

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

December 6, 2000

Memorandum

To: Members, DOI US-Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee

From: Chair, Border FCC, USGS, Columbia, Missouri

Subject: Notes of the FCC Meeting at Rio Rico, Arizona, November 14-16, 2000

These are notes of the fall meeting of the DOI US-Mexico Border Field Coordinating Committee, held in Rio Rico, Arizona, and hosted by the US Geological Survey and Fish and Wildlife Service. These notes were prepared by Frank Baucom (FWS) and reviewed by Denny Buckler and Floyd Gray (USGS).

AGENDA

Tuesday, Nov 14 Rio Rico Resort, Rio Rico, Arizona FCC Meeting

8:00 am - Begin Meeting, Announcements, Discussion of Agenda Chair Denny Buckler, USGS

The meeting began by the introduction of Bryan Arroyo, Assistant Regional Director - Ecological Services, Albuquerque, NM, as the new member for the FWS, replacing Charlie Sanchez. Denny presented Special Award plaques to Charlie, Beau McClure (BLM), and Howard Ness (NPS) for their service as the Border FCC's co-chairs from 1994 to 2000.

8:30 am - Issue Team Reports Moderator: Denny Buckler

Aerial Photography and Resource Mapping Ken Osborn, USGS

There are 200 quadrangles under revision in the Arizona border area, some in New Mexico, and many in Texas. In Arizona, they are updating the graphic products, and they will be digital. Mexico's data from INEGI will be incorporated into any border map. The USGS has an innovative partnership with Texas, with the entire border under revision, and will be developing the digital information first, then producing the graphic maps (opposite of process in Arizona). The USGS has a new program, the Arid Southwest Program that includes parts of the Western Region and Central Region. John Klein will lead this program and will be moving to Tucson in 2001. They are also working with IBWC on a border image map.

Important change in USGS is the creation of the Rocky Mountain Geographic Science Center with Ken as a Scientist. He was very involved in fire activity this last summer and they provided updated maps to fire fighters in a day's time.

Research and Management of Shared Water Resources

Ken Osborn, USGS

Ken reported for John who will arrive later on Wednesday evening. The Fact Sheet from Falcon Reservoir to Gulf of Mexico is almost completed. The Pacific Basin-Salton Trough is being drafted. The next one to start will be the El Paso area.

Upper San Pedro River Basin

Beau McClure, BLM

On September 26 there was a meeting in Cananea, Sonora, to work on a binational action plan to declare a new protected area, Mavavi Biosphere Reserve. Beau handed out summary of meeting. Some concern from the mines in Cananea, they want more water to expand. The proceedings of the November 1999 binational conference have been printed and will be distributed beginning this Friday. Bill Kepner, EPA, has produced a data browser on the San Pedro. Beau reported that the San Pedro partnership is still active and has \$1.2 million to work on an effluent treatment plant.

US-Mexico Environmental Education

Howard Ness, NPS

Howard handed out the annual report for his office to summarize the activities of the team. He noted a number of activities such as the May ecotourism workshop at Big Bend NP, a planning meeting in Saltillo and a fall workshop to involve teachers in the migration of the Monarch butterfly, the fifth adobe historic structure workshop in October.

US-Mexico Sister Areas

Howard Ness, NPS

Howard's Mexico Affairs Office will now be working as a committee with Howard, Ramon Olivas, Larry Norris, and the Superintendents of National Parks along the border. This will make the parks more active in the process to look at funding proposals. CEPAS? process, has a management team to review the proposals. They will meet November 15 to complete the program development. Some of Howard's funds will be used by parks for national projects, including NGO projects. The NPS have two agreements with Mexico - INAH (National Institute of Anthropology and History) and SEMARNAP. Protected areas now have a Commission (Comisión Nacional de Áreas Naturales Protegidas). The NPS is considering using the organizational structure that the FWS uses in the Trilateral Committee such as the working tables. There was some discussion on the wildlife and cultural resources of the Mexican Protected areas and the overlap between the FWS and NPS. Howard announced that Sonja Najera, a NPS and FWS biologist, is now with TNC in Las Cruces, and that Nina Chambers is the Sonoran Institute's new Program Manager for the Sonoran Desert Ecoregion. The SI has completed a study on making ejido lands private that could be very significant.

