

## Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

Individuals were in attendance both days, unless otherwise noted.

### Resource Advisory Council Members

Category 1: Commercial/Commodity Interests	Category 2: Environmental, Dispersed Recreation, Archaeological/Historic, Wild Horse & Burro Interests	Category 3: Elected Officials, Native American, Public-at- Large, Academia, State and Local Government Officials
Bill Brake	Sharma Torrens (virtual first day)	Robert Broscheid (virtual second day)
Steve Trussell (absent)	Michael Quigley (virtual both days)	Julie Engle (resigned from council)
Allison Ellingson	Eileen Baden	Paul David
Paul Baumgardt	Jill Bunnell (virtual both days)	Patrice Horstman
John JC Sanders	Aaron Divine	Larry Howery, Ph.D.

- **Designated Federal Official:** Raymond Suazo, BLM Arizona State Director
- **Governor's Representative:** Clay Crowder, Arizona Game and Fish Department
- **BLM Arizona's RAC Coordinator:** Dolores Garcia

### BLM Staff Attending In Person

Individuals were in attendance in person both days unless otherwise noted.

- Raymond Suazo
- Maile Adler
- Rem Hawes
- Mark Morberg
- Nancy Patterson
- Katie Miller
- Wayne Monger
- Todd Kirsch
- William Mack, Jr.
- Scott Feldhausen
- Michelle Ailport
- Dolores Garcia
- Steven Ala
- Jason VanBuskirk
- Rick Selbach

### BLM Staff Attending Via Zoom

- Luke Hutchinson

- Robert Walter
- Robert Bate
- Anthony Johnson
- Sharisse Flatt
- Randy Beckstrand
- Gera Ashton
- Peggy O'Reilly
- Chris Wonderly
- Elena Fink
- Michael Dixon
- Colleen Dingman
- Rick Tankersley
- Brandon Krebs
- Brady Young
- Edward Myers
- Ray Castro
- Greg Page
- Ryan Means (USDA)

**Public/Other**

- In Person
  - Randy Dahl
- Attending via Zoom
  - Cyndi Tuell
  - Robert Ragsdale
  - Michelle Mendelsohn

## **Day 1 - Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting Minutes:**

December 11, 2024

**08:05 Welcome - Facility Logistics**

**08:10 Opening Remarks and Introductions**

**Meeting Officially called to order by Chairman Bill Brake.**

### **Bill Brake:**

- Thanks the members for coming. The primary focus of this meeting of the RAC will be BLM recreation business plans. BLM has completed their public comment period for both groups of plans. We will be reviewing and providing recommendations for the second set of business plans. We also have a public comment period both days. Mr. Bill Brake starts with full RAC introductions.

### **Raymond Suazo (DFO):**

- Ray thanks the Quorum for coming. The primary focus of this edition of the RAC will be BLM recreation business plans with an emphasis on public comment period. We are standing by for news on budget information as the December 20 funding deadline is approaching.
- Ray goes over some personnel changes within BLM Arizona. District Manager (DM) Leon Thomas has moved to a new position in the state, and DM Scott Feldhausen will be retiring at the end of the year. Ray thanks Scott for his many years of service to BLM Arizona and the government.
- BLM Arizona is continuing ongoing project work throughout the state. There are estimated to be 50 renewable energy projects working through the approval process.
- BLM announced public comment period and opportunity for public meeting on US Army request for withdrawal of John R. Fox Range at Fort Huachuca.
- Phoenix District Office (PDO) continues to work with Army Corps of Engineers on Table Mesa Recreation Area.
- Colorado River District (CRD) is hosting an upcoming off-road race. Ray stresses the importance of these kinds of events to the local economies.
- Business Plans are imperative for this session. We will hear from the BLM team regarding the fee proposals via various presentations. Increased visitation has not come with increased funding and resources. We want to get advice and then consult with the new administration on how best to proceed.

**Q: Paul David:** With public consideration for fees, is there a social justice component for subsidizing sites? Is this found anywhere in the BLM mission? Could there be long term impacts for sites disappearing?

**A:** BLM considers impacts to local communities as part of its business plan analysis. As for the second part, yes, we are concerned about closures. If we do not have tools to manage sites, we could be forced to make choices such as closures. Closing sites can cause

significant impacts to public. We do not want this. This is about actively managing the recreation impact and continuing to offer sites to the public. Fee proposals are in areas where fees are already existing. Nancy will go in depth on land areas and further impacts.

**09:05            Introductions for those attending via online**

**09:10            BLM AZ Rec Fee Proposals Presentation – Nancy Patterson, State Office**

- See attached PowerPoint slides.
- General Overview session
- Emphasis on 100% fees being reinvested in that specific site
- Market analysis and public involvement are keys to developing proposals
- Broad outreach before, during, and after the public comment period, including ArcGIS StoryMap
- RAC has role to assess proposals
- Recreation funding has been flat, but visitation increase requires new funding approaches
- The public wants more recreation opportunities, we need to reach more broad section of public
- Importance of accessibility on public lands
- Six plans will be discussed during this RAC session

**Q: Bill Brake:** Can you confirm that, once the fee proposal is in place with the proposed fees, until there is a 20% CPI-U (Consumer Price Index-Universal) increase, fees would not be increasing?

**A:** Correct.

**A:** Additionally, there is general language in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) that fee increases are not a matter of just quantity. Visitor input and comments, demographics, user numbers, and ensuring understanding of the public during comment period are all factors. Public outreach is the key piece to get this information.

**Q: Patrice Horstman:** From start to finish with the CPI-U process, do we look at a year timeframe between market analysis, public notification, and determine adjustment, then the six-month rollout? So, in totality it would be a year before new fees are implemented?

**A:** Yes, that is an accurate timeframe.

- Ray stresses the importance of notifying the public of our intended plans

**Q: Paul Baumgart:** Can you clarify with these recreation plans being submitted and approved that any changes to fees incurred through the 20% increase in CPI-U index would apply only to current fee sites?

**A:** That is correct, only through the fee sites discussed in these plans. An entirely new business plan would be needed for additional/newly introduced fee sites.

**Q: Paul Baumgart:** With the current schedule and timeline, is there a situation that BLM staff could consider that a site needs to be adjusted before the 20% CPI-U index trigger, thus requiring a special emergency session for RAC?

**A:** All kinds of things can happen. If a particular situation at a location changes, a host of things may have us come back to the table to make proposals. We would then come to the RAC with those proposed changes. This could be possible in a unique situation.

**Q: Mike Quigley:** I do not see a role for the RAC in the PIM per the FLREA order, can you clarify?

**A:** This current RAC session/meeting we are in is in fact a part of the public participation process. Having public comment periods and RAC sessions is what puts us in compliance.

- Mike Quigley suggests more RAC involvement in the narrative of the PIM.

**Q: Mike Quigley:** I notice there are no discounts for locals or specific user groups. How are multi-day and annual passes sold at a discounted rate?

**A:** The FLREA does not have an authorization for discounts for locals or specific user groups. BLM may use America the Beautiful passes and site-specific passes. All America the Beautiful passes provide entry to standard amenity fee sites. Only the America the Beautiful senior and access passes provide discounts for certain expanded amenity fees.

**Q: Eileen Baden:** with high electricity cost and how varying the cost differences can be, if the cost in electricity goes up, would this be considered in the RAC planning?

**A:** Any new proposals to changes in fees not under the fee umbrella of 20% CPI-U trigger would need to come back to the RAC for discussion. In the case of an electricity charging station, it would be outside of the 20% CPI-U increases, so we cannot just raise fees to match the increase in electricity price. We would need to bring this proposal to the RAC via business plans.

- Eileen Baden comments with a suggestion on continuation of asking for public input on social media and online channels.

**Q: Allison Ellingson:** Have you gone back “X” number of years to see when the last 20% increase was triggered?

**A:** We did not put a general timeframe on this, as the number of years or timeframe for inflationary increases has varied.

**10:15          Convenience Break**

**10:38            BLM Arizona Recreation Business Plan Proposals Presentation – Phoenix District Campgrounds - Maile Adler, State Office**

- See attached PowerPoint slides.
- Paul David suggests the BLM may want to review their statistics provided in regard to electricity

**Q: Jill Bunnell:** Is the desire to make the sites self-sustaining? Partial funding from other sources? Is there a certain percentage breakdown?

**A:** The number presented today was just annual operating costs, we are using other funding sources to maintain and enhance sites. The intent is to keep up with inflation and rising costs. We also have sites that require law enforcement presence, which adds more to those costs.

- Pauline Horstman comments: It is always frustrating to put in effort on getting public information out and getting low returns on the number of comments. Agree that we need to look to different methods such as cost recovery and analyzing fair market value. The pricing of these plans seems reasonable. We have not raised prices in many years, and we need to potentially look at an automatic method or trigger for future increases based on fair market value.
- Eileen Baden comments: Most people are seeking outdoor recreation opportunities within 10 miles from home, excited to see your sites close to the Phoenix Valley based on new evidence. Excited to see variety of uses.
- Bill Brake comments: The Forest Service has previously shut down sites due to cost. We are trying to keep our sites open. Closing campsites would be a disaster.

**11:22            Break for Lunch**

**13:00            BLM Arizona Recreation Fee Proposals Presentations - Arizona Strip District – Stateline Campground - Wayne Monger, District Manager**

- See attached PowerPoint slides.

**Q: Paul David:** During the wintertime in northern Arizona do you plow snow at any sites?

**A:** We do not get much snow at the elevation.

**Q: Mike Quigley:** For the sites that would need to be reserved online, is there no ability to show up and pay? Do you have a sense folks may not have internet access on the trail to purchase reservations?

**A:** Yes, but we would have scan and pay at a first come/first serve. Additionally, there are only eight sites at the campground.

**Q: Paul Baumgart:** On other business plans the cost of trash service was included, any reason why it is not mentioned here?

**A:** We tried to balance between amenity fee types. Often, we pick trash up ourselves while passing by.

**13:19            BLM Arizona Recreation Fee Proposals Presentations – Gila District –Safford Field Office and Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Recreation Fee Sites and Areas, and Tucson Field Office Recreation Fee Sites and Areas - Scott Feldhausen, District Manager**

- See attached PowerPoint slides.

**Q: Paul Baumgart:** I noticed there is a fee for Gila Box boat put-in area, what is fee used for?

**A:** Funding is earmarked for BLM staff to perform river patrols, trash collection, and other training/maintenance.

**Q: Mike Quigley:** On the comment period, as for the written material, can you summarize Graham County's comments?

**A:** (Paul David speaks): One County Supervisor spends time at Hot Well Dunes, and they concur that this is a reasonable fee increase based on projected rise in tourism and impact on the local economy. With the exception of first responders for accident response and the expected traffic increase, Graham County's comments were positive overall.

- Mike Quigley comments: displacement to non-fee areas is a potential concern for environmental degradation. Additionally, every proposal has a public comment period of 45 days. The numbers on responses here are low, just wanting to point that out.
- Bill Brake comments: Looking at the bottom right side of the map of Las Cienegas shows it as private land. The price on this land has exponentially increased. Near public lands the protections increase which correlate to increased price value and real estate takes advantage.

**Q: Paul David:** Ironwood Forest looks pristine, but as increase visitors, impacts multiply. Even though there is opposition to increasing fees, will this effect unlimited use?

**A:** Ironwood will be an interesting case as the fee may alter the use level. We are also looking at certain areas of the Forest for amenity sites.

**Q: Mike Quigley:** If I visit the San Pedro house to stop in and see birds, do I need to pay a fee?

**A:** Not currently, but that will be the case should these plans be implemented.

**Q: Mike Quigley:** In regard to Ironwood Forest National Monument, there are no amenities and the ISRP to monetize the backcountry fee- at what threshold do public comments trigger a change in business plans?

**A:** We did our best to manage what we can do within the constraints of FLREA. We acknowledge this is very different and difficult with special areas vs. fees for various sites. There is a "General public support" interpretation. We try to put out as much information to the public as possible. BLM's process is to summarize the comments in the business plans. We reviewed the comments and did not make changes based on the input to these plans. In the first round, we did change Kingman Field Office's plan based on public comment. We do have special areas in FLREA. If there is a designated special area, it is not by definition a standard or expanded amenity site. There is no requirement to provide amenities. In special areas, an Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) can be issued.

- Mike Quigley mentions a friends group comment discussing concern about partial fee area driving visitation and damage to certain areas. They would suggest a fee for the entire monument.

**14:34            BLM Arizona Recreation Fee Proposals Presentations –Colorado River District -  
Yuma Field Office Amenity Fee Recreation Sites - William Mack,  
District Manager**

- See attached PowerPoint slides.

**Q: Bill Brake:** If the river water level drops, what effects could this have on sites?

**A:** They are their own water bodies, with different feeders/drainage. There are no issues at this time. We do have water levels drop occasionally, but not at levels where recreation would stop.

**Q: Paul David:** Is there a correlation between high temperatures and visitor decrease?

**A:** We found that this is not the case and local visitors enjoy the high temperatures regardless.

**Q: Bill Brake:** Do you have a breakdown in the number of visitors between California and Arizona?

**A:** This number is coming in next presentation

**15:20            BLM Arizona Recreation Volunteer/Youth/Education EOY FY2024 Report – Maile  
Adler/Brooke Wheeler**

- Tucson Field Office – Friends of the San Pedro River Received the Outstanding Volunteer Group Award of the year in recognition of their exceptional contributions to the Tucson Field Office over the past forty years.

#### **15:30 BLM Arizona District Manager - District Updates - GDO**

- Backfilling Scott's DM position and preparing for the administration's transition
- Exploratory mining projects
- Sentinel Landscape
- Restoration landscape
- San Pedro River groundwater impacts
- Acquired the Coke Ovens

**Q: Allison Ellingson:** Are there any areas with dual/competing applications? Ex. conservation and solar.

**A:** No.

- Jill Bunnell commends the BLM, wanted to discuss volunteer information and numbers. Other than monetary value, encourages BLM to increase volunteer program. Her family person works doing trail maintenance as volunteers. Volunteer hours have decreased after pandemic. She asks the BLM to please continue putting effort into volunteering partnerships.

#### **15:40 BLM AZ District Manager - District Updates - AZSDO**

- Herd Management Area on southern part of Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, working on burro gather request
- Moving to new office location progressively
- BNIK Monument commission applicant submissions sent to HQ.
- Prescribed burns

#### **15:45 Public Comment Period Begins**

##### **Cyndi Tuell - Western Watershed**

*I have appreciated the presentations, time, and energy spent on business proposals. After listening to presentations, I thought of an idea where recreating users are charged monthly fee per use. I want to remind folks that the majority of people using BLM lands aren't the ones who own the wineries or ranches, they are just trying to find good times outdoors. Adding fees to our lives is not good. It has impact on families just trying to enjoy outdoors. I look forward to an analysis on livestock permitting. There are costs with unauthorized grazing. Seventy-nine million was appropriated for rangeland management and 40 million for grazing permits. There was a 60.7-million-dollar loss in the 2019 research report. If we cannot afford to manage sites we should close them- this should also apply to grazing.*

**15:50** **JC Sanders assumes as acting RAC Chair for Bill Brake**

**15:55** **BLM AZ District Manager - District Updates - CRD**

- Working on stabilizing staffing, hiring of new FMs and AFMs.
- Renewable energy workload team is fully functioning
- Burros to date gathered 14,000 since 2017. Continued work on HMA levels.
- Completion of 10 West transmission line. One new solar project approved.

**Q: Larry Howery:** With 14,000 burros gathered since 2017 is 2,000 a year a number you aim for?

**A:** No, we have national approved gathers and then nuisance gathers. We follow the national approval number for gathers.

State Director opens the floor for general discussion.

**Q: Eileen Baden:** Can you discuss the recreation conference that occurred in another BLM state?

**A:** BLM states began holding recreation summits in 2024. Arizona was not in the first round of states that had summits. We are tentative on mid-2025 for our summit.

- Bob Broscheid mentions the importance of collaborating on recreation between local, state, tribal and federal entities.
- Clay Crowder: As part of BLM embarking on 21st century recreation plan, it would be good to see BLM gathering current survey respondents at a statewide level. The plans presented to the RAC referred to survey numbers from previous years.

**16:15** **Public Comment Period Closed**

**Q: Aaron Divine:** There was recent reporting from U.S. Forest Service in Flagstaff that they were bracing for a hold on seasonal hires. Are you at the BLM anticipating displacement or hiring freezes?

**A:** The budget situation is different. We are looking at potential impacts to lands adjacent to Forests.

**16:20** Meeting start time for Day 2 adjusted to 9:00 a.m.

**16:25** **Acting RAC chair adjourns meeting.**

## Day 2 - Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) Meeting Minutes:

December 12, 2024

**09:05** Meeting started by RAC Coordinator and turned over to Chairman Brake to bring to order.

**09:10** BLM AZ Rec Fee Proposals Presentation (cont'd) – Yuma Field Office Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVA) - William Mack, District Manager

- See attached PowerPoint slides.

**Q: Bill Brake:** What is the definition of long term?

**A:** The LTVA long-term season is seven months.

**Q: Sharma Torrens:** Regarding La Posa, I am hearing that the Quartzsite community is concerned about visitor rate. We understand that BLM needs fees. One alternative proposed was leasing land to city. Can you address the visitor rate concerns and the leasing?

**A:** We currently have many people visiting, and the dump stations are overrun. The district is working with the city because the city dump and trash are also being overrun. The city water being affected. We are not sure based on the land designation about leasing as per the special recreation area designation.

- Bill Brake notes that the city will raise their own rates based on passing fee increases.

**Q: Paul David:** Aravaipa has a limited per-day visitor number due to landscape impact. My question is, how much can that desert area with additional impact be sustained before over capacity?

**A:** There is not an actual limit to the number of visitors. However, where the LTVA stops is where dispersed camping starts. There is not a limit to number of permits issued, but as per the dispersed camping it is not controlled. Most areas have road access already, and dispersed campers are generally behaved.

- Eileen Baden comment: Like the wastewater treatment plant, costs increase during warmer weather and will fluctuate. For those folks with big RV's, they will be fine with bigger fees. It would be good to look at incremental fees broken down- for example not having to pay all at once.
- Ray: When we looked at cost and volume, the first suggestion of rough numbers was at a very low cost per day. \$1,500 was the initial push. Between contractors and services, we weigh everything. \$600 is still a fair price to us to meet challenges we face. We had

DSDs that went out to a public meeting with a congressman. We have trimmed staffing and removed positions altogether in some cases and still require these fee increases.

- JC Sanders comment: we all need to understand the business plan is about the fee amount. A lot of comments were recommending implementation methods. The BLM has the decision on implementation, it is on the RAC to discuss the fee amount.

**Q: Paul David:** If dispersed camping is allowed in areas immediately next to the LTVA, why would the public not just stay on other side of line for free? Could there be a buffer zone added between the two areas?

**A:** That has been a topic of discussion already, how we are going to organize the area. We talked about barriers, markers, and cornering off areas. We would need to fence the main road. We are still actively trying to figure out best courses of action on this. Some conversation points have included the sense of community that LTVA visitors feel.

- Bill Brake comment: We are here to discuss fees. We are not able to see years into future, but we are hoping to make a way to move forward. The government mentions selling the cost per day rather than fee for season in entirety. Bill suggests looking at better advertising.

**Q: Eileen Baden:** Can you talk about foreign visitors?

**A:** Various discussions with varying answers. PowerPoint shows visitation locations. Folks visiting the LTVA come from a variety of locations. FLREA is based on individual sites and amenities and not demographics.

- JC Sanders mentions that the price of fuel directly correlates with visitation numbers

#### **Bill Brake opens floor for comments**

- **Sharma Torrens:** Listening to the business plans, this has been long time coming, seems necessary to just get back to even on costs. I have discussed comments on visitor rates with constituents. There are many fee-free areas within BLM for dispersed camping. Overall, it is not sustainable to continue as is without increasing fees. Closing sites would be a worst-case scenario for all. Very supportive of plans.
- **JC Sanders:** Appreciate all the work that went into the plans. Rates should have been adjusted previously. I see camping as very important. Group camping, getting out of the home, visiting friends. Rates have nothing to do with these things. Prices vary throughout the US and can be exponentially higher. These fees are in line with the public.

11:00

**Public Comment Period Open**

RAC Coordinator stated that any member of the public who identifies that they wish to speak will be given an opportunity to do so. If no one identifies, we will continue with the agenda and monitor for anyone from the public wishing to speak within the allotted time on the agenda.

### **Robert Ragsdale, Retired game warden**

*I am not against increase in price, understand cost of business but have difficulty in understanding the LTVA fee increase proposal. It is obvious that many in the RAC room have not been here to the area. And you do not understand that these folks are not camping. These people live out here for a time of year. The reason they come is due to warm weather. It is not genuine to say that the fees are "only X per day..." Many people out here make less than \$1000 a month. Some are on social security. Inflation has gone up severely. To think it is no big deal is not the idea. People cannot afford to suffer this increase in price. I do not see the compassion. There are people out here that are not here by choice. These owners of large mobile homes can afford it, but charging the same amount to someone in a tent doesn't make sense. The amenities are horrible, and the water tastes bad. To think they should be charged the same amount across board is ludicrous. There are a lot of assumptions based on folks not in certain situations.*

### **Chairman calls for discussion/deliberation period prior to vote**

- **Bill Brake comments:** This is a fee discussion, a way to bring us up to where we should be. If passes, we should never have come up with these drastic increases again. There is a check and balance with this. We will see how this works out. We cannot lose sight that more than 95% of BLM land is fee-free camping. There is going to be more people in areas that we are not even discussing now. We are setting a groundwork for future.
- **Jill Bunnell** thanks public commenter Robert for showing up and stating his opinion and sentiments.

**Q: Jill Bunnell:** Does the LTVA area have a SRAMP? Are city/local/state and ADOT signed onto the plan?

**A:** Yes, there is a plan. The Management plan is for the recreation area only, it is not managed cooperatively through any type of MOU.

- **Jill Bunnell** follows up by mentioning the need to make a plan as the area is going to grow. It is not just problem for the BLM. There are socioeconomic impacts at Quartzsite. The ROW should be fenced by ADOT, not BLM. There is a worry that locals are being negatively affected. It has been proven better overall to disperse sites rather than growing one large one. The fees are fair, and there are thousands of other dispersed camping sites in the southwest.
- **Ray:** What you describe within the RMP is set at the national level. The Kingman Resource Area is due for an update. We also need to consider collaborative efforts with

these parties. I remind you that these visitors are not going to go away. We do need to consider these things. Planning needs to go beyond just the LTVAs.

- **Paul David:** This site is in response to a demand. The public mandate is to maintain and improve the site. No agency has the resources to address socioeconomic impacts. I do not think this is in the BLM's mandate. I think it is outside the scope of what BLM does.
- **Mike Quigley:** I am discouraged by comments that promote subsidizing user activities and making breakeven. Americans are the owners of these lands. We will be taxed based on land management. Appropriation by Congress continues to be an issue. Certain activities/amenities and fees I am a fan of and support. But these are very specific activities and amenities. We are about to put two million dollar/per year addition to users at BLM Arizona sites conjunctively.
- **Patrice Horstman:** I want to thank the presenters and work on the plans. I appreciate the time and attention. Nothing is perfect, but we cannot let that get in the way. I am supportive of the plans presented. We are in fact putting a large burden on taxpayers. But part of the reason is that no action has been taken in 20 years. It would be wonderful if Congress appropriated funds to manage lands accordingly. Public lands need to be paid for. It is important for us to analyze and utilize fair market value. I am in favor of the fee increases via the CPI-U index.
- **Eileen Baden:** I just want to reiterate the importance of having the Recreation Summit this year. If we do not, we are not discussing best way to serve the public. It is important to avoid a patchwork of fees. Imperative to get together and touch base and address needs of public.
- **Ray** mentions that BLM Arizona is on the forefront of managing recreation on public lands and he plans to discuss expanding and modernizing recreation access with the incoming BLM and Interior leadership.

11:30

**Public Comment Period Ends**

**[RAC Coordinator confirms quorum is present.]**

**Chairman Brake calls for motion to enter voting on recommending all six plans for implementation as written and presented.**

- Sharma Torrens motions to implement the six business plans as presented
- Patrice Horstman seconds the motion
- Mike Quigley: motion to amend- Amendment to strike all mentions of CPI-U from future recreation fee directives
- Allison Ellingson seconded the motion
- Discussion: No discussion

- **Vote taken to allow amendment:**
  - **2 in favor – 11 opposed; amendment was voted down with majority**
- Mike Quigley: motion to amend BLM Arizona Recreation Fee Plans and to remove sections 5.1.2 Ironwood Forest NM, 5.1.3, Las Cienegas NCA, and 5.1.4 San Pedro Riparian NCA from the Tucson Field Office Sites and Areas business plan.
- Motion failed: No one seconded the motion
- Sharma Torrens motions again to move forward with a vote on the six business plans as proposed
- Patrice Horstman seconds the motion
- **Vote taken to recommend the six business plans:**
  - **11 in favor – 2 opposed; Recommendation for the six business plans passed with majority**

#### **11:40 Chairman Brake gives final remarks**

- Bill reminds BLM that we voted on fees, please give us a report on how these plans work out. We want to see DM reports from the DM.
- Ray mentions hearing from neighboring states and other parties, he would not be surprised if the RAC receive outreach. This may also be a way of thinking through local items. There are opportunities for us in the RAC to learn from each other.
- Paul David applauds the process and hearing viewpoints from opposing sides.
- Mike Quigley: Thanks Paul for his comment. There are no hard feelings being in a minority. Looking forward to next RAC.

#### **11:45 RAC Chair Adjourns Meeting – Next meeting has not been scheduled**



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

# BLM Arizona Recreation Fee Proposals Overview

Presentation for the Arizona Resource Advisory Council - December 11, 2024



BLM Stateline Campground



# Overview Session

At this session, BLM will share:

- Why these draft business plans were developed
- Introduce the fee proposals and process

The BLM seeks the RAC's recommendation to implement the proposed recreation business plans.



Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Area,  
BLM Safford Field Office



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



**BLM Las Cienegas National Conservation Area**

Photo by Artist in Residence Alan Nyiri/BLM Arizona



# Why Now?

Visitation climbed  
from 4.9 million in  
FY19 to 6.8 million  
in FY23

Operating expenses  
have increased

Recreation funding  
has been flat

Funding methods  
vary and can be  
time-limited

Some fee sites have  
not increased fees  
in 20+ years

Market analysis: BLM  
fee rates below other  
providers + recreation  
user interests evolved



# Overview

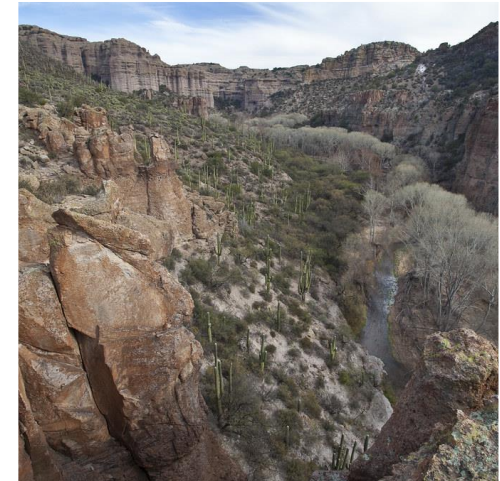
## Phoenix District Campgrounds



## Stateline Campground



## Safford Field Office



## Tucson Field Office



## Yuma Field Office Amenity Sites



## La Posa & Imperial Dam LTVAs





# Recreation Fees Contribute to Maintenance: Yuma FO Long-Term Visitor Areas & Amenity Sites

**Garbage Collection at La Posa LTVA**



**Maintaining Clean Recreation Areas**





# Recreation Fees Provide Site Improvements: Safford FO Campgrounds and Group Site

Fourmile Campground Vault Toilet



Flying "W" Group Site Shade Structure





# Recreation Fees Enhance Collaboration: Tucson FO Interpretation and Recreation Experiences

## Murray Springs Clovis Point Ramada



## Keeping Public Lands Clean





# Recreation Fees Improve Recreation Experiences: Wayfinding and Routine Care

## Boulders OHV Trail Signs



## Routine Cleaning and Site Care





# Recreation Experience Improvements: Recreation Dollars and Special Funds

## YFO Oxbow Amenity Site



## SFO Hot Well Dunes GAOA Project





# Blueprint for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Outdoor Recreation

*To provide exceptional and one-of-a-kind recreational experiences that invite all to share in the enjoyment and stewardship of their public lands.*



Grow and Diversify Resources for BLM Recreation

Prioritize and Embrace Partnerships

Expand Outreach and Establish a Culture of Inclusion

Meet the Demand, Protect Resources, and Improve Access

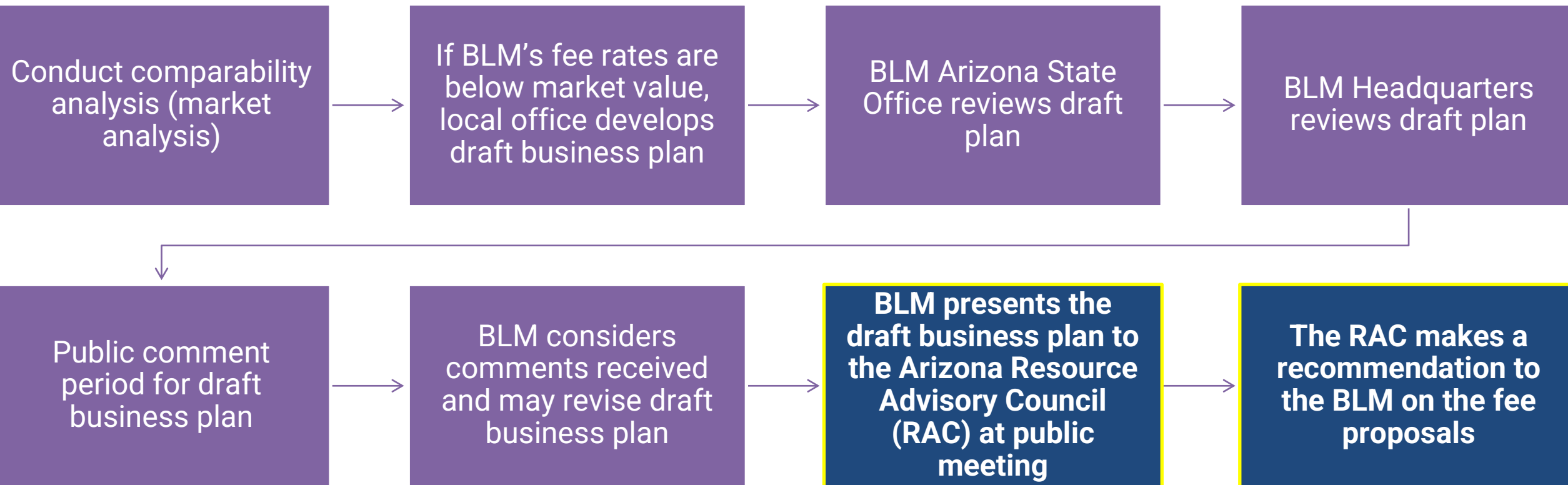


# BLM's Recreation Funding Strategies





# Recreation Fee Proposal Process





16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.

# **REVIEW OF THE FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT (FLREA)**



# FLREA (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.) Authority

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) allows the BLM to collect recreation fees at sites and areas that provide certain amenities and for the issuance of Special Recreation Permits.





100% of fees are reinvested directly  
back into the local recreation program  
to maintain and improve recreational  
opportunities



# How are recreation fees set?



MARKET ANALYSIS



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



# How Fees Are Used



Repair, maintain, and enhance facilities related directly to visitor access, and health and safety.

- Toilet cleaning
- Toilet pumping
- Supplies for restrooms
- Water system testing
- Site improvements



Interpretation, visitor information, visitor services, visitor needs assessments, and signs.

- Visitor services
- Wayfinding and Interpretive Signs
- Brochures
- Interpretive and Educational Programs



Law enforcement related to visitor use.

- Visitor and site safety
- Search and Rescue
- Support for local LE agencies



Habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.

- Habitat restoration projects with volunteers
- Boat cleaning stations



Direct operating associated with the recreation fee program.

- Park Ranger Labor
- Fee Compliance
- Site cleaning
- Visitor contacts



# **FLREA CATEGORIES, RECREATION PASSES, AND FEE FREE OPPORTUNITIES**



# What fee changes cannot be proposed through the business planning process?

- Fees for commercial, competitive, organized group or vending Special Recreation Permits – set by BLM Director
- Fees charged for use of the interagency reservation system – part of the Recreation-One-Stop Initiative



# FLREA Types in the Business Plans\*

FLREA Fee Category	Description
Standard Amenity (16 U.S.C. 6802(f))	Typically associated with a Day Use Fee. Site must include all 5 described amenities: Designated developed parking; A permanent toilet facility; A permanent trash receptacle; Interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk; Picnic Tables; Security services
Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C. 6802(g))	Provides specific and enhanced amenities (e.g., highly developed boat launch, campgrounds, reservation fee). Developed Campgrounds must include majority of 9 specific amenities: Tent or trailer spaces; picnic tables; drinking water; access roads; collection of fee; reasonable visitor protection; refuse containers; toilet facilities; simple devices for containing a campfire.
ISRP (16 U.S.C. 6802(h))	Individual Special Recreation Permits (duration varies). Associated with use of designated special areas.
Site-Specific Pass (16 U.S.C. 6804(c))	Site-Specific Pass (duration varies). Provides access to a particular recreation site or area.

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply. Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%.



# Recreation Passes

- Site-specific passes
  - Relate to the specific sites and have specific uses.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Passes
- America the Beautiful Passes:
  - Free: Military Pass, Access Pass
  - Paid: Senior Pass, Annual Pass





# How to Use Site-Specific Passes

## BLM Arizona Areas with Site-Specific Passes:

- Yuma Field Office Amenity Sites (Annual Decal)
  - Senator Wash North Shore, South Shore, Day Use and Boat Launch
  - T.K. Jones Campground and Boat Launch,
  - Oxbow Campground and Boat Launch
  - Proposed Fortuna Pond Campground
- Safford Field Office
  - Hot Well Dunes per Vehicle Annual Pass
- Tucson Field Office
  - Gila River Recreation Sites (Christmas and Shores) Day Use Annual Pass (Gila River Pass)
  - LCNCA: Empire Ranch and Airstrip Day Use Annual Pass (Empire Pass)
  - SPRNCA: Day Use Annual Pass (San Pedro Pass)



SFO Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area



# How to Use America The Beautiful (ATB) Passes

## Standard Amenity Sites

- All ATB passes and EKO passes
  - Senator Wash Day Use and Boat Launch
  - T.K. Jones Day Use and Boat Launch
  - Oxbow Boat Launch
  - Gila River Recreation Sites Day Use (Christmas and Shores)
  - Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA) Day Use
  - San Pedro Riparian NCA Day Use



TFO LCNCA Empire Ranch

## Expanded Amenity Sites

- Only Senior Pass and Access Pass provide discounts at expanded amenity campgrounds for individual campsites
  - Phoenix District Campgrounds
  - Stateline Campground
  - SFO: Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site, Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area, Owl Creek Campground, Riverview Campground, and the proposed Indian Break Rocks Recreation Area.
  - Gila River (Christmas and Shores) Campground



PDO Painted Rock Petroglyph Campground



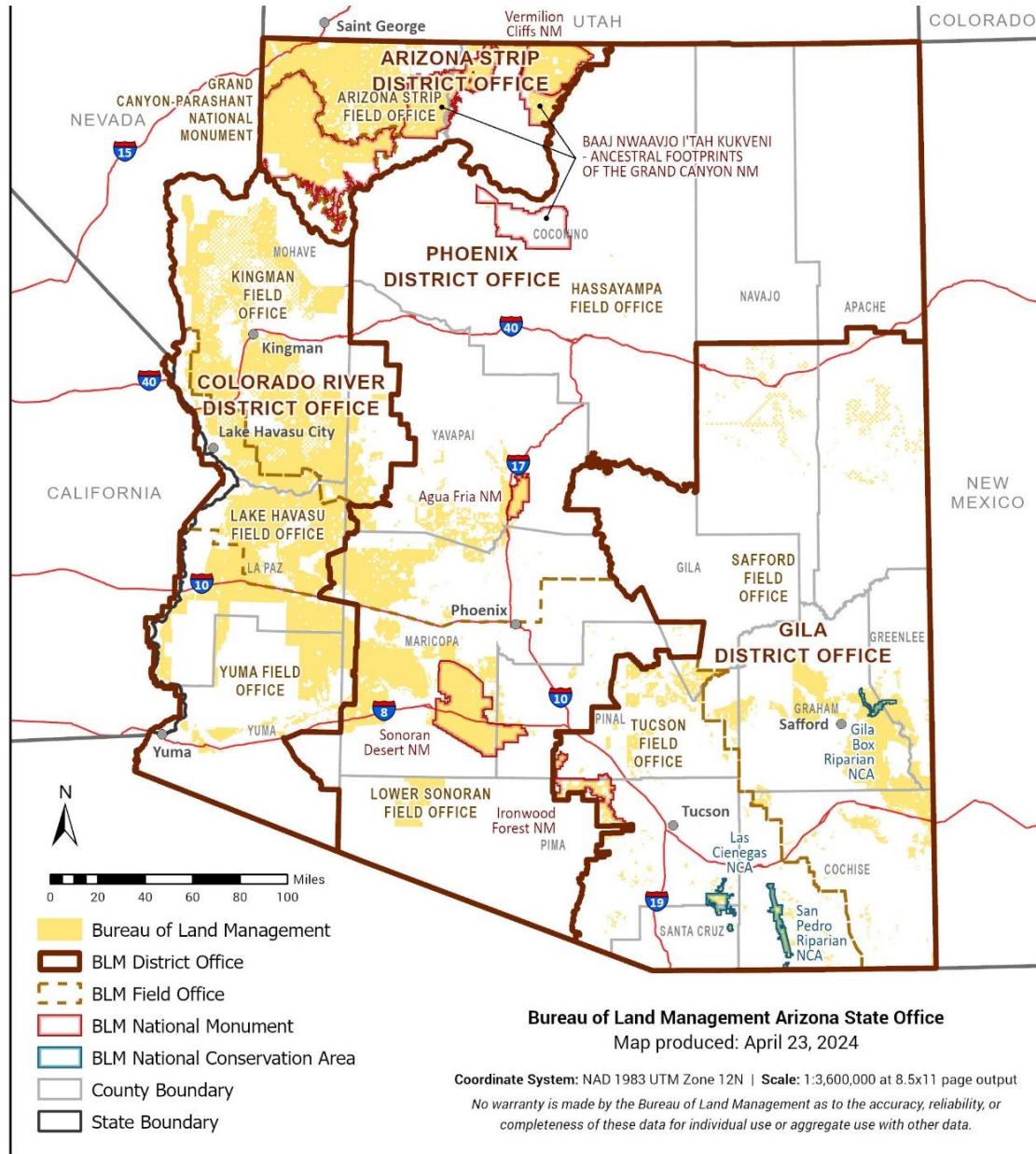
# Fee Free Day Opportunities

BLM Arizona sites with fee free days:

- Standard Amenity Sites (ATB and EKO)
  - Senator Wash Day Use and Boat Launch
  - T.K. Jones Day Use and Boat Launch
  - Oxbow Day Use and Boat Launch
  - Gila River Recreation Sites (Christmas and Shores)
  - Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA) Day Use
  - San Pedro Riparian NCA Day Use
- Other “Fee Free Day” Locations:
  - SFO: Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site, Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area, Owl Creek Campground, Riverview Campground, and proposed Indian Break Rocks Recreation Area.



YFO Oxbow Day Use and Boat Launch



11.9 million acres of  
BLM Arizona's 12.1  
million acres of public  
lands are available to  
enjoy fee-free.

BLM Arizona has 40+  
fee free developed  
recreation locations.



# Free Recreation Area Example: SFO Bonita Creek Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area





Proposal for Implementing the CPI-U for Future Fee Adjustments

# **IMPLEMENTING RECREATION FEE ADJUSTMENTS USING THE CPI-U MODEL**



# CPI-U: Proposed Future Fee Adjustments

- Use an index for routine adjustments to fees
- Avoid steep fee increases in the future
- Ensure fees evolve in tandem with the changing costs of goods & services

**Proposal: if/when there is a 20% increase in the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U) annual average, the BLM would have the option to adjust fees by 20%.**



# Permanent Instruction Memorandum

- Instruction for how to evaluate the CPI-U and implement fee adjustment
  - Evaluate change in CPI-U each year
  - Conduct market analysis
  - Determine fee adjustment
  - Receive State Director concurrence
  - Notify public



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Arizona State Office  
One North Central Avenue, Suite 800  
Phoenix, Arizona 85004-4427  
[www.blm.gov/arizona](http://www.blm.gov/arizona)



In Reply Refer to:  
2930 (9320) P

Permanent Instruction Memorandum No. XXXX

To: District Managers, and Managers, Recreation and Visitor Services Staff,  
Resource Advisory Board Coordinator, and Public Affairs Specialists

From: Deputy State Director, Resources and Planning

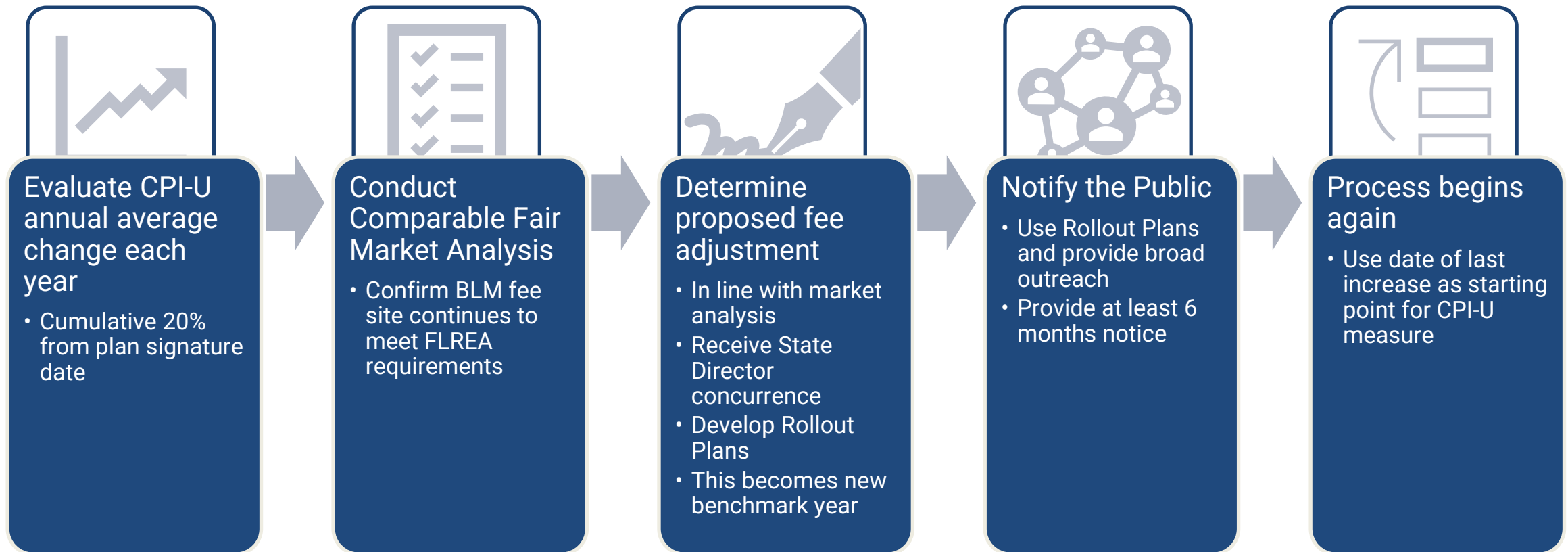
Subject: Implementing Recreation Fee Adjustments

**Program Area:** Recreation and Visitor Services

**Purpose:** The purpose of this Permanent Instruction Memorandum (PIM) is to establish policy and procedures for implementing recreation fee changes using the Consumer Price Index-Urban (CPI-U) in accordance with applicable laws, regulations, and policies. This policy helps ensure the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is providing and receiving a fair value for outdoor recreation opportunities, as well as ensuring transparency of the implementation process for the public and other stakeholders.



# Permanent Instruction Memorandum: Proposed Process



It is important to note that the adjustment is discretionary and is not automatic.



# Conduct Comparable Market Analysis

- Conduct new market analysis when Cumulative 20% change in CPI-U is reached
  - Use existing analysis in signed plans as starting point, plus any new sites or remove irrelevant sites
  - Sites should include places in relevant geographic area that charge fee and have comparable areas, amenities, and services
  - Include public and private sectors
- Proposed adjustment should be in line with the market analysis

Market research showed camping fees ranged from \$12 to \$25, with an average fee of \$15.80.

Table 5: Comparison of Developed Recreation Sites and Fees in Kane and Washington Counties, Utah

Recreation Site	Agency	Individual Site - Campsite Fee	Notes
Stateline Campground	BLM-ASFO	No fee	8-sites with two vault toilets and shade structures. The site has no water. The site is also the northern terminus of the Arizona National Scenic Trail.
Kodachrome Basin	State of Utah	\$25 per standard site with no hookups. \$35 per full hookup site. \$16 for additional vehicles. \$75 for group site, 15 vehicles max. \$16 per vehicle after 10 vehicles.	Fifteen sites with full hookups (13 reservable, two first come first serve). 20 standard sites (18 reservable, two first come first serve). One reservable double site. One reservable ADA site. Flush and vault toilet, hot showers, picnic tables, fire rings/grills, trash, power.
Red Cliffs	BLM	\$15	11 sites with shade shelters, picnic tables, potable water, accessible vault toilets, trash collection, and grills. Also provides historic and paleontological sites, hiking trails, <u>mountain biking, and horseback riding.</u>
Ponderosa Grove	BLM	\$12	Twenty-six car camping sites, 6 RV sites, two walk-in campsites, one group site (shade structure, fire pit, grill). Picnic tables, Parking stalls, gravel tent pads, pit toilets, <u>fire rings, dumpster.</u>
White House	BLM	\$12	Picnic tables, seven gravel tent pads, vault toilets, fire pit, five walk-in-tent camping sites.
Zion National Park (NP) South	NPS	Tent only \$20 Electric: \$30	117 sites with four group sites holding a maximum of 15 people, trash/recycling collection, staff on site, potable water, dump station, flush toilets, a picnic table, and a <u>fire ring. Also has tent and dry RV sites.</u>
Zion NP Watchman	NPS	Tent only \$20 Electric: \$30	176 sites with 7 group sites holding a maximum of 12 people for \$50 (max of 25 for \$90 and 40 for \$130), electric hookups, trash/recycling collection, staff on site, potable water, dump station, flush toilets, a picnic table, a fire ring, an amphitheater, and boat access. Also has tent and RV sites.



# Determine Proposed Fee Adjustment and Receive State Director Concurrence

- Fee adjustment should be in line with market analysis
- Receive State Director concurrence
- Develop Rollout Plans
- This becomes new benchmark year



# Notify the Public

- Provide at least 6 months advanced notice
- Use Rollout Plans and provide broad outreach
  - News Release
  - Update signs, websites
  - Share via additional communication channels



# BLM Recreation Fee Site Spending Plans and Accomplishment Reports (SPAR)

- Required by FLREA
- Each fee site and area publishes fee reports annually
  - Revenue
  - Expenditures
  - Planned future expenditures
- Report includes highlights and accomplishments



The screenshot displays the BLM Recreation Fee Site Spending Plans and Accomplishment Reports (SPAR) for the Lower Sonoran area. The report is titled "ARIZONA Lower Sonoran Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2023" and is published by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management. It features a header with the BLM logo and the text "Field Office". The report is organized into several sections:

- Painted Rock Campground**: Includes a photo of the site and a description of the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground. It states that the site is located west of Gila Bend and has 59 individual campsites and two large group sites, along with 2 vault toilets and 2 shaded picnic areas. It mentions that numerous comments from the public have been received about how Painted Rock has the cleanest restrooms of any campground. This is thanks to the cleaning contractor selected which takes care of the restrooms both in and out of season. The amount expended is \$52,432.13.
- Goldfield Recreation Area**: Includes a photo of the site and a description of the Goldfield Recreation Area. It mentions that in late FY23, Enforcement programs are providing public ensuring public. With the opening in FY23 and time was no experience, significantly fiscal year.
- Accomplishment Highlights 2023**: Lists other accomplishments, including processing new special recreation permit applications and ongoing monitoring of existing permit holders, and updating new and improved signage that has been ordered and is being installed within the Field Office.
- Vicinity Map**: A map showing the location of the Lower Sonoran area within Arizona.
- Planned Activities**: A section for planned activities.
- FY24 Planned Expenditures**: A table showing planned expenditures for FY24.
- Revenue & Expenditure**: A table showing revenue and expenditure for FY23.
- Box Canyon Shooting Sports Site**: Includes a photo of the site and a description of the Box Canyon Shooting Sports Site. It mentions that Park Ranger Labor including recreation area patrols, site maintenance and monitoring, \$50,000. Law Enforcement Services including area patrols, resource protection and visitor contacts, \$50,000. Shooting Sports Sites Maintenance (maintenance and monitoring Box Canyon) \$50,000.

The report also includes a footer with the text "Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. Current and future generations benefit as 100% of the funds collected are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value."

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/flrea-revenue>



Outreach, Feedback, and Responses

# **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**



# BLM AZ's Draft Business Plans

Phoenix District Campgrounds

Arizona Strip Field Office/Grand Staircase Escalante  
NM - Stateline Campground

Safford Field Office & Gila Box Riparian NCA

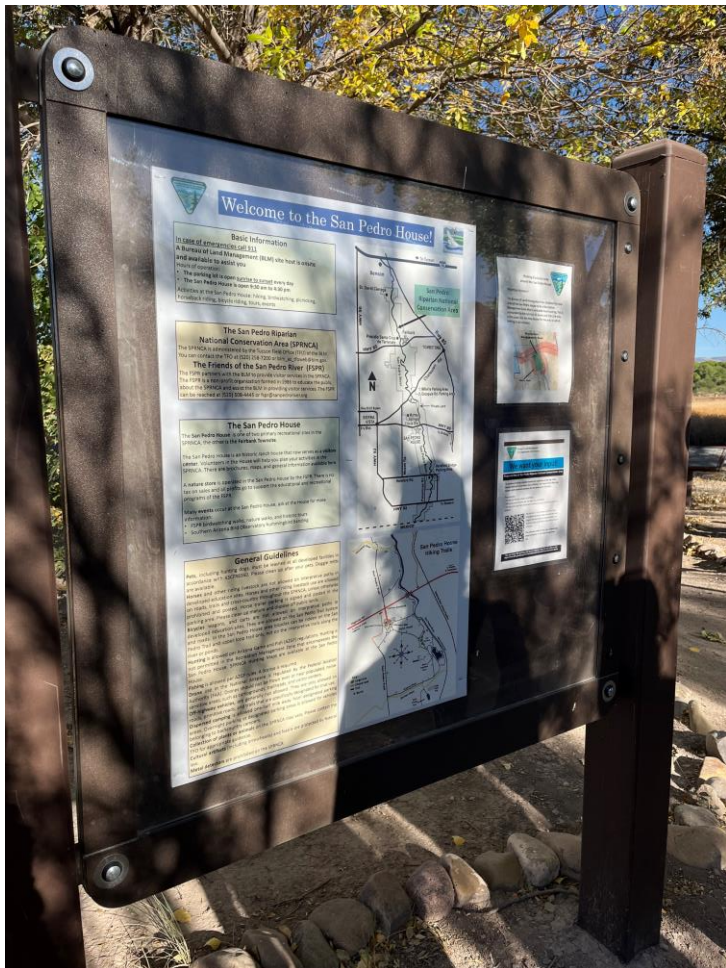
Tucson Field Office Recreation Fee Sites & Areas

Yuma Field Office Amenity Sites

Yuma Field Office Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs)



# Business Plan Outreach Before, During, and After the 45-Day Public Comment Period



Business Plan Flyer at San Pedro House





# Business Plan Outreach Before, During, and After the Public Comment Period Sept. 6-Oct. 21, 2024

- 12 information sessions and 2 public meetings conducted in person and virtually
- News Release and outreach to media outlets around the state
- Interactive ArcGIS StoryMap
- Plans and notices posted on BLM websites and recreation.gov visit pages
- Social media: Facebook, X, Instagram, YouTube
- Outreach to Tribes, Congressional staffs, Governor's office, federal and state agencies, county/municipal contacts, interest groups, Arizona and Utah Resource Advisory Councils
- Flyers posted onsite, in public rooms, visitor centers, and at area locations
- Emails sent to 9,700 former recreation users
- Mailers sent to 11,609 former recreation users
- Concurrence from the BLM UT State Director for Arizona RAC to serve as the lead RAC for the recommendation of the ASFO/GSENM Stateline Campground plan



# Draft Business Plans Website

All draft business plans  
are available at this site:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/business-plans>



[Home](#) / [Programs](#) / [Recreation and Visitor Services](#) / [Recreation Programs](#) / [Permits and Fees](#) / [Business Plans](#)

## Recreation Site Business Plans

BLM requires each recreation fee site or area to complete a business plan which analyzes and explains how fees are consistent with criteria set forth in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Business plans assist in determining appropriate fee rates, outline the cost of administering fee sites, and identify priorities for future expenditures. A primary purpose of the business plan is to serve as public notification of the objectives for use of recreation fee revenues and to provide the public an opportunity to comment on these objectives before a fee site is designated, or when existing site fees are adjusted.

