8 per vehicle entrance fee is required and is good for 7 days. Annual passes including the America the Beautiful Golden Age, Senior and Access passes are honored. There is no charge for vehicles passing through on Highway 85 or to stop at the visitor center for information.

Camping is available on a first-come first-served basis. The main Twin Peaks Campground accommodates tents and RVs. Potable water, flush toilets and solar showers are located throughout the campground. All RV sites are pull-through and several have been designed to handle RVs 40 foot in length. There are no hook-ups, however, a sanitary dump is located at the south end of the campground.

Camping cost \$12 per night and are in addition to the entrance fee. Golden Age, Senior and Access pass discounts are honored. The campground registration station is open daily January through March. At all other times campers may register at the visitor center or self-register at the campground.

Primitive camping is available at Alamo Campground. This secluded 4 site campground has picnic tables, grills and a pit toilet. Water is not available. The campsites are designated for tents, though small camper vans and truck campers are welcome. Registration must be done in person at the visitor center on the first day of your intended overnight stay.

Please be aware that illegal activity related to proximity to the international border can occur in the monument. Some areas of the monument are closed to the public, please check at the visitor center for current closures. For your safety, be aware of your surroundings at all times. When leaving your vehicle, stow valuables out of sight and lock your vehicle. Do not pick up hitch hikers. If you see a person in need of assistance or you would like to report suspicious behavior call 911 or notify a park ranger at the visitor center or a Border Patrol agent.

Please let our friendly staff help you plan your visit to one of the world's most diverse and beautiful desert preserves. From scenic drives to trails to canyons and wilderness solitude, Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument offers a rich cultural history along with natural landscape to be discovered and explored. Enjoy your stay.

This is TIS KOJ 793



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

News Release

Release Date: 2/29/2012

Contact: Sue Walter, sue_walter@nps.gov, 520-387-6849 ext. 7301

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Evaluates Closures

AJO, Arizona: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument has implemented closures in areas of the monument since 2002. While some areas remain open and accessible to the public other areas have been closed. In 2007 the monument implemented a zone management concept with routine re-evaluation of the open and closed areas. The last change was made in 2009 and the borders of the management zones have remained constant since that time. Changes to infrastructure, staffing, and in illegal traffic patterns have prompted a revamping of the evaluation process. A new Risk Assessment Process of closed and open areas to the public includes quarterly meetings, assessment of geographic areas based on changes in illegal use and sustainable improvements in law enforcement infrastructure, a risk assessment process, and participation in the process by regional cooperators and the monument staff. The Risk Assessment Process balances the hazards presented by human and narcotic smugglers with the mitigating factors of law enforcement infrastructure, visitor use patterns, and public education.

The January of 2012 re-evaluation workshops results were a recommendation to the Superintendent to re-open an area of the monument that had been closed. This will increase the area of the monument open to public use from 104,755 acres to 138,419 acres. This represents a change from 31.66 % to 41.84% of the monument open to public use. The Superintendent has forwarded this recommendation, with his concurrence, to the National Park Service Intermountain Regional Office for their concurrence. An announcement will be made once the monument receives regional concurrence.



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Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument News Release

Release Date: 09/09/2014

Contacts: Sue Walter, sue_walter@nps.gov 520-387-6849 ext. 7301

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Increases Area Available for Public Access

Ajo, Arizona – Areas in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument that have been closed since 2003 will again be available for public access beginning September 15, 2014. More than half the monument was closed to the public due to safety concerns from cross border illegal activity such as human and narcotic smuggling. This park action is a result of increased staffing and infrastructure and an emphasis on educating visitors to the risks that exist at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. The park is using new signage, informational brochures and increased safety orientations at the visitor center to improve visitor's situational awareness about the illegal activities that occur in the park.

Since 2003 the National Park Service has also increased the Visitor and Resource Protection staff at Organ Pipe from five rangers to 20. The Ajo Station of the U.S. Border Patrol has increased its staff from 25 agents to over 500 in the field with access to the park. In nearby Lukeville, the Office of Field Operations, Customs and Border Protection has increased the staff at the Point of Entry from 12 to 32 officers.

“No national park can guarantee the safety of every visitor and inherent risks exist in many backcountry settings. Cross-border activity in southern Arizona remains a reality,” said Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument Superintendent Brent Range. “Organ Pipe is public land. We feel that educating our visitors will provide the public with the tools they need to decide how they wish to enjoy the park.”

