

# Southwest Border Resource Protection Program

National Park Service  
Intermountain Region  
U.S. Department of the Interior



To address these challenges, SWBRPP provides financial assistance to U.S. national parks and their partners to support research, inventory and monitoring, and



Historic international boundary marker along the U.S./Mexico border, defaced with graffiti.

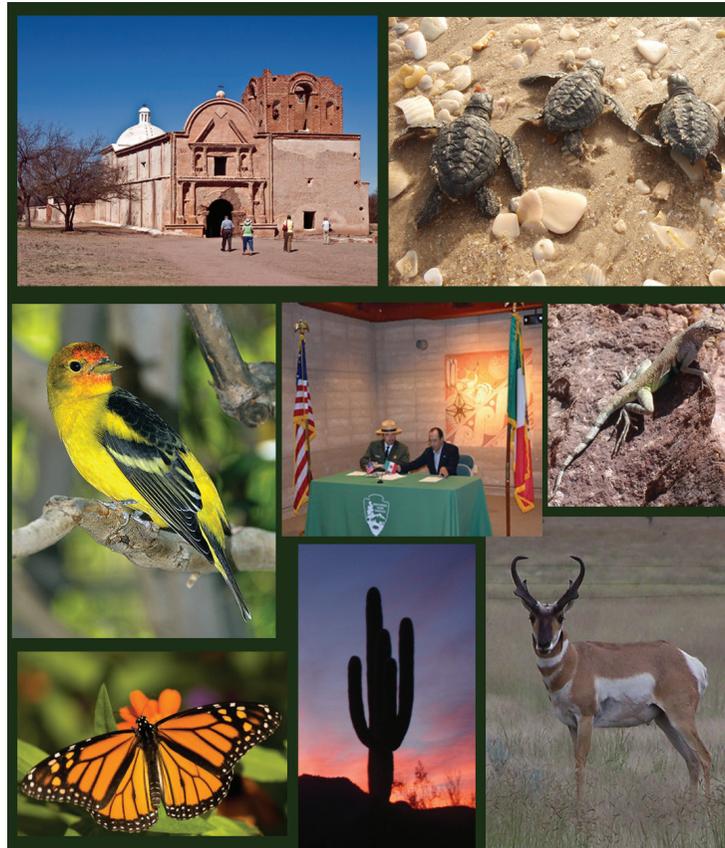


Mule deer attempting to cross the international border in the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area of southeastern Arizona.

other projects that preserve and restore threatened natural and cultural resources. Because education is key to every initiative, SWBRPP also provides coordination and funding for conferences that bring resource managers together to focus on critical resource issues that the United States and Mexico share.

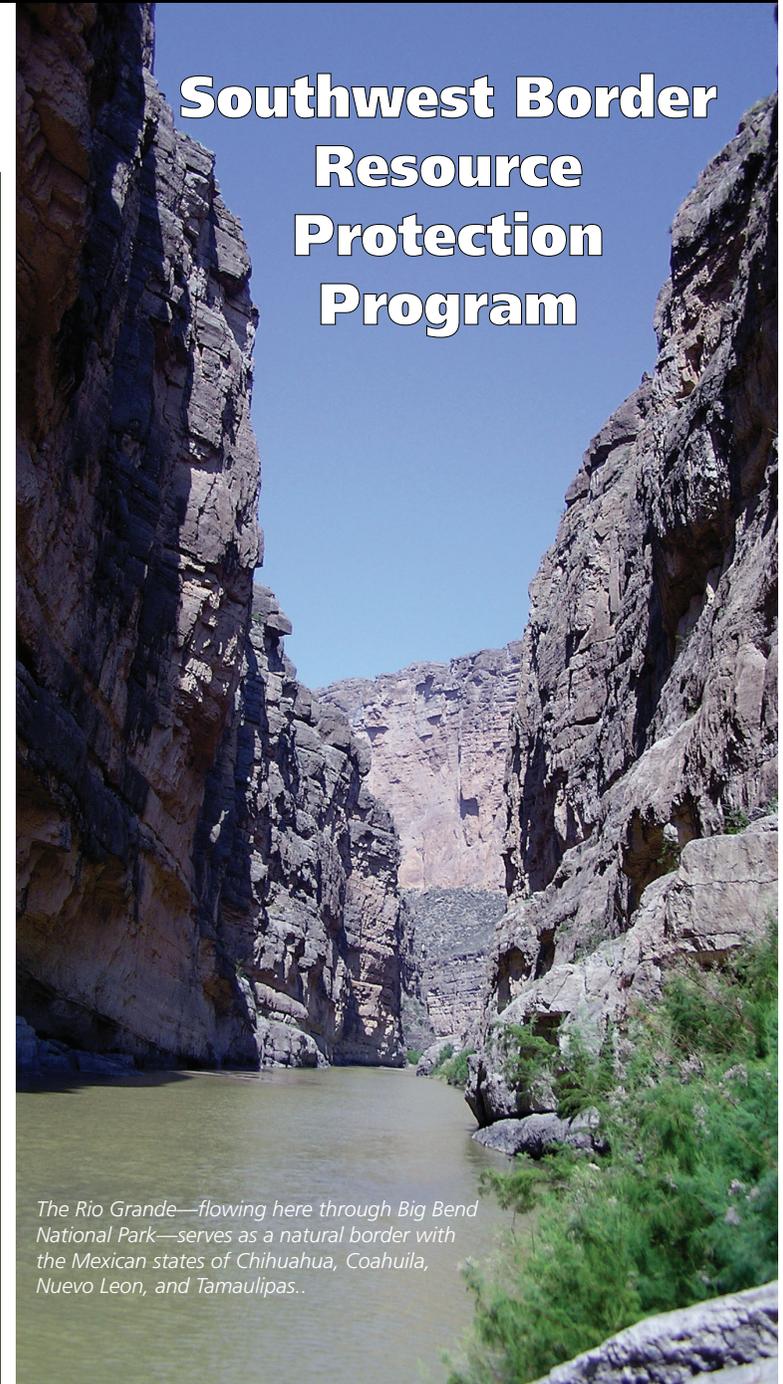
Lastly, the program supports the informal system of “sister parks” established by several U.S. national parks with federally protected areas in Mexico. Sister parks foster sharing of information and regular, direct park-to-park contact to address mutual interests and concerns. SWBRPP helps facilitate new sister park agreements and provides funds for international travel.

