

Charles Connor

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

“We decided some years ago, in our desire to cooperate with our neighbors to the south, to implement some of our monitoring protocols down in the Pinacate. This makes good sense because they are a biosphere reserve and we are a biosphere reserve. We share a common boundary and wildlife and plants don’t know anything about international boundaries. And so we have now a pretty good record and are finding out some really good information in areas that previously were pretty unknown. And it covers everything from the cinders and lava in the core part of the Pinacate to the sand dunes out to the far west. And we’ve gotten some good species records and they find the information to be extremely useful, especially the weather data, which is quite detailed, and we are collecting from about five different sites now. So it’s something again, sometimes I think we’re providing answers for questions that haven’t been asked yet. But when those questions are asked down the line, you can only get today’s data today. We’ll have that information for them in a consistent and reasonable way that is accessible to researchers and managers. The more information they have the better decisions they can make on either side of the border.”