“We support and understand the importance of the National Park Service's decision to expand public access at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument. We look forward to continuing our

collaborative relationship and accomplishing each agency's shared goals." said Patrol Agent in Charge Scott Good of the Ajo Border Patrol Station.

Additionally, the Department of the Interior, National Park Service and U.S. Customs and Border Protection have worked cooperatively to construct infrastructure intended to provide additional security to border areas. Where there used to be a barbed wire fence designating the border between Mexico and the United States there is now a 30-mile vehicle barrier fence and a 5.2-mile pedestrian fence. The fences have reduced the illegal access by vehicles through the desert and have almost eliminated high speed pursuits on Hwy 85. Surveillance and radio towers also aid in the tracking and apprehension of illegal smugglers.

For more information about Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument contact Public Information Officer Sue Walter at 520-387-6849 x7301 or via email at: sue_walter@nps.gov.

About the National Park Service: The National Park Service will celebrate 100 years of caring for America's 401 national parks in 2016. Our more than 20,000 employees work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and unique landscapes and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.

-NPS-



Safety

The southern boundary of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument borders Mexico for 30 miles. Illegal border activities occur in Organ Pipe including the smuggling of drugs and humans. According to the U.S. Border Patrol over 6,000 arrests were made and approximately 75,000 pounds of marijuana were seized in Organ Pipe Cactus during 2011. You are very unlikely to encounter illegal activity. Smugglers and migrants want to evade detection and therefore try to avoid contact with other people. They often travel at night and sleep during the day, decreasing the likelihood of running into Monument visitors. In rare instances when smugglers or migrants do approach a visitor it is usually because they are lost, need water or are in medical distress.

You are advised to avoid contact with anyone who might be involved in illegal activity. If you do see or encounter them please alert the park rangers or Border Patrol, who are trained and equipped to provide medical assistance.

How to Stay Safe

You can reduce your likelihood of encountering illegal activity by avoiding unofficial hiking trails. Stay in areas of the park that are open to the public and only hike during the day. Be aware of your surroundings. If you hear or see activity that is suspicious you should leave the area and report it.

It is generally a good idea to hike with others or to inform someone of where you are going and when you will return. Some areas of the monument do have cell phone coverage, but coverage is sporadic and should not be relied upon.

If you do come into contact with individuals who are involved in illegal activity you should minimize that contact. You should not provide water or food as they may continue on and become distressed, needing assistance in an area where there is no help available. Continue to drive and call for help without inviting strangers into your vehicle. You should never pick up hitchhikers.

When parked, secure your vehicle and keep valuables, water, and food out of sight.

Remember you are in a desert and should carry supplies of water and light snacks while taking a scenic drive or hiking one of the trails. Simply breathing while riding in a vehicle you can lose more than a quart of water per day. If you are hiking, the rate of water loss can increase to more than a quart per hour.

Hiking trails can be rugged. You may encounter loose rocks and severe inclines with steep drop-offs. It is advised to hike with a friend or group and always let someone know where you will be hiking and when you expect to return. Bring and drink plenty of water.

Cactus and many other plants use thorns as a means of defense or to propagate and spread by hitching a ride on you; so you should always be aware of your surroundings and avoid contact with plants that can grab, scratch, or poke you.

The Monument is home to many animals, including birds and reptiles. Some of these animals can be dangerous if cornered or handled. The handling of these animals can put both you and the animals at risk or injury. A few animals are poisonous. Do not put your hands or feet into areas that you can not see.

Safety Statistics

Park Incidents/Crimes from January 2007 to November 2012

Driving violations (suspended/no license/no insurance)	68
Driving under the influence	14
Possession of a controlled substance	13
Resource damage	10
Disorderly conduct	7
Vandalism	7

Visitor Injuries from January 2007 to July, 2012

Assaults	0
Pre-existing health problems	4
Slips and falls	6
Motor vehicle accidents	15

The five year injury and crime rates are higher in Organ Pipe Cactus because Highway 85, a busy route to Mexico, bisects the park. These rates are still lower, however, than most national parks of equal size.

