



# MEAF News Letter

March 2002 Volume 2 No. 1

## 7th Colloquium on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro: Mexico

The 7th Colloquium on the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro was held in Aguascalientes, Mexico November 7-9, 2001. Mexico's first Camino Real interpretative wayside exhibit was dedicated and unveiled along the historic trail in Asientos.

The forum also allowed an opportunity for U.S. and Mexican students to meet, socialize, and participate in a professional international conference. Ramon Olivas stated: "It was exciting and quite satisfying seeing the two groups of students integrate socially and professionally. In my opinion, this was one of the highlights of this year's forum."

During the forum INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia) adopted the horse and wagon as the Camino Real de Tierra Adentro logo. This logo will be used for all Camino Real events and literature in Mexico.



## Future Events

- Invasive Plants Workshop at El Pinacate Biosphere Reserve, Mexico and Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Spring 2002.

## MEAF Web Page Has New Look

[www.nmsu.edu/~nps/](http://www.nmsu.edu/~nps/)

*The MEAF web page has been redesigned by Carrie Inskip and Lillie*

*Whetten. It has been expanded to include more*

*information as well as links to the MEAF photograph exhibitions, "Portraits of the Camino Real" and "Places Along the Camino Real," and the newsletter. The page can be viewed in either English or Spanish.*



## General Management Planning Workshop

The first General Management Planning (GMP) Workshop for INAH personnel 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. Participants followed a work plan, gathered information about two study sites and drafted a GMP. Study sites included the Museo Ex-Convento de Guadalupe and the La Quemada Archeological Site.

NPS representatives were: Gustavo Sanchez from Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park, Arron Marr from Long Distance Trails Group Office, and Ramon Olivas from U.S.-Mexico Affairs Office (MEAF).

## MEAF Funds FY02 Projects

MEAF received project proposals from Parks and Non-government organizations. A project selection committee met in Phoenix, AZ on November 9, 2001, and selected the following projects:

### Amistad National Recreation Area:

“Monarchs Across the Border”

*Description:* Creates Monarch education programs to train local educators on both sides of the border to teach species and habitat protection. Educators are given workbooks, posters, suggested activities, and lesson plans. Local children are also introduced to the Monarch during special summer camps and schools.



Partners include: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Student Conservation Association, and Profauna, A. C.

### Big Bend National Park: “Los Diablos Firefighting Program”

*Description:* Initial Attack equipment of the Los Diablos Wildland Firefighting Program will be upgraded. Hand crew safety, work efficiency, and attitude will be improved for the individuals participating in this program. Fire brigades in Mexico will also benefit from the transfer of the replaced fire fighting equipment to their brigades.

Partners include: Maderas del Carmen and Cañon de Santa Elena Protected Areas.

“Assessing the Effects of Historic Mining in the Rio Grande Watershed”

*Description:* The impacts of trace elements from abandoned mines in the Rio Grande Watershed on the natural resources of Big Bend National Park and the two Mexican Protected Areas will be assessed. Joint conservation strategies for the protection of these natural resources will be developed. Partners include: Comision Internacional de

Limites y Aguas, International Boundary and Water Commission, Maderas del Carmen Mexican Protected Area, Cañon de Santa Elena Mexican Protected Area, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, United States Environmental Protection Agency, and United States Geological Survey.



**Submerged Resources:** “Archival Search, Transcription and Center Translation of Cermeño Documents Relating to the 1595 Loss of San Agustin In Drake’s Bay, Point Reyes National Seashore.”

*Description:* Two archival searches will be conducted for Cermeño documents that will lead to the discovery of the location of the Manila Galleon *San Agustín*, which was wrecked while anchored at Drake’s Bay in November 1595. Documents will then be translated. This information will offer significant historical and archeological information about Manila Galleon construction and cargos. Submerged Resources Center will work with the NPS Spanish Colonial Research Center.

**Chiricahua National Monument:** “Support Joint Activities to Further Letter of Agreement”

*Description:* 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.



**International Sonoran Desert Alliance:**

“International Partnerships for Conservation of the Sonoran Desert Bioregion”

*Description:* Local community members and land management agencies will help with the conservation of natural and cultural resources, and preservation of critical habitat. Partners include: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI) and El Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve (Pinacate).

**Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI):** “Monitoring Resource Damage Associated with Border Activities in ORPI and Pinacate”

*Description:* Damages caused in ORPI and Pinacate by border crossings, drug smugglers, and law enforcement will be inventoried. A long term monitoring plan will be developed to assess changes in vegetation. Maps will be prepared and educational information in English/Spanish including interpretive displays, power point presentations, and a Web page will be created.

