

# BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY09 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**NAME OF FEE PROJECT:** AZ10 SAN PEDRO RIPARIAN NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION AREA

**STATE:** AZ

**Fee Project Contact:** Jim Mahoney

**Phone:** (520) 439-6402

**Email:** james\_mahoney@blm.gov

## DESCRIPTION:

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) is the first of only two Riparian National Conservation Areas in the Nation. The Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-696) designated the SPRNCA to protect the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources. The SPRNCA is located near the city of Sierra Vista in Cochise County, AZ and contains approximately 56,431 acres of public land. Forty miles of the San Pedro River fall within the conservation area adding to its environmental importance.

Primitive camping is allowed throughout the SPRNCA, except in riparian zones, where camping is restricted to protect these sensitive areas. There are two Administrative and Information Center Host Sites located at the Fairbank Historic Townsite and the San Pedro House. This project includes all recreational revenues collected within the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area. Because there are no amenity fee sites within the SPRNCA, all of revenues are derived from Special Recreation Permits. These include any commercial operations or competitive and organized group events occurring within the SPRNCA, plus an individual permit issued for overnight backcountry camping permits. All other daily dispersed recreation use is free, including hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting in designated areas.

## FEE SCHEDULE:

Fees for most of the SRP program are established at the national level by the BLM Director. Other fees associated with permits may be used in addition to use fees. However, no application fees have been established for the field office; nor have fees been assessed for assigned sites or exclusive use.

Effective April 1, 2008, the minimum commercial, competitive and organized group use fees were adjusted based on the Gross National Product Implicit Price Deflator Index in accordance with the automatic three-year fee adjustment policy published on October 19, 1989 (see WO IM No. 2008-106). The fees in effect at the SPRNCA were the following:

- Commercial or vending: \$95 annual minimum or 3% of gross receipts, whichever is higher.

- Competitive events: \$95 annual minimum, 3% of gross income, or \$5 per participant whichever is higher.
- Organized group: \$95 annual minimum or \$5 per participant whichever is higher.

The SRP fee for an individual's use of special management area is established locally. The SPRNCA has one such area – which is the overnight use anywhere within the NCA. For the entire year it remained unchanged:

- Special Mangement Area Special Recreation Permit – (Individual Backcountry Camping Permit): \$2.00/person/night

### **SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY09:**

During the FY09 approximately \$287.00 in fees were collected from 125 special management area (overnight camping) permits and 4 commercial recreation permits. This combined with the SPRNCA's carry-forward budget to a total available budget of \$5,099.53; however no recreation fees were utilized in FY09.

### **Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:**

This year, further repairs were made of the Fairbank mercantile building's south, east, and west adobe walls, the roof, and drainage system. As is accomplished twice yearly, a protective mud coating was applied to the remaining walls of Presido Santa Cruz de Terrenate. Also, infrastructure needed to protect riparian and upland habitats was installed/repared. Fee revenues were not used to fund any of these projects.

### **PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY10:**

The San Pedro Project Office and San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area are expecting approximately the same number of special recreation permits as occurred in previous years. The recreation program has proposed the following new projects for FY10 if adequate funding is procured:

Significant capital improvement has been funded from Federal appropriations for ten SPRNCA trailheads and over 50 miles of multiple-use, non-motorized trails, awarded to the unit as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. Work will commence during calendar year 2010. This funding is not related to recreation fee receipts.

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

Limited purchase and maintenance of signs will be provided with funds in this project account as the cumulative total in the account allows effective use of the funds. Establishment of an accessible / interpretive trail at the Lehner Mammoth Kill Site, which was scheduled for completion during the year, was tabled until staff and partners can produce an interpretive plan for this significant paleo site.

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

Limited maintenance of routes and facilities used by permitted activities, or purchase and maintenance route signs, will be provided with funds in this project account as the cumulative total in the account allows effective use of the funds.