Park Actions for
Your Safety

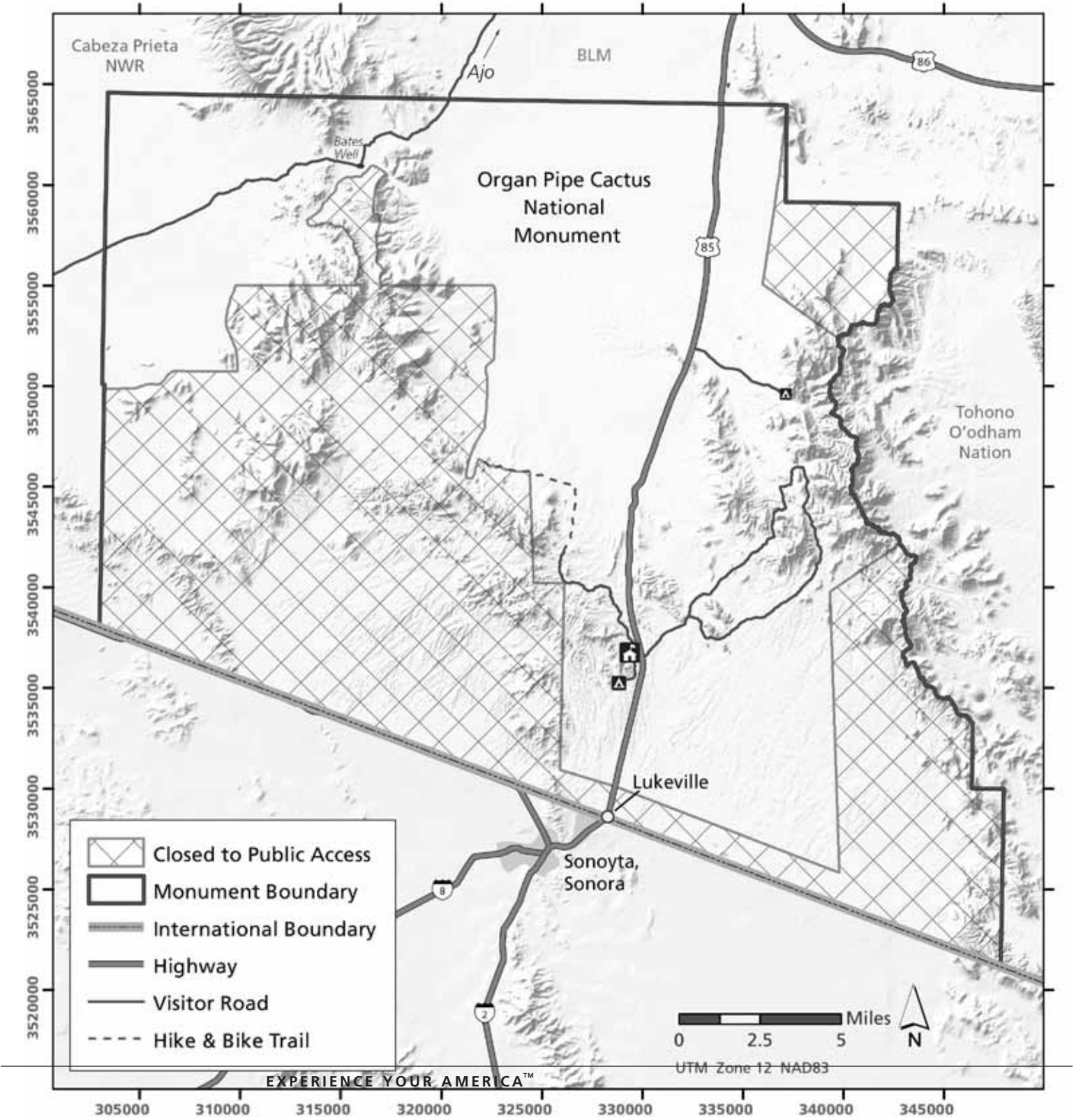
Organ Pipe Cactus has added more law enforcement rangers for the safety of the visitors and resources. The Border Patrol’s Ajo Station just north of the Monument also has significantly increased its staff in this region to nearly 500 agents. These agents conduct regular patrols inside the Monument. The Border Patrol also has installed surveillance equipment within the Monument to improve its ability to respond quickly and deter illegal activity. The Department of Interior completed a steel vehicle barrier fence along the Monument border with Mexico. This barrier blocks illegal traffic that previously traveled through Organ Pipe Cactus in order to bypass the official U.S. Port of Entry in Lukeville and avoid detection on Highway 85. Those vehicles previously were a threat to visitors and law enforcement and damaged the natural landscape and cultural resources.



