



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM Yuma Field Office Amenity Fee Recreation Sites Business Plan



September 2024

BLM Yuma Field Office Amenity Fee Recreation Sites Business Plan

[LLAZC02000 L12320000 LVRDAZ110000]

Recommendations, Reviews, and Approvals

Recommended by:

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Date

Reviewed by:

William Mack Jr., District Manager, Colorado River District Office

Date

Approved by:

Raymond Suazo, Arizona State Director

Date

This business plan was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management’s Yuma Field Office pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814) and BLM recreation fee program policies. It establishes future management goals and priorities for the Imperial Dam Recreation Area (IDRA), Senator Wash North and South Shore, Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day Use Area, T.K. Jones Campground and Boat Launch, Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch, Imperial Dam and La Posa LTVAs Off-Long-Term Season (April 16-September 14), and the proposed Fortuna Pond Campground within the Yuma Field Office. Additionally, this plan seeks to remove Betty’s Kitchen and the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl from the Amenity Fee Program.



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Yuma Field Office
7341 E 30th St Ste A
Yuma, AZ 85365

In Reply Refer to:
2932 (LLAZC02000)

Dear Reader,

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Colorado River District, Yuma Field Office (YFO) has produced a draft business plan for updating and amending fees at its recreation sites. The YFO is the administrator and steward of over 1.2 million acres of public land in Arizona and California. In Fiscal Year 2023, the YFO provided the public with more than 893,754 recreation visits with many of those visits to YFO's developed recreation sites. The YFO Recreation and Visitor Services Business Plans provide the public with the opportunity to examine how their recreation fees have been spent, and how the YFO plans to utilize their fees in the future.

Business Plans are periodically updated to propose changes in the fee schedule or to comply with changes in federal authorities that authorize the BLM to collect recreation fees. In this case, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004 replaced the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act as the authority for the BLM to collect fees at developed recreation sites.

The seven YFO recreation sites that were initially formed as part of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program are now called "Amenity Fee Recreation Sites" under the authority of FLREA. The YFO Amenity Fee Recreation Sites Business Plan has been updated to reflect the criteria of FLREA. The YFO also collects fees through its Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) in the Long Tern Visitor Area (LTVA) under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976¹.

The YFO Amenity Fee Recreation Site Business Plan proposed changes to the fee schedule include an increase in the expanded amenity fee from \$15 to \$20 per motor vehicle for overnight occupancy with no change to the current standard amenity day use fee set at \$10. Also included is an increase for the annual pass decal (which covers up to 3 vehicles with a 2-decal limit) from \$75 to \$200 with a 14 day in/out limit. There will be no change to the current day use fee (Standard Amenity Fee) set at \$10. See Table 1 for details on the fee proposal.

¹ See the proposed YFO LTVA business plan for information on the LTVA fee proposal.

It is our hope that implementation of the Amenity Fee Recreation Site Business Plan will enable the YFO Recreation and Visitor Services division to meet the growing local, regional, national, and international recreation interests and needs, while addressing the increased demands that public lands in the Yuma Field Office are experiencing.

A 45-day comment period will be held from September 6-October 21, 2024. Comments regarding the proposed fee modification can be sent to: BLM Yuma Field Office 7341 E 30th St Ste A Yuma AZ 85365.

Thank you for your support of public lands.

Sincerely,

Raymond Castro Jr.
Field Manager
Yuma Field Office

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1 Executive Summary

The BLM's amenity fee program was established in 1999, first as the Fee Demo Program then later after Congressional delegation the program became known as the Amenity Fee Recreation Program through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004 as amended. Amenity Fee Recreation Sites have provided millions of Americans a fair value venue for recreation and use of America's public lands. Fees collected are reinvested back into the sites while enabling managers to continue developing additional amenities, additional sites, perform needed maintenance, and retain staff necessary for the operation of the program and sites.

This business plan outlines proposed changes to a portion of the YFO's 2008 Recreation Business Plan. The proposed changes in the Yuma Field Office (YFO) Fee Amenity Fee Recreation Site (AFRS) fee schedule include:

- No change to the current day use fee, which remains at \$10.
- An increase from \$15 per motor vehicle to \$20 per motor vehicle for overnight occupancy.
- An increase from \$75 to \$200 for the site-specific annual pass (Decal).

The specific sites affected by these changes include:

- Senator Wash North Shore, South Shore, and Boat Launch and Day Use Area
- T.K. Jones Campground and Boat Launch
- Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch
- Imperial Dam and La Posa LTVAs Non-Winter Off-Long-Term Season (April 16-September 14)
- Betty's Kitchen
- Ehrenberg Sand Bowl
- Proposed Fortuna Pond Campground

In an effort to better manage public lands, the BLM Yuma Field Office is proposing removal of Betty's Kitchen and the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl from the Amenity Fee Program. In addition, YFO proposes adding a new location identified as the proposed Fortuna Pond Campground.

Overnight occupancy at YFO's Amenity Fee Sites (campgrounds with 5 or more amenities identified under FLREA i.e. access roads, restrooms, drinking water, trash collection, picnic tables, fire rings, reasonable visitor protection, tent or trailer spaces, collection of fees by employee or agent of the federal land management agency) requires an expanded amenity fee. Camping is limited to no more than 14 consecutive days or 14-days in a 28-day period before required relocation to other public lands 25 miles away unless a visitor is entering a different type of public land occupancy program where a permit would also be required. Day use between the hours of sunrise and sunset is not limited by the 14-day occupancy rule but does require purchase of the day use fee or annual pass.

The proposed changes in the YFO Amenity Fee Recreation Site fee schedule are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Proposed Changes to the AFRS & Fee Schedule.

Types of Fees	FLREA Authority	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Standard Amenity Fee - Day Use	6802(f)	\$10.00 per Motor Vehicle	\$10.00 per Motor Vehicle
Expanded Amenity Fee -Overnight Occupancy	6802(g)(2)(A)	\$15.00 per Motor Vehicle	\$20.00 per Motor Vehicle
Site-Specific Annual Pass (Decal)	6804(c)	\$75.00 Coverage of up to 3 motor vehicles. 2 Decal Limit. 14-day/In 14-day Out	\$200.00 Coverage of up to 3 motor vehicles. 2 Decal Limit.

In addition, the BLM proposes to adopt a model to increase fees by 20% (then rounded) whenever the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U), US City Average, All Items, 1982-84=100, not seasonally adjusted, rises by 20%.

Market research showed that similar boondocking or dry camping locations (Locations that charge a fee for occupancy but do not offer individual amenities such as power, water, or sewer hook-ups) within the Southwest region charge anywhere from \$15.00 - \$25.00 per night (\$300 - \$500 per month) and require reservations often times having to be made months in advance. The ease and accessibility of visits to the BLM’s amenity fee recreation sites coupled with the abundance of amenities and services make the program a viable choice for all.

This plan will be routinely evaluated for relevancy, environmental law compliance, fiscal responsibility as well as adherence to BLM and Department of the Interior land management policies. Under current funding limits all program monies earned through fee permit sales are invested back into the fee sites, which provide for sustainable site maintenance, amenity service contracts, campground improvements, volunteers, and staff. Current combined program funding levels (AFRS and LTVA) only meet 60-63% of obligations associated with the program(s). Due to the shortage of funding necessary maintenance, contract adjustments and staffing levels have been kept intentionally low and deferred in an effort to maintain fiscal responsibility. It is anticipated that increasing the recreation fees as proposed will increase available funding for site maintenance and improvements.

