Kingman Field Office

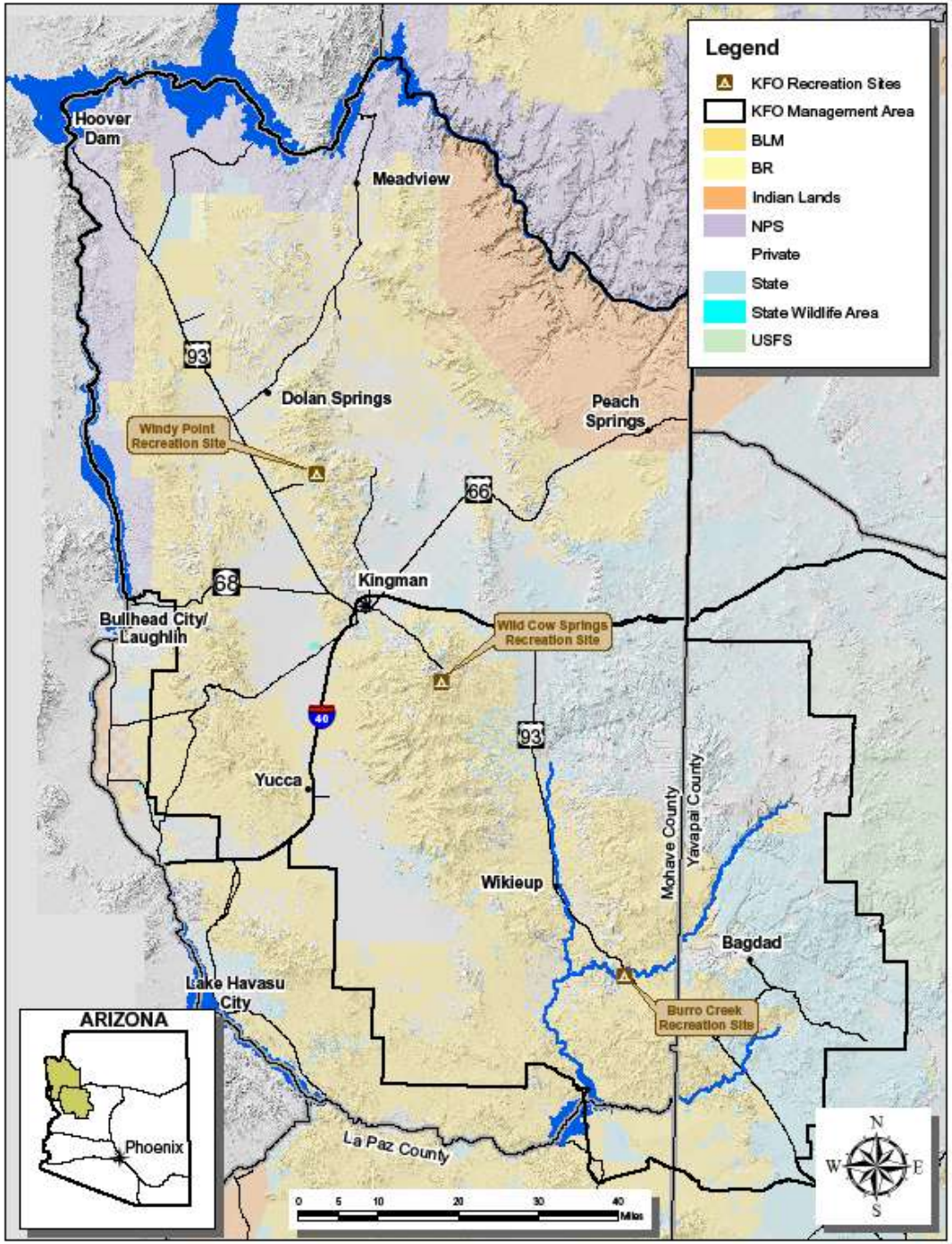
Presentation to Arizona Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC)

June 25, 2009

Fee Proposal Summary…

SITE	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Burro Creek Individual Sites	$10.00	$14.00
Burro Creek Group Site	$30.00	$50.00
Wild Cow Springs Individual Sites	$5.00	$8.00
Wild Cow Springs Group Site	$15.00	$20.00
Windy Point Individual Sites	$4.00	$8.00

- Last fee increases were implemented in 1998
- Fee proposals are commensurate with regional public campground pricing
- Does not re-coup entire cost of operation, but reduces dependency on annual appropriations
- No day use fees at the above sites nor any other sites and trailheads.



NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS

Location!

Location!

Location!

What We Offer…..

Burro Creek Recreation Site
- 24 individual campsites
- 1 group campsite

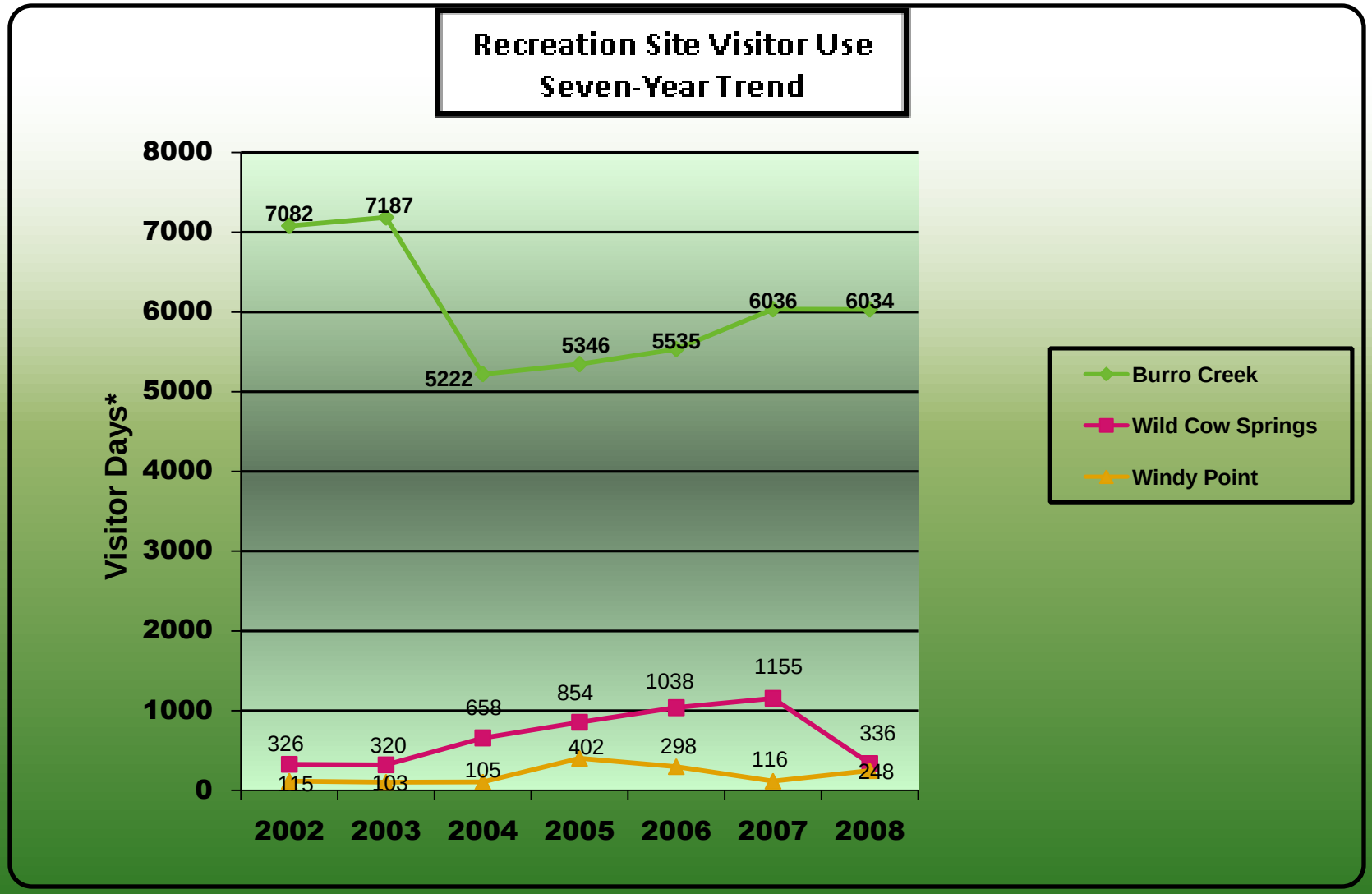
Wild Cow Springs Recreation Site
- 17 individual campsites
- 1 group campsite