### Draft Business Plans for Public Comment:

*Before including an address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifiable information in any comments, be aware that the entire comment - including personal identifying information - may be made publicly available at any time. Requests to withhold personal identifying information from public review can be submitted, but the BLM cannot guarantee that it will be able to do so.*

#### Arizona

### Public Comment Period Open

From **September 6 through October 21, 2024**, the Bureau of Land Management is seeking public input on six draft Recreation Business Plans that would modernize the way recreation fee sites are managed for certain locations within the Arizona Strip Field Office, Yuma Field Office, Phoenix District Office, Safford Field Office, and Tucson Field Office. [Read the announcement](#), and [view an interactive StoryMap of the locations](#).

#### Arizona Strip Field Office

- [Stateline Campground Arizona Strip Field Office/Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument Draft Business Plan](#)

#### Yuma Field Office

- [Yuma Field Office Amenity Fee Recreation Sites Draft Business Plan](#)
- [Yuma Field Office Long-Term Visitor Areas Draft Business Plan](#)

#### Phoenix District Office

- [Phoenix District Office Campground Fees Draft Business Plan](#)

#### Tucson Field Office

- [Tucson Field Office Recreation Fee Sites and Areas Draft Business Plan](#)

#### Safford Field Office

- [Safford Field Office and Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Recreation Fee Sites and Areas Draft Business Plan](#)

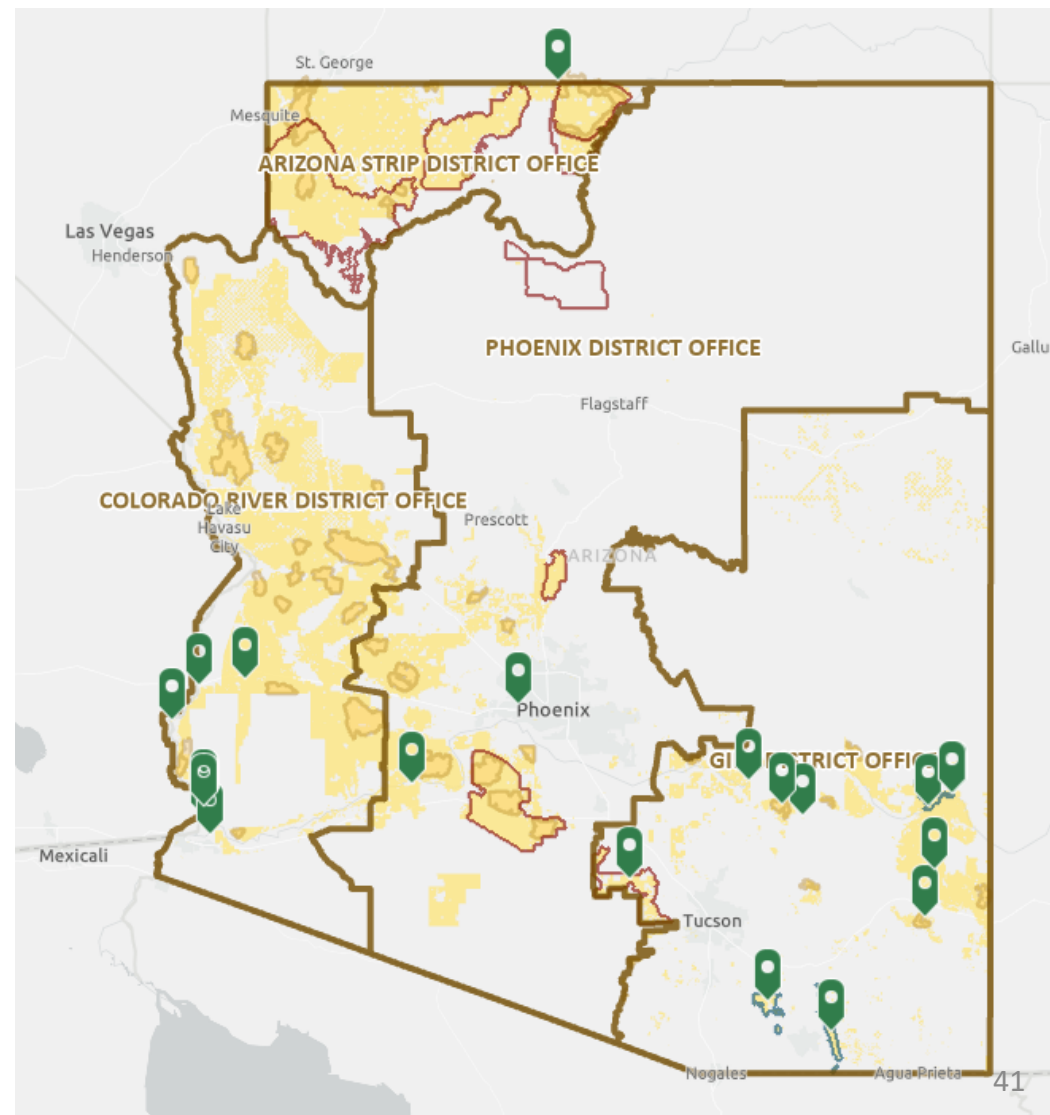


# Draft Business Plans StoryMap

The StoryMap is an interactive way to see the draft business plans.



<https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/35a4b7ec64a84113ad60c621cf118919>





# Common Comments Received

Common Comments	BLM Response
Changes to local economy/tourism	Fees informed by market research in surrounding geographic area.
Socio-economic concerns and impacts to underserved communities	Reviewed socio-economic impacts. Plans include descriptions of visitor demographics and environmental justice considerations. Fees informed by market research in surrounding geographic area.
Discounts for local residents and other groups	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.
Steep fee increases	CPI-U will help moderate fee increases in future to ensure fees evolve in tandem with ever-changing environment of the future and increasing costs.
Use of the CPI-U	This is proposed to establish the option to use the CPI-U as a model for future fee adjustments; it is not automatic. BLM is developing instructions for how this would be adopted.
E-commerce fees	E-commerce reservation fee is set through contracting requirements. First come first serve fee collection methods exist onsite.

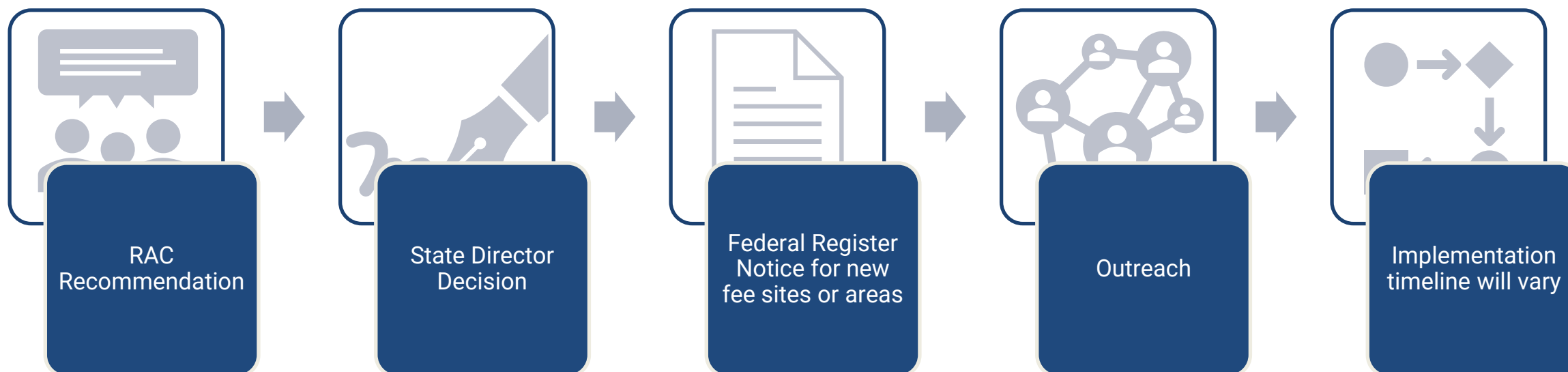


# “General Public Support” Interpretation

- The FLREA Section 4(d)(9) requires that “general public support” for recreation fee proposals be documented before the RACs can provide a recommendation on the proposal.
- The FLREA is clear that the agencies’ role is to expend the appropriate public outreach and participation effort commensurate to each project proposal and document the results.
  - Comments are gathered to inform the decisionmakers of possible issues or findings that were not previously considered.
- The role of the RAC is to assess the context of the proposal, benefits to the public and adequacy of the agency’s public participation efforts, and provide a recommendation based on that assessment.
- The primary question for the agencies is “do people support the recreation opportunities that are provided?” The secondary question is “how to best ensure long-term viability of the facilities around that opportunity?”
- It is the responsibility of public agencies to both assess public desires and demand and to ensure efficiency, accountability and consideration of costs and benefits.



# Next Steps







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

# Questions?



**Ironwood Forest National Monument**

Photo by Artist in Residence Alan Nyiri/BLM Arizona



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

# Phoenix District Campgrounds Business Plan

Presentation for the Arizona Resource Advisory Council – Dec. 11-12, 2024



Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground



# Purpose of Briefing

- Present BLM Arizona recreation business plan proposal, background information, outreach, and public comments received.
- Seek recommendation from RAC to implement the recreation business plan proposal.



# Overview of the District

- The Campground Business Plan is proposed by the Phoenix District Office.
- Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground currently has a fee.
- Four proposed campgrounds are included in the business plan.
  - Boulders OHV Area Campground
  - Table Mesa Campground
  - Estrella-Wayside Campground
  - Emery Henderson Campground



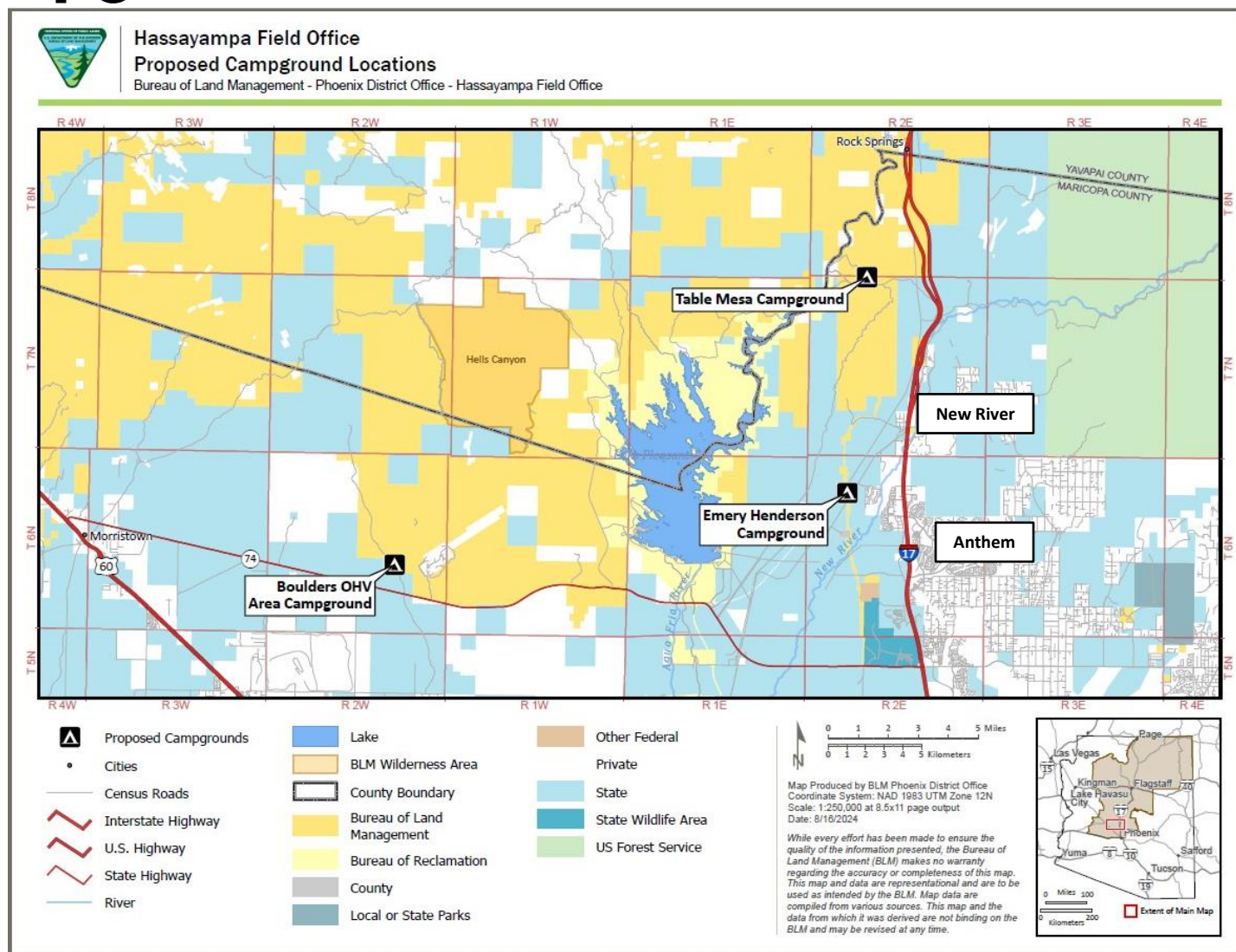
# Background: Fee Free Sites/Areas

- The Phoenix District oversees 3.1 million acres of public land, the majority of which are accessible at no cost, including:
  - Sophie's Flat
  - Little Pan Staging area
  - The Black Canyon National Recreation Trail and trailheads
  - Badger Springs
  - Harquahala Backcountry Byway



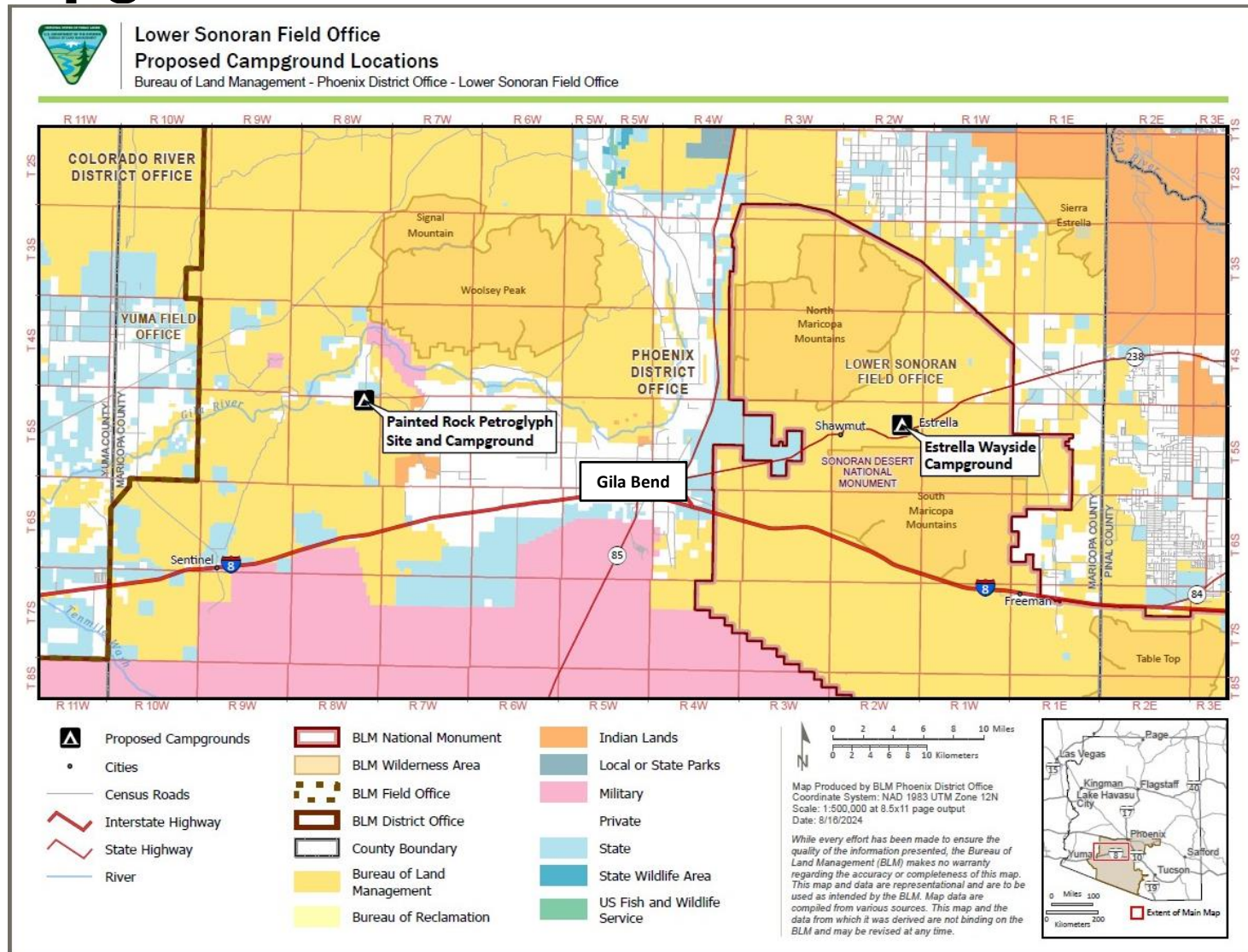


# Hassayampa Field Office Proposed Campgrounds





# Lower Sonoran Field Office Proposed Campgrounds





# Background and History of Proposed Campground Sites

- Boulders OHV Area is currently a moderately sized staging area for OHV trail access with high visitation in the winter months and is a popular site for dispersed camping. The site has few amenities with only vault toilets and a few picnic tables.
- Emery Henderson Trailhead is currently a developed trailhead for the Black Canyon National Recreation Trail. Amenities include vault toilets, ramadas, picnic tables, host sites and a paved parking lot.



# Background and History of Proposed Campground Sites (Cont'd)

- Table Mesa Recreation Area is located north of Phoenix and has been used for a variety of recreational activities including OHV riding, recreational target shooting, horseback riding, biking and hiking. No amenities are currently near the proposed campground area.
- Estrella-Wayside Recreation Area is part of the Sonoran Desert National Monument. New facilities are currently being built, and include primitive campsites, a visitor contact station, educational signage, parking areas and road improvements.



Table Mesa Recreation Area

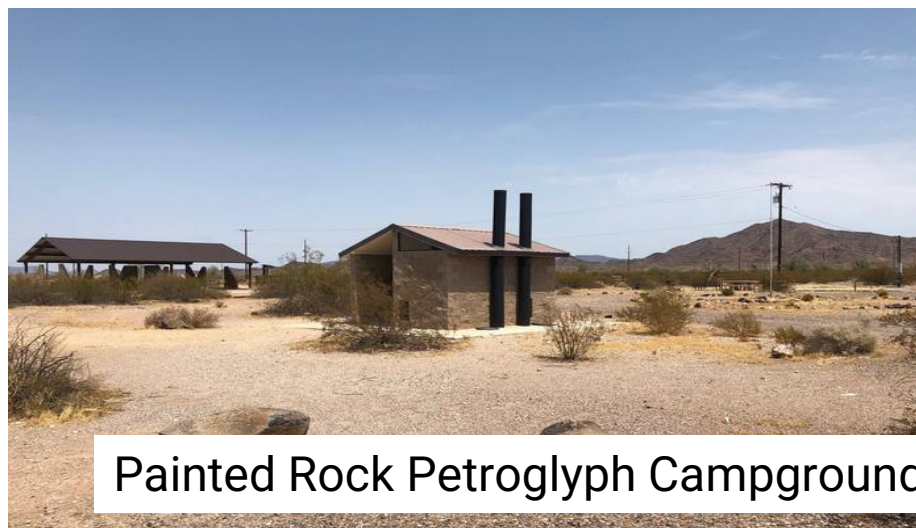


Estrella-Wayside Recreation Area

# Background and History

## Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground:

- Formerly a unit of the Arizona State Park system, jurisdiction of Painted Rock Petroglyph Site returned to the Bureau of Land Management in 1989.
- Located approximately 90 miles southwest of Phoenix, Arizona.
- The site provides visitors the opportunity to view an archaeological site containing hundreds of petroglyphs carved into rocks. This site is considered sacred to many of the Native American tribes in southern Arizona.





# Site Visitation

- 2024 Site visitation at both Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground is tracked by traffic counter.
  - Campground estimated visitation is 27,380.
  - Day use site estimated visitation is 27,901.



# Site Maintenance and Operations

- Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground maintenance and operations are handled by Park Rangers, Camp Hosts, and Outdoor Recreation Planners.
- Vault toilet cleaning is contracted.





# Site Improvements

- The Phoenix District recently completed accessibility upgrades to the Painted Rock Petroglyph Campground.
  - Paved pathways were constructed around the campground to provide improved access to toilets, picnic tables, and accessible campsites.
  - Improvements were funded by the BIL.
- Recreation fees would fund additional segments for improved connectivity.



Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and  
Campground Accessible Pathway



# Business Plan Proposal

- This business plan proposes
  - increases in the expanded amenity fee at Painted Rock Campground with the established standard amenity fee at the day use site being unchanged
    - proposal to remove the standard amenity fee for the day use site, upon further review, was revised to retain the current fee
    - it was determined the FLREA-required standard amenities exist between the petroglyph day use site and the campground
    - scan and donate is currently in use at the petroglyph site to collect funds
  - new proposed expanded amenity fees for the proposed campgrounds of Table Mesa, Boulders OHV Area, Emery Henderson, and Estrella Wayside.



# Painted Rock Campground Existing & Proposed Fees

Fee Description*	FLREA Fee Type	Year of Last Fee Increase	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Day Use Fee (per vehicle, individual, etc.)	Standard Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(f))	2005	\$2.00	Unchanged
Individual Campsite Use Fee	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	2005	\$6.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Non-electric: \$20</li><li>• Electric: \$30</li><li>• Senior and Access Pass holders: 50%</li><li>• Group Site per night: \$50</li><li>• Dump station fee: \$10</li></ul>

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# Fee Proposal for Planned Campgrounds

Fee Areas	Current Fees	Proposed Fees (Expanded Amenity)
Proposed Table Mesa, Boulders OHV Area, Emery Henderson, and Estrella Wayside Campgrounds	None; these campsites are proposed to be built in the future.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Individual Site per night:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Non-electric: \$20</li><li>- Electric: \$30</li><li>- Senior and Access Pass holders: 50%</li></ul></li><li>- Group Site per night: \$50</li><li>- Dump station fee: \$10</li></ul>

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# America the Beautiful Passes

- Painted Rock Campground and all the proposed expanded amenity campgrounds will accept both the Interagency Senior and Access pass.
- Per FLREA the Interagency Senior and Access passes will provide a 50% discount on expanded amenity fees associated with individual campsites.
- All ATB passes cover the standard amenity fee at the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site (day use site)



# FY23 Operating Costs Painted Rock Campground

Operation and Maintenance Expenses	Annual Costs (approximate)
Labor- Law Enforcement/Non-LE Patrols	\$35,000
Labor- Maintenance Staff	\$15,000
Labor-Administration	\$10,000
Restroom Cleaning Contract	\$15,000
Utilities (dumpster service, electric)	\$12,500
Vehicle Expenses (fuel, maintenance, etc.)	\$5,500
Vault Toilet Pumping	\$2,500
Camp Host Reimbursement	\$3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$99,000</b>



## Projected Operating Costs for Proposed Campgrounds (Table Mesa, Boulders OHV Area, Emery Henderson, Estrella Wayside)

Operation and Maintenance Expenses	Annual Costs (approximate)
Labor- Law Enforcement/Non-LE Patrols	\$20,000
Labor Maintenance Staff	\$10,000
Labor- Administration	\$8,000
Restroom Cleaning Contract	\$15,000
Utilities (trash, electric)	\$12,500
Vehicle Expenses (fuel, maintenance, etc.)	\$4,500
Vault Toilet Pumping	\$2,500
Camp Host Reimbursement	\$3,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$76,000</b>



# Annual Revenue for Painted Rock Campground

Revenue by Year	Total
FY 2019	\$51,632
FY 2020	\$27,753
FY 2021	\$38,187
FY 2022	\$63,394
FY 2023	\$41,582



# Future Projected Revenue (Average Per Campground) With New Fees in Place

Site Type	Estimated Number of Reservations	Total
Individual Site (non-electric): \$20 Senior/Access pass discount: \$10	2,500 4,000	\$50,000 \$40,000
Individual Site (electric): \$30 Senior/Access pass discount: \$15	Unknown at this time; number of campsites with hookups has yet to be determined.	Unknown
Group Site: \$50	250	\$12,500
Dump Station Fee: \$10	Unknown at this time	Unknown
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$102,500</b>



# Priorities for Future Expenditures

- Each year, the Phoenix District Office anticipates saving approximately 25% from each campground's annual revenue for long-term site maintenance and to reinvest into facilities and services that will promote program growth consistent with visitor demand.

Future Expenditures	Cost Estimate
Fee collection adoption - short term	\$10,000
Access road repair - long term, ongoing	\$15,000/year



# Priorities for Future Expenditures (Continued)





# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates

## Cost Recovery Method

- Full cost recovery for Painted Rock Campground, without the need for appropriated funding, is based on 4,000 individual campsite fees collected compared to the overall operating costs of \$99,000 per year and would be a fee of **\$24.75**.
- Without visitation data for the proposed campground areas, cost recovery cannot be calculated.



# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates (Continued)

## Fair Market Value Method

- Proposed fee of \$20.00 for non-electric individual campsites at PDO compare favorably to nearby facilities offering similar amenities.
  - Maricopa County Semi-developed campsites with similar amenities charge \$22 per night
  - Lost Dutchman State Park charges \$25 for their hike-in and non-electric sites
  - Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument provides amenities like running water and paid showers at \$20 per campsite per night, but the \$25 dollar entrance fee is not included
  - Tonto National Forest's campsite fees range from \$16-\$29
  - These average out to around **\$23** per night



# Public Outreach

- 45-Day Public Comment Period from September 6-October 21, 2024.
- Notified the public via press releases, social media, YouTube video, recreation.gov alerts, and ArcGIS StoryMap.
- Quarterly congressional staffers' briefing
- Posted on BLM websites.
- Presented 2 virtual statewide public information sessions.
- Sent notification and outreach to potentially affected Tribes, Congressional representatives, state government and agencies, local government and municipalities, and interest groups.
- Posted flyers at current and future campgrounds and in the Phoenix District Office public room.
- Sent emails to 1,500 previous Painted Rock Campground visitors.



# Responses

- During the 45-day comment period, 22 unique comments were received.
- Two of the unique comments were letters, one received from the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the other from the Huachuca Hiking Club.



# Comment Summary

Draft Business Plan Comments Received	Supportive	Conditionally Supportive	Provided Suggestions	Opposed w/ Recommended Changes	Opposed	Total Responses
PDO Campgrounds	5 23%	6 27%	1 5%	6 27%	4 18%	22 replies



# Comment Summary (Continued)

- **Concerns**

- The current status of the amenities at the Painted Rock Campground does not justify such a large fee increase.