Cultural Resources

Howard Ness, NPS

The NPS is now the lead for this new Issue Team, and Susan Goodwin asked if BLM would be participating. Beau restated what was announced at the Del Rio meeting that BLM would not be able to lead this team. Charlie asked that BLM and NPS work with BIA to develop a working team. Ramon will organize this and invite participation by the BR and FWS.

Habitat Restoration and Conservation

Frank Baucom, FWS

The Team is waiting for the completion of the Synthesis Project before holding the next Team meeting. The draft has been completed and several portions of the data base were available for review at the meeting. One task the Team needs to decide is what is the best organization for participation along the entire border. Participation is difficult with a border-wide team, as most partners and cooperators are more geographically oriented. The collection of data on environmental projects between New Mexico and Chihuahua is underway, and will be accomplished by the NM State University using SW Strategy funds. Texas has a similar effort underway.

The major efforts this year were focused on five projects: Restoration of Tamaulipan brushland habitat in the Lower Rio Grande NWR; habitat restoration mode for the El Doctor wetlands and Cienega de Santa Clara; rangeland improvement for the management of endangered masked bobwhite quail in Sonora; prescribed fire management to improve habitat for the masked bobwhite on Buenos Aires NWR; and water improvement structures to support desert bighorn sheep in Cabeza Prieta NWR. Nine other habitat and species conservation projects were noted by Charlie who said he will send the Borderlands Report describing these projects in more detail to the Border FCC members.

Because funding has been eliminated for about 50% of the FWS's borderlands funds, there most likely will be no project funds in FY 2001. Region 2 will feel the impact the most.

Lower Rio Grande

Denny Buckler, USGS

Denny attended a very successful first meeting of the binational Lower Rio Grande Ecosystem Team lead by the FWS that included representatives from Mexican States, SEMARNAP, and Texas. The binational meeting of the Amistad fishery project has been held (a DOI-FCC funded project). Denny reported that the bibliography of Santa Elena - Big Bend area has been completed and that the USGS is starting a project on the endangered Chisos Mountain hedgehog cactus. There is a future project planned on the effects to tinajas (water holes) of aerial transport of contaminants.

Denny asked Chris Henke and Lynne Johnson, USGS, Columbia, Missouri, to report on the status of the Border FCC's web page. The site is available to Border FCC members, and Chris led the group through the various pages they have developed. There was some discussion on how much to include about DOI-FCC project funds with the decision to be conservative because there are no funds for new projects this year. Chris noted that an 'extra-net' could be established so those outside the Border FCC could view pages with a password. Most Border FCC members did not want to create another set of inside users. Issue Teams were requested to look at their pages. In response to the question when to go public, Chris said as soon as we have basic information from each team, and the PowerPoint presentation (photos) were in. Most members wanted to launch the site very soon as the official Border FCC web page is over 3 years old. January 5 will be the last call for material, and photo's or graphics should be in .tif or .bmp format. A question was asked about the availability of maps, and the use of watersheds as a definition as well as State boundaries.

1:00 pm - Border Forums/Programs

Moderator: Amy Heuslein BIA

Status of Rio Grande Task Force

Lorenzo Arriaga BOR

Joint Resolution between the Secretaries of DOI and SEMARNAP dated June 14, 2000, formed this basis for this task force. One of the task force meetings was held during the Border XXI National Coordinators meeting in El Paso. Eight resolutions from the symposium were discussed at the initial meeting. The Task Force will initially address numbers 1,6,7, and 8. The organizing committee is made up of US Federal members and IXBWC.. The transition of both national governments will hold up binational task force appointment. On December 7, the initial workgroup will meet in El Paso. Baseline reports will be distributed to task force January 19, 2001. Strategy should be ready by January 19. Lorenzo handed out a data sheet on the "Forgotten Stretch" of the Rio Grande.

