

RECREATION & VISITOR SERVICES

ACCOMPLISHMENT REPORT

RVSAT 2012

ALASKA

ARIZONA

CALIFORNIA

EASTERN STATES

IDAHO

NEVADA

BLM

Since 2004, the Recreation and Visitor Services Advisory Team (better known as RVSAT), has been providing program and policy advice to the ELT and the Renewable Resources Directorate regarding recreation visitor services priorities, policies, programs, and budget. RVSAT works in coordination with WO250 to address issues and communicate ideas. It is a chartered group under the BLM Washington Office Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning (WO200). The team is comprised of State Office Recreation Leads, the Division Chief for Recreation and Visitor Services, an ELT Advisor, and representatives from the Engineering Advisory Team (EAT) and the National Landscape Conservation System (NLCS) directorate.

During 2012, RVSAT's officers were:

- Cathi Bailey as Chair (California);
 - Aaron Curtis as Vice-Chair (Utah);
 - Robin Fehlau as Secretary (Idaho);
 - Andy Tenney (WO250 Division Chief)
 - Jim Kenna (ELT Advisor, California State Director);
 - Teresa Reed (EAT Representative); and
 - Lara Douglas (NLCS Representative).



2012 Accomplishment Report

This accomplishment report is comprised of two portions. The first portion focuses on specific accomplishments of RVSAT and its members during 2012. The second portion highlights state-specific accomplishments that were gathered by each state recreation lead and summarized in the following handouts.

2012 Recreation & Visitor Services Advisory Team Accomplishments

In 2012, RVSAT and its team members continued to work on a myriad of projects. These projects were either addressed by the whole team, or individual members as necessitated. The following is a brief list of RVSAT's accomplishments.

Bold Ideas/Strategic Blue Print – RVSAT and WO250 continued to refine the Bold Idea concepts into a Blueprint to update The Recreation & Visitor Services Strategic Plan. With the Benefits-Based Framework firmly supplanted within BLM recreation policy and manual guidance to manage for the beneficial outcomes, the delivery piece has yet to be defined. The Blueprint focus is on integrating BLM within the community network of service providers already in motion at the recreation industry and local government level to deliver socio-economic value to local communities.

Involving Colleagues with RVSAT on an Ad-Hoc Basis – To improve communication and collaboration with non-team members and other directorates, RVSAT is now inviting individuals on an Ad-Hoc basis to address issues brought up by the team. In 2012, discussions included Challenge Cost Share, Visual Resource Management, accessibility, and RMIS.

Special Recreation Permit Q&A Document – RVSAT members worked with WO250 to initialize a series of questions and answers designed to provide further clarification and examples on topics within Handbook 2930-1 Recreation Permit, Fees, and Concessionaire Administration Handbook.



Recreation Manuals/Handbooks – RVSAT members participated in reviews of H-2930-1 Recreation Permit, Fees, and Concessionaire Administration Handbook; H8320-1 Recreation Visitor Services Planning Handbook; and, H-8342 Travel and Transportation Handbook.

National Training Center (NTC) – RVSAT members worked with Mike Brown and Maile Adler at NTC on all of the recreation visitor services training modules. A review of the new Park Ranger training module was also conducted in 2012.

2011 Accomplishment Report – RVSAT prepared and finalized the 2011 report which was disseminated at the ELT and Field Committee meetings held in May, 2012. For the first time, the report was designed so each state could print their individual report for local stakeholder meetings.

2012 Recreation & Visitor Services State-Specific Accomplishments

The 2012 state-specific accomplishments represented projects that were tied to the America's Great Outdoors (AGO) initiative established by President Obama in 2010. The AGO initiative has ten different themes, and in 2012, BLM had projects that tie directly to six of those themes. These six themes are:

- **Provide** Quality Jobs, Career Pathways, and Service Opportunities
 - **Enhance** Recreational Access and Opportunities
 - **Raise** Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors
 - **Engage** Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors
 - **Establish** Great Urban Parks and Community Green Spaces:
 - **Conserve Forests**, and Other Federal Lands and Waters
 - **Protect** and Renew Rivers and Other Waters

2012 Recreation & Visitor Services Advisory Team Members



Standing (L to R): Chris Dent (OR); Barb Keleher (NV); Don Bruns (CO); Cathi Bailey (CA); Jim Kenna (ELT); Lesly Smith (WY); Chris Miller (MT); Bill Overbaugh (AK); Andy Tenney (WO250).

