



Ironwood Essence

Friends of Ironwood Forest

Spring 2025

Happy Birthday Ironwood Forest National Monument!

The Monument was established by President Bill Clinton on June 9, 2000, and he recently sent his congratulations:

I commend the Friends of Ironwood Forest for its commitment to conservation, sustainability, and preserving our valuable natural resources. This area is a treasure in the Sonoran Desert, and I'm delighted that visitors will be able to enjoy it for years to come.

Congratulations on 25 years, and here's to many, many more.

See the former president's entire message on page 16

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Why is the Ironwood Forest so valuable? And how did it become a national monument? Christina McVie was instrumental in the process and guides us through the events that led to the creation of Ironwood Forest National Monument.

An Ironwood Forest Timeline

By Christina McVie

Former Board Secretary of the Friends of Ironwood Forest

Early 1970's: Thomas R. Van Devender studied packrat middens in the Waterman Mountains and Wolcott Peak (part of Ragged Top) as part of his PhD dissertation. By May 1983 Dr. Van Devender was Senior Research Scientist at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum (Museum).

18 September 1975: Constructed in 1811, the 80-acre Santa Ana del Chiquiburitac Mission Site was added to the National Register of Historic Places (Reference #750000357).

10 October 1975: The 480-acre Cocoraque Butte Archaeological District was added to the National Register of Historic Places (Reference #75000355), featuring ancient Hohokam ruins and petroglyphs.

1985: Dr. John F. Wiens began working in the Botany Department of the Museum,



Endangered Turk's Head Cactus in the Waterman Mountains

studying and collecting plants at Ragged Top, Pan Quemado, the Samaniego Hills and the Silverbell and Waterman Mountains. He discovered two plant species found nowhere else in the United States (false grama or *Cathestecum brevifolium* and garambullo or *Pisonia capitata*) and numerous grassland and woodland species isolated there since the last ice age. He published various flora of the region and worked on a Bureau of Land Management (BLM) grant mapping endangered Turk's head cactus (*Echinocactus horizonthalonius* var. *nicholii*) in the Waterman Mountains.

1986: Dr. William W. Shaw, University of Arizona (University) School of Natural Resources Professor of Wildlife and Fisheries Science, authored Critical and Sensitive Wildlife Habitats in Eastern Pima County for the City of Tucson which marked the first local effort to incorporate considerations for wildlife habitats, biology, and connectivity into urban and suburban land use planning. These studies were further refined in 1993 and again in 2002 by Shaw, Harris and Livingston. Shaw's initial study included over 22,000 acres of City-owned lands in the Avra Valley which had been retired from agricultural use to preserve water rights.

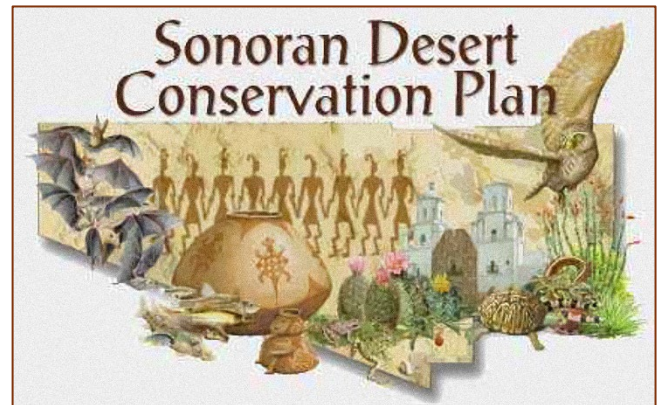
Summer 1987: Dr. Bernard L. 'Bunny' Fontana, authority on the history and anthropology of the Southwest, published Santa Ana de Cuiquiburitac: Pimeria Alta's Northernmost Mission in *the Journal of the Southwest*, Volume 29, describing the efforts of Franciscan friars to propose and develop a mission site between Bac and villages of Pimas along the Gila River, at Cuiquiburitac. By 1810, Father Llorens had taken steps to begin construction of a small church as a visita.