Status of SW Strategy US/Mexico Border Relations Committee

Larry Norris, NPS
Beau McClure is also a member of this Workgroup. The Workgroup presented a training program in Chihuahua for the Regional Executive Committee and has looked at Copper Canyon for ecotourism. Christine Alleoudo, the California representative for Mexico, should be invited to our next meeting. They are reviewing the MOU by Border Patrol sector and the SW Strategy member agencies. Bryan recommended Border Group and Bill Maxium be contacted to coordinate Border FCC activities.

Colorado River Delta Activities

Susan Goodwin, DOI

They are beginning to implement the Joint Declaration by both Secretaries. A symposium was held in Riverside, California, in late September. The DOI is being sued by Defenders of Wildlife on delta issues. First implementation meeting in October for US stakeholders is preliminary to a future binational meeting. Water users were represented by their agencies and NGO's were also represented; they agreed to pursue an environmental minute to the 1944 Water Treaty. States liked this idea because this would document Mexico's request for the natural resource flows for the delta. Water agencies agreed to have follow-up meetings on science and data on the delta with a separate meeting on the delta to be held alongside users meeting in Las Vegas. A few private citizens are looking at water transfers in Mexico to see if water may be available in Mexico; a Ford Foundation grant is helping this group. Charlie mentioned that this sprang from the DOI - FCC Letter of Intent. The threat of a lawsuit helped bring groups together.

Western Sonoran Monitoring Activities

Jim Renthall, BLM

(Will be discussed later in day with DOI Border projects)

Ecosystem Management - A Binational Approach

Charlie Sanchez, FWS

Charlie announced that his new position is the Special Assistant for Ecosystems, and there is one for each Region and Washington Office Coordinator. He handed out a map of FWS Ecosystem boundaries and said that Teams will be redrafting their ecosystem plans and developing five priority projects. Teams need to bring in other partners outside of the FWS. As noted by Denny earlier, a new initiative in the Binational Rio Grande Ecosystem Team, led by David Oviedo, Ulvalde NFH. At the first meeting in Mexico there were representatives from four Mexican States, NGO's from Mexico, Texas Parks and Wildlife, USGS, and NPS. All of the Mexican States wanted to support natural resources along the river. This is the first time that TPW fully

participated in the border. Pronatura is developing proposals through the World Bank (million-dollar projects). Formal agreement may be signed in November at the next meeting of the team. A Mexican cattle ranching representative opened the door to do more conservation work on their private lands. The Lower Colorado River Ecosystem Team is planning on holding its next meeting in Yuma to bring in Mexico. Charlie would like to have Gila/Salt/Verde Ecosystem Team also began to work with Mexico. The Mexican effort to increase ecotourism works well with our resource needs.

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program Steven Spencer, DOI
Steve is with Glen Sekavec in the DOI's Albuquerque Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance. He noted that the PowerPoint program he will present was made by Karen Cathey, FWS. He stressed that DOI can assess damages for lost natural resource *services* - e.g., fishing and beach use, under the DOI NRDA Restoration Program. These are not Federal funds but from responsible parties. Joint recoveries are eligible as a Federal match for other programs. Examples: French Limited Superfund Site, Texas. They developed package of actions and were able to leverage funds and habitat restoration. Multi-bureau DOI - Program Manager is Frank Deluise, with an Executive Board from each bureau that overlooks Manager. Each Bureau has a member of the Workgroup. More policy is being developed. A technical support group also participates. There are four regional coordinators for DOI: San Francisco, Albuquerque, Denver, and Philadelphia. More focus on restoration rather than studies of what were lost. They want more multi-bureau coordination, such as the Pacific Gas and Electric Topock Compressor Facility. The DOI selects an Authorized Official to represent the Secretary. The program now is known as NRDAR, with the added "R" for restoration. As a result of increased commerce along the border, there is an increased threat of spills along the border.