2 Background and Authorities

Business Plans are periodically updated to propose changes in the fee schedule or to comply with changes in federal authorities that authorize the BLM to collect recreation fees. In this case, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004 replaced the Land

and Water Conservation Fund Act as the authority for the BLM to collect fees at developed recreation sites.

The seven YFO recreation sites that were initially formed as part of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program are now called "Amenity Fee Recreation Sites" under the authority of FLREA and may be classified as standard or expanded amenity sites based on duration of stay, service or amenities offered. The Amenity Fee Recreation Sites Business Plan has been updated to reflect the criteria of FLREA.

This business plan has been prepared to meet the criteria defined in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-447; Title VIII, Section 801; 16 U.S.C. 6801–6814). The authorities and regulations for this business plan are:

- **The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976** (Public Law 94-579; 43 U.S.C. 1701–1787), contains BLM's general land use management authority over the public lands, and establishes outdoor recreation as one of the principal uses of those lands. Section 302 (b) of FLPMA directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate through permits or other instruments the use of public lands. Section 303 of FLPMA contains BLM's authority to enforce the regulations and impose penalties.
- **The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004** repealed applicable portions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and replaced BLM's authority to collect recreation fees. This current law authorizes BLM to collect recreation fees at sites that meet certain requirements, allows BLM to keep the fee revenues at the local offices where they were collected, and directs how BLM will manage and utilize these revenues. FLREA also established the America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Pass Program. The FLREA (16 U.S.C. 6802(b)(1)) does not grant the authority for BLM to provide discounts or reduced recreation fees for local residents or other groups.
- **Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2930 (43 CFR 2930) Permits for Recreation on Public Lands** contains the regulations governing BLM's recreation permitting program.

This business plan has also been prepared pursuant to all applicable BLM recreation fee program policies and guidance, including:

- BLM Manual 2930, *Recreation Permits and Fees*, Rel. 2-296 dated October 22, 2007
- BLM Handbook 2930-1, *Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook*, Rel. 2-300 dated November 17, 2014

The BLM strives to manage recreation and visitor services to serve the diverse visitor outdoor recreation demands while helping to maintain sustainable setting conditions needed to conserve the public lands, so the visitors' desired recreation choices remain available. The BLM's goals for delivering recreation benefits from BLM-administered lands and waters to the American people and their communities are to:

- Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities,
- Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources, and

- Provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

3 Introduction to the Field Office Recreation Program

The BLM, Yuma Field Office is located within the southwestern corner of Arizona (Figure 1). The Yuma Field Office area encompasses 1.2 million acres along the lower Colorado River in southwest Arizona and southeast California, extending eastward into Arizona. The public lands in this field office comprise an area 155 miles long and up to 90 miles wide. This area extends northward along the lower Colorado River from the Southern International Boundary at San Luis, Arizona, to north of Blythe, California, and Ehrenberg, Arizona. The Yuma Field Office boundary extends eastward to the Eagletail Mountains Wilderness Area and south along the Yuma and Maricopa County line to the northern boundary of the Barry Goldwater Range. The Yuma Field Office geography spans Yuma, La Paz, and Maricopa Counties in Arizona that includes the 3rd and 4th U.S. Congressional Districts of Arizona and the Arizona State Legislative Districts 5 and 13 as their political jurisdictions.

YFO manages existing amenity fee recreation sites in Arizona and California. These sites include Senator Wash North Shore, Senator Wash South Shore, Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day Use Area, T.K. Jones Campground, T.K. Jones Boat Launch, Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch, Betty's Kitchen, and Ehrenberg Sand Bowl within the Imperial Dam Recreation Area. In addition, the YFO manages two Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs), Imperial Dam and La Posa, as amenity fee sites in the non-winter (off-season) months April 16-September 14. In an effort to better manage public lands the BLM Yuma Field Office is proposing to remove Betty's Kitchen and the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl from the Amenity Fee Program and proposes adding a new location identified as the proposed Fortuna Pond Campground through this business plan.

In addition to developed recreation sites, the Yuma Field Office manages multiple dispersed fee free sites and areas that encompass the Colorado River on its west boundary through scenic Sonoran Desert settings to its eastern boundary. These locations and settings allow the public to enjoy many different recreational undertakings such as fishing, swimming, bird watching, kayaking, boating, hiking, camping, shooting, hunting and wildlife viewing.

The BLM's amenity fee program was established in 1999, first as the Fee Demo Program then later after Congressional delegation the program became known as the Amenity Fee Recreation Program through the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004 as amended. The current approved business plan for the Amenity Fee Program was implemented in 2008 and is included in the Yuma Field Office Resource Management Plan January 2010 and Record of Decision. That 2008 business plan has since become outdated and requires this revision effort to maintain regulatory compliance and fiscal responsibility for the recreation program. Amenity Fee Recreation Sites have provided millions of Americans a fair value venue for recreation and use of America's public lands. Fees collected are reinvested back into the sites while enabling managers to continue developing additional amenities, additional sites, perform needed maintenance, and retain staff and volunteers necessary for the operation of the program and sites.

3.1 Field Office Visitation

Over the past five years, Yuma Field Office recreation visitation has generally increased (Table 2). Aside from historical RV/Camper use, one current trend includes new subculture variants of the RV culture. These new visitor trends see people moving into smaller style conversion vehicles such as retrofitted vans, buses, and passenger cars with less built-in amenities that normal RVs have. These new variant visitors create additional challenges for site management, as well as balancing visitor conflicts. Based on the growing popularity of this movement and others we anticipate a minimum 5% per season growth for these types of visitors. This increase in visitor numbers has consequently caused a short fall in current BLM service contracts for potable water treatment, sewage removal and processing, as well as trash collection.

Table 2: Yuma Field Office Estimated Annual Visitation

Fiscal Year	Yuma Field Office Estimated Number of Visitors
FY 2019	640,804
FY 2020	736,774
FY 2021	1,343,291
FY 2022	1,001,110
FY 2023	893,754
*Note	Formula anomalies in Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) created usage numbers for FY20, FY21, FY22 that do not accurately reflect true visitation for those years.

3.1.1 Demographics of Recreation Visitors

Data from the 2017 Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) Visitor Satisfaction Survey taken at T.K. Jones Campground and Boat Launch showed that the 104 surveyed visitors came from various counties in the southwest region and 3 different states. Of those visitors 6% were 71 years of age and older, 10% were 61-70 years of age, 20% were 51-60 years of age, 17% were 41-50 years of age, 23% were 31-40 years of age, 18% were 22-30 years of age, and 6% were 18-21 years of age. Visitors not surveyed but accounted for were children under the age of 18, who made up roughly 21% of visitors to the site. Race and socioeconomic data were not collected from the survey respondents.