- **Recommendations**

- Many are in support of a fee increase, just not to the proposed amount of \$20 for the Painted Rock Campground. A gradual year to year increase was suggested.

- **Support**

- The proposed fee increase, and implementation would allow for improvements and additional facilities. It would also provide for increases in the level of monitoring and upkeep.



# Government Organization Responses

- A letter was received from Arizona Game & Fish (AZGFD) during the public comment period for the PDO Campgrounds Business Plan.
  - in the letter AZGFD recognized the challenges presented to the BLM in balancing multi-use recreational opportunities and the common goals of each agency to provide exceptional experiences to the visitors on public land.



# Changes as a Result of Public Comment

- No changes were made to the business plan in response to the comments received from the public comment period.



# Summary

- For the Painted Rock Petroglyph Site and Campground, this business plan will replace the existing plan (dated September 2005) in its entirety. This plan includes an increase in the amount of the established expanded amenity fee (16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2)(A)(D)) for overnight camping.
- For the campgrounds of Table Mesa, Boulders OHV Area, Emery Henderson, and Estrella Wayside, this business plan proposes to establish expanded amenity fees for non-electric and electric individual campsites (16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2)(A)(D)) at these planned sites. All sites listed would be built to satisfy the requirements of FLREA as expanded amenity fee areas.
- The Phoenix District office is requesting the RAC's recommendation to implement the **BLM Phoenix District Office Campgrounds Business Plan**.



# Questions?





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

# Stateline Campground Business Plan

Presentation for the Arizona Resource Advisory Council – December 11-12, 2024





# Purpose of Briefing

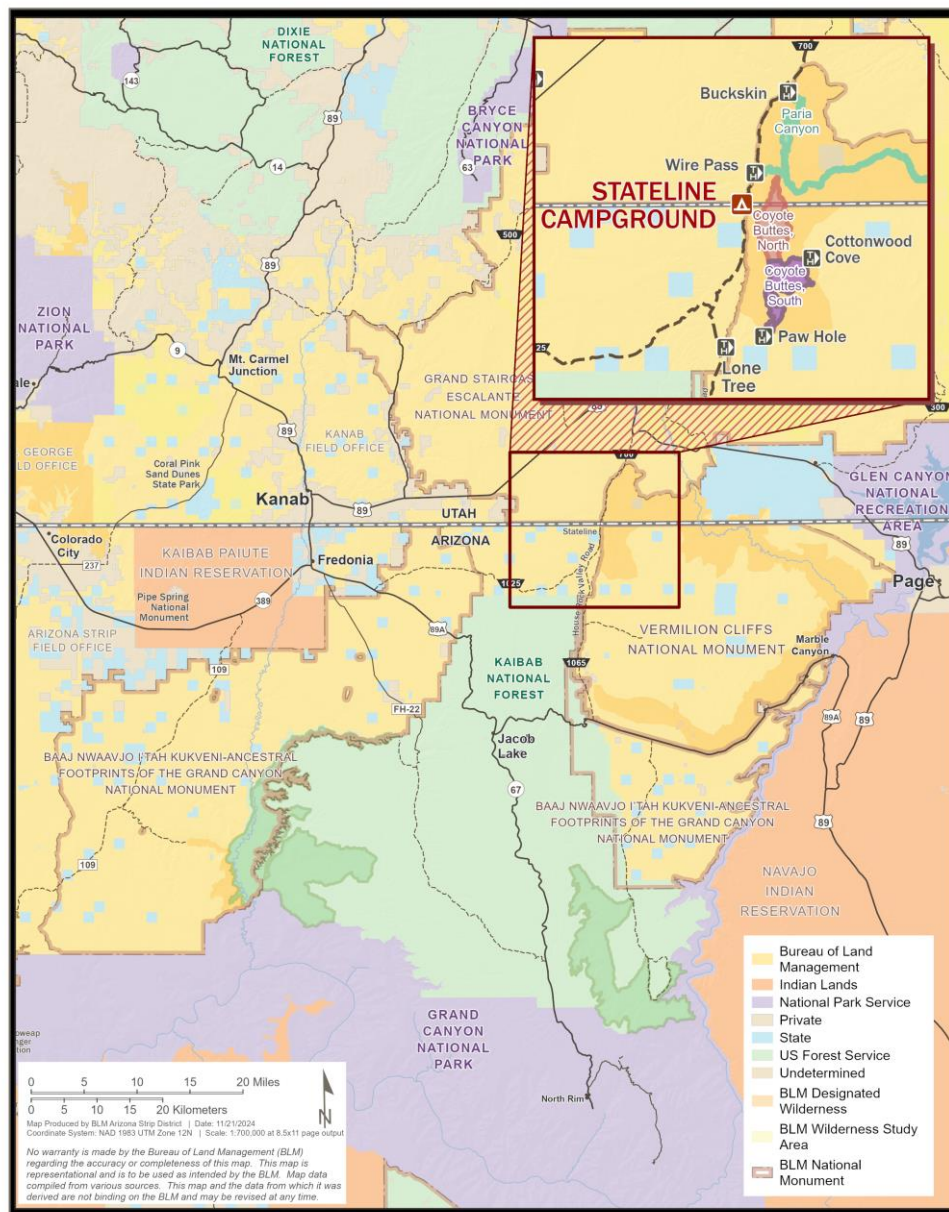
- Introduce the Stateline Campground managed by the BLM Arizona Strip Field Office within the Arizona Strip District and the Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument on the Paria River District.
- Provide background information on the history, labor, costs, and resources BLM has invested into caring for this site, review the proposed expanded amenity fee, BLM's outreach efforts, and review public comments received.
- Seek recommendation from RAC to implement the recreation business plan proposal.





# Location of Stateline Campground:

The eight-site Stateline Campground is located on the border of Utah and Arizona on the Houserock Valley Road approximately 10 miles south of US Highway 89 and approximately 30 miles east of Kanab, Utah and 30 miles west of Page, AZ.





# Site Visitation

- Use more than doubled from 3,937 visitors in 2019 to 9,428 in 2022 based on traffic counters.
- The site amenities include vault toilets, shade structures, grills/ fire pits, access to AZ National Scenic Trail & other recreational opportunities.



Fiscal Year	Stateline Campground Number of Visitors (Camping/Day Use)
FY2019	3,937
FY2020	4,160
FY2021	9,171
FY2022	9,428
FY2023	Missing data



# Stateline CG Facts at a Glance

- Upgraded in 2009 with ARRA funding.
- Located at the northern terminus of the AZ National Scenic Trail.
- Total of 8 sites. 4 in UT and 4 in AZ.
- Currently a fee free campground.
- Near Coyote Buttes North and South and adjacent to Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.





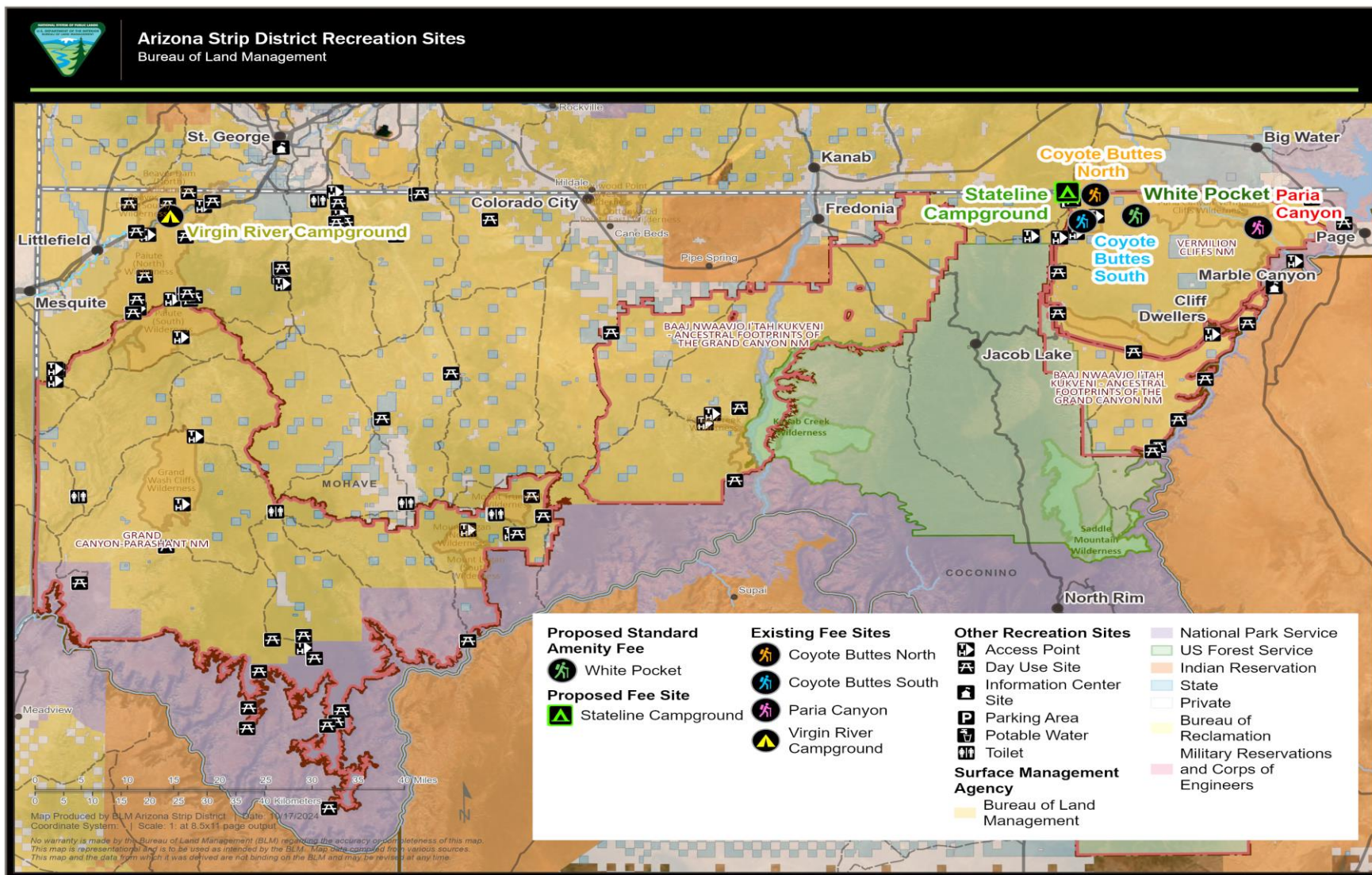
# Purpose of the Business Plan

This business plan proposes an expanded amenity fee of \$16 for the Stateline Campground to help pay for maintenance and operations costs.





# Background: Fee Free Sites/Areas

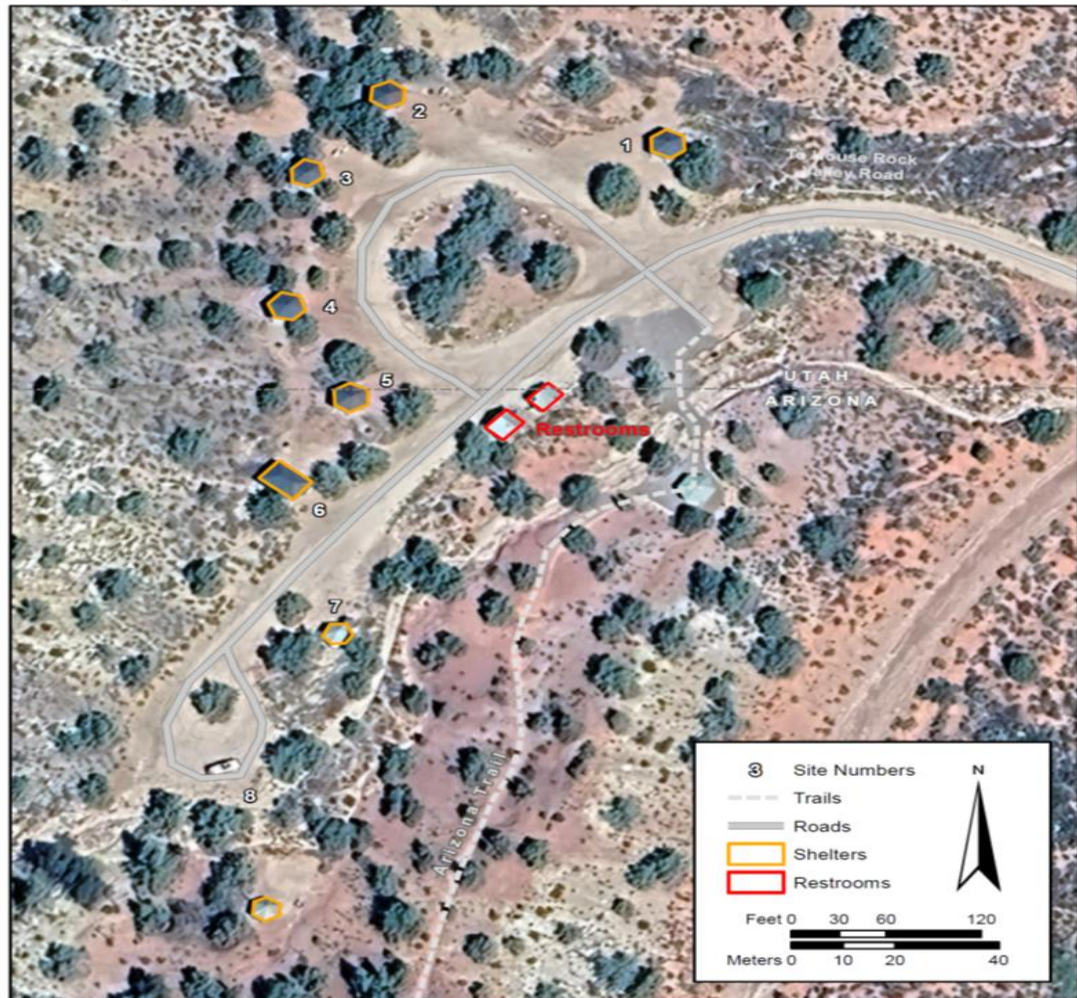


# Stateline Campground Map

- Overnight use is limited to a 14-night stays.
- 8 campsites are available first come first serve.
- Will be payable via the Scan and Pay feature on the recreation.gov app and by cash using onsite Iron Rangers.

## Stateline Campground

Arizona Strip Field Office and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument





# FY24 Operating Costs

Site Name	Labor	Maintenance/Operations	Total Operating Costs
Stateline CG	\$50,700	\$12,000	\$62,700





# Operating Costs, Recreation Revenue, and Revenue Projection

Sites	Estimated FY25 Operating Costs	FY24 Revenue	FY25 Projected Revenue
Stateline CG	\$62,700	\$0	\$23,040





# Stateline Campground Proposed Fee

Fee Description*	FLREA Fee Type	Year of Last Fee Increase	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Individual Campsite Use Fee	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C. 6802(g))	n/a	\$0	\$16

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# America the Beautiful Passes

- For expanded amenity camping (for up to two vehicles), there is a 50% discount with Senior and Access America the Beautiful Passes.





# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates

- **Cost Recovery**

- The projected FY25 revenue with the \$16 camping expanded amenity fee is estimated at **\$23,040.**
- The estimated total annual cost of future priority expenditures (including all labor and ops) is **\$62,700.**
- The goal of cost recovery is to recover as much of these costs as possible. To accomplish this would require a \$48 camping fee.



# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates (Continued)

- **Fair Market Value Method**

- The comparable recreation area camping fees range from **\$12 to \$25**, with an average fee of \$15.80.
- Kodachrome Basin Utah State Park charges \$25/night for overnight camping and Ponderosa Grove and Whitehouse CGs on the BLM Kanab Field Office charge \$12/night for overnight camping. Zion= \$35 to \$45/night, Jacobs Lake = \$24/night



# Priorities for Future Expenditures

Position/Contract/Materials	Approximate Annual Costs
Labor - Law Enforcement Ranger (2)	\$24,100
Labor - Park Ranger (2)	\$9,500
Labor - Maintenance Staff (1)	\$9,000
Labor - Outdoor Recreation Planner (2)	\$8,200
Contracted Bathroom Cleaning and Maintenance	\$12,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$62,700</b>



# Public Outreach

- 45-Day Public Comment Period from September 6–October 21, 2024.
- Notified the public via press releases, social media, YouTube video, recreation.gov alerts, and ArcGIS StoryMap.
- Posted on BLM websites.
- Presented 2 virtual statewide public information sessions.
- Flyers were posted at Stateline Campground, Kane County Office in Kanab, UT, Carl Hayden Visitor Center in Page, AZ, Wire Pass TH, Buckskin TH, White House CG, White Pocket TH, condor release site, and Lee's Ferry and the public room at the BLM Paria River District in Kanab, UT.
- Sent notification and spoke with Tribes, Congressional representatives, state government and agencies, local government and municipalities, and interest groups.
- Responded to U.S. Representative regarding concerns expressed about transition to a cashless payment system.



# Public Outreach (Continued)

- During the 45-day comment period, 18 comments were received.



# Comment Summary

Comment	Quantity	Percentage
Supportive	4	22%
Supportive With Recommendations	7	38%
Conditionally Supportive	4	22%
Opposed With Recommendations	1	6%
Opposed	1	6%
Opposed General Anti-Fee	1	6%
Total	18	100%



# Comment Summary (Continued)

## Concerns

- Some comments had concerns about paying any fees.

## Recommendations

- Charge fees to support the campground maintenance.

## Support

- 82% of public comments were generally in favor
- Public comments were generally favorable. Most favorable comments expressed understanding of the BLM's need to increase fees to help maintain the site.



# Summary

- This business plan proposes the following fee based on comparative market research within the region. The proposed fees are needed to meet growing and needed operational and maintenance expenses.
- **Individual Campsite Use Fee** (Tent, RV) – Expanded Amenity - \$16
- Based on most public comments being in favor of the proposed fees and the cost of operational and maintenance needs associated with the Stateline Campground, the BLM requests RAC recommendation to implement this business plan.



# Questions?





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

# **Safford Field Office and Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area Recreation Fee Sites and Areas Business Plan**

Presentation for the Arizona Resource Advisory Council – December 12, 2024





# Purpose of Briefing

- Present recreation business plan proposal, background information, outreach, and public comments received.
- Seek recommendation from RAC to implement the recreation business plan proposal.



# Overview of the Safford Field Office

The Safford Field Office (SFO) and Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (GBRNCA) Business Plan is proposed by the Safford Field Office within the Gila District.





# Overview of the Field Office (Continued)



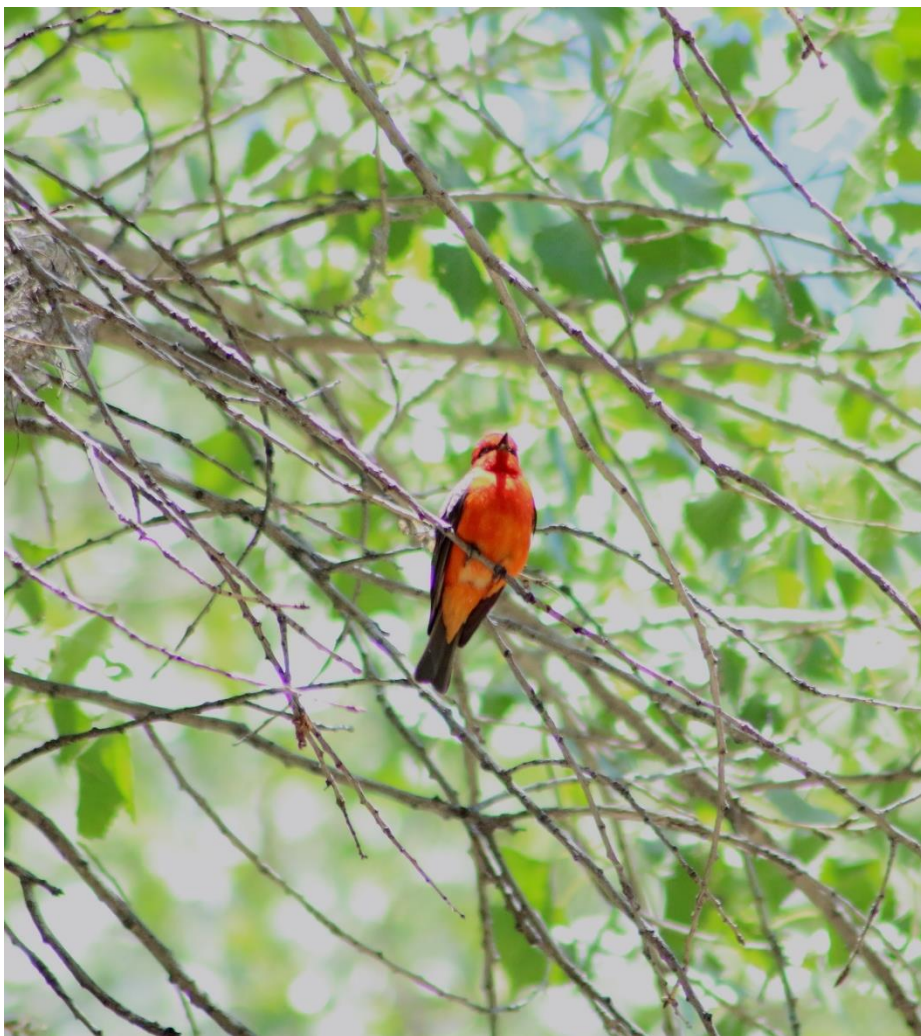
A view from the Black Hills Back Country Byway

The SFO manages 1.4 million acres in six eastern Arizona counties.

Office is located three hours southeast of Phoenix, AZ and two hours northeast of Tucson, AZ

Annual average visitation is about 175,000 visitors

# Overview of the Field Office (Continued)



The SFO is responsible for stewardship of:

- 11 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern
- 8 units in the BLM's National Landscape Conservation System
- 2 Rockhound Areas
- 1 Back Country Byway
- 1 National Natural Landmark



# Background: Fee Free Sites/Areas

- Of the 1.4 million acres managed by the SFO, roughly 99.6%, or 1,394,862 acres, will remain fee-free.
- There are 8 developed recreation sites such as group day use areas, picnic areas, and trailheads that have no fees proposed.



Black Hills Back Country Byway  
Canyon Overlook Picnic Area



# Background: Fee Sites/Areas

The SFO manages seven existing fee sites or areas and proposes the addition of an eighth fee site



Kayaker on the Gila River in the Gila Box RNCA



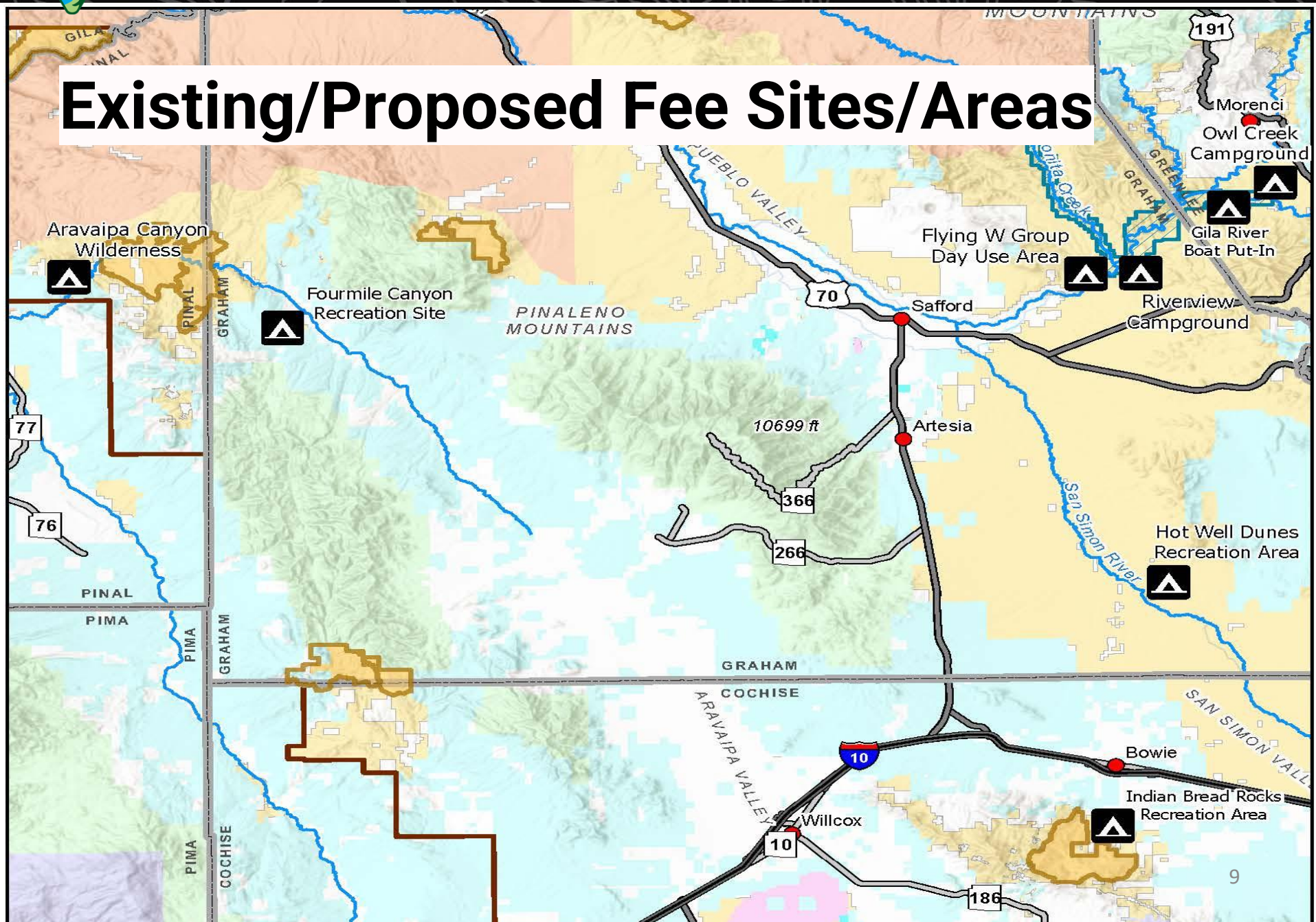
# Background: Fee Free Sites/Areas

## Example: Bonita Creek Watchable Wildlife Viewing Area



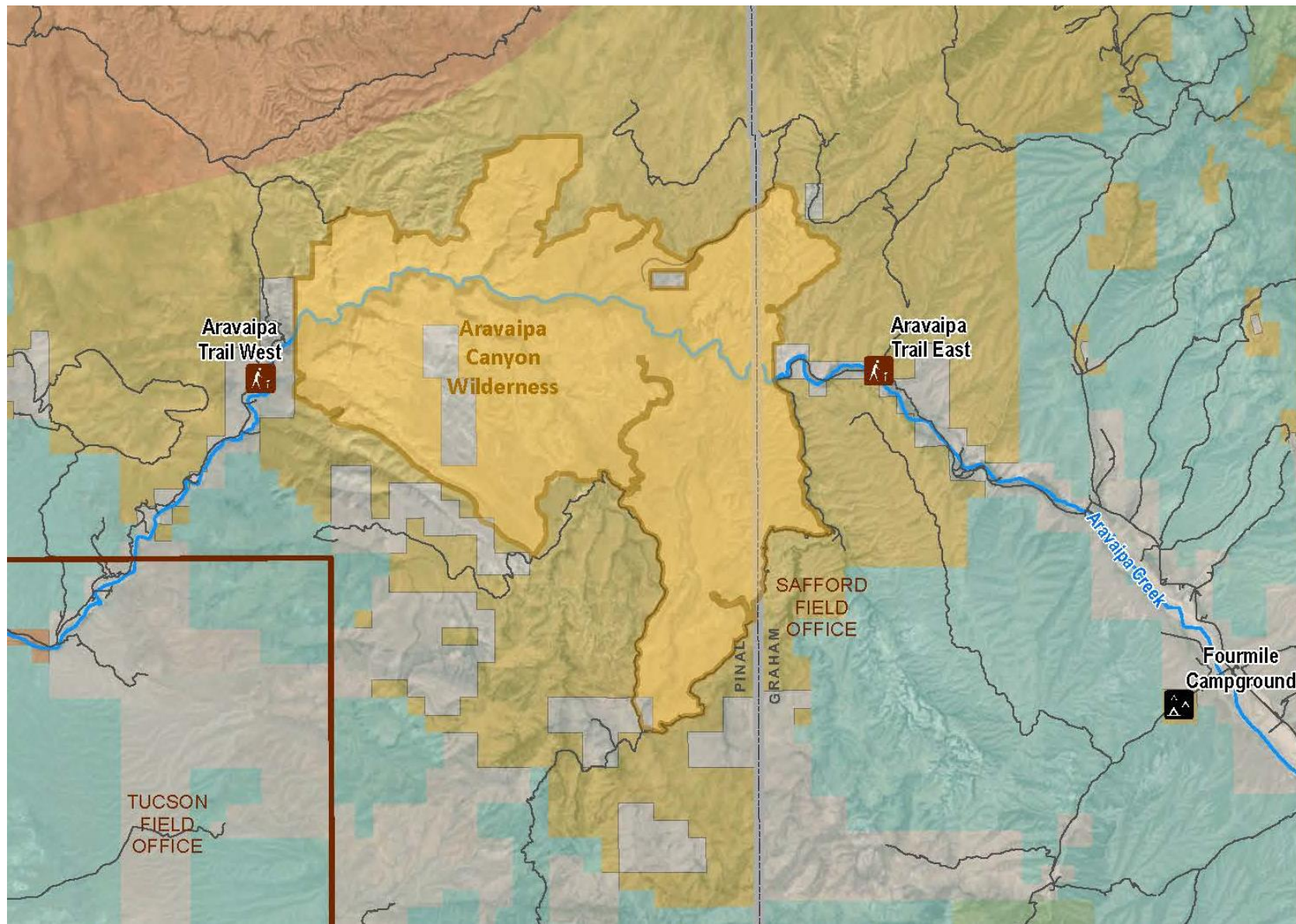


# Existing/Proposed Fee Sites/Areas





# Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Area





# Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness Background and History



