



Maricopa County PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

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MEMORANDUM

Date: January 12, 2018
To: Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
From: R.J. Cardin, Director
Re: Director's Summary of Current Events

Listed below are activities the department has been involved with during **November and December 2017**.

From the Office of the Director

Board of Supervisors Agenda Items:

Date/Status	Tracking Number	Summary
11/29/2017 Approved	C-06-18-195-7-00	Reappointment to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission: Reappointment of Megha Budruk through December 31, 2019
11/29/2017 Approved	C-06-18-196-7-00	Donation Report for October 2017: Cash value of \$384.59 and Non-cash value of \$1,034.44
12/13/2017 Approved	C-30-18-010-M-00	License Agreement with Arizona Game and Fish Commission for the Maricopa Trail Segment 9: License Agreement with AZGF Commission for the County to operate and maintain a portion of the existing roadway (old 115th Avenue) in the Baseline and Meridian Wildlife Area for a section of Maricopa Trail Segment 9. No property interest in the use of the Trail is conveyed to the County.
12/13/2017 Approved	C-30-18-012-D-00	Donation for Parks Memorial Bench: Accept the restricted monetary donation from Bob Treibel for a memorial bench to be placed within White Tank Regional Park.
12/13/2017 Approved	C-30-18-011-M-00	Proposed Revisions of Maricopa County Parks and Recreation Department User Fee Schedule: Set a public hearing for February 21, 2018 to solicit comments and consider adoption of the proposed changes. Upon Board approval, this item will become effective April 1, 2018.
12/13/2017 Approved	C-06-18-238-7-00	Donation Report for November 2017: Cash value of \$353.38
1/10/2018	C-30-18-013-2-00	Appropriation Adjustment for Parks and Recreation Fund 230: Accept of \$80,000 in grand funding for Arizona State Parks and Trails Agency for the Goat Camp Trail Rehabilitation Project.

Administration

The purpose of the Administrative Division is to provide strategic direction, leadership, administrative and financial support to the Director and employees of the department so they can produce the results necessary to achieve the departmental mission and vision. The following information is provided as a high level overview of the activities of the Administrative Division:

Financial/Budget Status (through November close):

Fund	Fund Name		Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Variance YTD	Variance %
100	General	Expenditures	\$277,492	\$270,748	\$6,744	2.43%
Fund	Fund Name		Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Variance YTD	Variance %
225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	Revenues	\$73,920	\$110,482	\$36,562	49.46%
225	Spur Cross Ranch Conservation	Expenditures	\$83,036	\$86,884	-\$3,848	-4.63%
Fund	Fund Name		Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Variance YTD	Variance %
239	Parks Souvenir	Revenues	\$30,342	\$39,586	\$9,244	30.47%
239	Parks Souvenir	Expenditures	\$85,806	\$87,706	-\$1,900	-2.21%
Fund	Fund Name		Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Variance YTD	Variance %
240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	Revenues	\$817,318	\$1,015,156	\$197,838	24.21%
240	Lake Pleasant Recreation Services	Expenditures	\$835,182	\$783,186	\$51,996	6.23%
Fund	Fund Name		Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Variance YTD	Variance %
241	Parks Enhancement	Revenues	\$1,200,768	\$1,448,842	\$248,074	20.66%
241	Parks Enhancement	Expenditures	\$1,649,366	\$1,570,762	\$78,604	4.77%
Fund	Fund Name		Budget YTD	Actual YTD	Variance YTD	Variance %
243	Parks Donations	Revenues	\$13,468	\$17,016	\$3,548	26.34%
243	Parks Donations	Expenditures	\$7,658	\$5,858	\$1,800	23.50%

Human Resources:

- Welcome New Employees:
 - Anthony Lombardo, Navigational Aide Technician, Lake Pleasant (started 12/4/17)
- Departing Employees:
 - Don Lucas, Trades Specialist
 - Marie Lincoln, Contact Station Assistant, White Tank
- Open positions and recruitments:
 - Park Education Supervisor, Desert Outdoor Center – Reposting
 - Electrician, Trades – Pending hire
 - Trades Specialist - vacant
 - Contact Station Assistant (3), Lake – 1 candidate pending hire, 2 positions in recruitment
 - Contact Station Assistant, Temporary, Estrella – Reposting
 - Contact Station Assistant, Usery – Request to review temporary to full time status.
 - Contact Station Assistant, White Tank – Review temporary to full time status through budget process.
 - Park Maintenance, Lake – Pending hire