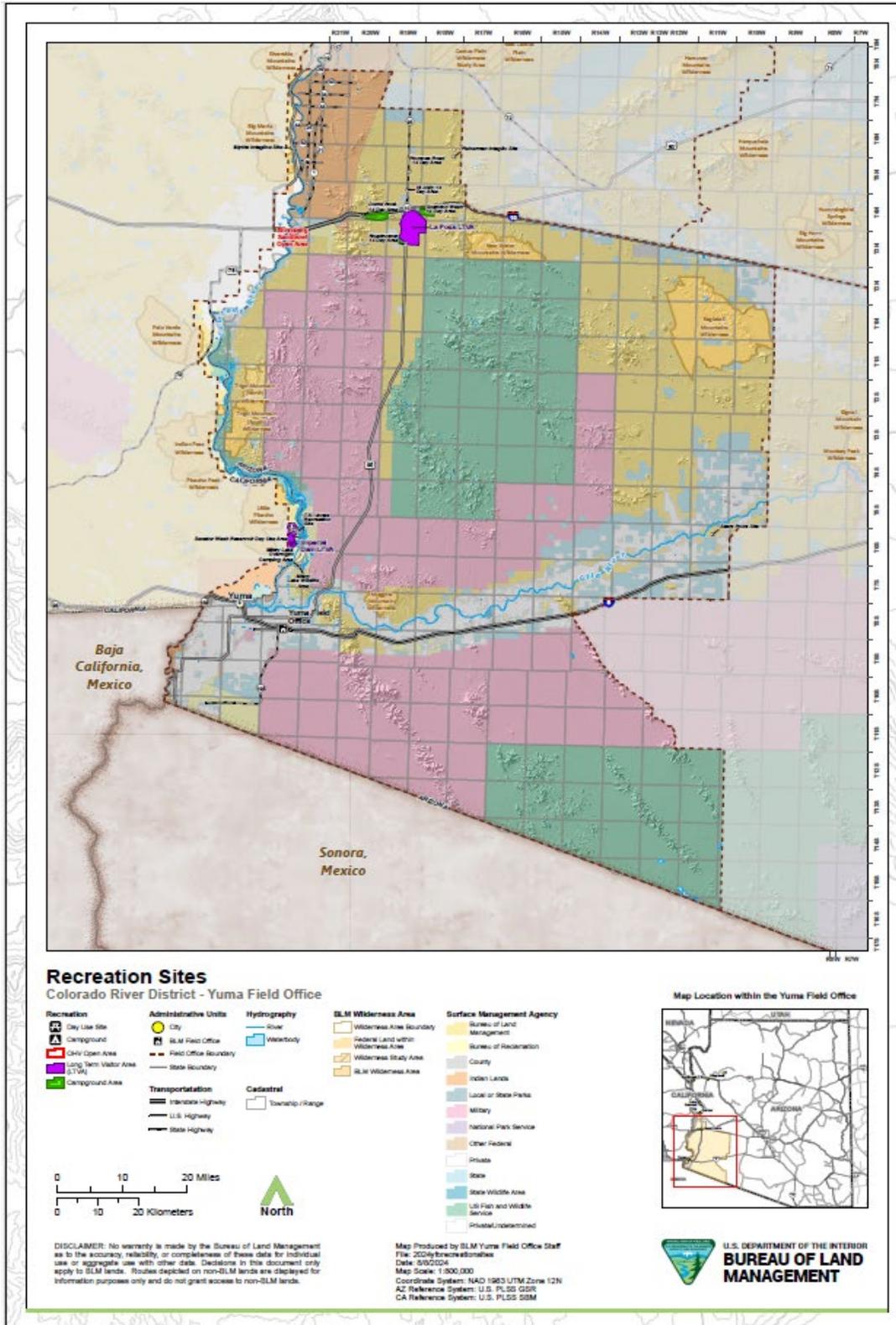


Figure 1 Map Showing Yuma Field Office

4 Description of Each Existing or Proposed Fee Site/Area

4.1 Existing Expanded Amenity Sites (16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2))

The YFO maintains a variety of expanded amenity recreation sites. YFO has five developed amenity sites that provide the public with day-use and overnight recreational opportunities within the Imperial Dam Recreation Area: Senator Wash North Shore Campground, Senator Wash South Shore Campground, Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day-Use Area, T.K. Jones Campground and T.K. Jones Boat Launch, and Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area. In addition, the YFO has two Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVA): Imperial Dam (located within the Imperial Dam Recreation Area) and La Posa. The LTVAs are managed as expanded amenity sites during the non-winter off-long-term season (April 16 to September 14), as described in this business plan. During the winter long-term season (September 15 to April 15), individual special recreation use permit recreation fees are collected according to the YFO's Long-Term Visitor Area Business Plan.

Overnight camping within all expanded amenity sites is limited to 14-days within a 28-day period, after which the camper must move to another location at least 25 miles away.

The general America the Beautiful Annual Pass does not provide holders with free or discounted admission to the YFO's expanded amenity sites. The America the Beautiful Senior and Access passes provide holders with a 50 percent discount on admission to the YFO's expanded amenity sites.

Following are descriptions of the existing expanded amenity sites. Tables 3 and 4 outline the amenities provided at the sites, which enable the YFO to collect expanded amenity fees in compliance with FLREA. Figures 2-4 show maps and arial views of the amenity site areas.

4.1.1 Senator Wash North Shore Campground

The winding northern shoreline of the Senator Wash Reservoir is approximately 25 miles north of Yuma in Imperial County, California. The campground includes numerous secluded tent and RV campsites. The site can be accessed by land from Ferguson Lake Road or by water from the Senator Wash Boat Launch. Five universally accessible restrooms, designated parking areas, interpretive kiosks, are maintained in the campground. The expanded amenity fee at North Shore also includes the use of the trash disposal services, water, RV sanitary dump stations, and universally accessible restrooms at the adjacent Imperial Dam LTVA. Camping, swimming, boating, fishing and picnicking are the most common recreational activities at North Shore. OHV use is also a common recreational activity on the BLM-managed public lands adjacent to the campground. Primary site issues include fluctuating water levels, access route maintenance, and OHV trail proliferation on the surrounding public lands.

4.1.2 Senator Wash South Shore Campground

The wide, flat beach along Senator Wash Reservoir's southern shore provides ideal family and group camping opportunities. The campground can be accessed by land from the

Imperial Dam LTVA or by water from the Senator Wash Boat Launch. The expanded amenity recreation fee at South Shore also includes the use of the RV or tent sites, trash disposal services, potable water, RV sanitary dump stations, picnic tables, grill stands, and universally accessible restrooms within the adjacent Imperial Dam LTVA. Primary site issues include access route maintenance.

4.1.3 Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day-Use Area (16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2)(B))

The Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day-use Area provides the public with recreational access to Senator Wash Reservoir, located approximately 25 miles north of Yuma in Imperial County, California. The area has day-use parking, a paved boat launch, universally accessible restrooms with flush toilets and showers, garbage collection, and a buoyed swimming area. Picnicking, swimming, fishing, boating, jet and water skiing, and wildlife viewing are the most common activities within the reservoir. The boat launch also provides boat-in camping access to the Senator Wash North Shore and South Shore Campgrounds. Water levels within Senator Wash are controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation as part of the water control and delivery system of the lower Colorado River. Primary site issues include fluctuating water levels, aging facility infrastructure, and universal accessibility to various areas along the steep banks of the site. The YFO is currently constructing a universally accessible trail from the parking lot to the buoyed swimming area with the use of collected recreation amenity fee revenues.

4.1.4 T.K. Jones Campground and T.K. Jones Boat Launch

The T.K. Jones Campground and T.K. Jones Boat Launch are located approximately 25 miles north of Yuma in Imperial County, California. The site is on the southern side of Senator Wash Dam and provides camping opportunities and boating access to the lower Colorado River. The area includes over 100 RV campsites and numerous areas for tent camping, 4 universally accessible restrooms with flush toilets, garbage collection, 55 picnic tables, 25 fire rings, 2 boat launches, boat trailer parking, and 2 buoyed swimming areas. The expanded amenity recreation fee at T.K. Jones also includes the use of the water and RV sanitary dump stations within the adjacent Imperial Dam LTVA. Hot water showers are also available in the restrooms at an additional cost. Visitors pay either the expanded amenity overnight or day-use fee depending on the type of use they are participating in. The most common recreational activities at T.K. Jones Campground include camping, hiking, swimming, fishing, boating, and picnicking. A no wake zone encompasses Xanyō Xamshré until it reaches the Colorado River to provide for visitor safety. Primary site issues include aging facility infrastructure, day-use and overnight camping conflicts, and universal accessibility.