- First fee implemented in 1984 at \$1.50 per person. In 1999, fee was raised to \$5 per person
- Permit area is 2,868 acres with a 50 person/day permit quota
- Managed in partnership with The Nature Conservancy
- Dedicated wilderness ranger



# Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site





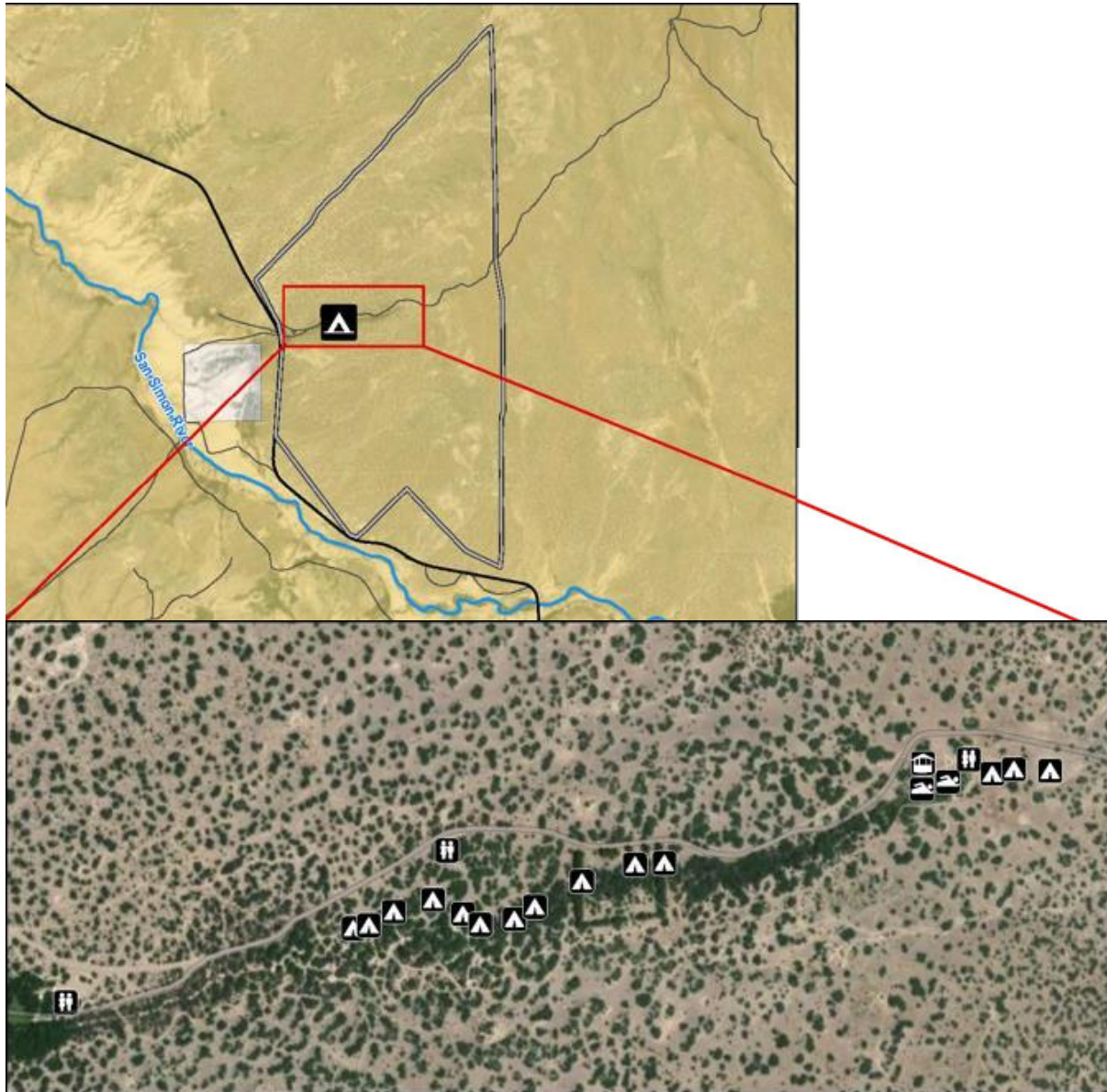
# Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site Background and History



- First fee established in 1996 was \$4 per day and was updated to \$5 in 2004
- 10-unit campground
  - Fire rings
  - Grills
  - Picnic tables
  - Trash receptacles
  - Potable water (pending repairs)
  - Vault Toilet



# Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area





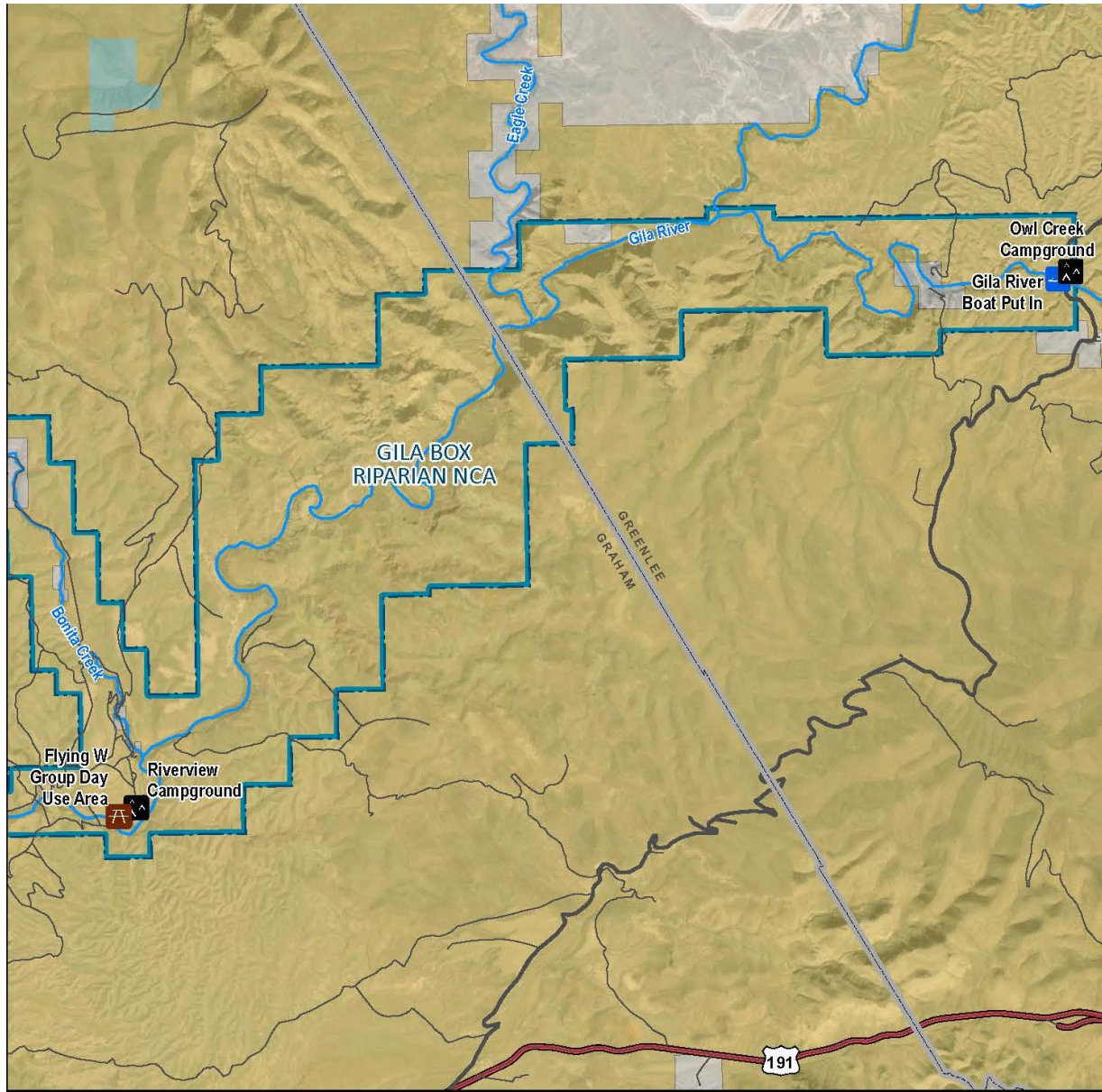
# Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area Background and History



- First fee of \$3.00 per vehicle set in 1997 remains unchanged
- 2,200-acre open (unrestricted) off highway vehicle area (dunes)
- Includes multiple picnic areas, a nature trail, 14-unit campground, and two developed hot tubs
- Volunteer site host
- Proposal includes change from RUP to ISRP



# Gila Box RNCA Recreation Sites





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

# Gila River Boat Put-In





# Gila River Boat Put-In Background and History



- Fee of \$3 per person per trip established in 1999 and remains unchanged
- Provides access to a 23 mile stretch of the Gila River in the Gila Box RNCA



# Owl Creek Campground





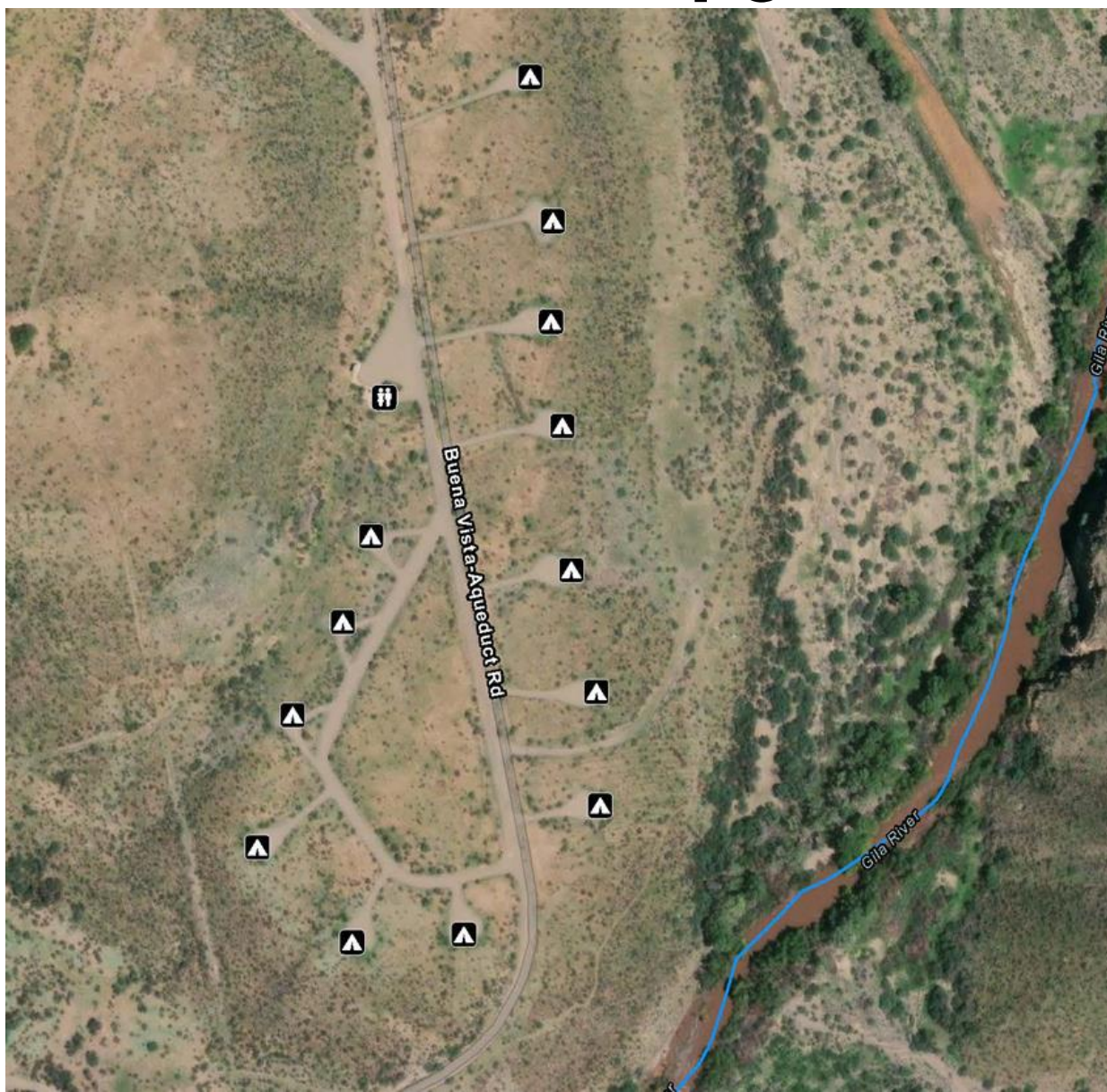
# Owl Creek Campground Background and History



- Fee of \$5 established in 1999 and remains unchanged
- 7-unit campground located in the Gila Box RNCA
  - Ramadas
  - Picnic tables
  - Grills
  - Fire rings
  - Vault toilet
  - Trash Receptacles



# Riverview Campground





# Riverview Campground Background and History



- Fee of \$5 established in 1999 and remains unchanged
- Within walking distance of Bonita Creek and the Gila River
- 13-unit campground with a camp host site
  - Picnic tables
  - Fire rings
  - Grills
  - Potable water
  - Vault toilets
  - Trash Receptacles



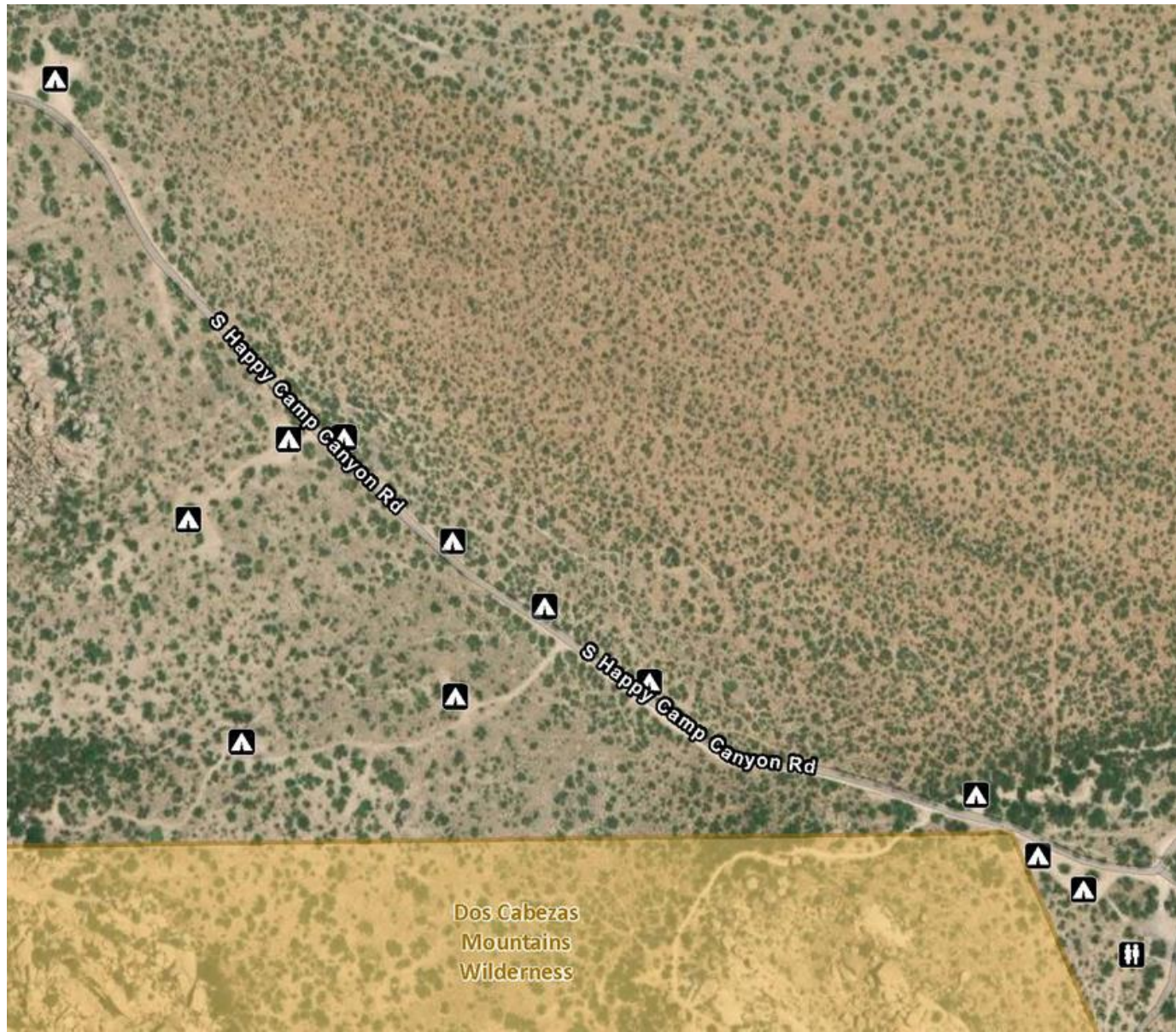
# Flying W Group Day Use Area



No changes to the current fee structure



# Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area





# Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area Background and History



- Currently no fee
- Dispersed camping
- Became well known during the pandemic and now listed on many camping websites
- Provides one of the few access points to the Dos Cabezas Mountains Wilderness Area



# Site Visitation

- 2019 visitor satisfaction surveys for underlined fee sites averaged 99% satisfaction

Site/Area	5-Year Average Visitor Count
<u>Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness</u>	5,359
Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site	1,423
<u>Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area</u>	13,951
<u>Gila River Boat Put-In</u>	3,869
<u>Owl Creek Campground</u>	887
<u>Riverview Campground</u>	1,158
Indian Bread Rock Recreation Area	22,665



# Site Maintenance and Operations

Right: Vandalism to new portal sign at Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area. Replacement sign cost \$900



Left: State forestry crew donated labor to assist with landscaping needs in the Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area valued at \$10,500

# Site Maintenance and Operations

Two recent examples of unexpected environmental issues that impacted operations and reduced maintenance budget.



Left: Monsoonal flooding deposited sediment into the hot tubs at Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area.

Right: High winds damaged the roof of a kiosk at the Owl Creek Campground.



# Site Improvements

Recent SFO efforts include facility and interpretive upgrades as well as access road maintenance.

## New toilet at Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site

Before



After





# **Gila Box RNCA Fee Sites: Great American Outdoors Act Improvements**

About \$5.4 million was awarded for various improvements across the Gila Box RNCA

- New kiosks, campsite furnishings, and remodeled camp host site
- Site roads regrading and stabilization
- Improved erosion control features on main access road
- New fencing to protect riparian area habitat



# Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area Great American Outdoors Act Improvements

\$5 million was awarded for improvements

- New kiosks, hot tubs, vault toilets, and campsite furnishings
- Invasive plant removal and pond reclamation
- Repairs to miles of damaged perimeter fence
- Access road regrading and stabilization

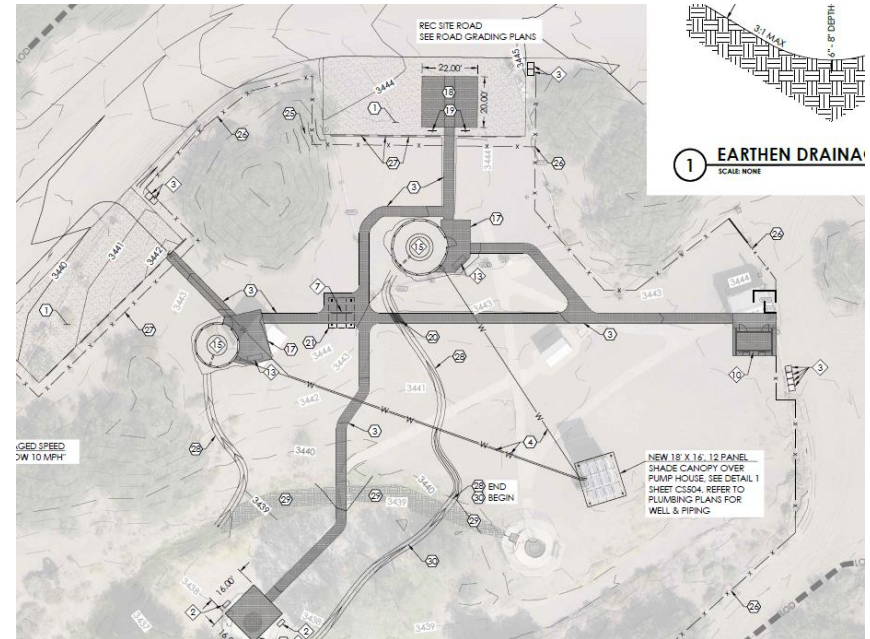


# Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area Great American Outdoors Act Improvements

## Recurring Site Issues



## Planned Future Site Improvements



Future design plans that will relocate hot tubs out of harm's way from flooding.



# Recreation Experience Improvement Examples

## Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area



## Riverview Campground





# Business Plan Proposal

- This business plan proposes to
  - Increase fees at all existing areas except the Flying W Group Day Use Area.
  - Establish a new fee site at the Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area.
  - Modify the fee type at the Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area from a recreation use permit to an individual special recreation permit.



# SFO Existing & Proposed Fees

Fee Description*	FLREA Fee Type	Year of Last Fee Increase	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
<b>Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness</b>	ISRP (16 U.S.C 6802(h))	1999	\$5 per person, per day or night	\$12 per person, per day or night
<b>Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site</b>	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	2004	\$5 per night \$2 per extra vehicle	\$15 per night \$5 per extra vehicle
<b>Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area</b>	ISRP (Proposed) (16 U.S.C 6802(h)) Site-Specific Pass (16 U.S.C 6804(c))	1997	\$3 per vehicle, per day or night \$30 per vehicle annual pass	\$15 per vehicle, per day or night \$80 per vehicle annual pass
<b>Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area (Proposed)</b>	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	N/A	None	\$15 per night \$5 per extra vehicle

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply. Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# Gila Box RNCA Existing & Proposed Fees

Fee Description*	FLREA Fee Type	Year of Last Fee Increase	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
<b>Gila River Boat Put-In</b>	ISRP (16 U.S.C 6802(h))	1999	\$3 per person, per trip (5 days)	\$8 per person, per trip (5 days)
<b>Flying W Group Day Use Area</b>	Standard Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(f))	1999	\$50 for first 50 people \$75 for 50-75 people \$100 for 75-100 people	No Change
<b>Owl Creek Campground</b>	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	1999	\$5 per night \$2 per extra vehicle	\$15 per night \$5 per extra vehicle
<b>Riverview Campground</b>	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	1999	\$5 per night \$2 per extra vehicle	\$15 per night \$5 per extra vehicle

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply. Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates

## Cost Recovery Method

This method determined that if these sites were operating without appropriated dollars, the estimated cost per permit is appx \$26.50 to maintain existing sites.