Windy Point Recreation Site
- 7 individual campsites

The Amenities…..

Expanded Amenity Fee Criteria for Campgrounds			
REQUIRED AMENITIES (minimum of 5 of the following)	Burro Creek Recreation Site	Wild Cow Springs Recreation Site	Windy Point Recreation Site
Tent or Trailer Spaces	Yes	Yes	Yes
Picnic Tables	Yes	Yes	Yes
Drinking Water	Yes	No	No
Access Roads	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fee Collection by Employee or Agent	No (iron ranger)	No (iron ranger)	No (iron ranger)
Reasonable Visitor Protection	Yes, limited	Yes, limited	Yes, limited
Refuse Containers	Yes	Yes	Yes
Toilet Facilities	Yes	Yes	Yes
Simple Devices for Containing Campfires	Yes	Yes	Yes

Level of Use



* A "Visitor Day" is defined by BLM as the presence of a person in an area for a 12-hour period of time.

Recreation Site Revenues

Recreation Fee Revenue Collection 2002-2008					
	Windy Point Recreation Site	Wild Cow Springs Recreation Site	Burro Creek Recreation Site	Interagency Passes	Total Revenues Collected
FY02	$183	$362	$13,613	$665	$14,823
FY03	$301	$697	$13,407	$520	$14,405
FY04	$57	$496	$11,912	$670	$13,165
FY05	$371	$741	$12,435	$635	$14,182
FY06	$200	$1,106	$13,074	$750	$15,130
FY07	$78	$878	$13,419	$880	$15,255
FY08	$264	$596	$14,382	$1,130	$16,372

Recreation Site Costs

AZ06 Estimated Annual Expenses		
Expenditures	**Appropriations**	**Fee Revenues**
Cost of Collection/Visitor Services-		
Campground Host Reimbursement	$0	$2,506
Fee Collection/Accounting	$855	$0
Interpretive Materials (maps, signs, brochures)	$1,369	$69
Staff labor costs	$15,098	$237
Law Enforcement Patrol and Emergency Response	$7,790	$97
Repair, Maintenance and Facility Enhancement-		
Operation and maintenance costs[1]	$20,226	$11,479
Staff labor costs	$37,619	$222
TOTAL	Appropriations $82,957	$14,610
GRAND TOTAL	$97,675	

Fee Revenues

Anticipate total revenues would increase from about $16,000 per year to about $22,760 per year.

Increased fee revenues would be used for the following purposes:

- To maintain existing developed recreation facilities in the recreation sites in a safe, clean and operable condition. This would include covering labor costs for maintenance personnel.

- To maintain and enhance the campground host program which provides a presence for the BLM and customer service to the recreating public. Include desirable amenities for hosts, which may include providing photovoltaic power.

- To maintain and improve existing environmental education and interpretive information services at the recreation sites.

Fee Revenues continued….