4.1.5 Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area

The 420-acre Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area is located approximately 25 miles south of Blythe in both Imperial County, California and La Paz County, Arizona. The area includes co-managed efforts by the Bureau of Reclamation and Arizona Game and Fish. BLM manages lands surrounding both the channelized lower Colorado River and Oxbow

Lake, which is an abandoned meander of the pre-channelized river provide recreational opportunities as well as enhanced wildlife habitat. The 2005 Oxbow Recreation and Wildlife Area Management Plan earmarked approximately 150 acres for campground and day-use development to meet the growing recreational demands along this stretch of the river. The other 270 acres of the area have been identified for a variety of habitat restoration projects such as tree and other native vegetation plantings and wildlife habitat enhancements like bat boxes, and invasive vegetation clearing. The facilities at Oxbow include multiple RV and tent campsites, 2 universally accessible restrooms, garbage collection, grills, picnic tables, one paved and one unpaved boat launch, boat trailer parking and an accessible pier. Visitors pay either the expanded amenity overnight or day-use fee depending on the type of use they are participating in. Jet skiing, water skiing, and other fast paced boating activities occur within the Colorado River. Slower paced boating activities, such as fishing, kayaking, and canoeing are more common within Oxbow Lake. Primary site issues include the need for regular dredging to maintain boating access, endangered species' habitat, non-native invasive vegetation, and high amounts of hazardous fuels which require aggressive and regular removal efforts.

4.1.6 Imperial Dam and La Posa LTVA Expanded Amenity Non-Winter Off-Long-Term Season

YFO's two Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs), Imperial Dam and La Posa, are managed as expanded amenity fee sites during the non-winter off-long-term season (April 16 to September 14). During the winter on-long-term season of September 15 and April 15, the recreation fees are collected according to the proposed YFO Long-Term Visitor Area Business Plan. See the proposed YFO Long-Term Visitor Area Business Plan for description of the LTVAs during the winter on-long-term season. Following describes the LTVA expanded amenity sites.

Imperial Dam LTVA

The 3,500-acre Imperial Dam LTVA is situated within the Imperial Dam Recreation Area. It is approximately 21 miles north of Yuma in Imperial County, California, directly south of the Senator Wash Reservoir. The Imperial Dam LTVA provides two universally accessible restrooms, a potable water distribution site, a three-lane dump station with rinse water, a dry dump station, a grey water dump site, trash disposal services, shade ramadas, three full hook-up sites for volunteer hosts and contractors, post and cable fencing, extensive signage, and numerous unpaved roads. The increasing use of the LTVA, particularly during the on-long-term season, creates a heavy demand on the existing facilities. Major issues include the need to upgrade the waste treatment facilities for regulatory compliance purposes.

La Posa LTVA

The 11,400-acre La Posa LTVA is located approximately 2 miles south of Quartzsite in La Paz County, Arizona. Facilities at the La Posa LTVA include a well water system, a potable water distribution site, a two-lane dump station with leach fields, a dry dump station, garbage collection, 13 accessible restrooms, over 3 miles of post and cable fencing, shade

ramadas, a concrete dance floor, and extensive signage. Other improvements include four electrical hook-up sites for volunteer hosts, several pay phones, one major paved road, numerous other roads which require routine maintenance, and five permanent volunteer contact stations with electricity and telephones. Major issues include extensive road maintenance needs after heavy rains and OHV trail proliferation outside of the LTVA.

4.2 Standard Amenity Sites (16 U.S.C. 6802 (f)(2))

4.2.1 Sites Recommended for Removal as Fee Areas

The following two sites were standard amenity fee sites under the 2007 Yuma Business Plan. However, due to changes in recreational uses, reduction in the minimum standard amenities provided (Table 5), and overwhelming logistical and enforcement issues, it has been recommended that these areas be managed as BLM dispersed areas. The YFO has not collected fees at these locations or supported establishment of standard amenities for approximately ten years. The recommendation to remove the fee from these two sites will enable visitors to enjoy quality outdoor recreation experiences for free.

Ehrenberg Sandbowl OHV Area

Located approximately 3 miles south of Ehrenberg in La Paz County, Arizona, this 400- acre Open OHV Management Area provides exceptional motorized recreation opportunities throughout its hilly and sandy terrain. The Sandbowl provides designated parking, OHV loading/unloading ramps. Primary site issues include the absence of a permanent volunteer host site, limited law enforcement presence, and extreme site vandalism.

Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Area and National Recreation Trail

This 10-acre day-use area is located along the lower Colorado River approximately 15 miles north of Yuma in Yuma County, Arizona. The area is situated just upstream of the Reclamation-operated Laguna Dam, which was the first dam on the Colorado River. Betty's Kitchen maintains dense riparian vegetation, and past restoration projects have increased the biodiversity of the area. The half-mile, universally accessible trail was designated a National Recreation Trail in 1993, and interpretive panels along the walk familiarize the visitor with the natural and cultural history of the area. Other facilities at Betty's Kitchen include a day use parking area, shade ramada, and universally accessible restrooms. Fishing, picnicking, hiking, and wildlife viewing are the most common recreational activities at Betty's Kitchen. Primary site issues include non-native invasive vegetation and accumulated hazardous fuels which require aggressive and regular removal efforts. Additionally, the area has experienced a high level of vandalism and been subjected to several wildland fire burn overs. Fees have not been collected at this location in over 10 years.

4.3 Proposed Expanded Amenity Fee Site (16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2))

4.3.1 Proposed Fortuna Pond Campground

Fortuna Pond is a mitigation location that was created under Departmental Manual 613 to give outdoor enthusiasts recreation opportunities for hunting and fishing. The pond is jointly managed

by the Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, and Arizona Game and Fish. Overnight occupancy is not allowed in the area next to and around the pond because of user conflict with the actual purpose of the location.

To address interest for a nearby camping area, the BLM Yuma Field Office proposes developing a 25-acre expanded amenity fee recreation site on BLM-managed public immediately east of Fortuna Pond (Figure 2), called the proposed Fortuna Pond Campground. The no overnight occupancy mandate at the pond site would stay in place.

The site would be developed in phases to and built to fulfill the expanded amenity fee requirements: Onsite camp host, improved gravel roads, a fee collection kiosk, interpretive and information kiosks, vault toilets, picnic tables, grill stands, fire rings, fish cleaning station, and a trash collection location. The site would offer 40 RV parking locations, as well as 20 tent-only sites. Once fully developed, all use and occupancy would require an expanded amenity fee permit consistent with all YFO managed Expanded Amenity Fee Recreation Site locations and the supplemental rules that govern conduct at those locations.