## Cooperative Conservation Along *La Frontera*



For more information about the program, including how to apply for financial assistance and eligibility requirements, visit the program website at [http://www.nps.gov/partnerships/funding\\_sources.htm](http://www.nps.gov/partnerships/funding_sources.htm) or contact Krista Muddle, program manager, at [krista\\_muddle@nps.gov](mailto:krista_muddle@nps.gov) or 303-969-2356.

## Southwest Border Resource Protection Program



*The Rio Grande—flowing here through Big Bend National Park—serves as a natural border with the Mexican states of Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas.*



Amistad National Recreation Area



Big Bend National Park



Chamizal National Memorial



Chiricahua National Monument



Coronado National Memorial

## The Southwest Border Resource Protection Program — Intermountain Region

Managers of the 401 units of the National Park Service know that no park or monument can operate in isolation, as an island apart. All must work with and learn from the managers, neighbors and resources on other lands around them to fulfill their parks' missions to the fullest.

Nowhere in the National Park System is that reality more profound than along *La Frontera* -- the 2,000-mile U.S. border with Mexico. More than a dozen U.S. national parks, monuments, recreation areas, memorials and seashores lie on or within walking distance of this shared boundary, across from which Mexico manages nine of its own protected areas. *La Frontera* has come to symbolize the promise and the challenge of international conservation.

These lands are tested today as never before by actions that threaten their ecological character and cultural importance. To help protect and restore these lands, the Southwest Border Resource Protection Program (SWBRPP) works with U.S. parks and their Mexican counterparts, education institutions, international non-profit groups, tribes and local, state and federal agencies. Based in the National Park Service's Intermountain Regional Office in Denver, SWBRPP promotes conservation and improved international cooperation on the border.

In the realm of conservation, nature knows no borders. Many birds, butterflies, sea turtles and other species that breed on U.S. and Canadian soil spend winter in Mexico, Central America and South America. Historically, important

landmarks of human culture, including the many colonial missions established by Spanish explorers and settlers, reach north from Mexico across the American Southwest.

Introduced exotic and invasive species such as tamarisk (salt cedar), hydrilla and giant cane have displaced native species and seriously disrupted ecosystems within Texas border parklands. At the same time, human actions have seriously damaged desert resources. In other boundary parks in Arizona and New Mexico, dealings in and pursuit of illegal cross-border traffic in undocumented immigrants, drugs and other illicit contraband have marred the landscape and disrupted major wildlife migration patterns and ecological processes. Important historic sites have been vandalized. Archeological sites have been looted.



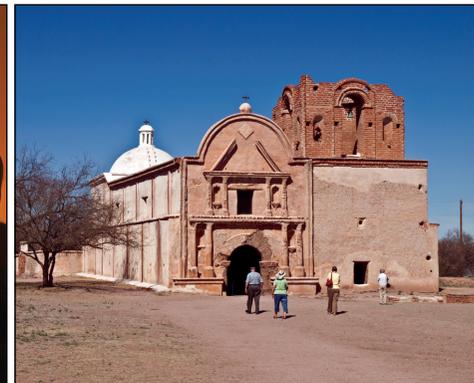
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument



Padre Island National Seashore



Palo Alto Battlefield National Historic Site



Tumacacori National Historical Park



Saguaro National Park