Volunteer Program:

- FY18 Year-to-date volunteer hours:

	Jul-17	Aug-17	Sep-17	Oct-17	Nov-17	Dec-17	FY18 YTD Total
FY18 Total Dept. Hours	3506	4936	4911.5	6182	11581	11853	42,970
Financial Savings	\$84,635	\$116,292	\$115,715	\$145,648	\$272,848	\$279,257	\$1,014,536
% Diff comparison/prev. FYTD						12%	
# of Volunteers-current month	102	115	406	161	553	352	
# of Park Hosts	24	21	32	63	108	113	
Park Host Hours	2,490	2,085	2,610	4,900	9,527	10,088	
# of Community Volunteers	31	31	40	41	48	49	
Community Volunteer Hours	757	611	828	856	798	809	
# of Episodic Volunteers	46	61	334	62	397	187	
Episodic Volunteers Hours	252	2,234	1,472	389	1,044	948	
MCSO Prisoner Service Hours				500	260		
FY17 Month Total Hours	2,945	3,146	5,113	6,283	9,900	10,972	
FY17 Year YTD Hours	3,739	6,688	11,256	18,083	29,402	41,369	
FY17 Financial YTD Savings	\$69,384	\$143,504	\$263,966	\$411,994	\$645,238	\$903,738	
Current Value-\$24.14							
Previous Value-\$23.56							

Planning and Development Division

Vulture Mountain Recreation Area Update

- Staff continues the 60% design work with EPS on park amenities as MCDOT continues design with EPS on 60% plans for Vulture Mine Rd as well as interior County park roadway designs. Department staff has updated the Plan of Development with construction and travel route information requested by the BLM. The Department is in continued coordination with the BLM on the NEPA process.
- On November 28th, Parks staff presented the Vulture Mountains Recreation Area project to the Wickenburg Trails Commission. The Trails Commission received an update on the progress the Department has made over the course of the project including the acquisition of the Hassayampa River Preserve. The Trails Commission is very excited about the Vulture Mountain Recreation Area project and happy to see it progress with the BLM.
- On December 7th, the Parks Department held an “All Users” public meeting in the Town of Wickenburg. This meeting invitation was sent to user groups to solicit input on park amenities to ensure designs reflected the needs of those groups. The meeting had several dozen attendees who provided positive feedback on the progress thus far.

Project Management

- The Department Project Manager has been busy the past couple of months. The Hassayampa restroom project has started, septic and sewer system installation has begun in preparation of the delivery of the modular restroom building. The Lake Pleasant Discovery Center deck project is permitted and will begin construction late January 2018. The Desert Outdoor Center roof renovation project has been completed. All the old picnic ramadas have been demolished at Estrella Park. A siliconized membrane coating was applied and will extend the life of the existing membrane up to 20 years.

Park and Open Space Planning

- Staff held the first Partners meeting for the McDowell Mountain Regional Park Master Plan Update process. Agencies at the meeting included the BLM, Arizona Game and Fish, McDowell Mountain Regional Park Friends Group, the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office, and the Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve. Work continued on the Trails Maintenance Standards Update. The draft was sent out for public review for final comments to create the final draft in December.

Trades Crew

- The Trades Crew repaired three water leaks and relocated the pressure tap for the pump controls at Cave Creek. The pressure tap was relocated to reduce pressure fluctuations on the main line of the park.
- Trades staff fabricated steel screen fence panels for the Hassayampa River Preserve picnic area. The screens will help delineate the picnic area and improve the area for ranger programs, presentations, and picnicking. The Trades Crew completed the repair of the number two septic pump at the DOC. Trades staff spent some time at Lake Pleasant and repaired a water leak at Wild Burro restroom, replaced the sewer line to the septic tank at Scute Loop host site, replaced circuit breakers and board on the E-ONE septic system at Bajada, assisted the contractor with pot holing and wire verification at Bajada and Den Loop, and repaired the parking lot lighting at the 10-lane ramp at the Lake. The Trade staff completed the County crane practical test and the crew is now certified. Obtaining this certification will allow staff to rent equipment and complete repairs in-house in lieu of using contractors.