## Fair Market Value Method

Average cost of comparable sites in the region:

- Campground Fee: \$18.35 per night
- Off-Highway Vehicle Areas: \$12.11 per vehicle
- Wilderness Permits: \$11.86 per person
- River Floating Permits: \$47 per trip
- Group Day Use Fee: \$35 per day

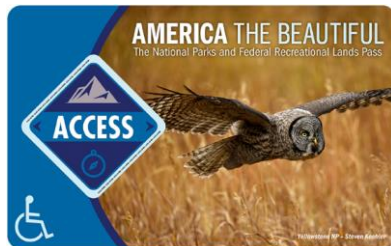


# America the Beautiful Passes and Fee Free Days

Fee Free Days and Senior or Access Passes (50% discount) will be applicable at the following locations:

- Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site
- Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area
- Owl Creek Campground
- Riverview Campground
- Indian Break Rocks Recreation Area (Proposed)

## Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area





# FY23 Operating Costs

Account	Operation	Labor	Total
<b>Appropriated Funds</b>	\$113,219.40	\$177,158.71	\$290,378.11
<b>Recreation Fee Program Funds</b>	\$ 17,586.78	\$ 10,457.54	\$ 28,044.32
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$130,806.18	\$187,616.25	<b>\$318,422.43</b>



# Recreation Revenue and Revenue Projection

Existing Fee Site/Area	5-Year Average Revenue	5-Year Average Permit Count	Proposed Fee	Projected Revenue
Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness	\$72,006	14,401	\$12	\$172,812
Fourmile Canyon Recreation Site	\$1,432	286	\$15	\$4,296
Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area	\$9,605	3,202	\$15	\$48,030
Gila River Boat Put-In	\$293	98	\$8	\$784
Owl Creek Campground	\$1,531	306	\$15	\$4,590
Riverview Campground	\$2,760	552	\$15	\$8,280
Totals:	\$86,643	18,845	Site-Specific	\$238,792



# Priorities for Future Expenditures

These are examples of a few high priority projects or services that increased fees would assist in funding.

Description	Location	Estimated Cost	Occurrence
<b>Recreation Staffing</b>	Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness	\$35,000	Annual
<b>Maintenance Supplies</b>	All Fee Sites	\$14,000	Annual
<b>Vault Toilet Pumping</b>	All Fee Sites	\$4,000	Annual
<b>Develop Campground and Other Site Improvements</b>	Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area	\$150,000	Short-Term
<b>Volunteer Site Host Program</b>	All Campgrounds	\$6,000	Annual



# Priorities for Future Expenditures: Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area

Development of the expanded amenity fee site will require significant investment



Amenities, Labor Needed, and (Quantity)	Estimated Costs
Picnic Tables (18)	\$54,500
Fire Rings and Grills (18)	\$13,680
Campsite Markers (18)	\$1,300
Refuse Containers (9)	\$19,500
Kiosks (2)	\$3,800
Iron Ranger Fee Tube (1)	\$1,000
Heavy Equipment (21 days)	\$6,700
Park Ranger Labor (6 Weeks)	\$6,300
Maintenance Employee Labor (6 Weeks)	\$6,200
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$112,980</b>

Picnic Area at Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area



# Public Outreach

- 45-Day Public Comment Period from September 6-October 21, 2024
- Notified the public via press releases, social media, YouTube video, recreation.gov alerts, and ArcGIS StoryMap
- Posted on BLM websites
- Presented 2 virtual statewide public information sessions
- Sent notification and outreach to potentially affected Tribes, Congressional representatives, state government and agencies, local government and municipalities, and interest groups
- Posted flyers at all eight sites or areas mentioned in the plan
- Sent emails to about 8,000 previous Aravaipa Canyon Wilderness visitors



# Public Outreach: In-Person Meetings

Public information sessions with:

- Graham County Board of Supervisors
- Graham County Chamber of Commerce
- Southeastern Arizona Sportsman Club



# Public Response

- During the 45-day comment period, 43 comments were received.
- The Arizona Game and Fish Department was the only organization to formally comment on the draft business plan



# Comment Summary

Of all comments received, 76.8% were some form of supportive and 23.2% were opposed.

Type of Comment	Number of Comments	Overall Percentage
Conditionally Supportive	4	9.3%
Supportive	14	32.6%
Supportive with Suggestions	15	34.9%
Opposed with Recommended Changes	4	9.3%
Opposed	6	13.9%
Total	43	100%



# Public Comment Summary

- Concerns
  - Fairness, economic impact to certain users, accessibility, transparency on how fees are spent
- Recommendations
  - Specific site improvements, seek additional federal funding, allow discounts
- Support
  - Current fees too low, desire to see improvements, willingness to contribute due to positive benefits of recreation



# Government/Organization Response

## Arizona Game & Fish Comment Summary:

- Acknowledged need for fee increases to keep pace with rising costs and visitor numbers
- Raises several concerns on impacts to lower-income groups, use of federal funds, and the need for clarity in fee types and terminology



# Changes as a Result of Public Comment

- None



# Summary

- Increase fees at all but the Flying W Group Day Use Area
- Establish a new fee site at the Indian Bread Rocks Recreation Area
- Modify the fee type at the Hot Well Dunes Recreation Area from a recreation use permit to an individual special recreation permit

Request for RAC recommendation



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

# Questions?



**Serna Cabin Picnic Area & Historic Site in the Gila Box RNCA**



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

# Tucson Field Office Recreation Fee Sites and Areas Business Plan

Presentation for the Arizona Resource Advisory Council – December 11-12, 2024



# Purpose of Briefing

- Present BLM Arizona recreation business plan proposal, background information, outreach, and public comments received.
- Seek recommendation from RAC to implement the recreation business plan proposal.



Adobe ruins at the Terranate Historical Site within the SPRNCA



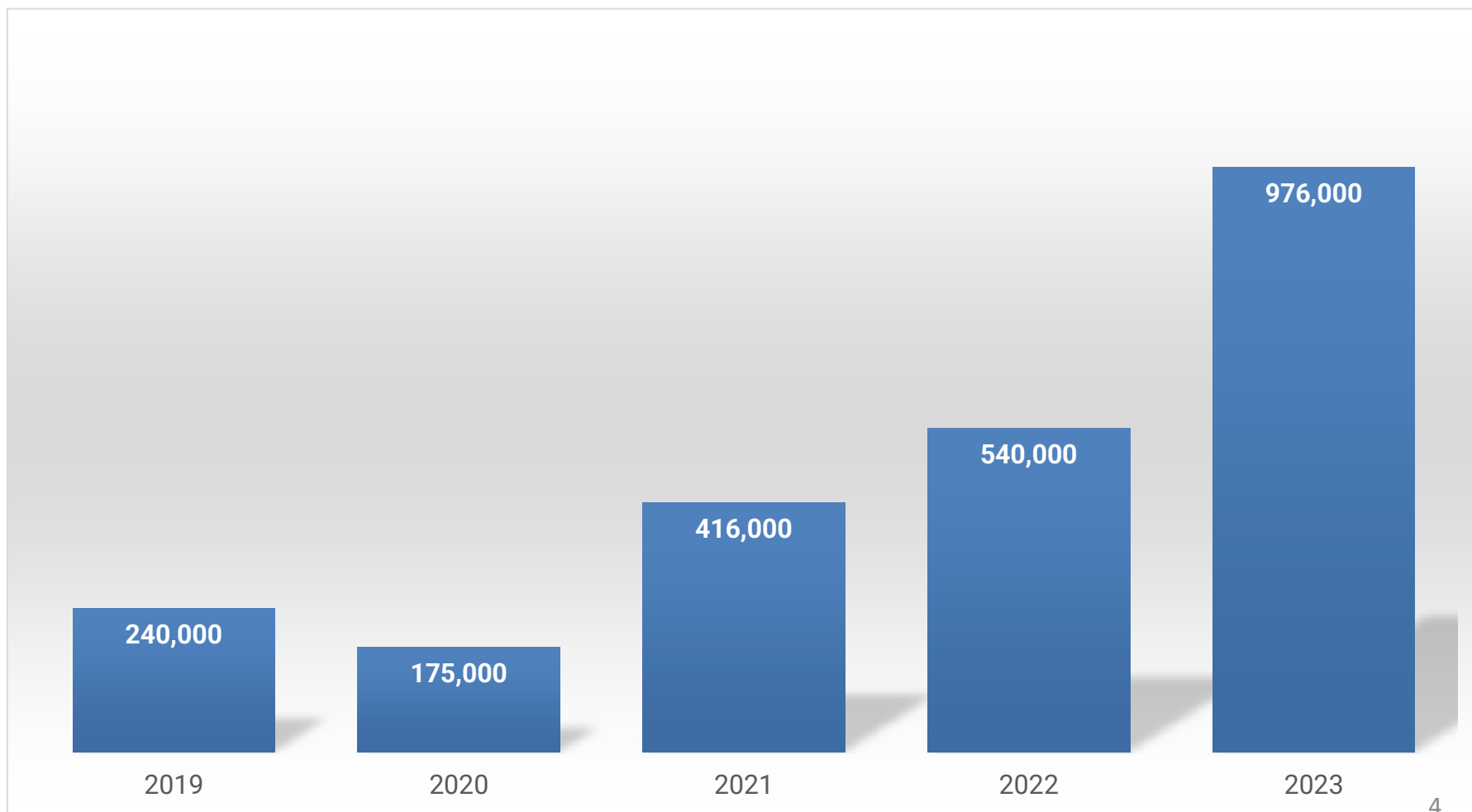
# Overview of the Tucson Field Office

- The Tucson Field Office Recreation Fee Sites and Areas Business Plan is proposed by the Tucson Field Office within the Gila District.
- The Tucson Field Office (TFO) manages one recreation site and three Congressionally designated units within the Field Office boundaries.



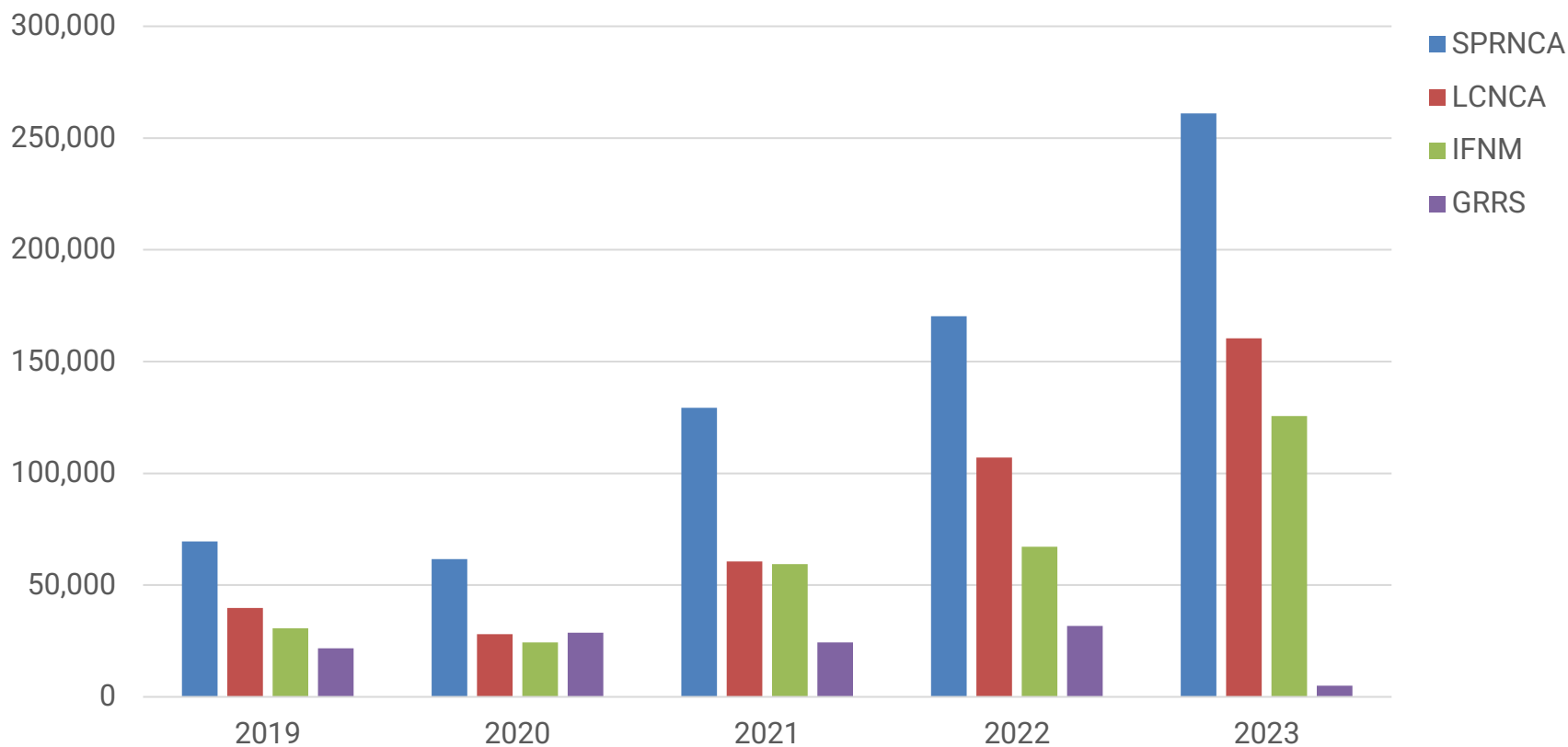


# Visitation across the TF0





# Site Visitation 5-year Trend





# Operating Costs and Revenue

Year	Revenue	Carryover + Revenue	Maintenance Costs	Labor Costs	Difference (Revenue- Cost)
2019	\$4	\$4	\$219,000	\$811,000	-\$1,029,996
2020	\$36	\$40	\$161,000	\$843,000	-\$1,003,960
2021	\$26	\$66	\$154,000	\$879,000	-\$1,032,934
2022	\$22	\$88	\$216,000	\$916,000	-\$1,131,912
2023	\$16	\$104	\$164,000	\$942,000	-\$1,105,896



# Importance of Volunteers and Partnerships

- Volunteers are crucial for enhancing the visitor experience on public lands.
- Volunteers help with essential duties that may be challenging for Park Rangers due to location constraints.





# Partnerships Enhancing Recreation

## Contributions of Partnership Organizations

- Public Outreach and Visitor Contact Station Support
  - Interpretive tours
  - Special events
- Facilities Maintenance
  - Repairs to structures during volunteer workdays
- Restoration Work
  - Mitigating impacts from user-created roads
- Trail Maintenance
  - Ensure designated trails are safe for hiking, mountain biking, and equestrian riding



## Contributions of specific Recreation Volunteer Services

- Site Host Program
  - Maintain and clean recreation sites
  - Point of contact for visitor questions
- Adopt-a-Trail Program
  - Five trail adoptees
  - Volunteers from the City of Sierra Vista





# Volunteers and Partnerships

Fiscal Year	Total Vol. Hours	Recreation Volunteer Hours	Value of Volunteer (\$31.80/hour)*
2022	24,600	11,200	\$356,160
2023	30,700	17,100	\$543,780
2024	30,100	17,300	\$550,140

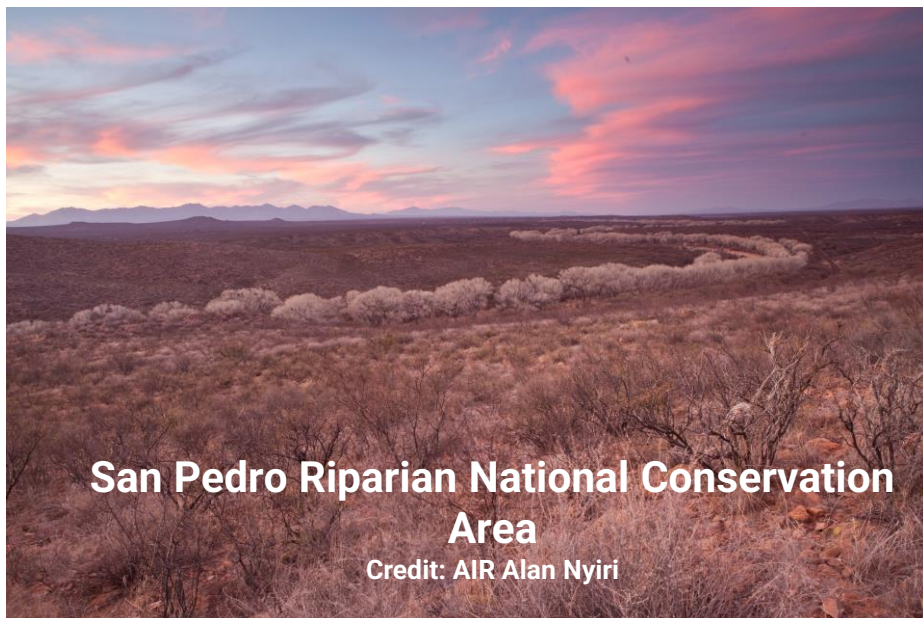
## Volunteer Hours

Average of **15,200** hours donated over the last three fiscal years

## Economic Contribution

Valued on average at approximately **\$483,000** over the last three fiscal years







# Background: Fee Free Sites /Areas

- San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) – primarily day use
- Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) – recreation/camping
- Ironwood Forest National Monument (IFNM) – multi-day camping
- Gila River Recreation Sites (GRRS) – day use and camping



# Business Plan Proposal



## BLM Tucson Field Office Recreation Fee Sites and Areas Business Plan



September 2024

- Proposal:
  - Establish standard amenity, expanded amenity, and ISRP fees at four recreation sites (SPRNCA, LCNCA, IFNM and GRRS).
  - Increase fees for backcountry overnight camping ISRPs within the SPRNCA.



# SPRNCA Background and History

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) encompasses 40 miles of lush riparian corridor and 56,183 acres managed by the TFO.

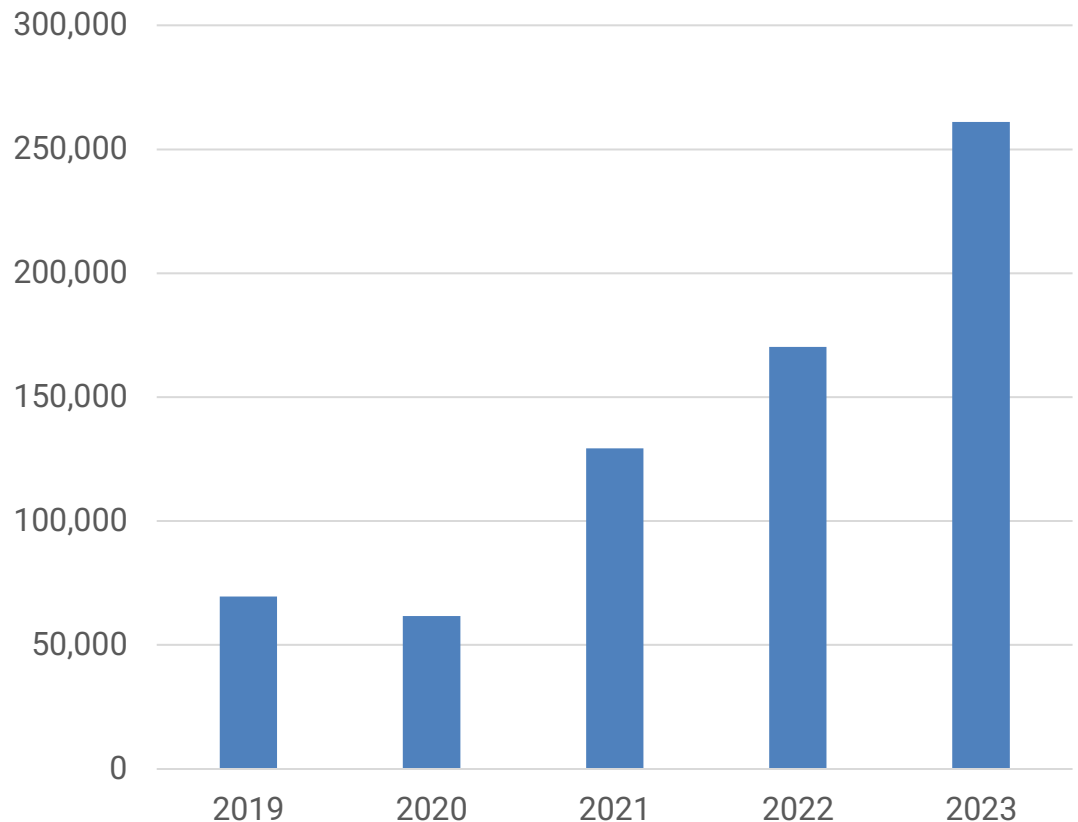
- Popular sites include the Murray Springs, San Pedro House and the Fairbank Historic Townsite
- Year-round season of use
- Activities include backcountry camping, picnicking, bird watching, sightseeing, hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, interpretation
- The SPRNCA Backcountry Permit System (ISRP) allows visitors to camp in the solitude along the San Pedro River and in the backcountry.





# Site Visitation

- Total visits to the SPRNCA increased from 69,567 in 2019 to 261,041 in 2023.



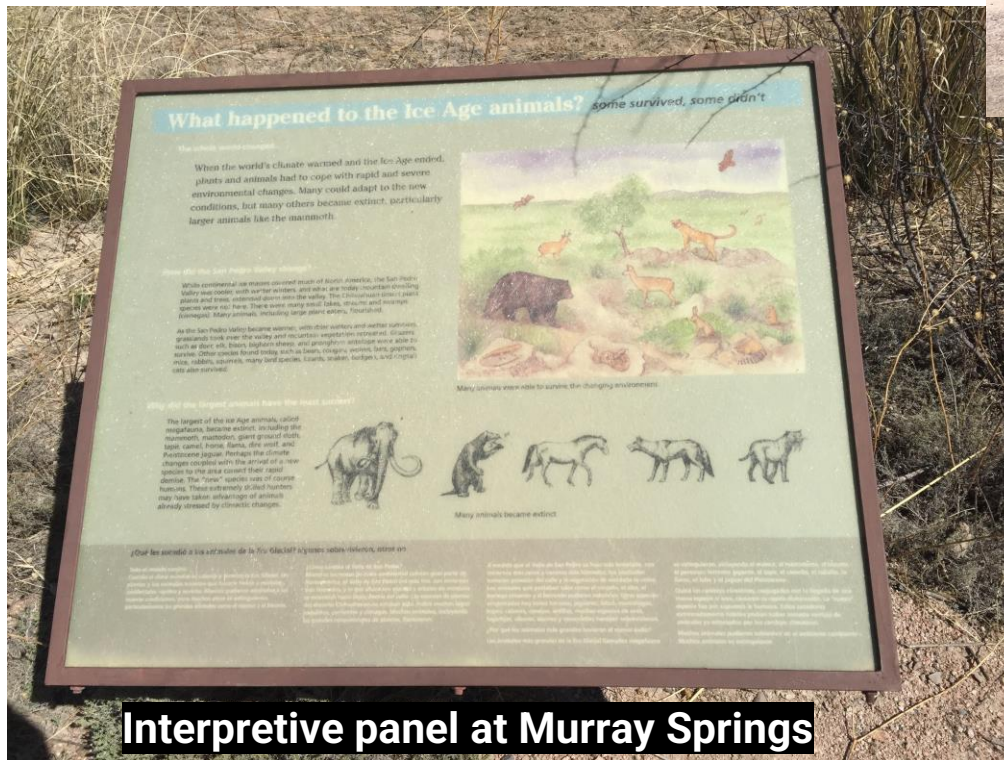
# Site Amenities and Operations

Tent or trailer space	Picnic table	Potable Water	Access Road	Fee collection	Visitor protection	Refuse containers	Toilets	Fire pits or grill	Group site
X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	





# Site Improvements



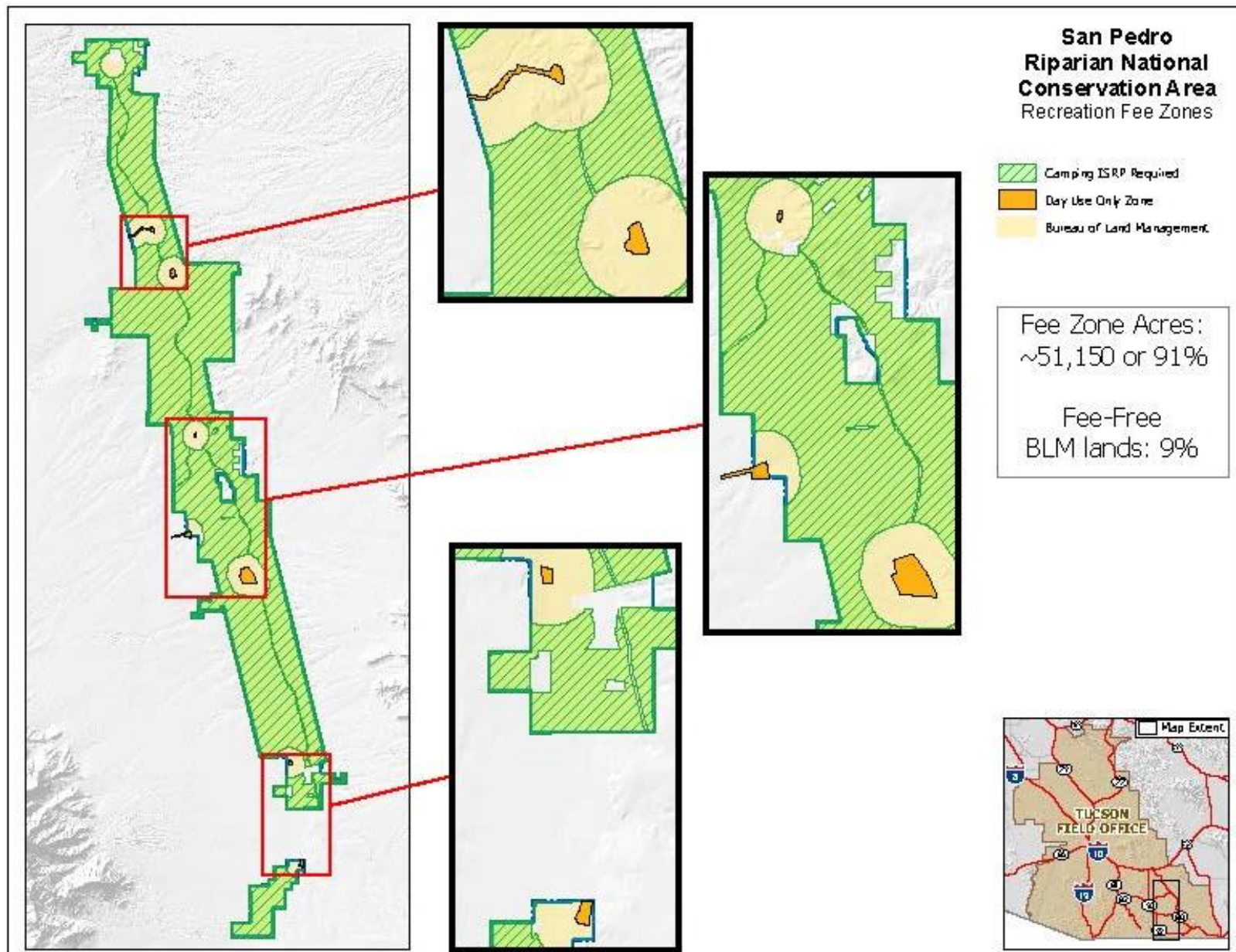
Interpretive panel at Murray Springs



San Pedro House Site Host Pad



Fairbank Trail





# SPRNCA Proposed Fees

Service	FLREA Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Standard Amenity Day Use Fee (per vehicle per day)	Standard Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(f))	\$0	\$10
Local Area Year Pass (San Pedro Pass)	Site-Specific Pass (16 U.S.C 6804(c))	\$0	\$40
Camping Backcountry ISRP* (per person per night)	ISRP (16 U.S.C 6802(h))	\$2	\$10

\*ISRP= Individual Special Recreation Permit

\*\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# LCNCA Background and History

The 45,000-acre National Conservation Area connects “Sky Island” mountain ranges, and Cienega Creek supports a diverse plant and animal community.

