



# Bureau of Land Management

## Phoenix District Office

**Mr. Leon Thomas**

*District Manager - Phoenix District Office*

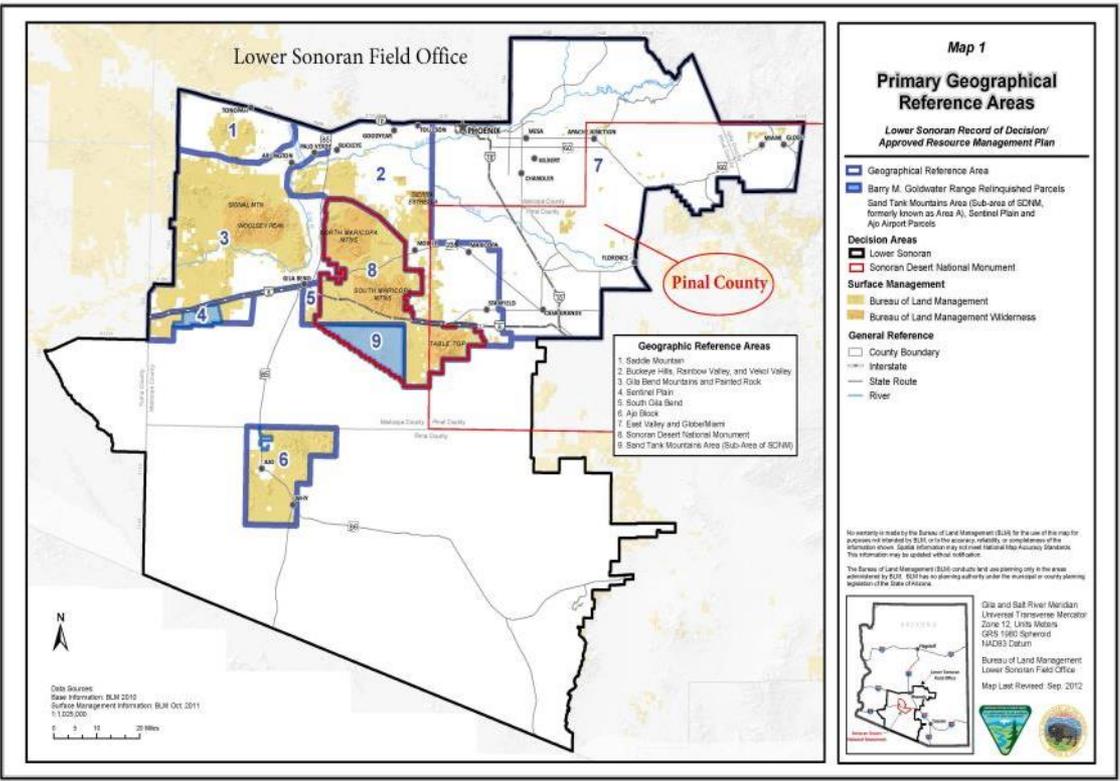
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**Pinal County**  
**Board of Supervisors Meeting**  
**2 March 2016**



# Bureau of Land Management – Phoenix District

- Two Field Offices
- Lower Sonoran F.O. is 1.4 million acres of public land
- Includes Sonoran Desert National Monument
- Roughly 90,000 acres (or 6%) of public lands managed by the LSFO are in Pinal County
- Other public lands in Pinal County are managed by the Gila District of the BLM



# Bureau of Land Management – Phoenix District



- **The Lower Sonoran Field Office has several ongoing projects in Pinal County**
  - **Operation ROAM (“Reclaim Our Arizona Monuments”)**
  - **Sonoran Desert National Monument Target Shooting Planning Amendment**
  - **Repair of Damaged Lands**
  - **Collaboration on Open Space and Parks Planning**

# Bureau of Land Management – Phoenix District



- **Operation ROAM (“Reclaim Our Arizona Monuments”)**

- **Initiated in 2010 in response to ongoing, worsening impacts from illegal Borderlands activities**
- **Goals include 1) Improve public and staff safety; 2) Protect public land resources; and 3) Foster partnerships with border partners on safety, security, and environmental protection**



- **Focus on Sonoran Desert and Ironwood Forest National Monuments**
- **Has been effective in reducing amount of smuggling related trash and debris, limiting and rehabilitating illegally constructed vehicle routes, and improving working relationships with other agencies, particularly U.S. Border Patrol**

# Bureau of Land Management – Phoenix District



## • Sonoran Desert National Monument Target Shooting Planning Amendment



- U.S. District Court ordered BLM to revisit planning decisions related to recreational target shooting on the monument

- Planning amendment initiated September, 2015 with a completion date of September, 2017
- Does not apply to public lands outside of the Monument



# Bureau of Land Management – Phoenix District



- **Repair of Damaged Lands**

- **Illegal, long-term dump near Florence cleaned February, 2015**
- **The BLM removed 350 tires, 30 55-gallon drums, 100 5-gallon paint cans, and 100 tons of trash and debris**



- **The site was subsequently filled and fenced**

# Bureau of Land Management – Phoenix District



- **Collaboration on Open Space and Parks Planning**

- **Pinal County has submitted two applications with the Lower Sonoran Field Office per the Recreation and Public Purposes Act (R&PP)**
- **These areas were identified in Pinal County’s “Open Space and Trails Plan”**
- **“Regional Park #4 – Paloverde” is approximately 21,479 acres of public land**
- **“Regional Park #5 – Peralta” is approximately 498 acres, including 160 acres of public land**
- **As with all R&PP Act applications, evaluation of valid existing rights, plans of development, BLM planning status, and environmental analysis with public participation is required before leases can be issued**

# Bureau of Land Management – Phoenix District



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