11 May 1989: The nearly 13,000-acre Los Robles Archaeological District was added to the National Register of Historic Places (Reference #89000337), containing over 100 historic and prehistoric archaeological sites, including the Los Robles Platform Mound Community and trincheras. In 2003, George Johnson of Johnson International Inc. illegally bulldozed 270 acres of State Trust land in and near the district and introduced non-native sheep into the area, sickening the native herd of desert bighorn sheep.

10 March 1997: The Cactus Ferruginous Pygmy-owl (Pygmy-owl) was designated as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act.

7 July 1998: Guy Kirkpatrick, Carl and Carol Davis, and other Red Hill residents appeared at the Pima County Board of Supervisors (Board) meeting to advocate for protection of the area north of Avra Valley Road, east of the Tohono O'odham Nation. The Board had been discussing the Hillside Development Zone and Buffer Overlay Zone Ordinance text amendments and, at that time, nothing north of Avra Valley Road had been assessed for protection. In addition, the Board directed

the Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection (Coalition) to work with county staff to develop a scope of work concept for Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and there was a presentation by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) regarding the endangered Pygmy-owl and habitat conservation planning.



August 1998: Though the Red Hill residents had originally envisioned a one-mile buffer zone surrounding the Red Hill section, the concentration of Bureau of Land Management and State Trust land parcels in the area presented a much larger possibility. I, as a member of the Coalition, began to meet with Red Hill residents to map and draft a proposal for the Board's consideration of what initially became Pima County's proposed Ragged Top and Silverbell Mountain Park in 1999.

27 October 1998: The Board voted to approve the development of a Draft Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan Concept.

3 December 1998: The Board approved Resolution 1998 - 250 to enter into an agreement with Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt to assist with the development of Pima County's Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

2 March 1999: The Board voted to approve and adopt the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan in concept, the largest and most comprehensive regional multi-species conservation plan in the United States.

12 July 1999: The USFWS designated Critical Habitat for the endangered Pygmy-owl.

7 September 1999: The Board contracted with the University's Dr. William W. Shaw, at no cost, to form and lead Pima County's Science Technical Advisory Team (STAT) in the development of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. The STAT was comprised of various subject experts from the University, the USFWS and other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations.

16 November 1999: The Board adopted Resolution 1999 - 236 which formalized a Master Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to promote Research and Conservation.

2 February 2000: Pima County Administrator, Chuck Huckelberry, sent a Memo to the Board regarding the publication by the Museum of the Desert Ironwood Primer: Biodiversity and Uses Associated with Ancient Legume and Cactus Forests in the Sonoran Desert by Dr. Gary Paul Nabhan, et al, which contained recommendations to help guide land use decisions in old growth ironwood habitat. This became the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan's Report #30. Dr. Nabhan began working at the Museum in 1998 as Director of Conservation and Science, studying the desert ironwood tree (*Olneya tesota*). The Desert Ironwood

Primer established that, within the binational Sonoran Desert, ironwood trees are a habitat modifying keystone species and nurse plant that have a role in supporting the biodiversity of over 500 Sonoran Desert species, including the endangered Pygmy-owl, and that "the Ragged Top site [in the Silverbell Mountains] ... contributed the highest levels of species richness [of the study], with six of the ten plots having the highest levels within the entire region." (35 ironwoods/hectare). Multiple science experts from the Museum assisted with collating data to inform potential designation and management of the area. Due to the prevalence of BLM and State Trust lands, there was concern that long term management by Pima County would prove impractical. Assistant County Administrator Dr. Maeveen Marie Behan, Project Manager and principal author of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan and in honor of whom Pima County's



Dr. Maeveen Marie Behan.
Photo: naturescrusaders.wordpress.com

Conservation Lands System is named, led the County's effort to facilitate the memo's recommendation that federal management of the area, up to and including a National Monument designation, would be most appropriate.

8 February 2000: Under the leadership of then Board Chairman, and later U.S. Representative, Raúl M. Grijalva (Chair 2000-2002), the Board adopted Resolution 2000 - 23 opposing further mining in Pima County's Ragged Top and Silverbell Mountain Park, including a proposed sand and gravel mine at the Jenott mine site, near Ragged Top Mountain.

