



May 15, 2025

Rex Scott, Chairman and District 1 Supervisor
Pima County Board of Supervisors
33 North Stone Avenue, 11th Floor
Tucson, AZ 85701-1207

Re: Resolution opposing the reduction of Ironwood Forest National Monument boundaries for resource extraction

Dear Chair Scott and Members of the Board,

The Friends of Ironwood Forest works for the permanent protection of the biological, geological, archaeological, and historical resources for which the monument was established. The Coalition for Sonoran Desert Protection represents 31 organizations in Southern Arizona, both national and regional. The Coalition was a driving force behind the establishment of Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) 25 years ago and the later creation of Friends of Ironwood Forest.

We write in strong support of Pima County's leadership, as shown with the resolution to oppose any reduction of the Ironwood Forest National Monument boundaries for the purpose of resource extraction. As reflected in the resolution, the IFNM is a vital part of our region's interconnected landscape and conservation planning, outdoor recreation industry, and cultural heritage.

Over the past 25 years, the public lands of IFNM have served as a cornerstone of the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan, providing essential wildlife corridors, protecting rare desert habitats, and anchoring the long-term land use planning that underpins Pima County's nationally recognized approach to conservation and growth. As you note, effort to diminish its protections would threaten not only irreplaceable natural and cultural resources but also decades of collaborative planning.

We thank the Conservation Lands and Resources Department and the County Administrator for their swift attention to this issue, and we commend the Board for reaffirming its commitment to the Monument, including its role in the Sonoran Desert Conservation Plan as well as its integrity under the Antiquities Act.

Sincerely,

Tom Hannagan

President, Friends of Ironwood Forest

Kate Hotten

Co-Executive Director, Coalition For Sonoran Desert Protection

cc. Kris Gade, Director, Pima County Conservation Lands and Resources
Carmine DeBonis, Jr., Deputy County Administrator
Jan Leshner, County Administrator

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