Remaining Border FCC Business

Moderator: Denny Buckler

DOI/FCC Role in Next Phase of Border XXI

Susan Goodwin, DOI

The 5-year Border XXI program expires January 2001. The plan is for the new administrations for Mexico and US to meet early spring, draft plan in summer 2001, with a final plan by end of 2001. States (and Tribes) have proposed a new structure, they want to be co-leads and have signed an agreement with EPA. In the next phase, EPA is proposing to organize into four regions and not by media (eg air or water). There will be four co-chairs for each Region - a Federal and State for each country (like Frank and Jim proposed for the Natural Resources WG). The DOI has said we will wait until new administration is on board before we can agree to the next phase. Regional groups should emphasize projects rather than process. Susan said that the DOI has a good program with Mexico and we may not want to participate with EPA as we did in the first phase of Border XXI. We now have a MOU with Mexico and DOI that could serve as a forum for our cooperation with Mexico on natural resources. Also, the Letter of Intent Pilot Area concept has worked well and offers a binational approach to conservation activities.

Frank cautioned the group that the DOI should avoid being brought into a program at the last minute, as happened with Border XXI. The decision to stay or leave should be made as early as possible, so that if we stay, we can be part of the programs planning decisions early on. Ultimately, the final choice will be made by the Secretary's Office of the new administration; however, as the key player in the Natural Resources Work Group, the Border FCC should provide a recommendation to the Secretary. Also, we should be respectful if Mexico wishes to have the DOI as their counterpart for natural resources in the US.

A question arose on EPA's border issue paper being developed for the next administration. Frank and Beau prepared comments for Susan, but these comments have not been forwarded to EPA until DOI decides how and if we will participate in Border XXI. Susan said she will begin to draft a Border FCC issue paper for the border program, with the first draft by January.

DOI/SEMARNAP MOU Implementation

Susan Goodwin, DOI

There is no plan for action now, but will brainstorm. Use to gather senior management once a year to report and discuss what we are doing with Mexico.

Border FCC Strategic Plan Electronic Document

Floyd Gray, USGS

Chris has base text and Floyd has the tables for the document (in quark) that should be on the intra-net page in about 2 months.

Identification of Issue Teams for Evaluation at Next Meeting

Larry Norris, NPS

The Lower Rio Grande and San Pedro Issue Team evaluations were done at the last meeting, the question now is which teams for the next meeting. Because Shared Water was ready last time, Ken volunteered them and his team, Aerial Photography and Mapping. Howard volunteered Environmental Education. The remaining teams will be evaluated for the fall 2001 meeting: Sister Areas, Habitat Conservation, and Cultural Resources.

Floyd suggested developing another issue team on migratory pollinators, but the response of creating a new team was not overly enthusiastic. Frank suggested that the Habitat Conservation team could address his concerns.

Border Program Project Funding for FY2001

Beau McClure, BLM / Susan Goodwin, DOI

Because most projects funded for 2000 were for 2 years, funds for new projects were not available for FY 2001. Adjustments were made to some of the existing projects for 2001. Beau reported on a number of projects. After a through discussion, the group said they appreciated the FWS being the broker for the funds and agreed to provide \$10,000 to the FWS Region 2 Office to assist transfer of funds. The project total for 2001 was \$185,600 with \$4,400 left for emergency or Border FCC activities. The list of projects was provided to all.

Miscellaneous Announcements

Carlos Ernesto ZATARAIN Gonzalez is the new Director General for IMADES (Reyes y Aguascalientes, Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico Tel +52-62-10-36-64; email: aztarain@cideson.mx or website: <http://cideson.mx>.

A handout on Border PACT was provided to describe the network of 65 institutions and

universities dedicated to building human capacity through education and training. Their website (<http://borderpact.org>) provides background information and details on their grant program that address a wide range of concerns such as health, community, education, environment, and economic development.