Pima County also received a grant of \$994,700.00 from the USFWS (Agreement #1448-20181-00) to prepare and complete a biological assessment of the county.

21 March 2000: The Board adopted Resolution 2000 - 63 creating the Ragged Top and Silverbell Mountains Ironwood Preserve, consistent with the Resources of the Avra Valley Subarea of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan.

15 April 2000: The Coalition released its proposal to establish the Morris K. Udall Ironwood Forest - Upland Corridor National Monument located in Pima and Pinal Counties in Southeastern Arizona, which I mapped. Carolyn Campbell, Executive Director for the Coalition (1998-2024), and I presented the Monument proposal to the Tohono O'odham Nation, the Ak-Chin Indian Community, the Gila River Indian Community, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community, the Pinal County Board of Supervisors and the Maricopa Association of Governments for their consideration. Daniel Preston, then

Vice-Chair of the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, and I conducted a tour of the proposed Monument for elders of the Nation.

May 2000: Coalition members and others conducted tours of the proposed Monument for Congressional staffers and Secretary Babbitt.

9 June 2000: Under presidential Proclamation 7320, President William J. Clinton designated the Ironwood Forest National Monument, comprised of the Waterman-Roskrige Unit, the Silverbell-Ragged Top Unit and the Sawtooth Unit portions of the Coalition's original Monument proposal in Pima and Pinal counties - 129,055 acres of varied Sonoran Desert habitat, to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management for the benefit and enjoyment of all.

President quickly OKs Ironwood Monument

Clinton orders protection for 129,000 acres, but controversy will continue

low-lying hills and rugged, rocky mountains, stark desert cliffs and densely packed stands of saguaros and ironwoods.

It was one of four monuments in the West that Clinton created yesterday with the controversial, but so far legally unchallenged, tool of setting them aside under the federal Antiquities Act.

His order came less than 90 days after Pima County's Board of Super-

Arizona Daily Star - June 10, 2000, Page A1

This fascinating essay about the extensive archaeological sites found within the Ironwood Forest National Monument was published in the winter 2001 issue of *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* (vol 15, no 1, pp. 15-16) and is reproduced here with permission from Archaeology Southwest – Center for Desert Archaeology (www.archaeologysouthwest.org).

Archaeology of the Ironwood Forest

By Paul R. Fish

*Professor Emeritus of Anthropology and
Curator Emeritus at the Arizona State Museum*

One of the richest stands of ironwood trees in the Sonoran Desert has become Ironwood Forest National Monument. It lies along the northwest edge of Marana and Tucson in southern Arizona. Working with county officials and community members, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt initially defined the monument as 129,000 acres in north-central Pima County. Over 5,000 acres in neighboring Pinal County were added shortly thereafter, specifically with archaeological preservation in mind.

Although only a small portion of the new monument has been surveyed, numerous sites with preceramic, Hohokam, protohistoric, and historic occupations over a 5,000-year timespan are known within its boundaries. Two areas are listed on the National Register of Historic Places:



Petroglyph portrays a headless human figure. Photo: Henry D. Wallace.

Los Robles Archaeological District and Cocoraque Butte Archaeological District. Along with some of the most impressive displays of Hohokam rock art, these National Register districts contain some of southern Arizona's most visible archaeological sites.

The Cocoraque Butte Archaeological District is adjacent to the Tohono O'odham Reservation on the westernmost edge of Avra Valley. Artesian springs at the base of the butte have attracted people during both prehistoric and historic times. The Cocoraque Ranch, owned by Oscar Robles, is one of Arizona's oldest established ranches. It has been a working cattle operation since the late 1800s. The 300-acre National Register District and adjacent properties contain several long-term Hohokam residential sites which were occupied from Colonial (A.D. 700 or 800) to Classic times (ca. A.D. 1400). Cocoraque Butte stands out however, because of the hundreds of Archaic and Hohokam petroglyph panels. These have made it a well-known destination for rock art enthusiasts. In addition to diverse human, animal, and geometric elements, a number of boulders show indications of continuous

tapping by hammerstones. When tapped, each produces a distinctively different ringing tone that, in combination, create an almost surreal musical atmosphere. These sounds have even been incorporated into commercial "New Age" recordings.