Figure 2: Proposed Fortuna Pond AFRS Map

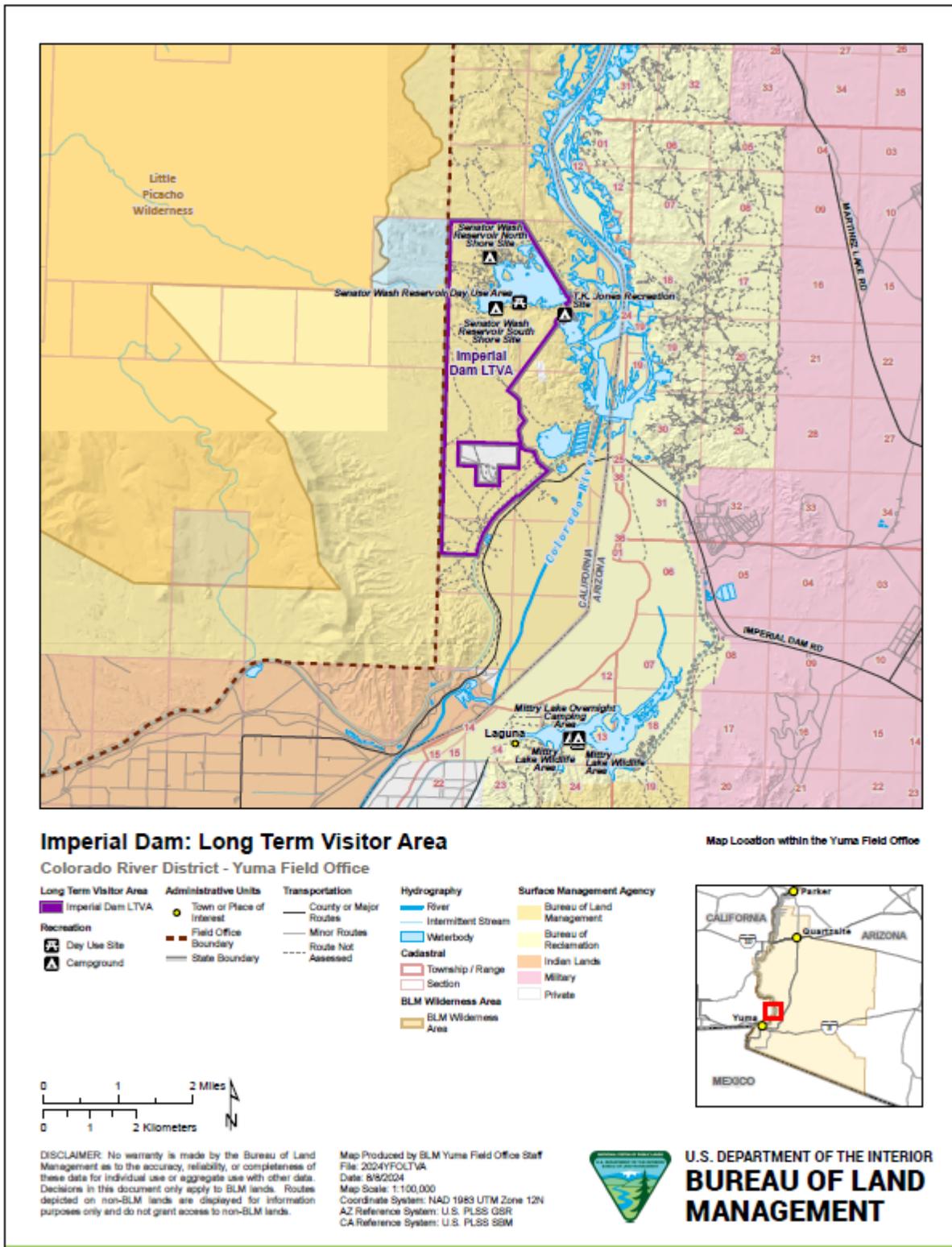


Figure 3: Map Showing Yuma Area Amenity Fee Sites

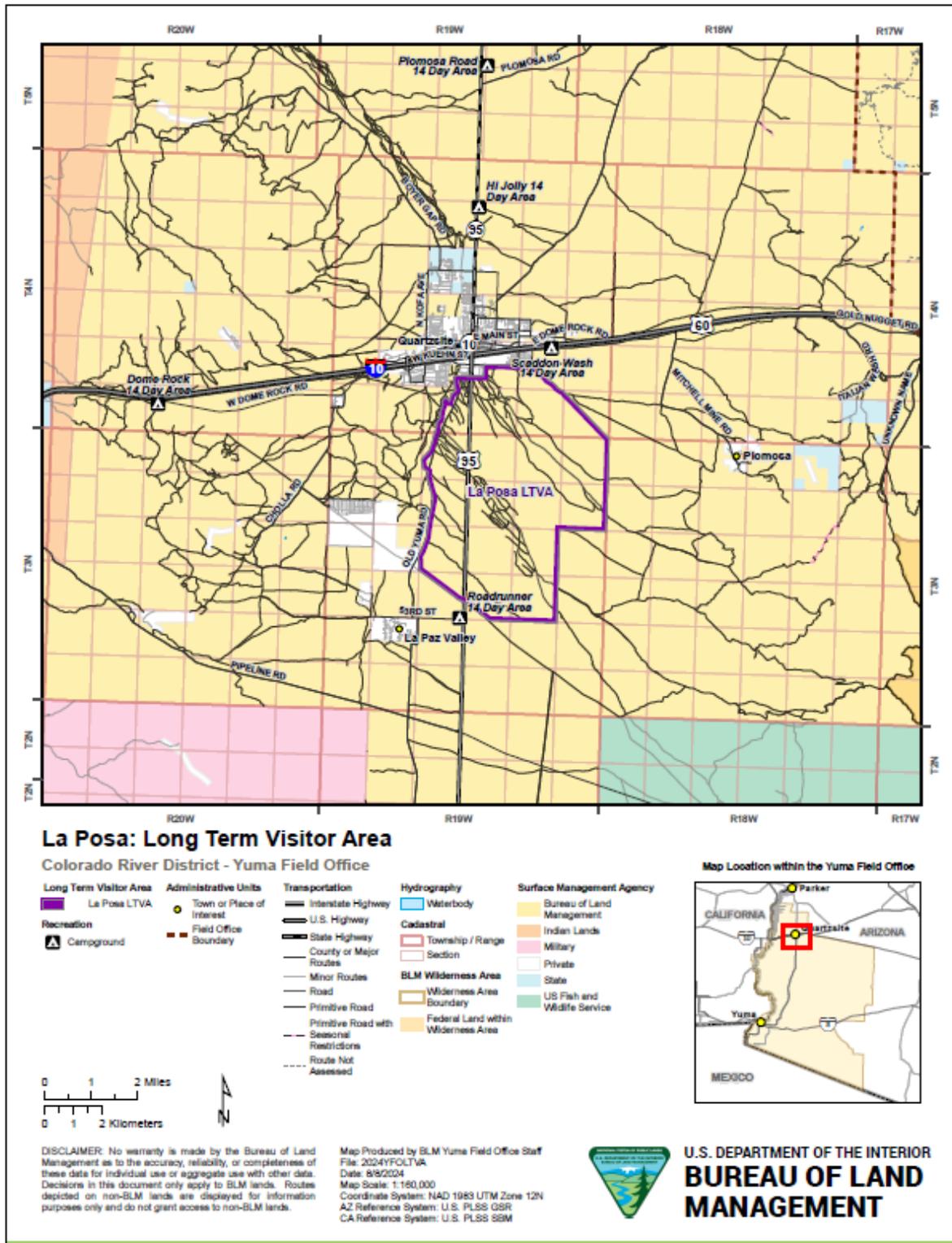


Figure 4: Map Showing La Posa Amenity Fee Sites

Table 3: Fee Site Amenities

Location Name	Camp Host	Vault Toilet/ RR	Restroom with Shower Facility	Picnic Table	Grill Stand	Fire Rings	Boat Launch	Trash Collection Bins	Potable Water	Sanitary Dump Station in Area	Floating Dock
Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day Use Area	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Senator Wash South Shore	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unimproved Launching	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Senator Wash North Shore	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Unimproved Launching	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes
T.K Jones Campground	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
T.K. Jones Boat Launch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Imperial LTVA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
La Posa LTVA	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No