- The Empire Ranch Headquarters area sits on 125 acres and includes a visitor contact station, vault toilets, an interpretive hiking trail, potable water, and interpretive displays.
- The Airstrip Group Site can accommodate groups up to 500 people and 30 vehicles.
- Year-round season of use
- Activities include camping, picnicking, off-roading, sightseeing, hiking, wildlife viewing, fishing, horseback riding, bicycling, interpretation

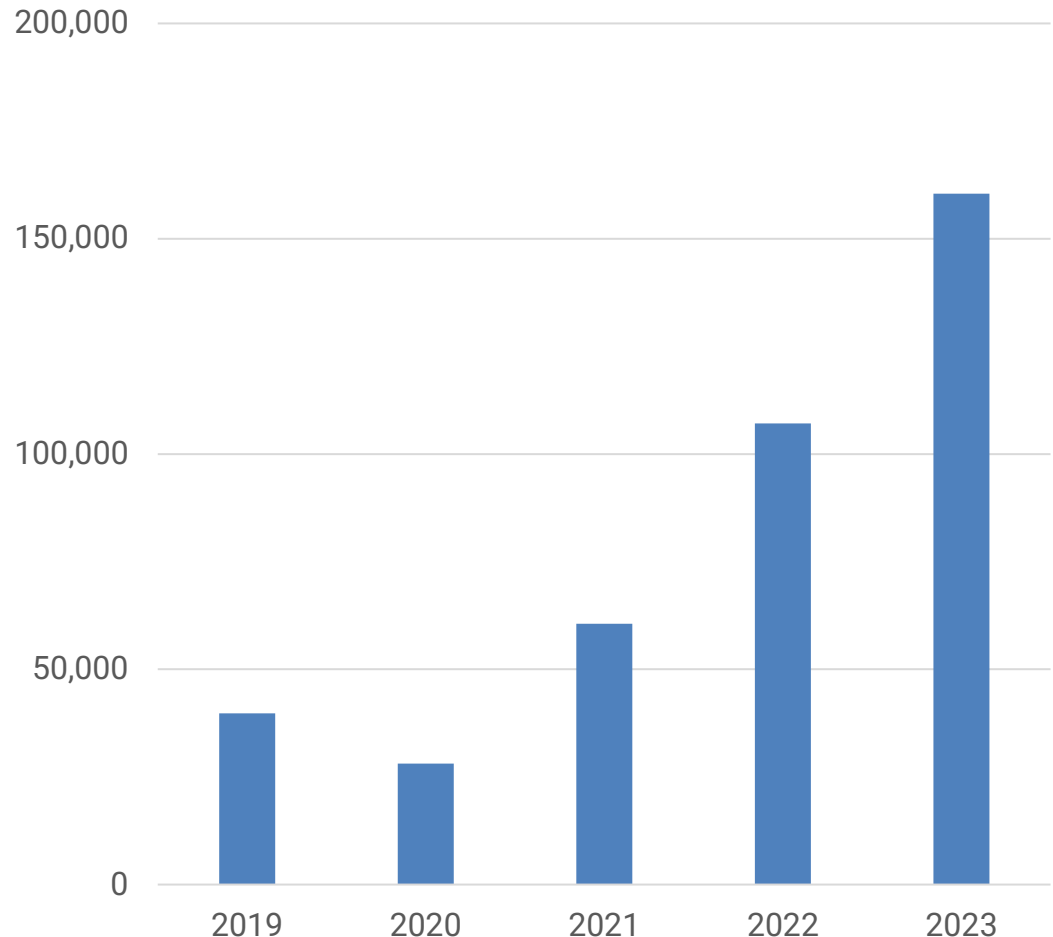


Comet at Empire Ranch HQ in the LCNCA  
(Photo by Ralph Burrillo)



# LCNCA Site Visitation

- Total visits to the LCNCA increased from 39,754 in 2019 to 160,422 in 2023.
- Popular locations on LCNCA include:
  - Empire Ranch Headquarters
  - Airstrip Group Site
  - Maternity Well Group Site
  - Cieneguita Camp Area
  - Backcountry areas





# LCNCA Site Amenities and Operations

Tent or trailer space	Picnic table	Potable Water	Access Road	Fee collection	Visitor protection	Refuse containers	Toilets	Fire pits or grill	Group site
X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X

**Airstrip Group Site**



**Empire Ranch Headquarters Credit: AIR Alan Nyiri**



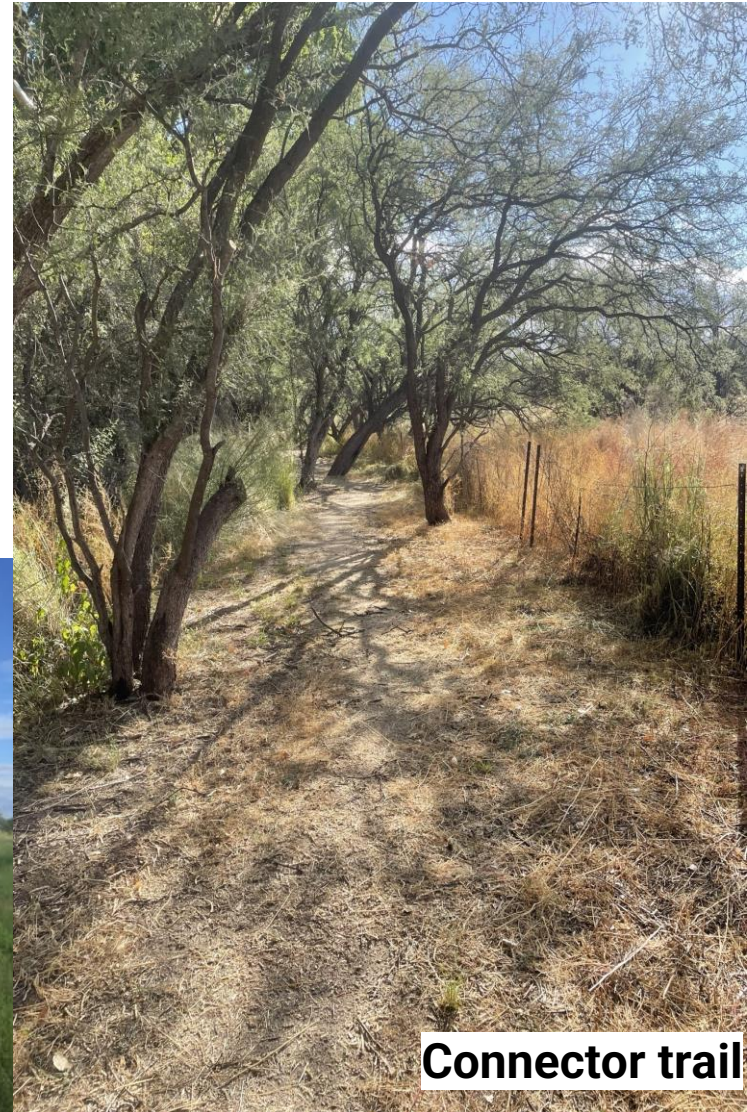


# LCNCA Site Improvements

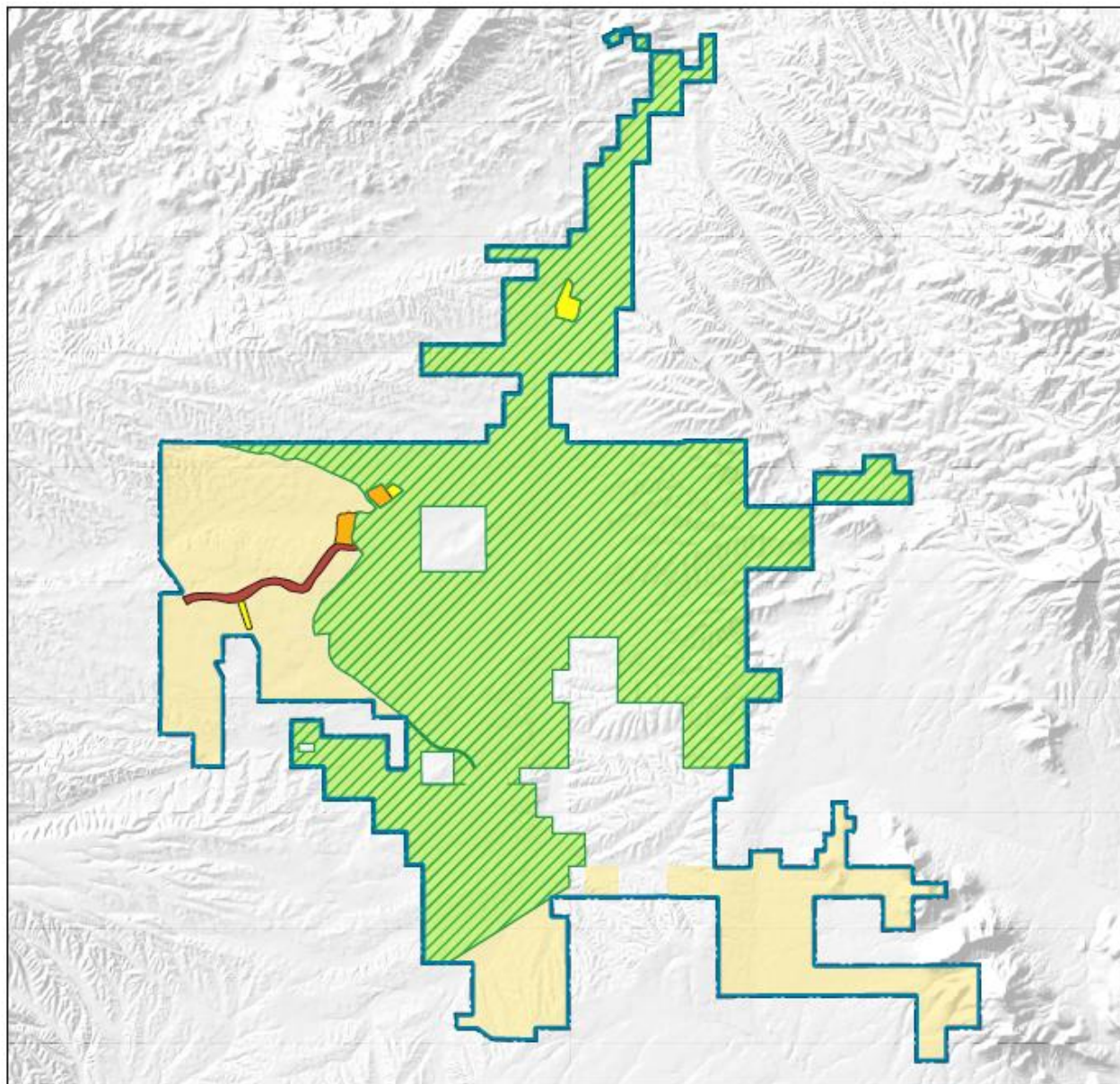
**Cieneguita Camp Area**



**Maternity Wells Group Site**



**Connector trail**



### Las Cienegas National Conservation Area Recreation Fee Zones

Bureau of Land Management

Recreation Fee Zones

Group Site Zone

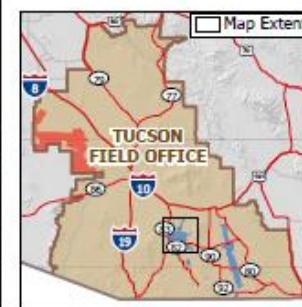
Day Use Only Zone

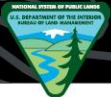
Zone 1 No Camping Zone

Camping ISRP Required

**Fee Zone Acres:**  
~28,400 or 65%

**Fee-Free**  
BLM lands: 35%





# LCNCA Proposed Fees

Service	FLREA Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Standard Amenity Day Use Fee (per vehicle per day)	Standard Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(f))	\$0	\$10
Unit Wide Overnight Camping ISRP	ISRP (16 U.S.C 6802(h))	\$0	\$15
Developed Group Site 1-75 people (Per Day)	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	\$0	\$100
Developed Group Site 76+ people (Per Day)	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	\$0	\$200
Local Area Year Pass (Empire Pass)	Site-Specific Pass (16 U.S.C 6804(c))	\$0	\$40

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# IFNM Background and History

129,000 acres and contains a significant system of cultural and historical sites covering a 5,000-year period. Possessing one of the richest stands of ironwood in the Sonoran Desert.

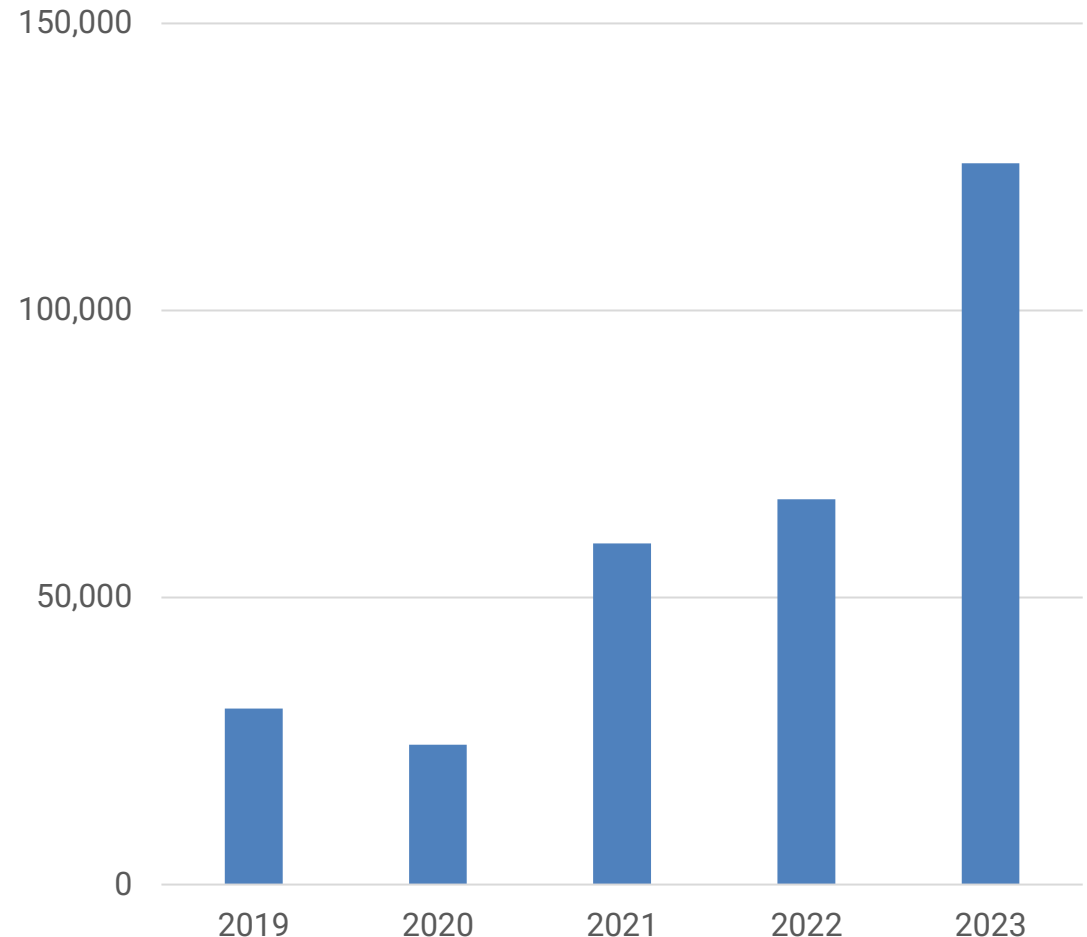
- Use is primarily sightseeing and multi-day camping
- Year-round season of use with the highest visitation between September and March
- Activities include camping, picnicking, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, hiking, hunting, biking, OHV use, and equestrian use



Photo by Alan Nyiri



# IFNM Site Visitation



- Total visits to the IFNM increased from 30,692 in 2019 to 125,647 in 2023.
- Popular locations:
  - Silverbell Group Site
  - Pump Station Road
  - Ragged Top
  - Waterman Mtns



# Site Amenities and Maintenance Needs

Tent or trailer space	Picnic table	Potable Water	Access Road	Fee collection	Visitor protection	Refuse containers	Toilets	Fire pits or grill	Group site
X			X		X				X

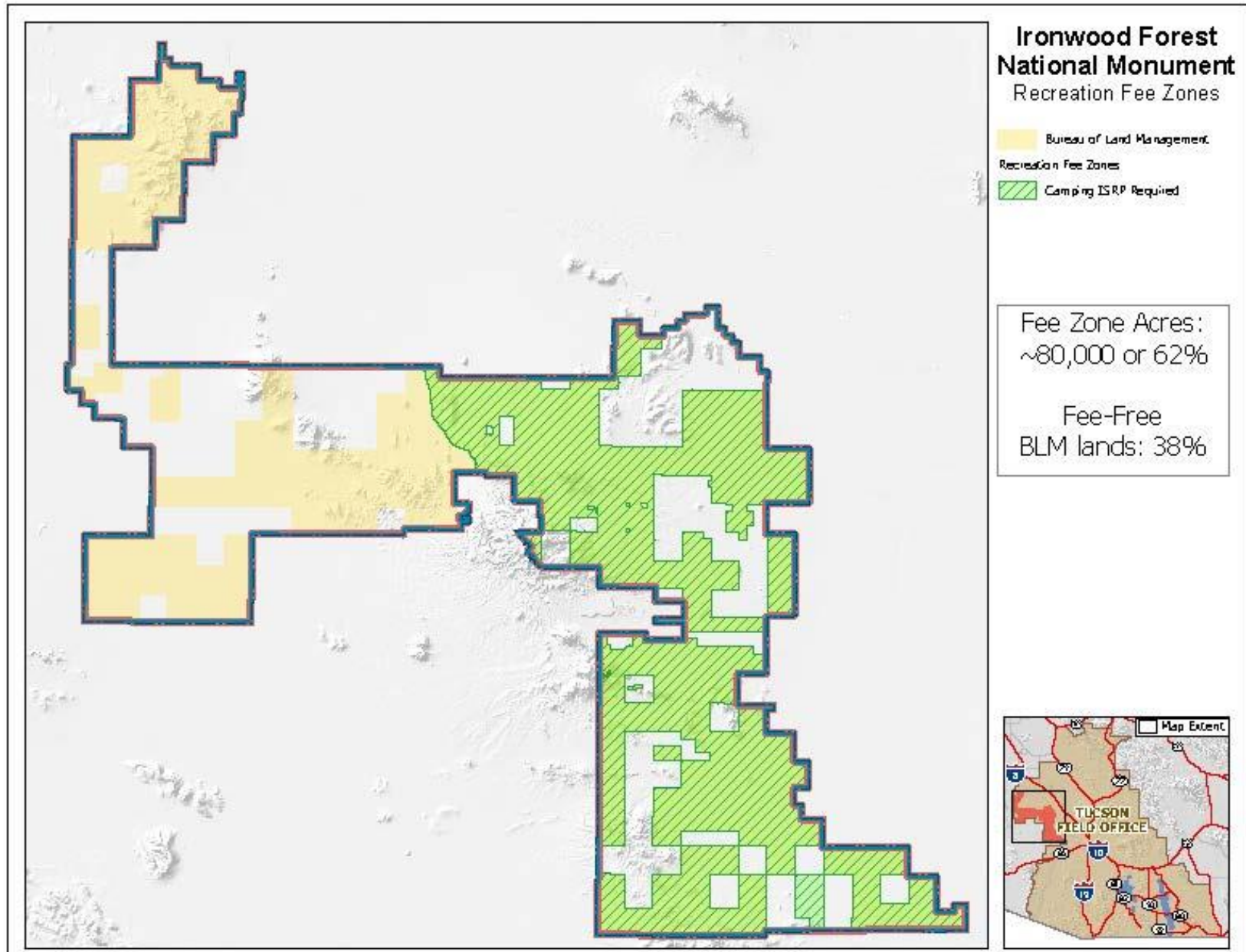
**Border trash collected and removed from IFNM**



**Titan Missile Interpretive Site**  
Photo by Friends of the Ironwood Forest

# IFNM Site Improvements







# IFNM Proposed Fees

Service	FLREA Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Unit Wide Overnight Camping ISRP*	ISRP (16 U.S.C 6802(h))	\$0	\$15

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# GRRS Background and History

Christmas recreation site and the Shores recreation site make up the Gila River Recreation Sites (GRRS).

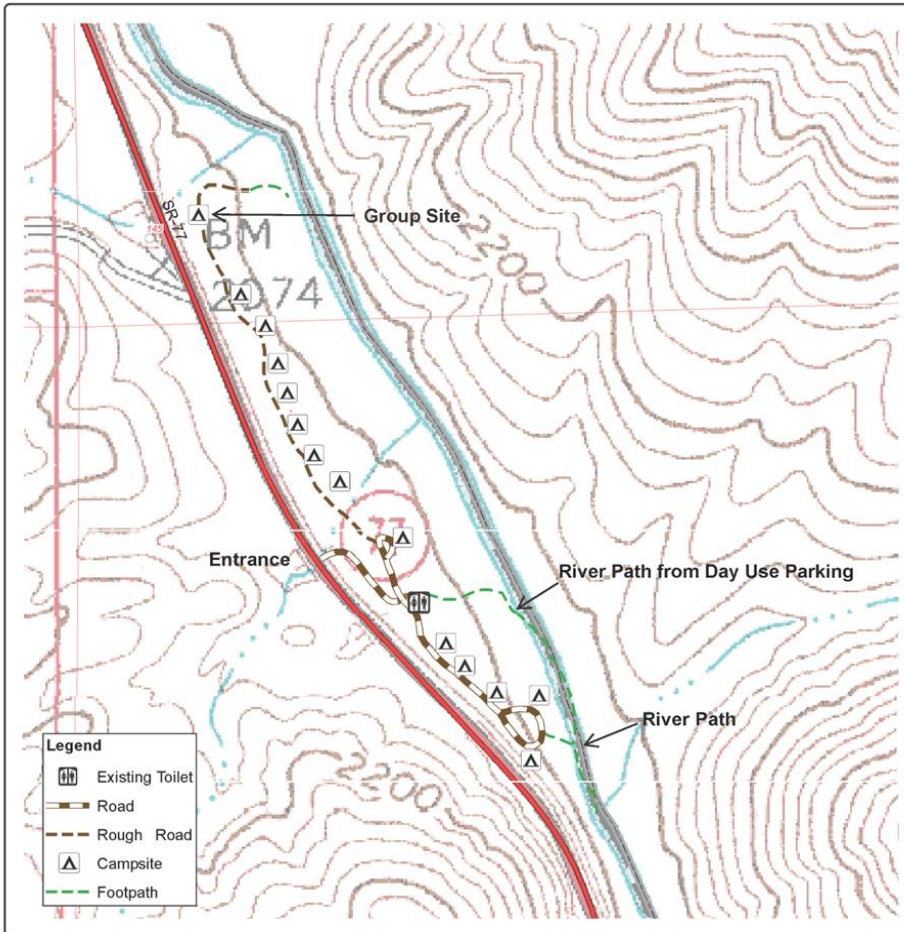
- GRRS is designated a special recreation management area.
- Primarily general day use and overnight camping
- Largest visitation occurs fall through spring
- Average group size is 4-5 people who stay approx. 2 days
- Most users live within a two-hour travel radius
- Primary activities include camping, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, wildlife viewing, fishing, small craft floating