The other national register district encompasses the early Classic period (A.D. 1150 to 1300) Los Robles Platform Mound Community and includes over 100 historic and prehistoric archaeological sites within an area of nearly 13,000 acres. Most of these sites were organized into an extensive Hohokam community along the west bank of Los Robles Wash and west into the Samaniego Hills. The Los Robles Community included a series of dispersed small villages, a larger village with a platform mound for ceremonial and other public events, and the large, well-preserved *trincheras*, or terraced hillside village of Cerro Prieto.

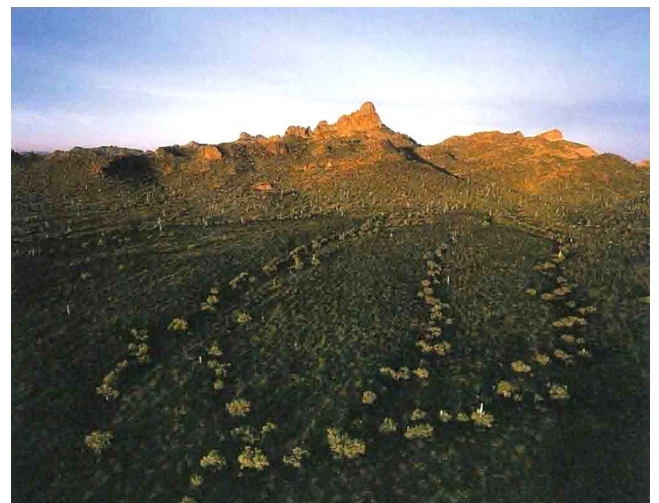
The Los Robles Community was defined as part of the Arizona State Museum's Northern Tucson Basin Survey. This full-coverage survey, with a study area of more than 900 square miles north of Tucson, was designed to increase understanding about the settlement structure of Hohokam desert farmers who lived away from the large irrigation systems of the Salt and Gila rivers. The resulting site distributions, including those of the Los Robles Community, have provided insights into organizational trends in the Tucson area paralleling those of the densely populated irrigation communities in the Phoenix Basin, thus blurring earlier distinctions by

archaeologists between the Desert and River Hohokam.

Detailed studies at Cerro Prieto have also played an important role in changing traditional interpretations of *cerros de trincheras* as defensive refuges. Evidence from Cerro Prieto demonstrates that rather than a fortification, it was a large habitation site. The stone terraces and other cobble features may have had residential, ritual, and agricultural functions.

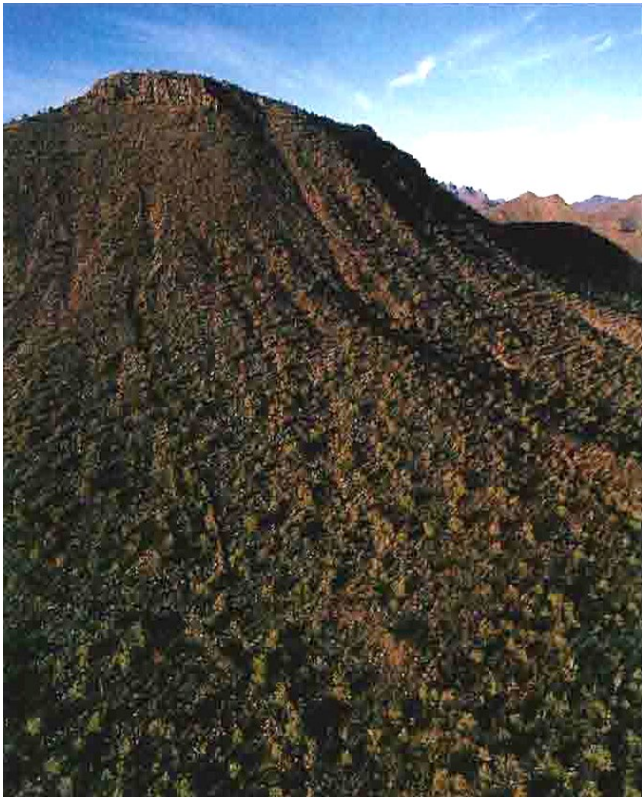
Christian Downum, in *Between Desert and River: Hohokam Settlement and Land Use in the Los Robles Community*, reports on investigations both within the Los Robles Community as a whole, and at its most impressive site of Cerro Prieto. Downum suggests that some of the masonry features at Cerro Prieto, such as massive compounds and dividing walls, were constructed for ceremonial and symbolic purposes.