- To provide future amenities related to visitor enjoyment and visitor access, including:

  - Constructing a universally-accessible wildlife viewing platform at Burro Creek Recreation Site;

  - Constructing a universally-accessible interpretive overlook on the rim of Burro Creek above the campground, including a parking area, trailhead, and trail;

  - Constructing a trail that connects the campground to the interpretive overlook facility and provides hiker access across U.S. Highway 93 to an additional overlook;

  - Replacing information brochures at the Burro Creek Desert Garden with permanent interpretive panels within the garden;

  - Expanding the water system and installing additional hose bib cocks at Burro Creek Recreation Site;

  - Constructing a second volunteer host camp site at Burro Creek Recreation Site;

  - Installing interpretive panels at the Windy Point and Wild Cow Springs Recreation Sites;

  - Constructing one additional universally-accessible camp site at each of the recreation sites.

Public Involvement…..

Outreach	Audience	When
Notification of fee increase proposal posted on AZ BLM webpage	General public	July 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Posters on outside and inside bulletin boards at BLM office	Visitors seeking information during and after business hours (2,256 visitors documented during business hours)	July 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Posters at Windy Point and Wild Cow Springs fee sites	Fee site users (272 estimated day-use and overnight visitors)	July 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Posters at Burro Creek fee site, along with campground host contact	Fee site users (2,734 estimated day-use and overnight visitors)	September 1, 2008 – April 30, 2009
Press Releases to media outlets and key players– 115 recipients	Prescott, Verde Valley, Williams, Sedona, Flagstaff, Lake Havasu City, Bullhead City, Kingman, Needles, Phoenix, Laughlin, Las Vegas	October 15-16, 2008
Press Releases to national magazines and websites that target RV users	RV users and "snowbirds"	October 16, 2008
KGMN Radio interview	General public in the tri-state area	October 16, 2008
Article in Mohave Daily News newspaper and "Tri-State Online" website	10,000+ paid circulation along Colorado River (Bullhead City, Fort Mojave, Mohave Valley, Topock, Golden Shores, Laughlin, Needles)	October 17, 2008
Article in The Hometown Crier weekly bulletin	Mohave County general public (Kingman, Golden Valley, Dolan Springs, etc)	October 17, 2008

Public Involvement continued…..

Article posted on "Topix" website and "Western Slope No-Fee Coalition" website	General public	October 18, 2008
Article in Needles Desert Star newspaper	General public in Needles, CA and surrounding area	January 7, 2009
Article in "Colorado River Weekender.com" website	General public	January 9, 2009
KFLG radio interview	General public in tri-state area	January 29, 2009
Press Release to southwest Arizona media outlets – 20 recipients and to central/northern AZ media market – 45 recipients	General public and "snowbirds"	January 30, 2009
Press Release to Flagstaff area media markets – 7 recipients	General public	February 2, 2009
Article in Family Motor Coach Magazine	RV users - 109,000 active member families	February 2009
KNTR Radio Interview	General public in tri-state area	February 18, 2009
Legal Notice in newspaper of record (Kingman Daily Miner)	General public in Kingman and surrounding communities	April 16-22, 2009
Article in Kingman Daily Miner newspaper	General public in Kingman and surrounding communities	April 24, 2009

Public Involvement Feedback

Despite widespread disclosure of the fee increase proposal, only 10 parties submitted comments.

- 2 commenters supported fee increases (one with a caveat that there be no further change for 10 more years)
- 1 commenter favored fewer facilities and less maintenance, but did not support or oppose fee increases.
- 2 commenters did not object to the fee increases; however, one commenter suggested that the fee structure be based on vehicle size (i.e. car/truck vs. recreational vehicles)
- 5 commenters opposed fee increases for the following reasons:

  - Unfair/negatively impacts retirees and those on fixed incomes. Opinion that this is the constituency that heavily uses Burro Creek Recreation Site.

  - Bad timing with current economic crisis. Recommends cost-cutting measures rather than increase in fees.

  - 100% increase in price is appalling (referring to Windy Point Recreation Site) Shouldn't have to pay BLM more to use the public lands that already belong to the people. If more services or amenities were offered in return, may be okay.

Questions?