Kneeling (L to R): Aaron Curtis (UT); Robin Fehlau (ID); Rob Jagers (NM)

Not Pictured: Don Applegate (AZ); John Reffit (ES); Teresa Reed (EAT); Lara Douglas (NLCS)

Dedicated in memory of our friend and colleague Rob Jagger - we all miss you

Maricopa County Parks and Recreation	Maricopa County Workforce Connections
Phoenix College	Student Conservation Association
Workforce Investment Boards – Phoenix, Maricopa County and Yavapai County	Yavapai County Board of Supervisors

**Protect and Renew Rivers and Other Waters:
BLM Community Partnerships Recognized and Appreciated**

During an annual Lake Havasu Marine Association meeting, the Lake Havasu Field Office (LHFO) received the “Agency of the Year” award. Jim Salscheider, Lake Havasu Marine Association President, presented the award to LHFO Manager Kim Liebhauser.

“Who would have thought two years ago that I would be presenting this award to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM),” said Salscheider. “In the last two years, BLM has partnered with us on our trash bags, our buoy program, and dredging the channel on the mouth of the Colorado River. They have become our best friend.” Salscheider continued to praise BLM for working to solve problems instead of hindering progress. “Partnerships make things happen. BLM’s spirit of cooperation with public and private partnerships has made problems on Lake Havasu much easier to handle,” Salscheider concluded.



“This is a really special award for the LHFO because it represents all the hard work the employees at this office have done with the local agencies in the community we serve,” said LHFO Manager Kim Liebhauser. “There is something very special about being recognized by your local community as an agency that works hard to cultivate community-based partnerships.” The plaque will reside in the LHFO public room to remind employees and the public that working together can really make a difference.

The Arizona Recreation Program is based on Partners, Visitor Information, and Enhanced Volunteer Roles

The ever-increasing demand for natural resource based recreation opportunities by growing communities, tourism, and organized group and commercial ventures are being met by 1) partner-based cooperation based on a foundation of local stewardship with groups with vested interest in providing quality visitor experience, safety, appropriate use ethics, and long term sustainability, 2) geographic-based visitor information in partnership with communities and place-based coalitions, and 3) enhanced volunteer roles in delivery of recreation services on public lands, which includes engaging young people in conservation and outdoor recreation through employment, education and volunteer activities

Raise Awareness of the Value and Benefits of America's Great Outdoors: Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Partners Awarded \$10,000 Humanities Grant

A \$10,000 grant will help the Empire Ranch Foundation showcase the cowboy and vaquero traditions of southeastern Arizona.

The grant, from the Arizona Humanities Council, will be used to develop the Cowboy Life Exhibit at the historic Empire Ranch in the 42,000-acre Las Cienegas National Conservation area, managed by BLM Arizona. The Foundation assists the BLM in caring for the ranch.

"Having this grant will enable the Empire Ranch Foundation to enhance their great work as volunteers at the ranch," said Las Cienegas NCA manager Mark Rekszynskyj. "We truly support and appreciate their outreach to youth and families, helping visitors learn more about the natural and cultural history of the ranch."

"The exhibit will accent the vaqueros' and cowboys' traditions, methods of working with the cattle, as well as their journey stories," said Alison Bunting, the project's director. "It will also illustrate the cowboys' daily lives, including social and family life and will be installed in the 1870s section of the Empire Ranch house where the cowboys bunked."



The exhibit is to open February 8, 2014, on the ranch's Family Fun Day.

The Empire Ranch Headquarters is situated within the Las Cienegas NCA among the rolling grasslands of the high Sonoran Desert, surrounded by the Mustang, Whetstone, Empire, and Santa Rita mountain ranges. It includes a 22-room adobe and wood-frame building which dates to 1870 and is listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The BLM works closely with the Empire Ranch Foundation to preserve the house and other structures, host educational programs, and provide literature to tell the story of this special place. On June 14, at the Arizona Historic Preservation Conference in Prescott, the Empire Ranch Foundation received an award from the Governor's Archaeology Advisory Commission for contributions by a non-profit organization to historic preservation. The award for a private non-profit entity recognized the Empire



Ranch Foundation for its impressive accomplishments in preserving and restoring the historic Empire Ranch headquarters. Since 1997, the Foundation has supported the Bureau of Land Management by partnering, developing, and funding stabilization and restoration projects; educational events and interpretive exhibits; and archival research including oral histories and photo documentation. It has contributed over \$500,000 to restore the ranch house and seven other buildings. The Foundation's efforts continue to connect its members, local communities, former ranch residents, and youth to an important Arizona heritage site.

BLM Solar Eclipse Viewing Event

In the hours before sunset on May 20, more than 1,000 spectators joined the BLM Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument staff in partnership with Dixie State College, The Virgin River Program, and the Washington County Water Conservancy District to celebrate the spectacular "ring of fire" solar eclipse in St. George, Utah. The City of St. George was in a prime viewing area for this rare annular eclipse to see the moon pass fully between the earth and sun. The weather was absolutely perfect for viewing from the balconies of the Washington County Water Conservation District building, as the Earth's moon crossed in front of the sun, creating a relatively uncommon annular solar eclipse last seen in the U.S. in 1994.