Next Meeting

At the last Border FCC meeting, the group had tentatively agreed to an invitation from the Padre Island National Seashore to host the next spring meeting. The Committee affirmed that selection and with an unspecified time in late March 2001.

5:30 pm - Adjourn

Wednesday, Nov 15 All Day Field Trip to Visit Aquatic and Riparian Investigation Sites

Depart Rio Rico at 8:15 am

Stop #1 - IBWC Nogales International Sewage Treatment Plant

Stephen Tencza, Nogales Projects Manager

Stop #2 - Santa Cruz River Riparian Site - Rio Rico

Downstream of Rio Rico bridge

Friends of the Santa Cruz RiverWatch - Mark Larkin & Jerry Turner

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project - Frank Baucom

Stop #3 - Patagonia Mountains Watershed Characterization/CERCLA Preliminary Assess

Floyd Gray & Laura Brady

Stop #4 - Sonoita Creek Riparian Community - Nature Conservancy Reserve

TNC Preserve

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Project - Frank

Thursday, Nov 16

Invited Speakers and Presentations:

Moderator: Floyd Gray, USGS

Sonoran Institute Border Programs

Steve Cornelius, Mark Briggs, Nina Chambers, and Joaquin Murrieta, Sonoran Institute

Steve gave an overview of the Sonoran Institute's border program in Arizona and Sonora, stressing the benefit of agencies working together and the value of organizations such as the International Sonoran Desert Alliance. They (SI) are now expanding their geographic priorities from the border area to include the entire ecoregion. The Sonoran Desert has been identified as one of 200 most important ecoregions to conserve global biodiversity. Common factors in their approach are to be community centered, use science, collaborative partnerships, and integrate field and policy actions. Examples of their community based riparian restoration efforts are the Colorado River Delta and Santa Cruz River. Sustainable economic development includes efforts for community-based tourism. Landscape scale conservation efforts include ecosystem monitoring, invasive species strategy, and site conservation planning.

Mark showed what the SI is accomplishing in the Colorado River delta, where only about 5% of wetlands remain and salt cedar is invading. Management of the river will have to change to

achieve goals of biodiversity and community development. The tasks are to 1) improve understanding of ecological and socio-political conditions, 2) understand ecological conditions, 3) design conservation projects, and 4) develop baseline for gauging project effectiveness. Mark provided a table of natural resource investigations being conducted in the delta. He noted that vegetative mapping has been the mainstay of the investigations. The future needs are to for a hydrological model; to identify critical natural areas in delta ecosystem; and a land tenure study of communities in delta including what the people do and where their land is located.

Nina talked on the role of social science in understanding the human ecosystem. Two ways to use this information is as criteria for selecting sites for community-based conservation and to monitor trends at ecosystem level. Some indicators for the Sonoran Desert are water use and water claims, irrigated farmland (Arizona -decreasing), and grazing (decreasing in Arizona / increasing in Sonora). Social indicators need to be defined and monitored. They are useful to communicate the state of the ecosystem and the trends, sort of a report card on both the ecological and human condition.

Mark returned to describe the SI's community-based riparian restoration efforts on the Santa Cruz River in Sonora. The reach in Mexico is 52 km long, with some stretches in relatively in good condition but there are concerns. The problems are both rural and urban; for example, ground water pumping and gravel pits near Nogales and ranching and drought problems in rural areas. Agriculture is not a large problem, some occurs near the Town of Santa Cruz. Concerns are the regeneration of cottonwood / willow forests, improving water quality, and preventing erosion. Investigations in both the bottomland and upper watershed have been conducted, and a number of reports will be out next year.

Joaquin stated that transferring information into the Community usually takes about 2-3 years to be able to work with groups. The process they used begins with research, then community outreach, implementation, and finally sustained conservation. They are now in the implementation stage. Mark also discussed Article 27 change to the Mexican Constitution that in 1992 allows privatization of ejidos, loans, and foreign investment. More than 30% of the ejidos have sold their rights resulting in more cattle among fewer families, private investment on riverside lands, and also for conservation easements (UMA). The SI now has a field-based project coordinator and office on the river in San Lazaro, Sonora.