Trails Crew

- Trails staff have been working on Spur Cross Conservation Area and Lake Pleasant Park trails in preparation for the Prickly Pedal Mountain Bike race to be held on January 20th.
- Parks has received an \$80,000 grant from the Arizona State Parks and Trails Agency. These funds will be used to rehabilitate 6.3 miles of the Goat Camp Trail in White Tank Park.

Maricopa Trail and Trail Facilities:

- Description: The following trail segments are currently in progress – 6, 9, 11, 12, 18, 20, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, 31, 32 33 and 35.
- The following portions of the Maricopa Trail that need to be acquired are in review by the Arizona State Land Department (ASLD). They have given us a tentative auction date of May or June 2018. This has been delayed by ASLD from the original date of December 2017.
 - Segment 35 – North and south of I-10 on the Tuthill Road alignment
 - Segment 12 – North of SR303 on Lake Pleasant Road.
 - Segment 11 – East of SR303 on Happy Valley Parkway.
 - Segment 33 – Rainbow Valley – BLM land to Estrella Community
- Agreement preparation/negotiations:
 - Arizona Game & Fish – Segment 9 access across the Gila River. Completed in December.
 - Bureau of Land Management – Submitted plan of proposed route between Estrella Mountain Park and Buckeye Hills Park. We are a participating agency and will be part of the team designating trails.
 - Goodyear – Sign maintenance and Rainbow Valley route.
 - Queen Creek – Re-route of trail to existing trail systems.
 - Gilbert - Re-route of trail to existing trail systems.
 - Chandler - Re-route of trail to existing trail systems.
 - Sun Corridor Trail connecting Pinal County to the Maricopa Trail via the Spook Hill Flood Retarding Structure.
- Construction
 - Segment 22 – Completed construction of the new trail in December, including a foot bridge. The trail is now open to the public, but due to some OHV route changes, staff is installing four additional gates to protect the trail. Staff is also performing maintenance on portions of the trail constructed in spring 2017.
- Maintenance
 - The following segments had maintenance completed this period. This includes grooming the tread, brushing and signage: The entire Prickly Pedal Race route (Segments 78, 13, 14, 15, 16 and 18).
- Trailheads
 - Segment 35 – Northern Avenue – Proposed location will allow user access due to weekend closures of the gate to the Case/New Holland Proving Grounds. Requires Maricopa Water District approval.

- Segment 11 – Sun Valley Parkway - Proposed location will allow users access due to the Maricopa Water District cutting off access on Greenway Road. Requires State Land easement in order to access MCFCD property where the trailhead is located.

Parks Operations Report

Cave Creek

- The park hosted 19 interpretive programs with 199 participants attending in November. The highlighted programs for the month was “Geocaching Film Festival” with 32 attendees and “Venomous vs. Poisonous” with 23 attendees.
- The park hosted 17 interpretive programs with 189 participants attending in December. The highlighted program for the month was “The Big Hike” with 37 visitors participating in a 5 hour, 11 mile scenic one way guided hike. Participants departed either from Cave Creek or Spur Cross with a Park Ranger to meet in the middle along the Maricopa Trail where the hikers switched Rangers to continue the rest of the guided hike. The participants were responsible for their own travel arrangements for their return to their beginning point.

Estrella Mountain Regional Park

- In November, Estrella Park hosted 26 interpretive programs with a total attendance of 570. Highlights included the *100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge* kick-off, *Passport Estrella* and on November 11th, the *AZ Trail Race* had a running race at the Coldwater Trail where 72 runners enjoyed a cool morning run in the desert. These hiking challenges draw a large number of participants who consistently use the park. The *Homeschool Happenings* program had higher participation in November than October. Phoenix International Raceway (PIR) held a NASCAR race Nov 9-12th, campers utilized the newly negotiated flat fee payments for the PIR campers as well as primitive camping.
- The Planning Division and Estrella staff met for several planning sessions regarding the demolition of multiple park ramadas and the replacement structures. In preparation for the demolition, park staff and hosts started working diligently capping off sprinkler lines and removing sprinkler heads.
- In December, the park hosted 25 interpretive programs with 360 participants. A first-time *Archery 101* program was presented to 25 excited children. Hiking participation remained strong as the cooler temperatures remained. On December 2nd, over 100 runners participated in the *AZ Trail Race* which started from the Competitive Track along the Maricopa Trail and ended at the Coldwater Trail parking lot.
- December involved a good deal of planning, ground work and sprinkler modifications in preparation of the demolition of eleven ramadas. Large contracted heavy equipment demolished and removed the ramadas and all the associated materials. A long concrete walking path around the turf and the replacement ramadas are slated for install in January 2018.