Table 4: Expanded Amenities at YFO's Amenity Fee Recreation Sites

Location Name	Tent or Trailer Spaces	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Collection of Fee	Reasonable Visitor Protection	Refuse Containers	Toilet Facilities	Fire Rings	Highly Developed Boat Ramp	Use of Hookups (elect, cable, sewer)	Sanitary Dump Stations	Developed Swimming areas with majority of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bathhouse with showers and flush toilets 2. Refuse Containers 3. Picnic Areas 4. Paved Parking 5. Attendants, inc. lifeguards 6. Floats encompassing swimming area 7. Swimming Deck
Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day Use Area	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, at Imperial LTVA	No
Senator Wash South Shore	Yes	Yes	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes	No	No	Yes, on So. Mesa	No
Senator Wash North Shore	Yes	Yes	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes, on So. Mesa	No
Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
T.K Jones Campground	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes
T.K. Jones Boat Launch	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes, on So. Mesa	Yes
Imperial LTVA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes, on So. Mesa	No
La Posa LTVA	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes, at La Posa South	No
Proposed Fortuna CG	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No

Table 5: Standard Amenities at YFO's Amenity Fee Recreation Sites

Location Name	Significant Opportunities for Outdoor Recreation	Substantial Federal Investment	Where fees can be efficiently collected	Contains all the 6 following amenities:	Designated developed parking	Permanent toilet facility	Permanent trash receptacle	Interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Betty's Kitchen	Yes	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
Ehrenberg Sandbowl	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No

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5 Proposed Modifications to Recreation Fee Rates and Sites

As described in Section 4, YFO manages multiple recreation amenity fee sites in Arizona and California. These sites include Senator Wash Boat Launch and Day Use Area, Senator Wash North Shore, Senator Wash South Shore, T.K. Jones Campground, T.K. Jones Boat Launch, Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch, Betty's Kitchen, and Ehrenberg Sand Bowl. In addition, the YFO's two Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs), Imperial Dam and La Posa, are managed as expanded amenity fee sites during the off-long-term season (April 16 to September 14). In an effort to better manage public lands the BLM Yuma Field Office proposes 1) increasing the fees for expanded amenity sites and the annual pass, 2) removing Betty's Kitchen and the Ehrenberg Sand Bowl from the standard amenity fee program, 3) and adding a new expanded amenity location identified as Fortuna Pond Campground. Table 6 shows the proposed fee increase amounts.

Table 6: Proposed Fee Increase Amounts

Types of Fees	FLREA Authority	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Standard Amenity Fee - Day Use	6802(f)	\$10.00 per Motor Vehicle	\$10.00 per Motor Vehicle
Expanded Amenity Fee -Overnight Occupancy	6802(g)(2)(A)	\$15.00 per Motor Vehicle	\$20.00 per Motor Vehicle
Site-Specific Annual Pass (Decal)	6804(c)	\$75.00 Coverage of up to 3 motor vehicles. 2 Decal Limit. 14-day/In 14-day Out	\$200.00 Coverage of up to 3 motor vehicles. 2 Decal Limit.

Under FLREA all program monies are invested back into the fee sites, which provide for sustainable site maintenance, amenity service contracts, campground improvements, volunteers, and staff support, among other investments. Current combined program funding levels only meet 60-63% of obligations associated with the program(s). Due to the shortage of funding, necessary maintenance, contract adjustments and staffing levels have been kept intentionally low and deferred in an effort to maintain fiscal responsibility.

If approved, the plan as proposed will allow for the changes needed to manage effectively, and lawfully, the Amenity Fee Recreation Site program for future generations. If the plan cannot be approved it is possible that the BLM would have to consider limiting the number of visitors allowed at Amenity Fee Recreation Sites, and or reduce the number of amenities and services in the program. The BLM does not wish to limit visitor numbers or eliminate services.

5.1.1 Routine Fee Adjustments

BLM's permit and fee policy recommends the use of an index for routine fee adjustments rather than reviewing each individual adjustment through a comprehensive business plan effort that

requires a tremendous investment of effort and time. The YFO LTVA permit fees have been at their current levels since 2008. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in 2008 the average annual Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) was at 215.3 or inflation by 2023 it had climbed to 304.7 an increase of 58%.

The BLM seeks approval to adopt a model to increase fees by 20% (then rounded) whenever the CPI-U, US City Average, All Items, 1982-84=100, not seasonally adjusted, annual average rises by 20%. According to the BLS, the Consumer Price Index or CPI is “a measure of the average change over time in the price paid by urban consumers for a market basket of consumer goods and services” (bls.gov/cpi). The CPI-U is the broadest and most comprehensive CPI. The all-urban consumer group included in the CPI-U represents over 90 percent of the total U.S. population (<https://www.bls.gov/cpi/questions-and-answers.htm>).

The BLM is seeking approval to exercise the option to increase each fee by 20%, rounded up to the nearest dollar, when there is a 20% increase in the CPI-U from the date this business plan is approved. The first adjustment would result in an increase to: Day Use Fee \$12, Overnight Fee \$24, Annual Pass \$240. This model would ensure the fees evolve in tandem with the ever-changing environment of the future and increasing costs.

5.1.2 E-Commerce

The Yuma Field Office will use various e-commerce technologies as directed in BLM Instruction Memorandum 2022-010, to provide recreation visitors opportunities to find, reserve and pay for campsites and day use within the field office. Most of these options are provided through the interagency reservation service Recreation.gov. If the Yuma Field Office decides to add additional reservation services of other types of e-commerce options available in the future, an expanded amenity fee for reservation services would be charged in addition to any other standard or expanded amenity fees in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2)(G).

Reservation services fees could range from \$.50 to \$10.00 depending on the type of service provided. The reservation service is subject to contracting requirements and will be adjusted with contract changes or with future updates to the business plan. For visitors who wish not to pay the expanded amenity fee of reservation services, the field office will attempt to continue to provide a blend of reservation and first come-first served options until or unless the office moves the fee site/area entirely to e-commerce. Other payment options may also be considered in the future as technology and software develops, such as onsite credit card payment systems or scan and pay.

6 Operating Costs

This section demonstrates the operating costs associated with managing the AFRS locations.

Table 7 shows current Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 contracting costs for managing the YFO’s amenity fee recreation sites. Existing contracts have a built-in compounding increase that will raise the cost of each contract by 5-10% yearly over the following four years. As a result, baseline operating costs of the sites will continue to increase into the future (for example, if a contract costs \$50,000 in FY2024, it will cost an additional \$2,500-\$5,000 the following year).