The Monument distributed 1,000 pairs of solar safety viewing shades and partnered with Dixie State College and the Virgin River Program to provide astronomer and ranger-assisted viewing opportunities and programs during the eclipse. The same glasses can be used again to see the rare transit of Venus across the sun on June 5. The transit will be visible from anywhere in North America and will not occur again until 2117.

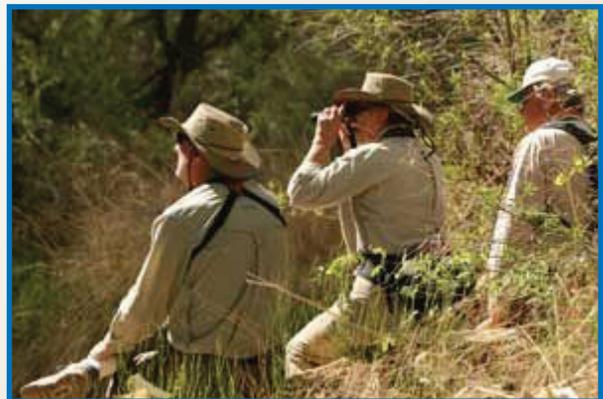
"It was wonderful to educate and share this event with our local community, as well as visitors from around the country and across the world, and to witness this truly amazing astronomical display," said Rosie Pepito, National Park Service superintendent. "Logistical

challenges often make travel into the monument difficult, especially for large numbers of people, and we are grateful to our partners for assisting us with hosting this event in St. George."

Friends of the San Pedro River Volunteers Offer Walks, Hikes, and More!

The Friends of the San Pedro River, a volunteer organization that assists the BLM at the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (RNCA), is offering many weekend activities this fall. These include guided interpretive walks and hikes along the river and the adjacent area.

Many of the walks focus on birding in the amazing San Pedro RNCA which is known worldwide for its diverse birdlife. Most walks begin at either the San Pedro House or the Sierra Vista Environmental Operations Park. Friends volunteers also operate a visitor center, gift shop, and bookstore at the San Pedro House and at the historic Fairbank Schoolhouse.



Engage Young People in Conservation and the Great Outdoors: The Rio Salado Rivers Pathways Program



The America's Great Outdoors initiative was celebrated in Arizona most notably by The Rio Salado Rivers Pathways Program, which includes the Rio Salado Habitat Restoration Area, The creation of a Monarch Butterfly Sanctuary ,which included building a protective wall, planting trees, and rehabbing a stream, was done by Bureau of Land Management (BLM) youth crew of 18-24 years olds in an area damaged by fire about a year ago. The trees attract and sustain monarch butterflies that migrate through the area annually. The joint effort was paid for by the Workforce Investment Boards of Phoenix and Maricopa County, who also recruited Arizona Call-a-Teen Youth Resources. The crew was trained by the Student Conservation Association.

The program includes a collection of nine projects ranging geographically from central Phoenix to Lake Pleasant to near Mayer. Each project involves work by crews organized through the BLM Arizona Youth initiative. The youths are trained through an outdoor curriculum developed by the BLM and the Phoenix Union School District and then get hands-on experience on the projects. Multiple agencies and organizations are involved in each aspect of the program.

The projects also include:

- South side of Salt River (at Central Avenue). Work at the Nina Mason Pulliam Rio Salado Audubon Center, which includes removing buffelgrass, trash pickup, and restoring habitat for the desert pupfish and Gila top minnow. This project also includes training students in environmental literacy. Work is complete. Students involved in the training continue riparian monitoring at the Agua Fria National Monument, north of Phoenix.
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park 1. Arizona Game & Fish Department to oversee construction of new boat ramps, a visitors' area, camping areas and a camp host site.
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park 2. Maricopa County Parks & Recreation Department has built a three-mile trail.
- Lake Pleasant Regional Park 3. Six miles of fence repair to keep livestock from entering public recreation areas.
- Agua Fria National Monument at the Cordes Junction Riverbend. New trail constructed from the Riverbend site to the 1891 Schoolhouse.
- Black Canyon National Recreation Trail 1. Copper Mountain 5-mile loop completed
- Black Canyon National Recreation Trail 2. Three miles of non-motorized trail and 6.5 miles of motorized trail completed.
- Big Bug Trailhead. Five-acre trailhead and staging area for horses to be built.

Partners Include;

Arizona Call-a-Teen-Youth Resources	Arizona Game and Fish Department
Arizona Off-Highway Coalition	Arizona Off-Highway Coalition
Black Canyon Trail Coalition	BLM
Bureau of Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
City of Phoenix Parks & Recreation Department	Friends of Agua Fria National Monument