Lake Pleasant

- Lake Pleasant offered 46 interpretive programs during the months of November and December with 394 program participants. The highlights of the months included *Campfire Stories and Reindeer Games*, *Bald Eagle Management at Lake Pleasant*, *Sunset and Full Moon*, *Easy Paddle*, and *Fishing 101*.
- The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) Chain Gang unit came out to the park on four occasions to perform tasks such as guardrail vegetation maintenance, landscaping efforts around the park, trash cleanup, and tree trimmings.
- In conjunction with Air Quality, a new interactive kiosk has been installed inside the Discovery Center to promote awareness regarding air quality concerns, no burn days, and other related content.
- The Parks Department continues to work with the Facilities Management Department (FMD) to perform electrical upgrades within the Desert Tortoise Campground. Phases of work are anticipated to be completed in FY18 and FY19 for the Bajada Loop of Desert Tortoise.
- Restroom and/or ramada renovations have been completed within the following areas of the park: Cottonwood Day-Use Area (restroom), Pipeline Canyon Day-Use Area (restroom), Wild Burro Day-Use Area (restroom), Bobcat Day-Use Area (ramada), Ringtail Day-Use Area (restroom and ramada) and 10 Lane East (restroom).
- Park staff, volunteers and hosts received annual safety training in areas such as hazardous communications, personal protective equipment, heat illness prevention and other related topics.

McDowell

- In November, there were 14 interpretive programs offered at the park with 156 people in attendance.
- Four special events took place at the park. On November 2nd, the *Ragnar Trail Relay* took place with 2,797 runners participating with nearly 700 spectators in attendance. On November 11th, *Lead, Follow or Get Out of My Way* had 80 (equestrian) riders participating and nearly 50 spectators. On November 18th, *12 Hours of Fury* had 314 mountain bike riders with approximately 150 spectators. On November 19th, *Running Lungs* trail run event had 50 participants. Other events included an outreach program with Ranger Amy who provided a camping Scout Troop a presentation on plant life and ancient people, then led the troop on a short hike; 60 scouts were in attendance. Various Park Hosts and the Park Ranger participated in the Fountain Hills Arts Fair. Various park materials and critters were on display along with park information, maps, etc. at the park's information booth. Approximately 650 people visited the Parks' booth during the 3-day event. REI hosted an *Introduction to Mountain Biking* on November 26th with approximately 10 attendees.
- Park maintenance staff completed new fire pits at all of McDowell's primitive tent camping sites; they built these pits with pavestone material which adds a nice, rustic feel to this area. Along with assistance from a park host, the park maintenance staff built new kiosks to replace the old worn ones near the Entry Station and Dixie Mine Trailhead.
- One new memorial bench was installed at the Lariat and Pemberton trail intersection; the bench was donated by one of our park users as a tribute to park staff and volunteers.
- In December, the park held 16 interpretive programs with 244 people in attendance. The most popular single program of the month was *History of the Stoneman Wash Hike*, which drew 24 people. Ranger Amy provided an interpretive outreach program to Fountain Hills Middle School with 120 youth in attendance. Two special events took place during the month of December. The *McDowell Mountain Frenzy* (trail run) took place on December 2nd with 519 participants and approximately 200 spectators and the *Dawn to Dusk* on December 9th with 642 mountain bike riders participating and approximately 250 spectators. REI hosted two classes in December, an *Intro to Mountain Biking* and an *Intro to Map and Compass*. Giant Bicycles also offered a free bike demo at the Competitive Track Trailhead.