Preservation of the Los Robles Community has been an important archaeological



Extensive natural and cultural landscapes are threatened by urban expansion. Photo: Adriel Heisey.

objective in southern Arizona over the past two decades. In 1986, the Arizona State Parks Board designated it a state park. It was recognized as a National Register District in 1988, as the result of a joint effort by Arizona State Parks, Arizona State Museum, and Arizona State Land Department. Unfortunately, funds were never appropriated to manage these cultural resources. For a time, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) considered acquisition of the Los Robles National Register District and pursued public hearings regarding land exchange with the Arizona State Land Department. However, the Land Department has never received a legal mandate to pursue such exchanges. Despite continuous monitoring by Arizona Site Stewards and aerial surveillance by the



Cerro Prieto's lower slopes have extensive residential terraces. Photo: Adriel Heisey.

Army Reserve National Guard during the 1990s, vandalism has been an ongoing problem within the National Register District, as well as elsewhere within the monument boundaries.

The newly formed Ironwood Forest National Monument provides an unprecedented opportunity in southern Arizona to preserve a related set of highly significant cultural resources in a diverse natural environmental setting over a broad area. The monument will be managed by the BLM for the primary purpose of preserving environmental and cultural resources under most conditions of current use. Livestock grazing will continue and private property (approximately 5 percent of the total monument area) will not be affected. Land disturbing activities such as mining and geothermal exploration will be prohibited. Such an approach fits well with the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, Pima County's emerging regional comprehensive land use plan, with a philosophy of preserving habitat, historic, archaeological, and ranching landscapes in an integrated fashion. Because only a small fraction of the monument has been surveyed, an important first step in managing the cultural resources should be a comprehensive inventory of archaeological remains.

Meet the Monument

Returns for first time since the pandemic!

El Tiro Gliderport, March 22, 2025 – Not since 2019 have the Friends of Ironwood Forest held their popular Meet the Monument event, which seeks to introduce the Monument to locals and visitors alike who may have never heard of this breathtaking piece of the Sonoran Desert. And this year’s occasion was a convenient celebration of the Monument’s Silver Anniversary! It was held at a new and more accessible venue – the El Tiro Gliderport, thanks to the gracious cooperation of the Tucson Soaring Club and use of Skydive Marana’s semi-permanent tent on the Gliderport property.



About 300 visitors made the trek to El Tiro Gliderport to listen to special guest speakers, visit more than a dozen interpretative booths, and become educated about the Monument at the one-day event.

The Friends of Ironwood Forest thank the Tucson Soaring Club and Skydive Marana for making Meet the Monument 2025 possible!

**Tucson
Soaring Club**



**Skydive
Marana**

From the President

By Tom Hannagan

Before discussing anything else, we must all celebrate this being the twenty-fifth year since the presidential declaration creating the Ironwood Forest National Monument. It was no small achievement getting the IFNM set aside in June of 2000, and it has been more effort than most realize to keep these conservation lands protected. So, happy Silver Anniversary Ironwood Forest, and many more!

The efforts to protect our local natural treasure begins with outreach, letting more people know that the IFNM exists, where it is located, and why it is special. Our operating theory is that the more people who know of the IFNM, the more people who will be willing to get involved to keep it a viable public land. Nothing is guaranteed and this is true for public lands. A change in attitude by the federal government can lead to repurposing pristine places for commercial development.