Jim Renthall, BLM, was asked to provide information to the group on the Rangeland Monitoring Workshops that the DOI-FCC was helping to produce. He said the first workshop will start February 2-5, 2001, in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and the other three will be held in Chihuahua, Sonora, and Arizona. They will focus on a broad, rapid assessment of rangeland condition with some transect work. The contractor is from New Mexico State University and class size will be about 30 individuals per workshop. John recommended inviting the Natural Resources Conservation Service because of the unified Federal policy ensuring a watershed approach to Federal land and resource management based on the Clean Water Action Plan. [Note - for the Federal policy signed October 2000 see <http://www.cleanwater.gov/ufp/policy.html>].

Buenos Aires Masked Bobwhite Quail Restoration

Sally Gall, FWS

Sally noted that the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge was established 1985 for the recovery of the endangered masked bobwhite quail. They have been conducting a captive propagation - breeding program since the beginning, and she discussed how important binational management is to the program. They have worked with some very supportive ranches in central Sonora, and last year for the first time, had a translocation of 35 birds from Mexico. This was very important and may have contributed to a more robust genotype. Areas where the Mexican birds were released had some of the best production documented on the refuge. They may move some of their captive birds to Mexico. Fire has been the most effective management tool. She also mentioned the conservation of other species, such as the cactus ferruginous pygmy-owl and the Pima pineapple cactus.

Tumacacori Mission Restoration

Ann Raser, NPS

Ann, Superintendent of the Tumacacori National Historic Park, noted that the Park is very old historically and administratively, as it was the 20th NPS site in the Nation. They also administer two other nearby mission sites: Calabazas and Guevavi. They are one of the Father Kino missions. The missions in Mexico are important as they still have original plaster attached to the adobe. One of their organized work projects is at Cocospera, which has no protection from the weather. The Mexican agency responsible for historic properties is rather new (about 30 years old) and does not have as much support as other agencies in Mexico. Ann also stated that the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail that runs from the mission sites in Arizona to San Francisco, California, should be an international trail to include the route in Sonora. They will be hosting a de Anza Trail conference in the future.

Water Resources Planning in the Santa Cruz Watershed

Eric Holler, BOR

Eric is a planner with the Bureau's office in Tucson. He outlined what the BOR is doing in the watershed beginning with the Southern Arizona Regional Water Management Study. Their role is to provide regional planning assistance to the various communities. He stated that the Federal interest in the project is to sell CAP water and they have produced a plan in August 2000. Title XVI of PL 102-575 relates to use of wastewater, and they are involved with the Regional Effluent Planning Partnership, providing 25% of the funding, and the Marina Highplains Effluent Recharge project. Another set of projects is with the Tohono O'odham Nation to delivery CAP water and other tasks such as streambank protection on the lower Santa Cruz River. He noted that BOR has embraced the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan. He also mentioned the Sierra Vista's Water Reclamation Facility. When asked about a possible dam on the upper Santa Cruz River, he said BOR's Phoenix Office provided \$1 million for a recharge project - water storage capacity in Santa Cruz Active Management Area (AMA), but he did not believe they identified any successful solutions. Eric said that in 2003 they will be looking at water storage issues in Santa Cruz AMA. He suggested that a Border FCC member should address the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan committee and the group recommended Frank.

