

Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area

Draft Business Plan

Frequently Asked Questions

Q - What is the purpose of the draft business plan and proposed fee increase?

A - The draft business plan demonstrates the functional responsibilities, operational standards and financial picture of Red Rock. Its goal is to provide comprehensive information about Red Rock's operations and finances. It seeks to clearly analyze where revenue shortfalls exist and to address strategies for addressing these shortfalls.

Q - Why are the draft business plan and proposed fee increased being released now?

A - The standard amenity fee charged at the 13-Mile Scenic Drive has not increased in more than 10 years. During that time, BLM has added numerous amenities, activities and services to improve visitor experiences. Since its original designation as a national conservation area in 1990, Red Rock has increased in size from 85,557 acres to approximately 199,818 acres, a 134 percent increase. The cumulative impact of inflation during that same time period is 30.3 percent eroding the purchasing power of amenity fee collections.

Q - What are the key findings of the business plan?

A - There were four key finding in the business plan:

- Fee collection is based on Red Rock's original size and set of amenities and needs to be updated to reflect the expansion of amenities and services offered. The standard amenity fee charged at the 13-Mile Scenic Drive has not increased in more than 10 years. During that time, BLM has added numerous amenities, activities and services to improve visitor experiences.
- Additional funding is needed for the long term maintenance of current and new facilities if BLM hopes to keep these facilities from falling into disrepair. A deferred maintenance program is necessary to ensure the safety and accessibility of these facilities over their useful life.
- The core basis of an adjustment in amenity fees is to ensure BLM meets its preservation, recreation, public enjoyment and visitor experience management goals identified in the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision.
- Sources of funding are experiencing significant annual fluctuations and stabilization of revenue reliability through increased amenity fees is critical. The majority of Red Rock's funding does not come from the traditional source of congressionally appropriated dollars, but rather from "soft" money sources such as the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act.

Q - What are the proposed fee changes?

A - The following table displays current amenity fees charged at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area and the proposed new fees:

Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Change
Scenic Drive - Day Pass (car)	\$5	\$7	+ \$2
Scenic Drive - Day Pass (motorcycle)	\$2	\$3	+ \$1
Scenic Drive - Day Pass (bicycle)	\$0	\$3	+ \$3
Scenic Drive - Day Pass (pedestrian)	\$0	\$3	+ \$3
Scenic Drive - Commercial Tour Bus (per person)	\$2	\$5	+ \$3
Scenic Drive - Red Rock Annual Pass	\$20	\$30	+ \$10
Red Spring - Reserved Group Picnic Area w/ Permit	\$0	\$40	+ \$40
Red Rock Overlook on State Route 159	\$0	\$0	No change
Campground - Individual Campsite	\$10	\$15	+ \$5
Campground - Group Campsite	\$25	\$40	+ \$15

Q - What will be done with the additional revenue?

A – The additional revenue will be used to meet project goals in three categories: provide for public enjoyment and visitor experience, enhance recreational opportunities and preserve Red Rock resources.

- Public enjoyment and visitor experience projects include 13-Mile Scenic Drive and parking lots annual and deferred maintenance, long-term building deferred maintenance fund for new and original visitor centers and Mojave Discovery Center, road signs and informational kiosks, treatment of dirt roads, law enforcement patrols and expanded visitor service hours. BLM estimates it will need the equivalent of \$598,612 annually for each of the next 10 years to achieve this goal.
- Enhance recreational opportunities projects include rehabilitate present high-use recreation areas, add recreational vehicle dumping station at the campground, rehabilitate Oliver Ranch area to remove public safety hazards and enable public use, plan and develop Ash Springs area and complete a comprehensive trail plan. BLM estimates it will need the equivalent of \$178,287 annually for each of the next 10 years to achieve this goal.
- Red Rock resource protection projects include graffiti removal program, restore plant productivity on disturbed areas, eradicate non-native species with an emphasis on tamarisk removal, create and implement a comprehensive cultural Resource Management Plan, protect and rehabilitate Garland in-holding. BLM estimates it will need the equivalent of \$208,695 annually for each of the next 10 years to achieve this goal.

In total, BLM estimates it will need the equivalent \$985,594 annually for each of the next 10 years to achieve all three goals. The proposed fee increase will cover 100 percent of these costs.

Q - What are the consequences if the proposed fee change isn't implemented?

A - Without sufficient funding, visitor services could be affected as follows:

- Maintenance activities would be reduced.
- Janitorial services would be cut back.
- A reduction in park ranger and law enforcement patrols could occur.
- BLM would not be able to execute the identified project goals.

Q – Under what authority are fees charged at Red Rock?

A – The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) specifically allows BLM to charge a standard amenity fee at national conservation areas, national volcanic monuments, destination visitor or interpretive centers that provides a broad range of interpretive services, programs and media and other sites that offer specific amenities. To charge an expanded amenity fee, either in addition to a standard amenity fee or by itself, FLREA requires that developed campgrounds offer at least five of nine specific amenities. Red Rock Campground meets all nine criteria.

Q - How do I make comments to the draft business plan?

A - Comments will be accepted on the draft business plan from August 14 to November 16, 2009.

You may submit your comments in writing in the following ways:

- Mail or hand-deliver comments to the
BLM Southern Nevada District Office
Attn: Mark Tanaka-Sanders
4701 North Torrey Pines
Las Vegas, Nevada 89130
- Hand-deliver written comments and/or comment cards to the Red Rock visitor center comment box
- Hand-deliver written comments and/or comment cards to the Red Rock Campground host
- Fax comments to 702-515-5023
- Submit comments via email to redrockbp@blm.gov