I want to thank all of you who already know about the Ironwood Forest and have offered your support to the Friends of Ironwood Forest and have let your elected officials know that you want these lands to remain set aside for the enjoyment of the public. And I want to take a moment to thank our volunteer board members that make things happen. Most recently, FIF has again met with the public at the Tucson

Festival of Books, where board members were busy for two days educating folks about the IFNM. And, as you'll read about elsewhere herein, FIF has just brought back our Meet the Monument event. It was very successful, setting an attendance record at a new venue, with a dozen interesting exhibits and five terrific speakers. Oh, and a taco truck that was a popular new feature.

Your board members deserve tremendous credit for the time and effort put into these two events, in addition to Beer for a Bighorn last fall. Their 'regular' responsibilities have included educational outings for local high schools, hikes for the public on various trails within the Monument, a new website, supporting wildlife connectivity, and seeing that the FIF is itself a well-run organization.

We have a full or nearly full board most of the time, with a variety of backgrounds, and great passion for the conservation of the IFNM. At the end of 2024, we graduated two long-term board members, Dave Barker and Leona Lansing, who both graciously served three full terms working for FIF and the IFNM. For some time, Dave held the office of both treasurer and secretary, in addition to publishing our Ironwood Essence newsletter. He not only improved the functioning of all of these but was also able to successfully pass them on to newer board members. Pi Polletta also

decided to move on recently, and she is credited for leading the very enjoyable restart of Beer for a Bighorn last year. Their dedication and contribution to this organization is beyond measurement. They will be missed at board meetings but, characteristically, will continue to work with us as volunteers. The newer board members FIF has added in the past year are proving to be up to the task, by taking on

projects, suggesting new ideas, and handling key areas of responsibility.

I am personally as confident as ever in FIF's ability to carry out our mission, because of the public support we continue to receive and the energetic group of volunteer board members I have the opportunity to work with. Together we intend to face down whatever challenges may come along that threaten the Ironwood Forest.



Emeritus Board Member Leona Lansing educates a couple visiting the Ironwood Forest booth at the Tucson Festival of Books on the University of Arizona Mall on Sunday, March 16, 2025.

Board Member News

Welcome new Friends board members

Christine Flanagan

A native of Arizona, Chris retired in 2012 from federal service as the Public Programs Manager of the U.S. Botanic Garden. She returned to Tucson after residing for 27 years in the Washington DC Metropolitan Area. She is currently a Trustee and Secretary for the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and a core committee member of the Stinknet team for the Sonoran Desert Cooperative Weed Management Area. She holds a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Arizona. Her areas of expertise include plant science education and interpretive planning; exhibit design, and education program planning and development. Her hobbies include gardening, garden design, art, rock collecting, and listening to live music – especially bluegrass.



Holly Griswold

Holly grew up exploring the deserts of California with her parents, and the Sierra Club Youth Section. She started college in Natural Resources and Interpretation in northern California, which took her to the Sonoran Desert in the mid 1970's. For a career, a degree was earned in Business Management and Sociology. Volunteering for wildlife, ecology, and historic preservation has been a constant in Holly's adult life.

Holly joined a hike up Waterman Peak with Friends of Ironwood Forest in 2019. Friends was a great fit for Holly, and her husband Gene, right from the start. It was good to volunteer in a direct hands-on way to help the Monument be true to its purpose. Since then she has leant her labor and skills to just about every Friends endeavor, except being on the Board.

Now it is time to take a chair at the table for the future of Friends. Like other board members, she is content to work behind the scenes, as the real reward is knowing we "leave it better". She looks forward to working with the Board to carry FIF forward.



Board member news, continued

Farewell to longtime board members Leona Lansing (2015-2024) and Dave Barker (2016-2024). Both retired from the Board at the end of last year, having served three 3-year terms and contributing immensely to the Friends' leadership, as well as countless hours of hands-on effort in and for the Monument. And the Friends thank Pi Polletta (2023-2025) and wish her well as she leaves the board in March. See additional comments in the President's message on pages 10-11.

The Board of Directors Friends of Ironwood Forest

Tom Hannagan, president
John Holzemer, vice president
Mike Cardwell, secretary
Mike Doyle, treasurer

Members

Carmen Bria
Jackie Craig
Christine Flanagan
Holly Griswold
Harold Maxwell
Molly Wheelwright

WANTED

DEAD OR ALIVE



Stinknet

Stop the Stink(net)!
Report sightings to:
Stinknet.org

Friends receive grant for Stinknet surveillance and removal

March 13, 2025 – The Overland Expo Foundation is proud to announce its first round of 2025 grant recipients.

