

DECISION MEMORANDUM
DOI-BLM-AZ-G020-2014-0030-DNA

FRIENDS OF IRONWOOD FOREST SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT

Project Description

Authorize renewal of Special Recreation Permit to authorize organized group use of Monument lands in connection with organized educational field trips and special events. The proposed use is part of the Friends of Ironwood Forest educational outreach programs promoting awareness of monument objects and need for protection. The field trips and events would continue to use the existing access routes and parking turnouts along Silverbell Road-Avra Valley Road, Waterman Road, Cocoraque Ranch Road, and side roads and trails to activity areas as described on the operating plan and maps, and subject to the permit Terms Conditions and Stipulations attached. The field trips would be conducted annually in the fall-spring season over the next five years (seasons 2015 through 2019). The schedule for field trips and events will be updated annually among other annual permit validation requirements (acceptable performance, liability insurance, operating plan, and payment of permit fees).

Approval and Decision

Based on a review of the project described in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA) and field office *and Monument* staff recommendations, I have determined that the project is in conformance with the *Ironwood Forest National Monument Resource Management Plan* (approved in February 2013). The DNA is based on *NEPA number DOI-BLM-AZ-G020)-2013-0013, Ironwood Forest National Monument Tours, Special Recreation Permit; AZ-931-93-001, Special Recreation Permits for Commercial Recreation Activities on Public Lands in Arizona; and the Ironwood Forest National Monument Proposed Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement*. It is my decision to approve the action as proposed, including a special stipulation to protect sensitive sonoran desert bighorn sheep lambing habitat.

Administrative Review or Appeal Opportunities

This decision is in full force and effect and may be implemented as of the date approved.

This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR, Part 4 and the attached Form 1842-1. If an appeal is taken, your notice of appeal must be filed at Tucson Field Office, 3201 E Universal Way, Tucson AZ 85756 within 30 days from receipt of this decision. The appellant has the burden of showing that the decision appealed from is in error.

In accordance with 43 CFR 2931.8 (b) this decision remains in effect pending appeal unless a stay is granted. If you wish to file a petition (pursuant to regulation 43 CFR 4.21 (58 FR 4939, January 19, 1993) (request) for a stay (suspension) of the effectiveness of this decision during the

time that your appeal is being reviewed by the Board, the petition for a stay must accompany your notice of appeal. A petition for a stay is required to show sufficient justification based on the standards listed below. Copies of the notice of appeal and petition for a stay must also be submitted to each party named in this decision and to the Interior Board of Land Appeals and to the Office of the Solicitor (Department of the Interior, Office of the Field Solicitor, Sandra Day O'Connor U.S. Court House #404, 401 West Washington Street SPC44, Phoenix, AZ 85003-2151) (see 43 CFR 4.413) at the same time the original documents are filed with this office. If you request a stay, you have the burden of proof to demonstrate that a stay should be granted.

Except as otherwise provided by law or other pertinent regulation, a petition for a stay of a decision pending appeal shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

Standards for Obtaining a Stay

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of immediate and irreparable harm if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

/s/ Viola Hillman
Viola Hillman, Tucson Field Manager

9/18/2014
Date

Attachment: Form 1842-1