San Tan

- San Tan hosted 21 programs in November with a total of 694 participants. Of particular note was the ranger-led *Full Moon Hike* which drew 250 people and the ever-popular *Stargazing for Everyone* telescope viewing program that brought in 200 people. The park hosted a kickoff hike for the *100 Miles in 100 Days Challenge* to welcome participants to this year's event; there were 27 new and returning hikers on this special journey. San Tan hosted the annual Aravaipa Running's Xterra Trail Race with 285 racing participants.
- November also saw the return of the archaeology reconnaissance surveys performed by park staff and members of both the State Site Steward Program and San Tan Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society. This outing produced what is likely the most significant number of pottery shards and scatters for this project to date.
- December's schedule held 26 programs with a total of 530 participants. Archery continued to be a very popular program with sessions getting fully booked within a few hours of being posted on Facebook. The San Tan Valley Master Gardeners Club continued its monthly class series with a Pinecone Bird Feeder craft with 64 kid and adult participants. The end of year flashlight walk on the 30th brought out 128 people. The Equine Trail Sports annual equestrian skills competition had approximately 50 riders taking their horses along trails that had obstacles to test their agility and behavioral training.

Spur Cross

- In November, the annual Desert Discovery Days program was hosted by Arizona Archaeological Society, Arizona Audubon, Maricopa County Parks and Recreation, Southwest Wildlife, and Wild at Heart. The various agencies joined forces and provided a fun filled day for 249 visitors. This program was designed to give participants a chance to discover the wonder and beauty of our Sonoran Desert home with a day of outdoor experiences and hands-on education at the Jewel of the Creek Preserve. The day included a "scavenger hunt" of informational stations along the Harry Dalton Trail. Exhibit and craft stations were provided as well as snacks and beverages.

- On November 11th, 319 riders participated in the 9th Annual Cave Creek Mountain Bike Classic. The course covers over 23 miles through the Town of Cave Creek, Spur Cross Ranch Conservation Area, Cave Creek Regional Park and part of the Maricopa Trail and finally returning to the finish line in the Town of Cave Creek.
- During December, the park hosted 12 interpretive programs with 167 participants in attendance. The highlighted programs for the month included the *Full Moon Hike*, *Park to Park Hike*, and *Elephant Mountain Fortress Hike*.

Usery

- Usery Mountain Regional Park offered 43 interpretive programs in November totaling 935 participants and 39 interpretive programs in December totaling 877 participants.
- The *All About Rattlesnakes* presentation drew 115 participants. Participants had the opportunity to learn just how dangerous rattlesnakes are, how they survive in the desert, and what to do if you encounter one.
- The Buckhorn Campground was 79% full during the month of November with 10 of the 30 days requiring overflow. The campground was 81% full during the month of December with nine of the 31 days requiring overflow.
- Two-Wheel Jones hosted the *Showdown Mountain Bike Race*, an 8-hour mountain bike race through the beautiful Sonoran desert. 191 riders raced to see how many laps they could ride in the 8-hour time limit.
- Aravaipa Running hosted the *Pass Mountain Trail Run* and the *Punisher Trail Run* as part of the Desert Runner Trail Race Series. 529 runners participated in the all day running event.
- The *Ham & Turkey 3D Archery Shoot* was held at the park archery range and hosted by the Usery Mountain Archers. This event brought in 33 archers from around the valley to participate.
- The park installed new memorial benches on Merkle Trail and Pass Mountain Trail.

