

MARANA RESOLUTION NO. 2025-075

RELATING TO TOURISM; SUPPORTING IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT AND OPPOSING A REDUCTION OF ITS BOUNDARIES FOR RESOURCE EXTRACTION

WHEREAS on June 9, 2000, the Ironwood Forest National Monument (the IFNM) was created by Presidential proclamation to be managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

WHEREAS the IFNM is a richly biodiverse and quintessential Sonoran Desert habitat only a short drive from Downtown Marana that encompasses 189,713 acres and parts or all of seven mountain ranges, thus preserving a vast area in its natural wild state for the public interest; and

WHEREAS the two main gateways to the IFNM are through the Town of Marana; and

WHEREAS the IFNM is an important contributor to the Town of Marana's travel, tourism, and outdoor recreation industries, with an estimated 100,000 visitors each year; and

WHEREAS the IFNM's landmarks, including Ragged Top Mountain, are visible from many parts of the Town of Marana and form part of the region's landscape character; and

WHEREAS the Silver Bell Mountains support the Sonoran Desert's highest known density of ironwood trees, which can live for over 800 years and provide critical shade for other iconic species such as the saguaro cactus and its blossom, the official state flower of Arizona; and

WHEREAS this area protects the last viable bighorn sheep herd indigenous to the Tucson basin, an iconic species in Southern Arizona for hikers, sportsmen, researchers, and other groups; and

WHEREAS the IFNM is an integral part of the connected landscape of Southern Arizona, which includes protected federal, state, and local government lands that conserve Sonoran Desert habitat and wildlife corridors; and

WHEREAS the Mayor and Council of the Town of Marana find that the designation and protection of IFNM is in the best interests of the Town, its residents, and its visitors.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MARANA, ARIZONA, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. The Town of Marana reaffirms its support for the national designation of the IFNM.

SECTION 2. The Town opposes any action that would reduce the boundaries of the IFNM or compromise its ecological value.

SECTION 3. The Town calls on Arizona's Congressional Delegation to retain the full designation and protections afforded to the IFNM.

SECTION 4. The Town Manager and staff are hereby directed to communicate the Town of Marana's position to Arizona's Congressional Delegation and the appropriate federal agencies, expressing support for the IFNM and opposition to shrinking the boundaries of the IFNM and subsequent opening of areas within the IFNM to resource extraction, mining exploration, and potential development.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF MARANA, ARIZONA, this 6th day of August, 2025.

Mayor Jon Post

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jill McCleary, Town Clerk

Jane Fairall, Town Attorney