

NEWSRelease

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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Contact: Diane Priebe (509) 665-2100
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BLM
Spokane District Office

BLM Announces Yakima River Canyon Fees

Recreation site use fees will go into effect May 15 - September 15, 2008 at the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Umtanum, Lmuma Creek, Big Pines and Roza recreation sites in the Yakima River Canyon. A **Daily Standard Amenity fee** (daily fee) will be charged for use of these sites. Paying a daily fee at one site will cover approved activities at any of the other sites, from parking, boat launching, raft put in and take out, picnicking and other day use activities, to camping at designated sites at each area on a first come, first served basis. The daily fee is **\$5.00 per vehicle, per day** and may be paid at the self service fee station located at each site. Visitors who are camping will need to pay \$5.00 per vehicle for **each calendar day** spent at these sites. Fees can be paid through fee envelopes at the self-pay station at each site.

A \$25.00 **Daily Seasonal Use Permit** is also available, which allows frequent daily visitors to save money and have the convenience of one pass to use all season long for their day use activities. The Daily Seasonal Use permits are only useable for day use hours of 5:00 am to 10:00 p.m. and can be purchased at the BLM Wenatchee office, 915 N. Walla Walla Avenue in Wenatchee; the Chambers of Commerce in Ellensburg and Yakima and Red's Fly Shop in Ellensburg.

Site use fees are charged from May 15 through September 15 each year. The rest of the year, there is no charge for using BLM facilities in the Yakima River Canyon. Money collected from sales of the Overnight, Daily and Daily Seasonal Use Permits helps to fund garbage collection, facility cleaning, additional law enforcement, seasonal workers, future site improvements, and administrative costs at the four BLM sites.

BLM is currently considering an increased fee for overnight camping at these sites, but has not yet made a final decision. BLM will notify the public of any fee changes through news releases and notices posted at the sites.

For further information contact the BLM Wenatchee office, 915 N. Walla Walla Avenue, Wenatchee, Washington, 98801 or call (509) 665-2100.

- BLM -

The BLM manages more land – 258 million surface acres – than any other Federal agency. Most of this public land is located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1.8 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. The Bureau accomplishes this by managing such activities as outdoor recreation, livestock grazing, mineral development, and energy production, and by conserving natural, historical, and cultural resources on the public lands.

