

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY09 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ11 YUMA FIELD OFFICE AMENITY RECREATION **STATE:** AZ
SITE PROGRAM

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AREA DESCRIPTION:

The Amenity Recreation Site program includes nine developed recreation sites: (1) Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area and National Recreation Trail, (2) Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day Use Area, (3) Senator Wash North Shore Campground, (4) Senator Wash South Shore Campground, (5) Squaw Lake Campground and Boat Launch, (6) Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area, (7) Ehrenberg Sandbowl Off-Highway Vehicle Area, (8) Imperial Dam Long-Term Visitor Area (open between April 16 and September 14 of each year), and (9) La Posa Long-Term Visitor Area (open between April 16 and September 14 of each year).

During FY09, the Yuma Field Office sold a total of 6,574 calendar-day and annual pass permits for public use of these nine recreation amenity sites that provide a wide variety of developed recreational amenities and services. Several of the sites provide recreational access to the lower Colorado River and its associated backwaters and serve as regional destinations for public land visitors throughout the year.

FEE SCHEDULE:

Ehrenberg Sandbowl Off-Highway Vehicle Area: \$5.00 per calendar day/ per vehicle

All other sites:

Day-use fee: \$10.00 per vehicle

Overnight fee: \$15.00 per vehicle

Annual permit: \$75 (honored at all Yuma Field Office Amenity Recreation Sites including Ehrenberg Sandbowl)

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY09:

Visitor Services, Interpretation:

Volunteers serve as campground hosts and provide public land visitors with information about the local areas. The volunteers also work with BLM staff to maintain interpretive kiosks at the recreation sites. During Earth Day on April 21, 2009, BLM staff provided a series of interactive and interpretive sessions (Photo 1) at the Betty's Kitchen Wildlife Viewing Area and National Recreation Trail for approximately ninety fifth and sixth grade students from one of the local elementary schools. Session topics included information about wild horses and burros, geology

and mining, wildlife and fishing, and Tread Lightly! Outdoor Ethics. Collected fee revenues provided the recreation staff labor for this project.



***Photo 1:** Students from a local elementary school enjoy the outdoors and an interpretive session about fishing and wildlife conducted by BLM staff at the Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area and National Recreation Trail. The new fishing pier was installed two weeks prior to this event.*

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:

Universally accessible parking areas and walkways (Photo 2), an additional restroom, and a sewage system for the campground host site were installed at the Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area using recreation fee revenues. The existing Oxbow boat launch was also replaced with these funds. In addition, a new fishing pier was installed at the Betty's Kitchen Wildlife Viewing Area. The use of collected recreation fees funded BLM staff who worked with the Arizona Game and Fish Department to obtain more than \$480,000 worth of project funding and assistance for the Oxbow and Betty's Kitchen projects. Recreation fee revenues, in combination with Federal appropriations are used for routine garbage collection, restroom maintenance and support for volunteer reimbursements.



Photo 2: A new concrete parking area and walkways at the Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area provide universal access to restrooms and the boat launch.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:

During Public Lands Day on September 26, 2009, BLM staff and volunteers worked with a local youth on his Eagle Scout Project at the Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area and National Recreation Trail. The trail, which also provides access to protect the areas wildlife habitat, was maintained. Public facilities at this site, which has traditionally served as a place to provide environmental education for local schools, were given a new coat of paint and other needed maintenance. All recreation staff labor is funded with fee revenues.

Law Enforcement, Public Use and Recreation:

Through funding from Federal appropriations, BLM Law Enforcement Rangers continue to provide for public safety and resource protection through regular patrols and actions to address issues at all of the Yuma Field Office's developed recreation sites and areas. Law enforcement staff is also responsible for collecting and safely delivering recreation fees from each recreation site's self-service "steel ranger" to the Yuma Field Office.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY10:

Collected recreation fees will support BLM staff labor costs and approximately 10 volunteers who conduct the maintenance and operation of the recreation fee sites, and other costs associated with garbage collection, restroom maintenance, and on-site visitor services. The BLM Yuma Field Office also plans on implementing the following projects during FY10 with collected recreation fees: (1) parking and camping area extension at the Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area, (2) installation of campsite shade structures and picnic tables, and (3) provide BLM staff labor support needed to complete American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Projects at the Yuma Field Office Recreation Amenity Sites that will provide solar energy.