Closures

Some areas of Organ Pipe Cactus have been closed to reduce the likelihood of visitors encountering illegal activity. Decisions to open or close an area are determined based on a number of factors including the park’s ability to respond quickly to an emergency and the level of illegal activity in the area. These closures are

reviewed several times a year to ensure they are based on up-to-date information. You should stay within the unshaded (open) areas indicated on this map. If you are unsure whether a specific area is open or closed, visit or contact the Kris Eggle Visitor Center for information: 520-387-6849 ext 7302





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Release Date: 01/04/2012

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Wild Matters: The Organ Pipe Cactus Wilderness

AJO, AZ – The Organ Pipe Cactus wilderness preserves the natural beauty of an expansive area within the Sonoran Desert Region of North America. Extending over more than 300,000 acres, the Organ Pipe Cactus wilderness occurs along 30 miles of the international border with Mexico, in a region where high levels of illegal border-related activities have continued for more than a decade. The resulting and complex social, legal, environmental and political issues have largely kept corresponding issues about wilderness under the radar of public debate.

Managing this vast conservation area on the border frequently requires federal agencies to work together to balance the needs of both national security and wilderness. Such efforts are exemplified by a 2006 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the U.S. Departments of Agriculture, Interior and Homeland Security. This agreement authorizes border enforcement agents to drive off-road in wilderness under exigent or emergency circumstances that involve threats to human health and safety. Since the MOU took effect, monitoring data have shown that off-road-vehicle impacts have increased and today the agencies generally agree that there are opportunities for improvement.

Unquestionably, the high levels of illegal activity along the entire border need to be addressed. The U.S. Border Patrol, NPS and other law enforcement agencies work hard daily to do just that. They need our unwavering support and cooperation as they perform their mission. The NPS has demonstrated this by supporting national security initiatives in and around Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, including: joint border enforcement operations; the construction of a vehicle barrier and pedestrian fence, and the establishment of a network of high-tech surveillance towers. Considerable other security infrastructure exists and still more is proposed.

The unprecedented level of border-related activity has made managing the Organ Pipe Cactus wilderness challenging. Today, the effects of these activities are visible throughout the monument. We have documented thousands of miles of unauthorized roads and trails. We also deal with trash, graffiti, abandoned vehicles, vandalism, invasive plants and animals, altered ecological processes and degraded habitats. Similar to other conservation areas, our wilderness also shows the effects of other stressors on the environment, like climate change. We spend considerable time trying to understand the cumulative effects of border-related activity, and other stressors, on wilderness character, threatened and endangered species, geological and ecological processes, cultural resources, and visitor enjoyment. The results of this work are already helping us develop and implement a variety of educational, prevention, and resource restoration programs.

The demanding nature of this work sometimes causes us to wonder how wilderness matters here, today. Despite the challenges, opportunities do still exist here to experience true wilderness – untrammelled, natural and undeveloped. Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument remains an internationally recognized example of successful conservation in the Sonoran Desert. In 1976, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) designated the monument as a biosphere reserve, one of only about 500 in more than 100 countries.

The monument's mountains, bajadas, valleys and washes continue to support unique communities of Sonoran Desert life. The critically endangered Sonoran pronghorn, with a U.S. population of only about 100 animals, is still here, thanks to the expansiveness of this wilderness along with the numerous and coordinated recovery actions of diverse partners. The endangered lesser long-nosed bat continues to thrive here, able to reproduce successfully by foraging among the monument's abundant and uninhabited forests of columnar cacti. Quitobaquito, a critically important desert spring and pond system that lies within a stone's throw of the Mexican border, continues to support uniquely adapted plants and animals, including the endangered Quitobaquito pupfish.

History has shown that the Organ Pipe Cactus wilderness can recover from transformative land uses. Not so long ago, ranching and mining were prominent across this landscape. Although still visible, their marks are receding and after more than 30 years of "rest" from such activity, wilderness character continues to improve. We hope for similar recovery of wilderness character one day from the current and prolonged effects of border-related activity.

Until then, we encourage wilderness managers and advocates everywhere to become familiar with what is happening here. Unprecedented issues continue to unfold and much can be learned or lost. A visit here can be instructive and enlightening, and we welcome your questions and comments about our challenges.

The National Wilderness Preservation System embodies our national values. Dedicating vast areas to remain as they have always been – wild and undisturbed, for the world to experience and enjoy – was certainly visionary. The architects of the Wilderness Act never said it would be easy, however. We owe them the accolade of our best efforts, especially in times like these.

For more information contact Chief of Resources Mark Sturm at (520) 387-6849 ext. 7110, or mark_sturm@nps.gov, or Wildlife Biologist Tim Tibbitts (ext 7114 or tim_tibbitts@nps.gov).

www.nps.gov

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 395 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov.