

MEMORANDUM



TO: Rafael Payan, Director

FROM: Kerry Baldwin, Natural Resources Division Manager

DATE: June 5, 2008

SUBJECT: Parks Commission Report for May, 2008

Open Space/Ranch Property Management-

Spring roundups have generally been completed at the ranches. A7 herd calf crop is up and all cattle are in excellent health.

The first public draft of the A7 Ranch Resource Management Plan has been delayed till late summer. NRPR has received the first draft of the Bar V Ranch Coordinated Resource management Plan from NRCS. The drafts will be put on the NRPR website for at least 30 days for easy downloading and electronic comment once finalized.

NR Staff is doing Willow Flycatcher surveys in Cienega Creek, locating and tagging endangered Pima Pineapple cactus on new acquisitions and monitoring the burrowing owl reintroduction at Canoa Ranch.

NRPR and Regional Flood Control continue to cooperate on management of RFCDC conservation lands. A new MOU is being developed for Catalina Regional Park. That will serve as a template for other properties such as Empirita Ranch, Black Wash, Phillips property and Canoa Ranch.

Invasive Species/Buffelgrass-

NRPR conducted training of its operations staff to identify and control buffelgrass so they can be prepared to treat parks after monsoons start. We hope to get 100% treatment within urban Parks this summer.

NRPR staff and Weed Wackers conducted several work days and removed over 450 bags of buffelgrass along the CAP canal.

The Southern Arizona Leadership Council has requested detailed information about status of buffelgrass in Pima County of all major jurisdictions and agencies. They are developing a study for their members on impacts of both biological and

economic systems in Tucson basin and how they must take a more visible and active role in control efforts.

Open Space Acquisition-

Several acquisitions will close over the next month adding 4 or 5 new properties and around 750 acres to the conservation lands program.

Environmental Education-

Spring programming is beginning to wind down with increased temperatures. Summer programs for kids and adults will start after school gets out. Participation stays strong for our programs in the Parks. Schedules for June will be handed out to Commission.

NR Parks-

Tucson Mountain Park hosted several film crews last month. Two weddings were held at Gates Pass and Raytheon utilized the park for testing of advanced night vision equipment. Campground use has hit the summer doldrums and we only accommodated two out of state school tour groups last month.

Significant work continues on layout, biological/cultural evaluation, construction and grooming of new trails in both Sweetwater and Robles Pass trails Parks.

NRPR is conducting a detailed historical identification and analysis of all Park lands under Board of Supervisor designation and will be updating the list to include lands added to the system informally so Park Rules will be in effect.