**“Basics in Managing and Conducting Searches”**

*Description:* This grant will support search and rescue workshops for border parks. The following Mexican parks will be invited: Pinacate Biosphere Reserve, Alto Golfo de California Biosphere Reserve, El Vizcaino Biosphere Reserve, Valle de los Virios Biosphere Reserve, Sierra de San Pedro Martir National Park, and Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve. Firefighters from the City of Puerto Peñasco Fire Department that assist Pinacate with searches will also be invited.

**Coronado National Memorial:** “Arizona-Sonora Avian Monitoring Program”

*Description:* Avian monitoring will occur every ten days from May through August at each of the monitoring stations. A new station will be established in the riparian area of Fort Bowie National



Historic Site. Avian education programs will also be held at schools on both sides of the border, where students will learn more about the habitat around them through a combination of classroom programs and field trips. Coronado works closely with Chiricahua; Tumacacori; Organ Pipe; Bureau of Land Management; Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship; Ejido Morelos, Sonora; Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve, Sonora; Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory; and Instituto del Medio Ambiente y Desarrollo en el Estado de Sonora.

**Tumacacori National Historical Park:**

“Conservation in Pimeria Alta Missions”

*Description:* Conservation workshops will be held in Arizona and Sonora to train professionals and others in the most current paint and plaster techniques.

Tumacacori works closely with Centro INAH-Sonora, conservation students from the National School of Restoration, and architectural students from the University of Sonora.



## Bi-national Project Reports

The following parks and organizations submitted reports for bi-national projects that were initiated in the FY01 funding cycle.

**Amistad National Recreation Area:** “Bi-national Fisheries Management Plan for the Amistad Reservoir”

In September 2000 resource managers from the National Park Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife, and the Mexican Secretary of Environment, Natural Resources, and Fisheries, met in Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila, Mexico to develop a Bi-national Fisheries Management Plan to “Improve the management of Amistad reservoir fisheries through inter-agency and international cooperation” and to create a Bi-national Fisheries Management Team.

Since September, four meetings between U.S. and Mexico agency counterparts have been conducted to develop the fisheries management plan. The final Bi-national Fisheries Management Plan document is scheduled for completion in March 2002 with the signing of the document by working member agencies.

The plan calls for the Bi-national Fisheries Management Team to meet once a year to coordinate work projects and share information.

David Larson, Natural Resources Program Manager, at Amistad National Recreation Area coordinates this project.

**“Monarchs Across the Border”**

Monarchs Across the Border fosters an understanding, appreciation, and the conservation of the Monarch butterfly. From July to November 2001, Clayton Mulvaney of Del Rio, Texas, introduced the program to 134 classes with a total of 3,689 student participants Del Rio, Comstock, and Eagle Pass, TX, U. S.; as well as Ciudad Acuña, and Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico

Bi-national student and teacher workshops used the Monarch butterfly as a focal point to teach the concept of habitat protection and the value of biodiversity.

Lisa Evans, Environmental Education Specialist, Amistad National Recreation Area, coordinates this program.

Partners include:  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;  
Office of International Affairs;  
Proteccion de la Fauna Mexicana A. C., Saltillo, Coahuila; Ecologist Group 911 to the Rescue of Nature, Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila; and the Northern Coahuila Environmental Educator’s Network, Ciudad Acuña, Coahuila.



**Big Bend National Park:** “Eradication of Tamarisk in the Rio Grande Riparian Area”

Personnel from Big Bend National park and Maderas del Carmen Protected Area of Flora and Fauna in Coahuila, Mexico joined forces to eradicate Tamarisk in the Rio Grande Riparian Area. Big Bend Botanist, Joe Sirotnak, provided technical expertise and assisted Maderas del Carmen Biologist, Carlos Sifuentes, to install nine experimental tamarisk eradication plots in Boquillas Canyon of the Rio Grande. All sites were on the Mexican side of the river. In each plot, all tamarisk stems were notched and treated with a 3:1 mixture of vegetable oil and Garlon 4 herbicide.

Information gathered from these experimental treatments will be used to design and implement riparian restoration efforts throughout the Rio Grande corridor and upland riparian sites.

### **Chamizal National Memorial:**

The Chamizal Festival was held October 6-7, 2001.



MEAF and INAH helped support it by bringing musical groups along the Camino Real in Mexico and New Mexico together. The "Portraits of the Camino Real" photograph exhibition, by photographer Ana Luisa Enriquez Valles, was also displayed at the Chamizal gallery. The musical groups and the photograph exhibitions helped celebrate the shared historical and cultural ties of the Camino Real.

