

# **BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY09 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

**NAME OF FEE PROJECT:** AZ21 YUMA FIELD OFFICE SPECIAL  
RECREATION PERMIT PROGRAM

**STATE:** AZ

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## **AREA DESCRIPTION:**

The Yuma Field Office Special Recreation Permit program includes two components: (1) individual use of two specially-designated Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVA), and (2) commercial uses, competitive events, and organized group activities on the public lands. The Imperial Dam and La Posa LTVAs, which collectively encompass over 12,000 acres, provide long-term recreation vehicle (RV) camping opportunities on the public lands between September 15 and April 15 of each year. A total of 6,125 Special Recreation Permits were sold in FY09 for individual use of the LTVAs, which includes the use of centralized services and amenities, such as visitor information stations, trash disposal, potable water, black and grey water dump stations, restrooms, and shade ramadas. The Yuma Field Office also processed a total of 62 annual Special Recreation Permits in FY09 to local businesses and recreational clubs for commercial uses and organized group events.

Jobs for Americans were provided through these numerous commercial uses on the public lands that were authorized and administered by the Yuma Field Office in FY09. The commercial vendors provided a variety of services including RV repair work, RV water delivery and sewage pumping, wireless internet, big game hunting guides, and food concessions that enhanced the recreational opportunities, experiences and benefits for public land visitors.

The Yuma Field Office issued and administered numerous Special Recreation Permits for organized groups to enjoy their public lands for a variety of activities in FY09. Special Recreation Permits for local Cub and Boy Scout Troops to conduct group events and to Naturalists at Large, an organization that provides hands-on outdoor education to students in the 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grades, were also reauthorized and administered.

## **FEE SCHEDULE:**

### **FY09 LTVA:**

Short-visit Permit (14 days): \$40.00

Long-term Permit (September 15 – April 15): \$180.00

All LTVA permits are honored at all other LTVAs for the length of their validity, including at

five additional LTVAs managed by the BLM California Desert District.

### **Other Special Recreation Permits:**

The SRP fee schedule for commercial activities is established nationally for all BLM field offices. Fee receipts derived from recreational commercial, competitive, and organized group event SRPs are routinely calculated using national fee schedule guidance found in BLM Recreation Permit Administration Manual H-2930-1, Section III.G., as established by 43 CFR 2930.

### **SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY09:**

#### **Visitor Services, Interpretation:**

A cadre of approximately 80 volunteers supported by revenues from the Special Recreation Permit program served as campground hosts and provided public land visitors with information (Photo 1) about the local areas.



***Photo 1:** A BLM volunteer at the Imperial Dam LTVA Contact Station provides a group of OHV riders with information about recently enacted OHV regulations and answers other questions about the area.*

#### **Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:**

In FY09, collected recreation fees were used to maintain existing facilities and amenities at the LTVAs, including access roads, visitor contact stations, potable water delivery systems, black and grey water dumping and holding systems, and signage. In addition, volunteers provided the maintenance for approximately 10 miles of primary access roads within the Imperial Dam and La Posa LTVAs during FY09. A new well was drilled at South Mesa to provide additional water needed to improve management of the sewage treatment system that serves the Imperial Dam LTVA. The road maintenance and well projects will preserve safe public access and improve the

operation of an essential facility at the site. All projects in FY09 were funded with recreation fee revenues.

**Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:**

Compliance with permit stipulations was monitored to ensure the protection of public land resources. The funding to have law enforcement perform this duty is through a combination of fee revenues and Federal appropriations.

**Law Enforcement, Public Use, and Recreation:**

Primarily through funding from the Recreation and Visitor Services Division 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 field office. Recreation revenues partially support these efforts.

**PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY10:**

In 2010, fee receipts will provide BLM labor support for a project funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act at the La Posa LTVA, which will provide solar energy for the visitor contact stations. Large-scale infrastructure projects are not planned for the Special Recreation Permit program in FY10. It will be necessary to continue utilizing collected recreation fees to maintain the existing facilities and amenities provided at the LTVAs, including but not limited to, access roads, visitor contact stations, potable water delivery systems, black and grey water dumping and holding systems, and signage. Budget shortfalls over the last three fiscal years are still forcing the Yuma Field Office to utilize mostly volunteer labor to complete many of the critical duties within the LTVAs otherwise performed by Park Rangers. If revenues generated from the Special Recreation Permit program in FY10 are sufficient, seasonal Park Ranger positions will be hired again to complete these tasks.