

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER
FIELD COORDINATING COMMITTEE (FCC)**

Fiscal Year 2001 and 2002 ACTIVITIES

Research and Management of Shared Water Resources

- Progress continues on Shared Water Resources Fact Sheets of the U.S.-Mexico border. Just published was Fact Sheet-Below Falcon Reservoir to the Gulf of Mexico (Subarea 8). Significant progress has been made on the remaining fact sheets in Subareas 1,2,4,5, and 7. Drafts of these fact sheets have been written and are in review.
- Issue Team members have continued to participate and provide technical support to the Binational Task Force to implement recommendations stemming from the June, 2000 Binational Rio Grande Symposium.
- A new program increase for the U.S. Geological Survey for environmental health-related studies in the U.S. – Mexico Border region resulted from collaborative activities involving several of the issue team members. This new interdisciplinary study of environmental health will take advantage of the data and information being generated in a number of current studies, and focus on understanding disease-causing agents in the environment and their specific exposure pathways in water, air and soil.
- The initiation of a border region water resources characterization and inventory was a primary activity of several of the issue team members. Working with a variety of state and local stakeholders, NGO's and other Federal Agencies, a draft concept proposal has been developed and from which a detailed workplan will evolve. The intent of this border-wide, long-term interdisciplinary analysis of the border region water resources will be to gain an accurate and comprehensive understanding of the relations between the border region's many water, natural resource, biologic and health related issues.
- The Good Neighbor Environmental Board produced their annual report #5 which has a chapter on border water resources. Previous reports such as #4 (2000) which discussed the value of approaching water resource understanding and management from a watershed perspective set the stage for the water discussions in report #5 (2001). The issue team chair sits on this board and contributes to the writing in the annual report.
- At the request of the Department of the Interior, the issue team chair was ask to participate in a working group examining alternatives for ecosystem management in the Colorado River Delta between the US-Mexico international boundary and the

upper Gulf of California. Meetings and planning is still underway to develop a framework for potential studies to analyze opportunistic flood events through the lower Colorado River delta.

- A large number of meetings and forums were attended by issue team members in order to represent the integrated thinking of the members of the team and thus promote the need for water resource studies within the border region.
- There was continued efforts to work with a variety of U.S. and Mexican water agencies to develop an agreement to ensure comparability of water quality data collection, analysis, storage, and data base management procedures so as to facilitate data sharing, collaboration and cost effectiveness.
- In December 2001, the National Park Service, The University of Arizona and the Southeast Arizona Bird Observatory produced a "*Summary Report of the Southern Arizona/Sonora MAPS Project for 1997-2000.*" The report recommends that the stations should continue to be operated on an annual basis and an interesting artifact to explore further is the drastic fluctuations observed in the number of immature birds encountered.
- The final report entitled "*Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Systems for Decision Analysis in Public Resource Administration: A Case Study of 25 Years of Landscape Change in a Southwestern Watershed*" was published by the U.S Environmental Protection Agency in June 2002. This new approach, which specifically addressed the Upper San Pedro River Basin, makes it possible to 1) observe large geographic areas and multi-jurisdictions in their entirety; 2) quantify landscape pattern and the areal extent of resources; 3) observe changes and trend in large-scale patterns through time; and 4) assess cumulative sources of environmental perturbation.

Upper San Pedro River Basin

- In an effort lasting more than two years, the Arizona State Museum and Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona, prepared a book-length report of baseline information about the history of the Upper San Pedro River Basin in Mexico and the United States and the ways in which people have affected the environment through 12,000 years of history to the present, focusing mainly on the past 300 years. The report includes hundreds of historical photographs and a bibliography with hundreds of references. Publication is scheduled to occur in FY2003.
- A new environmental organization made up of teachers; lawyers; municipal, state and federal agency representatives; mine engineers; and other citizens from the Cananea-Naco region has formed in response to concerns about local water quality and delivery problems, environmental education needs and other environmental issues.

The group named itself Asociación Regional Ambiental de Sonora y Arizona (ARASA). The Udall Center for Studies in Public Policy, The Nature Conservancy, Bureau of Land Management and others from the United States have taken an active interest in supporting ARASA.