Continue Invited Speakers and Presentations:

Moderator: Frank Baucom

Desert Ironwood Primer/Desert Pollinators

Patty West, Sonoran Desert Museum

Patty announced that the Border FCC assisted in funding this project, and that Gary Nabhan, the principal instigator of this project, is moving from the Museum to Northern Arizona University. Data was collected on association of ironwood with other species. The report, "Desert Ironwood Primer," was distributed at the meeting. In the report, three areas were recommended for protection in the US and four areas in Mexico. Patty remarked how amazed she was that the 129,000-acre Ironwood Forest National Monument was designated on June 9, 2000. Recommendations: Need more information, regulate use, educate consumers and redirect use, and ensure habitat protection through preserves. The Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, the Ironwood Forest National Monument (Silver Bell Mountains and Raged Top), and the pollinator project, and medicinal plants beneath ironwood for the Seri's. The Tucson Audubon Society supported carbon dating that provided evidence of ages of 800 years. Many individuals and organization cooperated in the study. Corridors for hummingbirds and bats have been identified. One benefit is that the Seri Indians (Mexico) are using the survey method for studies in their area.

Arizona/Sonora Avian Monitoring Program

Jim Bellamy, NPS; Mario Cirette
and Florintino Garza, SEMARNAP

Jim, Superintendent of Coronado National Memorial, has been part of a migratory bird monitoring effort using the MAPS protocol (constant effort mist-netting and bird banding) with the Ajos - Bavispe Forest Reserve (Sonora), Chiricahua National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, and San Pedro National Conservation Area. There are 500 sites using this protocol, and now the first two have been established in Mexico: Morelos (Rio San Pedro) and Ajos (Evans Canyon). This will give a better understanding of shared resources and indicator of ecological health as the sites match sky islands and riparian areas in Arizona. Also, there is the ability to examine no fire suppression and with suppression effect on ecosystems. MAPS requires long-term effort, with a minimum of 5 years. Some funding has come from DOI-FCC funds. Jim said they have contracted the running of the sites to the Southeastern Bird Observatory, in Bisbee, Arizona. Three Mexican biologists have been trained in avian monitoring.

Mario Cirette and Florintino Garza are with SEMARNP's Sierra de los Ajos Forest Reserve. The new reserve being created on the San Pedro River is named the Reserva de la Biosfera Mavavi, which means the place where bear takes a shower, and includes about 100,000 ha out of 175,000 ha of the San Pedro River Basin. Originally established in 1936 as a forest preserve, in 1939 the designation as a wildlife refuge with flora and fauna was added. The Reserve has great biodiversity, with habitats from desert to high mountain. They conduct an environmental educational program and manage a tree nursery in Cananea. They have recently posted boundary and information signs around the area. Threats include: overgrazing, lack of water, slash and burn land use, forest disease and plagues, forest fires, mining, and waste water from mines. For the new Reserve, some public hearings with various groups have been held. Pressure from mining associations has changed the hearing schedule for a decree for the new area and more time will be needed, perhaps January or February.

Sonora Joint Venture

Robert Mesta, FWS

Robert is the Coordinator, located in BLM's Tucson office. This is the first Joint Venture (JV) with an international board. He explained that JV's are used to implement the North American Wetland Conservation Act projects. The Sonoran JV includes all of the Baja (Sur and Norte), Sonora, southern portion of Arizona and the Salton Sea in California, with about 500 bird species. The JV is self-directed with a Management Board and a Technical Committee. The Executive Director is Duane Shroufe, and Beau is a board member and Frank in on the Technical Committee. He handed out information on recent initiatives and a list of web pages for various bird conservation plans.

Good Neighbor Environmental Board

John Klein, USGS

John noted that they are a Federal Advisory Committee for the President and Congress. Several Border FCC members were at the El Paso Board meeting in September and remarked on how John's participation was evident in the latest Board report.

Border Thematic Mapper CD Demonstration

Floyd Gray, USGS

Floyd distributed a three CD-ROM-set and said that most of the border is covered, but is narrowed in Texas, but that can be expanded later. He advised to start with the Readme file. You will be able to link to images in the viewer, and if open in PhotoShop, you can adjust color. Next out will be Map Review to include geologic map; watershed boundaries; road and stream contours; oil and gas assessment. This will be seamless across the border. Ask Floyd if you need this now.

4:30 pm - Adjourn