

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY
FY10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ01 PARIA CANYON/ COYOTE BUTTES SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA		STATE: AZ
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AREA DESCRIPTION:

Paria Canyon, its tributaries Buckskin Gulch and Wire Pass, and the Coyote Buttes area are part of the larger Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, designated in August 1984. The Special Management Area (SMA) consists of three smaller portions of the larger wilderness; they are distinct units both geographically and managerially: Paria Canyon, Coyote Buttes North, and Coyote Buttes South. The SMA consists of 8 trailheads, 2 campgrounds, and 27,741 acres of land, including 1,413 acres in the Arizona Strip Field Office. The Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area is co-managed with the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, the Kanab Field Office, and the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument. Management goals include providing for the long-term protection and preservation of the area's wilderness character while managing the area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave the area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as a wilderness. Paria Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, and Wire Pass are widely recognized as one of the longest and most stunning slot canyon combinations in the world. Accessed from four trailheads, these narrow canyons wind their way sinuously downward through seven geologic layers, eventually ending at the Colorado River just below Glen Canyon Dam. The SMA area receives over 21,045 visitors per year.

In the Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area, Individual Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) are issued for day hiking and overnight backpacking, and a limited number of permits are issued for each day. The issuing of permits/collecting fees is managed through the use of an automated, online permit authorization system which is funded separately from the permit fees. Expanded Amenity Fees are collected through a self-pay system for overnight camping at the White House Campground. Stateline Campground currently does not collect any amenity fees.

FEE SCHEDULE:

- Coyote Buttes North: \$7 per person per day
- Coyote Buttes South: \$5 per person per day
- Paria Canyon Overnight: \$5 per person per day
- Paria Canyon Day-Use: \$6 per person per day
- White House Campground: \$5 per person per day

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY10:

Visitor Services, Interpretation:

Significant volunteer support, in combination with four months of labor provided by Paria Contact Station staff, provides excellent visitor service support at the Paria Contact Station and site visits or patrols within the at the Paria Canyon-Coyote Buttes permit area. The 10 volunteers donated 2,380 hours of volunteer services. Volunteers also assist the Paria Permits Recreation Technician (based out of St. George, Utah) who is responsible for answering the majority of questions from the public, maintaining and monitoring the permit system, and printing and mailing permits around the world.

Recreation revenue receipts support the continuation of an interpretive project that includes installing and repairing regulatory, informational, directional, and interpretive panels for all trailheads.

In conjunction with the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Kanab Field Office, Utah, visitor service enhancements will include:

1. Completion of trailhead maps depicting the 3 individual permit area boundaries contained in the Special Management Area.
2. Completion the Coyote Buttes North handout which is now distributed through the BLM, its partners and community interface locations (outdoor stores and lodging businesses).
3. Completion of Paria Canyon external website updates.

A combination of permit fees and federal appropriations paid for the projects.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:

Recreation fee revenues were utilized to support 3.6 months of labor to repair and maintain current facilities, including cleaning restrooms, trailheads, and road networks by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Recreation Aid (Utah).

In conjunction with the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Kanab Field Office, Utah, facility enhancements included:

1. Emergency installation of a sump pump at the Paria Contact Station crawl space to prevent flooding at the Paria Contact Station from multiple flood events in 2010.
2. Expansion of the Stateline Campground – Addition of 4 campsites, an additional toilet, and rehabilitation work to the Arizona Trail overlook. Making the facility ADA compliant was also part of this project, which was completed November 2010 using AARA funds.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:

Recreation fee revenues provided funding for a Northern Arizona University (NAU) partnership that manages a wilderness monitoring program. Site monitoring in Paria Canyon and Coyote Buttes is conducted annually by professors and graduate students in the Department of Geography, Planning, and Recreation. Monitoring is conducted to document visitor-use impacts and the resultant data is part of the information used to assist managers in making informed land use decisions. A project separate from the NAU monitoring was for the installation of trail and road counters which have also been placed at

strategic locations to more accurately reflect the number of visitors entering and exiting the Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area.

Additionally, recreation fee revenues are utilized to support the Paria Canyon Tamarisk 5-year Removal Project which began in 2008. This partnership between the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Grand Canyon Trust was created to aid in the restoration of the ecological integrity of the Paria River system within Paria Canyon. In FY10, the Grand Canyon Trust donated approximately 674 hours of volunteer time and 274 hours of staff time to continue the treatment and removal of Tamarisk and Russian olive in the river corridor.

Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation:

Three of the Law Enforcement Officer's (LEOs) months of work are paid for by fee program funds. In FY10, within the Paria Project area, LEOs have been focusing on commercial and private permit compliance, the protection of resources, issuing citations and enhancement of the safety of our visitors. This in combination with the aid of the Grand Staircase-Escalante and Arizona Strip LEOs has resulted in increased patrols of the fee area and increased compliance of the commercial and private SRP users.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY11

In conjunction with the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Kanab Field Office, Utah, interpretation enhancements included:

1. Completion of the upgrades to the administrative functioning of the online permitting website (January 2011).
2. Completion of a Leave No Trace video to be shown at the Paria Contact Station or the Kanab Field Office during the walk-in permitting processing.

In conjunction with the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Kanab Field Office, Utah, facility enhancements will include:

1. Installation of a CXT double vault toilet with a small closet to replace a single vault toilet that will be removed.
2. Analysis of the Buckskin Gulch Wash and House Rock Valley flood control issue to develop a plan to allow year round access to the Wire Pass and Buckskin Gulch trailheads.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection and Visitor Service enhancements will include:

1. Completion of a Public Use Survey by NAU of the Coyote Buttes SRMA related to the Travel Management Environmental Assessment.
2. Replacement of a river gauge and addition of another river gauge in Buckskin Gulch to increase the accuracy flood warnings.
3. Three trips will be made for the Paria Canyon Tamarisk Removal Project with the goal of completing the Tamarisk and Russian olive removal portion of the project to its terminus at Wrath Arch.

Recreation revenues, Congressional appropriations, and funding from partnerships will be utilized to fund these projects.