

**PARTNERING SUCCESS STORY:**  
**Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT)/United States Forest Service**  
**(USFS)/Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Partnership**

***Situation:***

The ADOT/USFS/FHWA Partnership is a long-term partnership that has met annually over a period of several years. The partnership is currently revising and updating the operating guidelines among the three agencies to assist in long range planning and the expansion of transportation enhancement programs on public lands.

***Challenge:***

The challenges and opportunities cited by the partnership are:

- Limited Funding
- Understaffing
- Educating people, especially the new contractors
- Preserving knowledge due to the retiring of leadership
- Keeping up with the changes in the environmental law and the “best management practices”
- Ensuring safety
- Dealing effectively with special interest (such as cattle interest) on leased land. How do we coordinate with the special interest in a way that protects all of our concerns?

***Partnering Practices:***

- A collaborative effort to resolve issues at the most practical level (preferably at the level where the work is being done)
- All three agencies work together to achieve a quality product with respect to the environment
- All three agencies approach every issue with a partnering attitude

***Outcomes:***

- Increased cooperation
- Received several awards for design and partnering excellence
- An ADOT Funded liaison at the USFS
- Wild life Crossings on SR 260 acclaimed as some of the best in the world
- ADOT and the Forest Service working together to dispose of excess materials in the way that would benefit everyone concerned
- On-going meetings between ADOT, the USFS and FHWA to plan for the future and continue to improve relations