White Tank Mountain Regional Park

- White Tank Park provided 22 interpretive programs and community outreaches during November serving a total of 554 people. The weekly volunteer-led *Friends and Fitness Hike* formed a tightly-knit hiking group that is regularly attended by at least 15 park visitors. The hike is a progressive fitness hike that explores a different trail in the park every week. Another popular program was the ranger led *After Thanksgiving Hike* which provided park visitors with the opportunity to work off their holiday meal and enjoy a beautiful morning hike on Mule Deer Trail. National Take a Hike Day on November 17th brought many park visitors to the Waterfall Trailhead. The interpretive ranger, park supervisor, volunteers, and the REI Outreach Team were all set up to welcome visitors and to provide education on park programs, *Leave No Trace* ethics, and the flora and fauna of the Sonoran Desert. On November 4th, White Tank hosted a special event at the Competitive Track for the Interscholastic Cycling League. This was a middle school and high school mountain bike race which attracted 611 amateur mountain bikers from all over the state. All camping locations in the park were filled for this event and it also brought in many day users who wanted to come watch the race.
- A special use permit was approved for High Noon Productions and Animal Planet to conduct a video shoot in a historic mine shaft in the northern section of White Tank Park on November 14th. The production crew was filming a segment for the television show "Working Wild" which explores different jobs that involve working with wild animals. Local herpetological scientist, Cale Morris, who has completed rattlesnake research for Maricopa County Regional Parks, was the star of the show. Cale dispelled many rattlesnake myths and provided education on how to be safe around snakes in the desert. The park supervisor previewed the production footage to become more familiarized with the undeveloped northern section of the park. The show is set to air sometime this spring!
- In December, White Tank Park provided 23 interpretive programs and community outreaches with a total of 739 people attending. The *Annual Blackrock Luminary Walk* attracted over 350 park visitors to the beautifully illuminated barrier-free Black Rock short loop while being serenaded with Christmas carols from the local Shadow Ridge High School Choir.
- The beginning of the month was quiet in the park, but after Christmas a significant increase in visitation was visible. The interpretive ranger made over 100 visitor contacts during his *Find the Ranger* program on Waterfall Trail, and volunteer trail stewards made over 300 contacts on Waterfall Trail within a few hours. The most common visitor feedback received is that White Tank has the cleanest bathrooms they have ever seen in a park - kudos to our amazing park hosts who keep the bathrooms sparkling!

- December brought a couple of competitive special events in the park including the *Arizona Fall Series Trail Run and Mountain Bike Race*, and the *Cactus Flower Series Saguaro 7K*.
- The campground was filled to capacity for both Christmas and New Year's weekends with overflow campers placed in a section of the Competitive Track's parking lot for those weekends.

Vulture Mountains Recreation Area and Hassayampa River Preserve

- During November, the Preserve started to see the influx of winter visitors with a total attendance of 1,037 visitors; 123 of those visitors attended nine interpretive programs. Having a full-time ranger on staff has allowed the Preserve to offer more public programming than The Nature Conservancy (TNC) was able to offer. In high demand are the monthly night walks *Creatures of the Night* which are filling up every time. The interpretive ranger has also provided some walks and programs to various local hiking clubs. Continued progress was made on the many projects underway at the Preserve. Improvements in the picnic area were completed, including construction of a bench wall to increase the functionality of the space. Making it two-tiered will be beneficial for presentations or school group use. A new front desk was installed in the Visitor Center and staff continues to work on installing and planning display shelving for souvenir item sales. The Trails crew continued to plug away at installing new trail signs; replacing the old wooden-routed signs with standard brown County signs. Preserve staff continues to implement County policies and procedures to bring the Preserve up to date with the rest of the Parks Department. Many of the Preserve's winter volunteers have returned and resumed their duties. The Preserve does continue to get inquiries about volunteering with new volunteers arriving in the next few months. Preserve staff continue to train current volunteers to use the Point of Sale system.
- December wrapped up the first year of management of the Hassayampa River Preserve under Maricopa County. Preserve staff hosted a holiday potluck to thank all the volunteers for their patience and continued commitment over the last year during the transition from The Nature Conservancy to Maricopa County Parks. Although December in the parks is traditionally slower as many people are busy with holiday plans, the Preserve held its own with visitation. Despite the pre-holiday slowdown and some cold mornings, the Preserve saw 937 visitors. This is higher than the same month during the last several years under TNC. The interpretive ranger and volunteers led 10 programs attended by a total of 87 people. The long-awaited restroom construction project finally began; contractors have attempted to minimize the impacts to Preserve visitors.
- The Trails Crew continued with sign installation and also improved and rerouted a small trail segment along one of the Preserve trails, making it more user-friendly. The interpretive ranger represented the Preserve at the ABCI (Arizona Bird Conservation Initiative) annual meeting hosted by the AZ Game and Fish Department. On December 7th, Preserve and HQ staff also attended a public meeting in Wickenburg regarding the continued planning of the Vulture Mountains Recreation Area. The Preserve also had some unwanted excitement in December when a brush fire was spotted north of the Preserve in the river channel by park maintenance staff arriving at work in the pre-dawn hours. 911 was promptly contacted and the Wickenburg Fire Department was able to quickly control and extinguish a debris pile fire on private property approximately 2 miles north of the Preserve. Preserve staff continue to work with Wickenburg Fire in developing communication and fire management plans for the Preserve. The Preserve also continues to work with local ranchers on cattle trespass issues.