



# Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement



## Draft Goals and Objectives – Soils

**Goal:** Manage the monument such that erosion and sedimentation rates are appropriate to natural processes, landscapes determined to be returning to natural processes, or landscapes under active restoration.

**Objective:**

1. Base land management decisions that address erosion on monument soil types and metrics that compare conditions to Rangeland Health Standards.



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## Draft Goals and Objectives – Soils

**Goal:** Conserve sensitive soils such as desert pavement and cryptogammic soils.

**Objective:**

1. Determine the current existence, location, and status of significant occurrences of desert pavement and cryptogammic soils.



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## Draft Goals and Objectives – Water

**Goal:** Manage surface and groundwater resources to protect, maintain, and improve water quality in accordance with water quality standards.

### Objectives:

1. Work with the US Geological Survey and Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) to identify the groundwater and surface water quality parameters most likely to be impacted by the current and forecast public land uses in the monument.
2. Identify locations where groundwater and surface water can be sampled for analysis under the ADEQ ambient monitoring program.
3. Develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU), or an amendment of the existing State non-point-source monitoring program MOU, to support ADEQ monitoring of groundwater and surface water at selected locations in the monument.



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### Draft Goals and Objectives – Water

**Goal:** Protect water supply to provide for the needs of the biota and other natural resources.

**Objectives:**

1. Identify locations on the monument where groundwater levels can be monitored. Begin to develop cooperative agreements with the US Geological Survey to compare and analyze groundwater data on the public land.
2. Identify locations where surface water on the monument can be monitored under the Pima County Flood Control District program.
3. Develop a water quantity database in order that the current and forecast water needs of the monument can be assessed and to evaluate impairments to public land water resources from other water users can be evaluated.
4. Identify, quantify and secure legal entitlement for existing and future water sources on public lands within the monument by acquiring surface water rights/well permits, when possible, to ensure water availability to meet the purposes of the monument.



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### Draft Goals and Objectives – Water (continued)

**Goal:** Protect water supply to provide for the needs of the biota and other natural resources.

**Objectives:**

5. Ensure that land management practices and policies protect water supply by exercising existing land management authorities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) to protect and maintain all available water and natural flows in the monument.
6. Determine BLM interests and needs for a surface and groundwater protection agreement with the State of Arizona.
7. Begin a dialog with appropriate State of Arizona policy, legal, and water resources staff on the development of a cooperative agreement on the protection of water resources on the monument. Conclude this process with a formal agreement between the State and BLM that supports the objectives and preserves the resources listed in the Ironwood Forest National Monument enabling proclamation.



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### Draft Goals and Objectives – Watersheds

**Goal:** Manage watersheds to maintain, where healthy, or restore, where degraded, upland, aquatic, riparian and xeriscopic ecosystems, water quality, and water quantity.

**Objectives:**

1. Develop, with range conservation staff, a data collection protocol for specific watershed metrics that can be routinely collected during allotment or other watershed health assessments.
2. Develop and maintain an electronic database of watershed health metrics that is useful for rapidly identifying trends and proscribing management corrections when problems are apparent.
3. Increase public awareness and appreciation of water resources and healthy watersheds through interpretative displays as part of the public outreach program and visitor facilities planning for the monument.



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### Draft Goals and Objectives – Air Quality

**Goal:** Manage use in the IFNM to be consistent with air quality standards.

**Objectives:**

1. Follow the development of new state regulations and designations of non-attainment to determine what public lands will be affected. Comment on the proposed regulations as necessary and appropriate.
2. Insure all use and activities in the IFNM address general conformity requirements to ensure that no activities on public lands contribute to an exceedance of a National Ambient Air Quality Standard (health standard).
3. Work with federal, state and local agencies to monitor air quality in the IFNM. Air quality monitoring should include visibility, ozone, and acid deposition.
4. Work with federal, state and local agencies to install a meteorological station(s) in the IFNM.
5. Participate and comment on proposed Prevention of Significant Deterioration/New Source Review permits as to their effects on air quality and affected resources within 100 kilometers of the IFNM. Request location specific pre-application monitoring to be conducted to support the permit review process when appropriate.



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### Draft Goals and Objectives – Air Quality (continued)

**Goal:** Manage use in the IFNM to be consistent with air quality standards.

**Objectives:**

6. Review non-major permits within 10 kilometers to the IFNM to determine their effects on air quality and affected resources, and provide comments to the appropriate regulatory agency.
7. Address air quality impacts when planning and executing prescribed burns adhering to Article 15 of the Arizona Administrative Code and all State Implementation Plan provisions.
8. Emphasize low polluting alternatives and fugitive dust mitigation measures within and near the IFNM, especially as they pertain to unpaved roads that traverse public lands.
9. Promote the study of air quality conditions at the IFNM including the effects of ozone, acid deposition and other related pollutants on plants and the supporting ecosystems. Cooperate and promote such activity with academic institutions and other interested parties.
10. Increase public awareness and appreciation of air quality resources and visibility through interpretative displays as part of the public outreach program and visitor facilities planning for the IFNM.



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## Draft Goals and Objectives – Geology and Minerals

**Goal:** Protect the monument from unauthorized mining activities.

**Objectives:**

1. Allow extraction of mineral materials only for administrative uses within the monument.
2. Prevent unnecessary and undue degradation from mining activity on grandfathered mining claims that have established valid existing rights.
3. Reclaim abandoned mines to natural landscape conditions or convert to another use (i.e., adaptive reuse).
4. Assess abandoned mines for the presence of physical and chemical hazards, and wildlife habitat.



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## Draft Goals and Objectives – Geology and Minerals

**Goal:** Interpret the geologic features within the monument.

**Objectives:**

1. Promote identification and inventory of unique geologic features such as dune fields, desert pavement, cryptobiotic soil crusts, and playa sediments.
2. Encourage detailed scientific study and documentation of unique geologic features.