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Lower Rio Grande

- In cooperation with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, the U.S. Geological Survey published a fact sheet entitled “*Occurrence of Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) on Suspended Sediment in the Donna Canal, Hidalgo County, Texas, 1999-2001*”.
- In cooperation with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Geological Survey published a fact sheet entitled “*Llano Grande Lake Bottom Sediments – A Chronicle of Water-Quality Changes in the Arroyo Colorado, South Texas, 1989-2001*”.
- In cooperation with the National Park Service, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U.S. Geological Survey published a manuscript entitled “*Environmental contaminants in prey and tissues of peregrine falcon in the Big Bend region, Texas, USA*”. The manuscript was published in the journal *Environmental Pollution* 116:169-176, 2002.
- In cooperation with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the U.S. Geological Survey published a manuscript entitled “*A comparative assessment of contaminants in fish from four reservoirs of the Texas, USA-Tamaulipas, Mexico border region*”. The manuscript was published in the journal *Environment International* 27:15-20, 2001.

Aerial Photography and Resource Mapping

- As a contributing member of the Department of the Interior (DOI), United States – Mexico Field Coordinating Committee (FCC), the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) has been working with partners to acquire and produce new imagery products and to then produce and acquire integrated digital geospatial data and graphic maps for the U.S. – Mexico Border Region. Each digital data layer represents a specific theme, which can include roads, parcels of land, bodies of water, or specific geographic land features. Currently, the USGS is more than half-way through a ten to twelve year, \$30 plus million mapping project for the U.S. portion of the Border Region.
- Partnerships have been established with other entities including the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and Farm Service Agency (FSA), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the EPA. State and local partners include the Texas StratMap program and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).
- Major project accomplishments in fiscal years 2001-2002 include:
 1. New aerial photography acquisitions for the entire Texas and California border region.
 2. Graphic mapping projects for major portions of the Arizona and New Mexico border region.
 3. Upgrading of digital elevation models from 30-meter to 10-meter resolution.
 4. Revision and digitization of the hydrography data theme for major portions of the Texas and New Mexico border region.
 5. Completion of National Hydrography Data Sets for many of the New Mexico and Texas watersheds areas.

United States-Mexico “Sister Areas”

- Managers from Coronado, Chiricahua, and Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve met at Chiricahua, NM June 11-12, 2001 to discuss fire management and shared conservation issues. Presentations were made on the progress and results of ongoing projects in which the three parks are participating.
- A new work plan between the Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve, Coronado National Memorial, and Chiricahua National Monument is being developed. One of the focal points of the two-year work plan is the inclusion of work/training details that will help employees progress in their profession. Frequent meetings and selected cross-training opportunities will raise the level of performance of both the Reserve and NPS staffs.

Cultural Resources

- The 2nd International Workshop on Cultural Tourism of the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was held in Durango, Mexico June 27-29, 2001. The themes for the workshop included: Cultural and ecotourism, natural patrimony of the Camino Real, pre-Hispanic cultures of the Camino Real, traditions of the Camino Real, and museums and tourism services along the Camino Real.
- The 4th International Symposium on the Restoration of Historic Adobe Structures was held July 15-20, 2001 in Hidalgo de Parral, Chihuahua. U.S. and Mexico historic structure preservation specialists met to exchange information on working with adobe structures. Approximately 25 DOI specialists participated in the symposium.
- The 7th Colloquium on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico November 7-9, 2001. Mexico's first Camino Real interpretive wayside exhibit was dedicated and unveiled along the historic trail in Asientos.
- The first General Management Planning Workshop for INAH for protected areas along the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail was held in Zacatecas, Mexico November 12-16, 2001. Thirty-five INAH representatives participated and received an introduction to the theory, purpose, and methodologies of general management planning. Study sites included the Museo Ex-Convento de Guadalupe and the La Quemada Archeological Site.

United States-Mexico Environmental Education

- The Management of Protected Areas Training Course on Environmental Education was held at Rancho "El Morillo" in Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico May 7-11, 2001. This training course provided Mexican environmental educators the opportunity to meet and share their common experiences and challenges.
- Binational student and teacher workshops were held in conjunction with the "Monarchs Across the Border" program. The program uses the Monarch butterfly as a focal point for teaching the concepts of habitat protection and the value of biodiversity.

Habitat Conservation

- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service continued the activities of its binational Ecosystem Team for the Lower Rio Grande. The purpose of the team is to provide enhanced opportunities for cooperation in resource management. The Team has encouraged participation of representatives from Mexican resource entities, as well as representatives from other DOI bureaus.