Friends of Ironwood Forest has been awarded a \$1,244 grant for their Stop the Stink(net)! project. The project addresses the developing catastrophe that is silently spreading across the southwestern U.S. Stinknet, an invasive plant from South Africa, is aggressively moving through southern California, central Arizona, and the Sonoran borderlands of Mexico, and it has been recently found in Nevada.

Many thanks to board member Christine Flanagan for recognizing this opportunity and successfully pursuing it! Watch for updates in future newsletters.

In memoriam

The Friends of Ironwood Forest extend our sympathy to the family and friends of Congressman Raúl Grijalva, who lost his battle with cancer on March 13. He was 77 years old. Before being elected to twelve terms in congress, Grijalva served on the Pima County Board of Supervisors from 1989 until 2002. He was a tireless advocate for environmental issues, both as a county supervisor and as a member of congress. In fact, Congressman Grijalva visited Ironwood Forest National Monument on several occasions and understood the importance of conserving the Monument.

Congressman Grijalva joins fellow conservationists on July 2, 2009, to celebrate the founding of the National Landscape Conservation System. Left to right: Brian O'Donnell, Lori Anderson, Raúl Grijalva, Mike Quigley, Christina McVie, John Scheuring, and Scott Jones.



Your Financial Contributions at Work

We rely on the financial support of people like you to help us with our mission to protect the natural and cultural resources of Ironwood Forest National Monument. We also work to increase awareness of the monument and improve visitor experience there. Please consider donating to support our work. We couldn't do this without you. You can donate online at <https://ironwoodforest.org/donate>

Our Mission

Friends of Ironwood Forest is a local non-profit organization that works for the permanent protection of the biological, geological, archaeological, and historical resources and values for which Ironwood Forest National Monument was established.

FIF provides critical volunteer labor for projects on the monument, works with the Bureau of Land Management and many other partners, and strives to increase community awareness through education, public outreach, and advocacy.

FIF Partners

Archaeology Southwest
Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
Arizona Native Plant Society
Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
Arizona Wildlife Federation
Avra Valley Coalition
BKW Farms
Bureau of Land Management
Center for Biological Diversity
City of Tucson
Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection
Conservation Lands Foundation
Discover Marana
Dove Mountain Hiking Club
Friends of Buenos Aires NWR
Friends of Saguaro National Park
Highlands at Dove Mtn Hiking Club
Historic Y
MET Foundation
Marana Heritage Conservancy
Marana Parks and Recreation
National Park Service, Saguaro NP
National Parks Conservation Association
Old Pueblo Archaeology Center
Pew Charitable Trust
Pima Association of Governments
Pima County
Sierra Club
Sky Island Alliance
Skydive Marana
Summit Hut
Tohono O'odham Community College
Tohono O'odham Nation
Tortolita Alliance
Town of Marana
Town of Marana Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Audubon Society
Tucson Cactus and Succulent Society
Tucson Clean and Beautiful
Tucson Herpetological Society
Tucson Soaring Club
University of Arizona
The Wilderness Society



WILLIAM JEFFERSON CLINTON

June 9, 2025

I extend my warmest congratulations to everyone at the Ironwood Forest National Monument on its 25th anniversary.

As President, I was proud to sign the proclamation establishing the Ironwood Forest National Monument, designating more than 128,000 acres of vital ecosystems, diverse wildlife, and rich cultural sites to be protected and cared for by the Bureau of Land Management.

I commend the Friends of Ironwood Forest for its commitment to conservation, sustainability, and preserving our valuable natural resources. This area is a treasure in the Sonoran Desert, and I'm delighted that visitors will be able to enjoy it for years to come.

Congratulations on 25 years, and here's to many, many more.

Bill Clinton

The Ironwood Gallery

Send us your favorite photographs of IFNM



Ragged Top in the Morning by Jim Avramis