Table 7: Contract Costs

Item	FY24 Contract Cost & Deferred Maintenance Costs	1/3 of Total Program Cost Directly Related to Amenity Fee Operations
Trash Imperial	\$90,948	\$30,012
Trash La Posa	\$242,000	\$80,586
Water Testing Imperial	\$60,064	\$19,821
Sewage Testing Imperial	\$1,200	\$400
Water Testing La Posa	\$60,064	\$19,821
Sewage Pumping	\$92,470	\$30,515
Annual Program Maintenance	\$150,000	\$50,000
Emergency Repair Funding	\$400,000	\$400,000
TOTAL	\$1,096,746	\$631,155

Approximately one-third of staffing time is dedicated to operating the YFO’s amenity fee recreation sites in this business plan. This includes law enforcement, park rangers, and outdoor recreation planners. In addition, YFO’s volunteer program supports the overall operation of the site. Table 8 outlines the cost to government for staffing of the amenity sites. The government employee costs are figured at the full performance GS Step 5 level.

Table 8: Staffing Costs to Government at 1/3 of Total Program Costs

Position (government employees factored at full performance Step 5 rate)	FY24 Employee Cost (1/3 of staff time)
Law Enforcement, GS 12	\$53,916
Law Enforcement, GS 11	\$45,123
Law Enforcement, GS 11	\$45,123
Law Enforcement, GS 11	\$45,123
Outdoor Rec Planner, GS 11	\$45,123
Outdoor Rec Planner, GS 11	\$45,123
Park Ranger, GS 07	\$30,489
Administrative Staff - Various GS levels	\$88,000
Volunteer Program (Amenity Fee Program Cost)	\$41,580
TOTAL	\$592,045

7 Revenues

Table 9 shows the current amenity fee revenue for the YFO amenity fee sites.

Table 9. Amenity Fee Revenue

Fiscal Year	Amount Collected
FY 2019	\$197,625
FY 2020	\$130,431
FY 2021	\$255,071
FY 2022	\$346,223
FY 2023	\$292,559

Based on the five-year amenity fee revenue, the average annual revenue is \$244,382. As demonstrated in the cost expenditure tables in Section 6, the Yuma Field Office has not been able to collect sufficient revenue to cover the amenity fee portion of the service contracts let alone the current labor costs. In addition, there are annual variances that affect the amount of revenue being collected at the YFO amenity fee sites. Those factors include the COVID

pandemic, national economic status, theft from the collection pipes and emergency shutdowns for maintenance or administrative orders.

Using FY2023 as a baseline, the projected revenue is \$409,530 for the YFO recreation sites in this proposal.

Amenity Fee Type	FY23 Users	FY 23 Revenue	Projected Revenue, using FY23 numbers & proposed fee structure
Day Use Fee	17,553 (60% of permits)	\$175,530	\$175,530
Overnight Camping Fee	3,900 (20% of permits)	\$58,512	\$78,000
Annual Pass Decal	780 (20% of permits)	\$58,512	\$156, 000
Total	22,233	\$292,559	\$409,530

8 Priorities for Future Expenditures

Implementing the proposed fee increases would enable the YFO to cover established base operational costs and implement priority enhancement projects at AFRS sites as the funds become available. Implementing identified priority development and enhancement projects is expected to expand recreational opportunities, create favorable public land experiences, and benefit sites currently available under YFO management.

Table 10 outlines the priority enhancement projects and Table 11 outlines the secondary enhancement projects for YFO AFRS. While some funding for these projects may be acquired through deferred maintenance life cycle schedules, grants, emergency funding, or federal appropriations, the YFO would continue to use collected AFRS revenues as the primary source of funds for amenity recreation site operations, development, and enhancements.

In addition, almost 99 percent of the BLM lands under YFO management will continue to provide the public with free recreational opportunities. These free recreational opportunities do not offer the developed amenities that the AFRS provide such as trash collection, potable water, vault or flush toilets, improved access routes or any ADA/ABA access.

Table 10. Priority Expenditures

Secondary Projects	Estimated Costs	Project Description
Site Activity Plan for Imperial Dam Recreation Area	\$50,000	One-time Cost
Develop and Implement Fortuna Pond AFRS	\$500,000	Phase 1: Road Access, Camp Host Site, Sewer, Water, Power, Vault Toilets
Implement Fortuna Pond AFRS	\$300,000	Phase 2: Picnic Tables, Fire Rings, Grill Stands, Trash Collection and Contract
Implement Fortuna Pond AFRS	\$350,000	Phase 3: Fish Cleaning Station, Native Vegetation and landscaping, Reservation System
Priority Projects	Estimated Costs	Description
85K gallon water tank replacement at Imperial Dam Recreation Area.	\$500,000	One-time Cost
Update the Safety Rail at Senator Wash Day Use Area.	\$100,000	One-time Cost
Replace Well House, 2 Restroom Facilities on Senator Wash South Mesa and 1 at Senator Wash Boat Launch Day Use Area.	\$1,300,000	One-time Cost for the 4 buildings
Increase the number of vault toilets in the Senator Wash area	\$200,000	One-time Cost for 3 double vault toilets. Addt Service and Maintenance Fees
Repair and replace segments of the concrete Senator Wash Boat Launch	\$200,000	One-time Cost
5G cellular Booster for Senator Wash Contact Station and Oxbow	\$2,400	One-time Cost
Develop and Install Cashless Payment System for AFRS	\$100,000	One-time Cost
Connect Oxbow Campground to the electric power grid.	\$350,000	One-time Cost

Table 11: Secondary Expenditures

9 Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates

The YFO has used the fair market value method in calculating the amenity fees for its recreation sites. This method is based on comparisons to public and private recreation sites with similar facilities throughout Arizona (Table 12). These fee schedules were researched by YFO staff during the winter of 2023/2024. Similar boondocking or dry camping locations within the Southwest region charge anywhere from \$15.00 - \$25.00 per night (\$300 - \$500 per month) and require reservations, often having to be made months in advance. The ease and accessibility of visits to YFO’s Amenity Fee Recreation Sites coupled with the abundance of amenities and services make the program a viable choice for all.

Table 12: Fair Market Value Fee Comparison

Campground or Day Use Area Name	Agency/Operator	Current Campground or Other Fees	Amenities Offered	Key Differences
Imperial Dam Recreation Area Amenity Fee Sites: Senator Wash South Shore, Senator Wash North Shore, Senator Wash Boat Launch, T.K. Jones Campground, T.K. Jones Boat Launch	BLM/YFO	Standard Amenity/Day Use Fee \$10.00 Expanded Amenity/Overnight Fee \$15.00 Annual Pass allowing 14-days in a 28-day Period \$75.00	Camp Host on site, Contact Station, Boat Launch(s), Vault Toilets, Flush Toilets, Token Operated Showers, Picnic Tables, Grill Stands, Trash Bins, Potable Water Point, Dump Station, Boat Docks.	Some Amenities are shared with the Long-Term Visitor Program 9/15–4/15
Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch	BLM/YFO	Standard Amenity/Day Use Fee \$10.00 Expanded/Overnight Fee \$15.00 Annual Pass allowing 14-days in a 28-day Period \$75.00	Camp Host on site, Boat Launch, Boat Dock, Vault Toilets, Picnic Tables, Grill Stands, Trash Bins, Interpretive Panels, Improved Tent and R.V sites	This is a Year-round Amenity Fee Only Site.
Organ Pipe National Monument: Twin Peaks Campground	NPS	TPC: \$20 per night	Flush Toilets, Free Solar Showers, Potable Water, Tent and RV Sites	\$5 more per night over BLM
Organ Pipe National Monument: Alamo Canyon Campground	NPS	ACC: \$16 per night	charcoal grills, tables, a pit toilet and trash cans.	Standard Amenities
Organ Pipe National Monument: Back Country Camping	NPS	BCC: \$5 permit	No Amenities	No Charge for Backcountry use in YFO
Arizona State Parks: Patagonia Lake State Park	ASP	Day Use \$15 per vehicle Boat In Sites: \$25 per night	105 developed sites, 20/30/50-amp hook ups Picnic tables, grill rings,	Additional fees for extra vehicles. Similar rules as BLM