### **Chiricahua National Monument (CHIR):**

Presentations in Washington about Cooperative Programs between Coronado National Memorial, CHIR and the Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve, Sonora, Mexico On September 4, 2001 Director Jose Maria Guerra Limon of the Ajos-Bavispe and Superintendent

Alan Cox of CHIR and Fort Bowie NHS attended the bi-national commission meeting on the environment in



Washington. Both managers were invited to present a discussion of an successful, crossborder partnership to a group that included Secretary of the Interior Norton, Secretary of EPA Whitman, Director of the Natural Protected Areas of Mexico (CONANP) Enkerlin, and other ministers. The presentation summarized the following accomplishments and areas of mutual cooperation between the Reserve, Coronado National Memorial and Chiricahua:

**Fire Management:** establishment of a comparative landscape analysis using the NPS fire effects monitoring program protocols and training of Reserve staff. Results of this comparative effort are helping to identify a desired future condition and assist the prescribed fire program for the Chiricahua landscape.

**Infrastructure:** acquisition and placement of two Weather Port shelters to serve as a base of operation in the Reserve, placement of a surplus office trailer to serve as a headquarters in Cananea, and donation of six surplus vehicles including a wildland brush engine to the Reserve. Both staffs combined to paint these vehicles plus others for the Monument.

**Mutual Assistance:** included organizing and gaining funding for a system of regional bird banding stations in NPS sites and the first such in Mexico; biological surveys in the Reserve; providing sign-making training for Reserve staff; attending planning meetings, serving as mutual advocates.

Following this meeting, Director Enkerlin met with NPS and DOI staff to arrange for future meetings with NPS Director Manella. These will lead to a cooperative agreement between the two bi-national agencies.

### **Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (ORPI):**

"Sonoran Desert Inventory and Monitoring Network (SDIMN) Membership"

The National Park Service has established 32 inventory and monitoring networks nationwide. Each network is made up of a cluster of cooperator parks more or less according to biogeographical criteria. The SDIMN will carry out integrated, long-term biological inventory and ecosystem monitoring. It has been proposed that El Pinacate Biosphere Reserve, and the Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve be included as an international

component of the SDIMN. If accomplished, the two Mexican parks would have a fully functional role in cooperative ecosystem monitoring with their Arizona counterparts. "Mexican Travel"

Through the efforts of Bryan Milstead, ORPI Inventory and Monitoring Coordinator, an agreement has been reached between the U.S. Consulate in Hermosillo and the National Park Service International Affairs Office to allow travel across the border without going through a separate request for each trip. Members of the ORPI resources staff and other selected Monument personnel have travel approval granted over a 6-month period with optional renewal.

**Coronado National Memorial:** "Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS)" Coronado National Memorial partnered with the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory, AZ; Chiricahua National Monument, AZ; Tumacacori National Historic Park, AZ; San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, AZ; Ejido Morelos, Sonora, Mexico; and Ajos-Bavispe Forest Reserve, Sonora, Mexico for the 2001 Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship (MAPS) season. Over 18 paid or volunteer personnel assisted with one or more of the bird banding sessions between May 18 and August 15, 2001. A total of 454 capture events of 54 species took place, including 300 newly banded birds, 126 recapture events, and 48 unbanded birds. During banding operations, 121 bird species were observed.



The five most numerous species captured at Coronado were: Rurous-crowned Sparrow,

Bewick's Wren, Arizona Woodpecker, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Black-headed Grosbeak. Ovenbird and Bronzed Cowbird are two species not banded in the past at Tumacacori, which were banded this season.

For additional information regarding to the MAPS protocol please contact coordinator: Barbara Alberti, Acting Superintendent, Coronado National Memorial.

**Tumacacori National Historical Park:**

"Restoration of Mission Sites in Sonora" Personnel from Tumacacori National Historic Park and Mexico's National School of Restoration joined forces to conduct preservation and conservation workshops for 15 architectural/conservation students from Mexico, NPS employees, and U.S. federal and state entities. Participants were trained and exposed to many acceptable preservation methodologies including the most current and best techniques to conserve and preserve both countries' cultural patrimonies. Participants applied the techniques they learned by doing restoration work on the following sites: San Jose de Tumacacori, Arizona; San Ignacio de Caborica, Sonora; and Nuestra Señora de Pilar y Santiago de Cocospera, Sonora.

Coordinator: David Yubeta, Exhibit Specialist, Tumacacori National Historic Park.

"Strengthening Education & Outreach Programs for the Pinacate y Gran Desierto de Altar Biosphere Reserve"

*Description:* Pinacate's education and outreach programs will be strengthened. Stronger programs will raise the environmental consciousness of community members and encourage more participation in conservation activities.

Partners include: Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Pinacate.