

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY

FY09 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ08 VIRGIN RIVER CANYON RECREATION
AREA

STATE: AZ

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AREA DESCRIPTION:

The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area is surrounded by the scenery of cliff walls of the Beaver Dam Mountains and Paiute Wilderness areas and the river riparian of the Virgin River Corridor ACEC. The recreation area is located on Interstate-15, about a 20-minute drive south from St George, Utah, and 20-minute drive north of Mesquite, Nevada. The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area consists of a campground, a closed rest area, and a day-use area.

The campground consists of 77 sites and 2 flush-toilet, heated/AC restroom facilities. Most sites have picnic tables, some with covered picnic tables, and a few sites have areas for tent use.

The day-use area consists of 38 sites and flush-toilet, heated/AC restroom facility. The site is also an access point to an interpretative trail, a trailhead into the Paiute Wilderness area, and a boat launch for the Virgin River.

The rest area was donated to the BLM by Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The rest area currently consists of several sheltered areas, a house, water system and a parking lot. All of these facilities are planned to be removed, except for the water system that feeds the campground and day-use sites.

In FY09, The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area had a visitation of 36,301 visitors (11,013 RUPS) and collected \$19,961.

FEE SCHEDULE:

Virgin River Campground: \$8/night; \$90 month; 50% discount with Interagency Pass

Virgin River Day Use: \$2/site; \$15 reservation fee

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY09:

Visitor Services, Interpretation:

The recreation area had campground hosts maintaining the area. Throughout the year, we had 6 different campground hosts (up to 4 at a time). The campground currently has 2 couples watching the sites. The hosts also maintain bathrooms at 3 other recreation sites. The hosts answer questions and concerns as needed. Recreation fee revenues provide funding for campground hosts to oversee and maintain the site.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:

In FY09, Recreation revenues we used for the following supplies and repairs:

- Repaired well pump failure.
- Replaced well stem with plastic pipe.

- Repaired water leak and electrical damage to water system.
- Planned and painted the picnic tables.
- Created plumbing contract to fix many water related problems throughout the campground.
- Added a fee tube to day-use area.

Law Enforcement, Public Use, and Recreation:

A deputy county sheriff stayed at the upper host site for 9 months while waiting for transfer. He was contracted for 47K of appropriated deferred maintenance funds to maintain the trails throughout the field office, many of which leave from the Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area. Recreation fee revenues were not used for these purposes.

Fee Agreements and Reservation Services:

Arizona Strip Field Office has an agreement with Arizona Strip Interpretation Association (ASIA), who collects, counts, and deposits the fees for the Virgin River Gorge Recreation Area. Fee revenues are used to reimburse ASIA staff for their labor.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY10:

- No expenditures of recreation fee collections are anticipated for FY10.
- Received 530K in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to add solar panels and other energy saving features.
- Received 135K in ARRA funds to update campground to accessibility requirements.
- Made plans to spend 348K of ADOT funds to remove Cedar Pocket Rest Area.