Campground or Day Use Area Name	Agency/ Operator	Current Campground or Other Fees	Amenities Offered	Key Differences
		Drive in site: \$25 - \$30 per night Cabins: \$119 per night		
US Forest Service: Bog Springs Campground	USFS Nogales Ranger Dist.	Single site: \$20. With Golden Age/Access or Interagency Senior/ Access pass: \$10. Day use outside campground: \$8 day use fee, or a Forest Pass.	Tent camping, Fee charged for some activities, Picnic tables, Toilets, Drinking water, Parking	Standard amenities

10 Impacts from Changing and Not-Changing Recreation Fee Rates

Consistent with the Department of the Interior and BLM priorities, the BLM Yuma Field Office seeks to achieve environmental justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility and make a difference in effected communities through expanding recreational access and opportunities and providing for natural resource interpretation. This includes to:

- encourage, facilitate, and improve partnership with and access for youth, tribes, and underserved communities to public lands through recreation partnerships and collaborations.
- improve public health and safety at developed recreation sites and areas by updating and modernizing infrastructure—including meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities.
- invite education, interpretation, and recreational access for all Americans, especially for diverse populations and those near urban areas to encourage enjoyment of BLM-managed public lands and waters.
- collaborate with community members, government organizations, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and other stakeholders to address environmental and health-related challenges for recreation management.
- enhance understanding of environmental and health-related issues at the community level.
- improve methods for identifying, addressing, tracking, and measuring progress toward achieving environmental justice.
- and develop and support youth education and outreach programs.

The BLM Yuma Field Office has not updated the Amenity Fee Recreation Site business plan nor made fee changes since 2008. This has been due in part to administrative changes, staffing

shortages, global pandemic, and the dissolution of the Resource Advisory Council (RAC), which has since been restored.

In the years since 2008 the rate of inflation has increased by over 46%. This has led to increased costs for all contracts, services, maintenance costs and staff that were previously able to be managed with revenues drawn from the existing fee rates.

The YFO strives to maintain operations within the 95% cost recovery of revenue earned. Currently the YFO is in the low 60 percentiles of cost recovery with combined funding from both the LTVA and AFRS programs. The level of collected revenue compared to program expenditures has made the AFRS program extremely difficult to manage and operate.

Limited funding presents issues that hinder continuity of operation in the program in health and safety for the public, staff, and volunteers. Additionally, this lack of funding has caused shortages in amenities and services offered, along with shortages in environmental protection and safeguards, and shortages that affect visitors' quality public land experience. Staffing has intentionally been held below recommended levels to not exceed budget limitations. In comparison if the BLM/YFO AFRS Business Plan is approved and implemented, the required funding to address the growing use of the program and all the issues previously mentioned will exist and can be strategically deployed by agency managers. If this business plan is not approved, then the agency may consider what measures it can take to evaluate possible significant reductions in available sites and services and cut costs to address ongoing severe budget deficiencies.

If approved, the proposed business plan will allow for the changes needed to effectively manage the Amenity Fee Recreation Site program for future generations. If the plan is not approved, the BLM may face significant budget constraints that could impact the scope of services and amenities provided. Our goal remains to enhance and maintain a high-quality visitor experience.

The YFO took into consideration the potential impacts to minority or low-income populations from changing the recreation amenity fee schedule. The fee schedule proposals are most likely to affect low-income families who only periodically visit a YFO amenity recreation fee site for day-use activities. These families may be able to afford the \$10.00 per calendar day fee, or the \$20.00 overnight occupancy fee. The proposed \$200.00 annual permit would enable the public to begin saving money from the \$20.00 per night rate after only ten calendar overnight visits.

10.1 Environmental Justice

The three counties (La Paz County, Yuma County and Imperial County) where the AFRS sites are located have relatively high percentages of low-income population and minority-population. Increased revenue from the AFRS fees would contribute to the recreational opportunities for the local communities through enhanced maintenance of Amenity Fee Recreation Sites. It is the YFO's belief that adherence to the proposed plan of continued recreation site enhancements, and attaining recommended staffing levels for the program, will provide a better public land experience for all visitors regardless of socioeconomic status. It should also be noted that YFO manages an additional 1,850,000 acres of public land that offers additional recreational opportunities that do not charge fees.

A review of the socioeconomic indicators for the three counties where the AFRS sites are located nearby indicates the following characteristics (Tables 13 and 14):

Table 13: Analysis Area: Population

AREA	La Paz County	Yuma County	Imperial County	Arizona	California	United States
2016 Total Population	20,304	203,292	178,807	6,728,577	38,654,206	318,558,162
2016 Low-Income Population	52.4%	49.9%	50.4%	38.1%	35.2%	33.6%
Minority Population in 2016	41.1%	67.3%	88.1%	43.9%	61.6%	38.0%
Total Population in 2022	16,681	204,374	179,578	7,172,282	39,356,104	331,097,593
Low-Income Population in 2022	43.4%	43.9%	46.4%	30.8%	28.0%	28.8%
Minority Population in 2022	43.9%	70.8%	90.4%	47.0%	64.8%	41.1%
Median Household Incomes (\$) in 2016	44,423	50,717	52,054	62,793	78,011	67,663
Median Household Incomes (\$) in 2022	46,634	56,439	53,847	72,581	91,905	75,149
Income Changes from 2016 to 2022	5.0%	11.3%	3.4%	15.6%	18.8%	11.1%

Table 14: Analysis Area Median Household Income

AREA	La Paz County	Yuma County	Imperial County	Arizona	California	United States
Median Household Incomes (\$) in 2016	44,423	50,717	52,054	62,793	78,011	67,663
Median Household Incomes (\$) in 2022	46,634	56,439	53,847	72,581	91,905	75,149
Income Changes from 2016 to 2022	5.0%	11.3%	3.4%	15.6%	18.8%	11.1%

11 Public Outreach

Outreach methods to share information on how to provide comments on the draft business plan and fee proposal during the 45-day public comment period include:

- Flyers posted at proposed and existing sites or access points
- Public notifications on blm.gov visit pages for Imperial Dam Recreation Area including Senator Wash North Shore, South Shore, Boat Launch and Day Use Area, T.K. Jones Campground and Boat Launch, Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch, Betty's Kitchen, Ehrenberg Sandbowl, and the proposed Fortuna Pond Campground
- BLM news release
- Social media postings, and information on StoryMap
- Outreach to interested parties, local municipalities, and state agencies
- Federal Register Notice of proposed new fee site

These outreach methods comply with requirements established by FLREA and BLM policy.

Once the public comment period on the draft business plan is completed and any changes are made to the fee proposal as a result of analysis of the public participation, the YFO will present the business plan proposal to the Arizona Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) in 2024.

12 Appendices

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13 References

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), 2023, Consumer Price Index Retroactive Series (R-CPI-U-RS), U.S. City Average, All Items, <https://www.bls.gov/cpi/research-series/r-cpi-u-rs-home.htm>
- U.S. Census Bureau (USCB), 2023a, 2018-2022 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates and 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table>
- U.S. Census Bureau (USCB), 2023b, Cartographic Boundary Files, Year of 2022, Scale of 1:500,000 <https://www.census.gov/geographies/mapping-files/time-series/geo/cartographic-boundary.html>

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