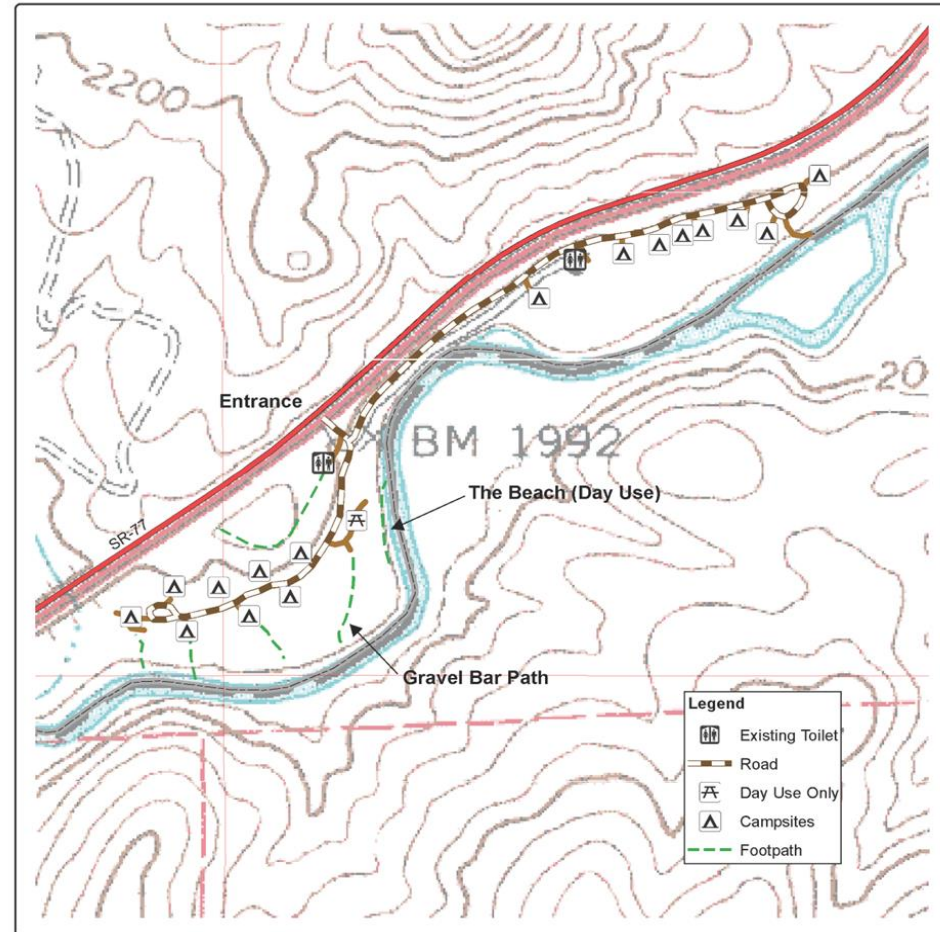
**Christmas Recreation Site**



# Gila River Recreation Sites



Christmas Recreation Site

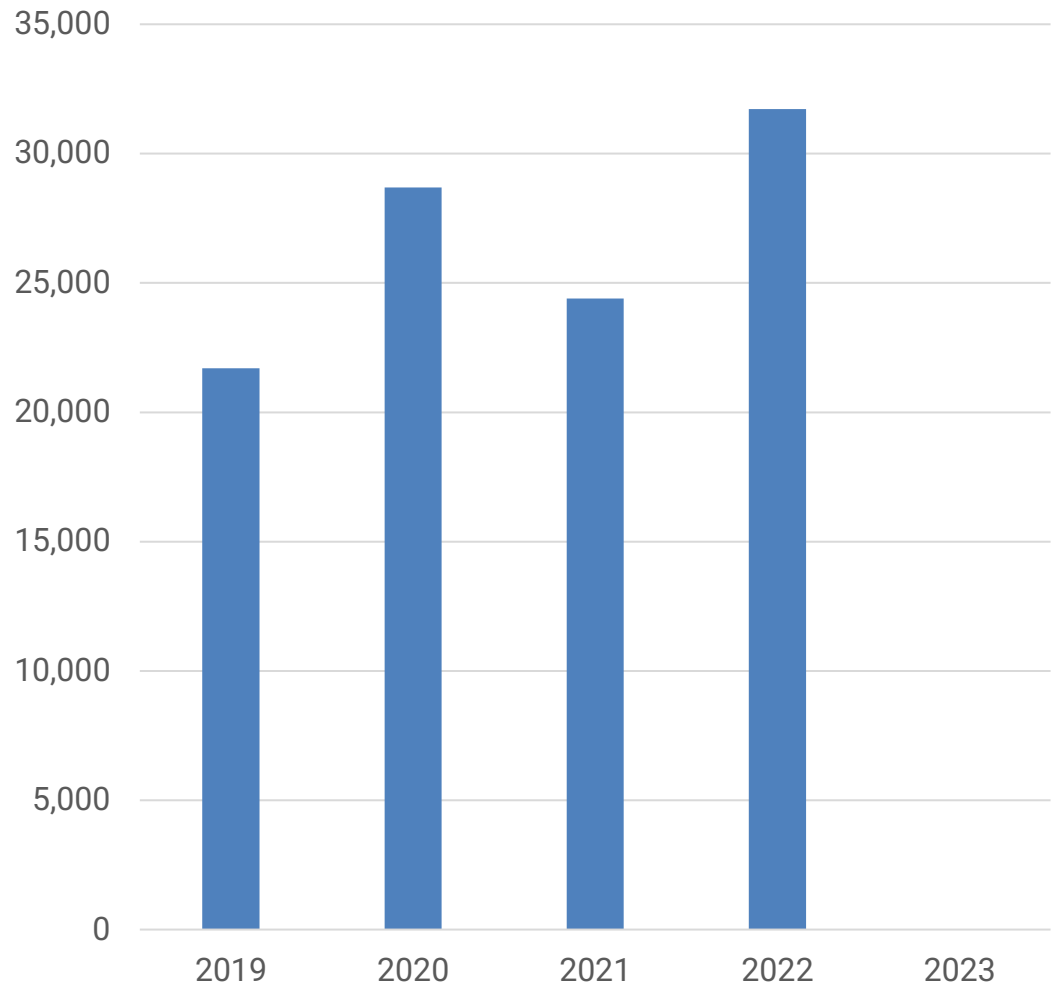


Shores Recreation Site



# GRRS Site Visitation

- Total visits increased from 21,700 in 2019 to 31,720 in 2022.
- Popular locations within proximity of the Gila River Recreation Sites include:
  - Gila River
  - Town of Winkelman
  - Arizona National Scenic Trail
  - Mescal Mountain OHV area



# GRRS Amenities and Maintenance Needs

Tent or trailer space	Picnic table	Potable Water	Access Road	Fee collection	Visitor protection	Refuse containers	Toilets	Fire pits or grill	Group site
X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X





# GRRS Site Improvements

## New Gravel and Vegetation Work



**Shores Vault Toilet**



**Camp Unit**



# GRRS Proposed Fees

Service	FLREA Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Day Use (per vehicle)	Standard Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(f))	\$0	\$7
Camping (per site)	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	\$0	\$10
Group Site 1-50 people (Per Day)	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	\$0	\$75
Group Site 51+ people (Per Day)	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C 6802(g))	\$0	\$150
Local Area Year Pass (Gila River Pass)	Site-Specific Pass (16 U.S.C 6804(c))	\$0	\$40

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%



# Background: Fee Free Sites/Areas

The TFO encompasses over 600,000 acres. Of that, a recreation fee is being proposed on 159,570 acres.

**Seventy-three percent (73%) of TFO will remain fee free for the recreating public.**

Snyder Hill



Middle Gila Canyons



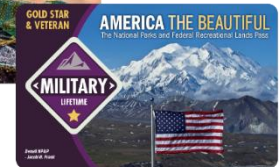


# Recreation Passes

- Site-specific passes
  - Relate to the specific sites and have specific uses.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Every Kid Outdoors (EKO) Passes
- America the Beautiful Passes:
  - Free: Military Pass, Access Pass
  - Paid: Senior Pass, Annual Pass



Every Kid Outdoors NPLD at Empire Ranch





# America The Beautiful (ATB) Passes

## Standard Amenity Sites

- All ATB passes and EKO passes for day use sites:
  - GRRS
    - Christmas
    - Shores
  - LCNCA
    - Empire Ranch Headquarters
    - Airstrip Day Use Site
  - SPRNCA
    - San Pedro House
    - Fairbank
    - Millville
    - Terrenate
    - Hereford

Airstrip Group Site



## Expanded Amenity Sites

- Only Senior Pass and Access Pass provide discounts at expanded amenity campgrounds for individual (ind.) campsites
  - GRRS
    - Christmas Group Site
    - Shores Group Site
  - LCNCA
    - Airstrip Group Site
    - Maternity Well Group Site
    - Ag Field Group Site



# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates (Fair Market Value)

A regional survey of fees charged at sites comparable to the sites covered under this business plan was conducted to identify a fair market value fee increase.

<b>Tent Camping and Day Use Site</b>	<b>Overnight</b>	<b>Day-Use</b>
<b>Catalina State Parks</b>	\$25 per night non-electric	\$7 per vehicle
<b>Rose Canyon Lake</b>	\$26 single tent site \$42 double site	\$8 per vehicle
<b>Rustler Park Campground</b>	\$15	\$8 per vehicle
<b>Chiricahua National Monument</b>	\$20	\$0
<b>Saguaro National Park</b>	\$8	\$25 per Vehicle/\$20 per Motorcycle/\$15 per person
<b>Gilbert Ray Campground</b>	\$10	NA
<b>Camp Saguaro</b>	\$25(4 max)	NA
<b>Tucson Lazy Day KOA</b>	\$70	NA



# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates (Fair Market Value) (Continued)

Group Site	Overnight
Catalina State Park	\$20 per night per vehicle
Whitetail Group Site	Up to 45 people \$125 per night, up to 60 people \$140 per night, up to 90 people \$165 per night, plus \$10 per vehicle
Gordon Hirabayashi Campground	\$50 plus \$10 per vehicle per night
Rose Canyon Lake	1-50 people \$103 per night 51-90 people \$140 per night, 91+ \$162 per night
Chiricahua National Monument	\$3 per person (minimum \$24)

Annual Passes	Cost
Full State Park System	\$75 non-commercial; \$200 premium non-commercial
Coronado National Forest	\$40
Tonto National Forest	\$80
Saguaro National Park	\$45
Tumacacori National Historic Park	\$35
Sonoran Desert Museum	Individual \$70, Family \$159



# Priorities for Future Expenditures

## **Ongoing expenditures**

Labor and supplies for facility maintenance, labor for Law Enforcement patrols and potable water permitting and regular testing.

## **Short-term priority expenditures**

Upgrade day use sites with additional picnic tables that are ADA compliant.

## **Long-term priority expenditures**

Site road improvements to accommodate larger vehicles, additional camp sites with shade structures, update interpretive signage, upgrade day use sites, and improve vehicle barriers/ campsite delineation markers.



# Priorities for Future Expenditures (Continued)

Item	Description	Estimated Cost
ADA upgrades at GRRS	Update at least one site to full ADA access and improve all picnic tables and fire rings to ADA use.	\$50,000
Site Road Improvements	Improve site road at Shores (GRRS) and Miller Backcountry Site (SPRNCA) due to erosion issues and widen to accommodate larger vehicles	\$400,000
Site Road Maintenance	Lapsed maintenance for the main roads in LCNCA. Grading, shaping and drainage as needed.	\$350,000
Shade Structures	Add shade structures to camp units that lack shading at GRRS, LCNCA and IFNM.	\$200,000
Camp Units	Add camp capacity with additional camp units at LCNCA and IFNM.	\$500,000
Camp delineation	Add vehicle barriers to ensure camp compliance via boulders or post and cable at LCNCA, GRRS, and IFNM	\$100,000
Vault Toilets	Add vault toilets at LCNCA and move toilet at GRRS	\$100,000
Trail work	Expand and improve trail system at SPRNCA and LCNCA	\$150,000
Interpretive signage	Refresh and improve interpretive signage at the SPRNCA and LCNCA	\$25,000
Expanded camp amenities	Add picnic tables and improve fire rings at several camping areas including the Silverbell group site, Pump Station, and Ragged Top area on IFNM.	\$50,000



# Public Outreach

- 45-Day Public Comment Period from September 6-October 21, 2024.
- Notified the public via press releases, social media, YouTube video, recreation.gov alerts, and ArcGIS StoryMap.
- Posted on BLM websites.
- Presented 2 virtual statewide public information sessions.
- Sent notification and outreach to potentially affected Tribes, Congressional representatives, state government and agencies, local government and municipalities, and interest groups.



# Public Outreach Continued

- Presented 5 public information sessions for the public and our partners
- Posted flyers at -
  - Christmas and Shores Rec Sites
  - Fairbank Historic Townsite and San Pedro House within the SPRNCA
  - Empire Ranch HQ and notice boards within the LCNCA
  - Information boards in the IFNM
  - TFO public room
- Sent emails to more than 200 individuals on the LCNCA and SPRNCA collaborative management mailing lists.



# Responses

- During the 45-day comment period, 53 comments were received.
- Of those 53 comments, the TFO received comments from the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Friends of the San Pedro River, Cienega Watershed Partnership, Huachuca Hiking Club and the Friends of the Ironwood Forest.



# Comment Summary

Draft Business Plan Comments Received	Supportive	Conditionally Supportive	Opposed	Opposed w/ Recommended Changes	Suggestions	Total
TFO Amenity Fee Sites	9 (17%)	13 (23%)	22 (42%)	3 (6%)	6 (12%)	53



# Comment Summary (Continued)

- **Concerns**

- Opposed to proposed increase that is double or more than double the current fee
- Opposed to ISRP fees in the IFNM, LCNCA and SPRNCA
- Concerns with the use of CPI-U for future fee increases
- Concerns about economic barriers for low-income communities

- **Recommendations**

- Identified strategies for how fees should be used to improve safety, services, amenities, signage about fees, and overall fee compliance
- Provided an alternative fee proposal

- **Support**

- Based on evidence presented in the business plan, there was support for a fee increase provided the sites were improved
- Several commenters supported a fee increase, but disagreed with the amount of the proposed fee increase
- A few commenters were in full support of the fee proposal as presented in the business plan



# Arizona Game and Fish Department

- Acknowledged need for fee increases to keep pace with rising costs and visitor numbers
- Raises several concerns on impacts to lower-income groups, use of federal funds, and the need for clarity in fee types and terminology





# Additional Local Partner Comments

- Local partner comments submitted from Friends of the San Pedro River, Cienega Watershed Partnership, Huachuca Hiking Club and the Friends of the Ironwood Forest.
- Partners were generally supportive of the business plans.
- Concerns were raised about adverse effect on lower income populations and general confusion over fees/fee zones implementation.



# Changes as a Result of Public Comment

- Reworked the proposed fee zone for the Ironwood Forest National Monument.
- Reviewed and added clarifying language to increase the understanding of the fee structures and where they are applicable.
- Reviewed and clarified the uses of passes for the fees where applicable.



# Summary Continued

- Establish a new fee areas in SPRNCA, LCNCA and IFNM
- Establish fees at Gila River Recreation Sites
- Increase fees for backcountry overnight camping ISRPs within the SPRNCA

Request for RAC recommendation



# Questions?



Pronghorn at Sunrise on LCNCA Credit: AIR Alan Nyiri



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

# YFO Amenity Fee Sites Business Plan





# Purpose of Briefing

- Present BLM Arizona recreation business plan proposals, background information, outreach, and public comments received.
- Seek recommendation from RAC to implement the recreation business plan proposals.



# Background

- The Yuma Field Office (YFO) Amenity Fee Site Business Plan is proposed by the Yuma Field Office within the Colorado River District.
- This business plan proposes
  - 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.
  - 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 \$10 day use standard amenity fee.
  - Retain existing standard amenity fees for Betty's Kitchen and Ehrenberg Sandbowl Day Use areas.
  - Proposed new expanded amenity campground at Fortuna Pond.





# YFO Estimated Annual Visitation

- Visitors to the YFO participate in a variety of activities including:
  - Boating
  - Fishing
  - Off-highway vehicle riding (side-by-sides, technical 4WD, motorcycles, etc.)
  - Non-motorized activities (hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use)
  - Camping (developed and dispersed)

Fiscal Year	Yuma Field Office Estimated Number of Visitors 2019-2023
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.



# Background: Fee Free Sites/Areas

- Over 1.1 million acres of the YFO remains fee free, including:
  - day use sites that provide access to boating and fishing opportunities
  - access to motorized and non-motorized opportunities.



Mittry Lake Wildlife Area



# Amenity Fee Business Plan Proposal

- This business plan proposes
  - Increases in expanded amenity and site-specific annual pass fees.
  - Proposed new expanded amenity campground at Fortuna Pond.
  - Retain the standard amenity fee at Betty's Kitchen and Ehrenberg Sandbowl Day Use areas.



Oxbow Boat Ramp



# YFO Sites Visitation and Description

- 112,000 visitors in FY23 to the Amenity Fee sites.
- Most sites on the shoreline are accessible by vehicle, boat or very limited OHV trails.
- Based on the needs of each location, retaining walls, pathways, steps and safety handrails are constructed at the sites.
- Site amenities include restrooms, grills, picnic tables, shade ramadas, interpretive signs, trash receptacles, and beaches.



T. K. Jones Campground and Boat Launch



# YFO Amenity Fee Sites Background and History

- The BLM YFO's amenity fee program was established in 1999.
- The program then became 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.



Senator Wash Reservoir



# Retain Standard Amenity Fee at Betty's Kitchen and Ehrenberg Sandbowl

- The following two sites are standard amenity fee sites under the 2007 Yuma Business Plan.
- YFO originally proposed removal of these fee sites in the draft plan. On further reflection, YFO proposes to retain the site fees to provide the option to further develop these sites in the future should need or interest allow.
- **Ehrenberg Sandbowl:** Located approximately 3 miles south of Ehrenberg in La Paz County, Arizona. It is a 400-acre Open OHV Management Area.
- **Betty's Kitchen Watchable Wildlife Area and National Recreation Trail:** 10-acre day-use area is located along the Lower Colorado River approximately 15 miles north of Yuma in Yuma County, Arizona.



# 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 around the pond because of user conflict with the actual purpose of the location. However, there is interest in having nearby camping available at an adjacent site.



# Proposed Fortuna Pond Campground Site





# Proposed Phases of Construction

- The site would be developed in phases and built to fulfill the expanded amenity fee requirements, and may include:
  - Onsite camp host
  - Improved gravel roads
  - Fee collection kiosk
  - Interpretive and information kiosks
  - Vault toilets
  - Picnic tables
  - Grill stands
  - Fire rings
  - Fish cleaning station
  - Trash collection location
  - 40 RV parking locations
  - 20 tent-only sites



## YFO Amenity Fee Sites Existing & Proposed Fees

Fee Description*	FLREA Fee Type	Year of Last Fee Increase	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Standard Amenity Fee – Day Use	Standard Amenity (16 U.S.C. 6802(f))	2008	\$10	\$10
Expanded Amenity Fee – Overnight Occupancy	Expanded Amenity (16 U.S.C. 6802(g) (2)(A))	2008	\$15	\$20
Site-Specific Annual Pass (Decal)	Site-Specific Pass (16 U.S.C. 6804(c))	2008	\$75 – Coverage of up to 3 motor vehicles. 2 Decal Limit. 14-day/In 14-day Out	\$200 - Coverage of up to 3 motor vehicles. 2 Decal Limit.

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply.  
Option to increase fees if/when CPI-U increases 20%.



# America the Beautiful Passes (YFO Amenity Fee Sites)

- All the America the Beautiful passes are accepted at standard amenity sites.
- America the Beautiful Senior and Access passes provide holders with a 50% discount on admission to the YFO's expanded amenity sites.



# YFO Amenity Fee FY24 Operating Costs – 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



# YFO Amenity Fee 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)
Overhead Staff - Various GS levels	\$550,465
Volunteer Program (Amenity Fee Program Cost)	\$41,580
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$592,045</b>

- Approximately 1/3 of staffing time is dedicated to operating the YFO's Amenity Fee 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.



# Volunteers

In FY 2024, volunteers at the Amenity Fee and LTVA Sites provided invaluable support:

- **Volunteer Hours**
  - Donated 47,260 hours
- **Economic Contribution**
  - Valued at \$1,606,367



Volunteering at Imperial Dam LTVA



# YFO Amenity Fee Revenues

- Based on the five-year amenity fee revenue, the average annual revenue is \$244,382.
- Revenue collected is less than operating costs for service contracts, labor, and maintenance.

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



# Priorities for Future Expenditures (YFO Amenity Fee Plan)

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



Senator Wash Hiking Path



# YFO Amenity Fee Priority Enhancement Projects

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



# YFO Amenity Fee Secondary Projects

Secondary Projects	Estimated Costs	Project Description
Site Activity Plan for Imperial Dam Recreation Area	\$50,000	One-time Cost
Develop and Implement Fortuna Pond Campground	\$500,000	Phase 1: Road Access, Camp Host Site, Sewer, Water, Power, Vault Toilets
Implement Fortuna Pond Campground	\$300,000	Phase 2: Picnic Tables, Fire Rings, Grill Stands, Trash Collection and Contract
Implement Fortuna Pond Campground	\$350,000	Phase 3: Fish Cleaning Station, Native Vegetation and landscaping, Reservation System



# Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates (Fair Market Value)

Campground or Day Use Area Name	Current Campground or Other Fees	Amenities Offered	Key Differences
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	BCC: \$5 permit	No Amenities	No Charge for Backcountry use in YFO
Arizona State Parks: Patagonia Lake State Park	Day Use \$15 per vehicle Boat In Sites: \$25 per night Drive in site: \$25 - \$30 per night Cabins: \$119 per night	105 developed sites, 20/30/50-amp hook ups Picnic tables, grill rings,	Additional fees for extra vehicles. Similar rules as BLM
US Forest Service: Bog Springs Campground	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



# Public Outreach

- 45-Day Public Comment Period from September 6- October 21 2024.
- Notified the public via press releases, social media, and ArcGIS StoryMap.
- Posted on BLM websites.
- Presented 2 virtual statewide public information sessions.
- YFO presented 2 public meetings and 2 public information sessions, virtually and in person.
- Sent notification and outreach to potentially affected Tribes, Congressional representatives, state government and agencies, local government and municipalities, and interest groups.
- Sent mailers to approximately 11,600 former site users.
- Posted flyers at all LTVA and Amenity Fee sites.



# Public Outreach - Virtual and In Person Meetings

- Virtual Business Plan Presentations were on September 11 and 25 via Zoom.
- In-person presentations at La Posa South LTVA Ramada on 9 October, Imperial LTVA on November 6 and again at La Posa South Ramada on November 20 to provide information about the fee proposals.



# Responses

- During the 45-day comment period, 3 comments were received regarding the YFO Amenity Fee Plan.
- The YFO received one comment from the Arizona Game and Fish Department.



# Comment Summary

Draft Business Plan Comments Received	Supportive	Conditionally Supportive	Opposed w/ Recommended Changes	Opposed	Opposed General Anti-Fee	Total Responses
YFO Amenity Fee Sites	0 0%	1 33.3%	1 33.3%	1 33.3%	0 0%	Total Replies 3 100%

The YFO did not make changes to the proposal based on public input.



# Comment Summary – Amenity Fee

- Comments expressed concern about raising the Annual Pass to \$200 for the amenity fee sites.
- One comment suggested \$120 for Annual Pass or incremental increases to reach \$200.



# Annual Pass Cost Break Down

- The \$200 Annual Pass is a great cost saving measure for the recreating public.
- The annual permit cost breaks down to approximately \$17 per month or .55 cents per day.
- By comparison, a permit holder would regain the cost of the permit in just 10 overnight visits, or 20 daily visits.
- The 14 Day Occupancy Rule does still apply at all amenity fee sites for all permit holders.



# Government Organization Responses

- Arizona Game and Fish (Amenity Fee)
  - Expressed concerns regarding serving underserved communities and socio-economic concerns for adjoining communities.



# Summary

Business plan proposes modifications to existing fees, and one new proposed fee site. Proposed fees are in line with comparable fair market analysis.

- Day use fees of \$10 a day per motor vehicle remain the same.
- Increase in expanded amenity fees for overnight occupancy per motor vehicle from \$15 to \$20.
- Increase Site-Specific Amenity Fee annual pass (Decal) from \$75 to \$200.
- Retaining standard amenity fees from Betty's Kitchen and Ehrenberg Sandbowl Day Use areas.
- Proposed new expanded amenity campground at Fortuna Pond.



# Questions?



Senator Wash South Shore Campground

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# YFO Long-Term Visitor Area (LTVA) Business Plan

Presentation for the Arizona Resource Advisory Council – December 11-12, 2024

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# Purpose of Briefing

- Present BLM Arizona recreation business plan proposals, background information, outreach, and public comments received.
- Seek recommendation from RAC to implement the recreation business plan proposals.

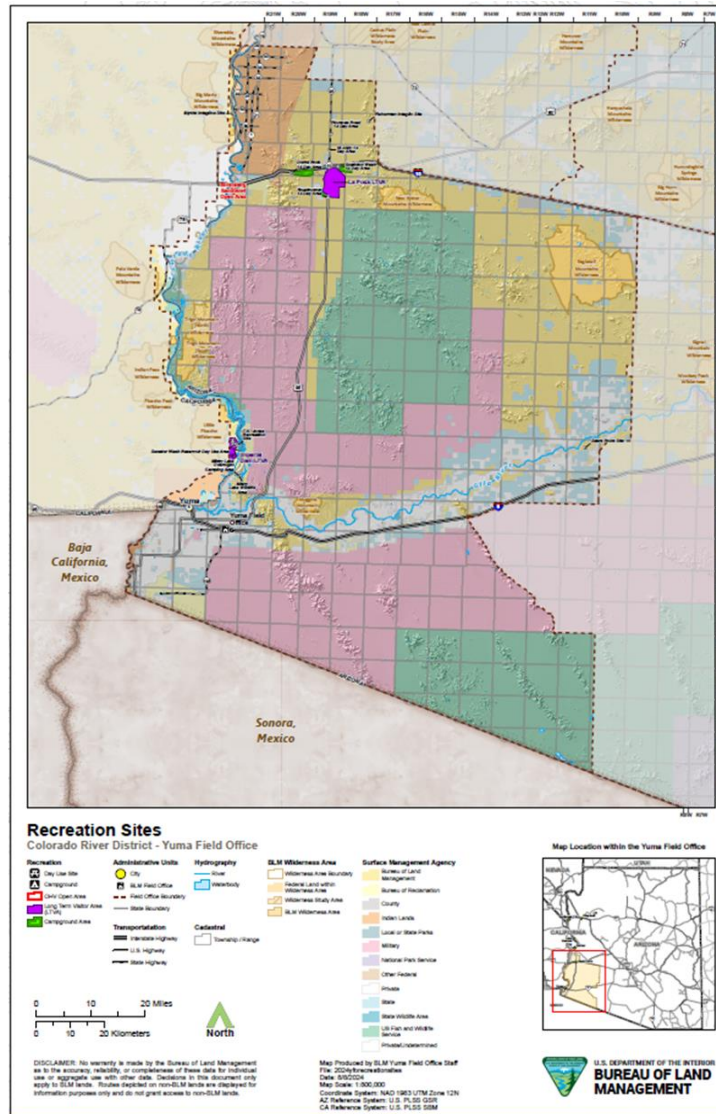


# Background

- The Yuma Field Office (YFO) Long Term Visitor Areas (LTVA) Business Plan is proposed by the Yuma Field Office within the Colorado River District.
- This business plan proposes to
  - Increase Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) Fee for use in the YFO LTVAs
    - from \$180 to \$600 for the Long Term Permit (7 months).
    - from \$40 to \$200, and from 14 days to 30 days for Short Term Permit.



# Yuma Field Office Recreation Sites





# YFO Estimated Annual Visitation

- Visitors to the YFO participate in a variety of activities including:
  - Boating
  - Fishing
  - Off-highway vehicle riding (side-by-sides, technical 4WD, motorcycles, etc.)
  - Non-motorized activities (hiking, mountain biking, equestrian use)
  - Camping (developed and dispersed)

Fiscal Year	Yuma Field Office Estimated Number of Visitors 2019-2023
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.



## Imperial Dam LTVA Ramada





# Imperial Dam LTVA

- 3,500-acre Imperial Dam LTVA is located within the Imperial Dam Recreation Area. Located approximately 21 miles north of Yuma in Imperial County, California, directly south of the Senator Wash Reservoir.
- Facilities include accessible flush and vault toilets, potable water, a three-lane dump station with rinse water, dry dump station, grey water dump site, trash disposal, shade ramadas, full hook-up sites for volunteer hosts and contractors, post and cable fencing, signage, and unpaved roads.
- Activities available include fishing, boating, swimming, cultural sites, rock hounding, watchable wildlife, unique desert scenery, biking, off-highway vehicle trails and hiking opportunities.
- The increasing use of the LTVAs, particularly during the active LTVA season, creates a heavy demand on the existing facilities.
- Because most infrastructure at the Imperial LTVA was built in the early 1980s, there are several large maintenance projects pending, including replacement of the well house and water treatment facility, replacement of the 85,000-gallon water tank that serves the entire recreation area, and replacement of the existing flush toilet restrooms.



# La Posa LTVA

- 11,400-acre La Posa LTVA is located approximately two miles south of Quartzsite in La Paz County, Arizona.
- Facilities at the La Posa LTVA include potable well water systems with water distribution sites, a four-lane dump station with sewage lagoon, garbage collection locations, thirteen universally accessible restrooms, over 3 miles of post and cable fencing, shade ramadas, a concrete dance floor, and extensive signage.
- Activities available include cultural sites, rock hounding, watchable wildlife, unique desert scenery, solitude, off-highway vehicle trails, biking and hiking opportunities.

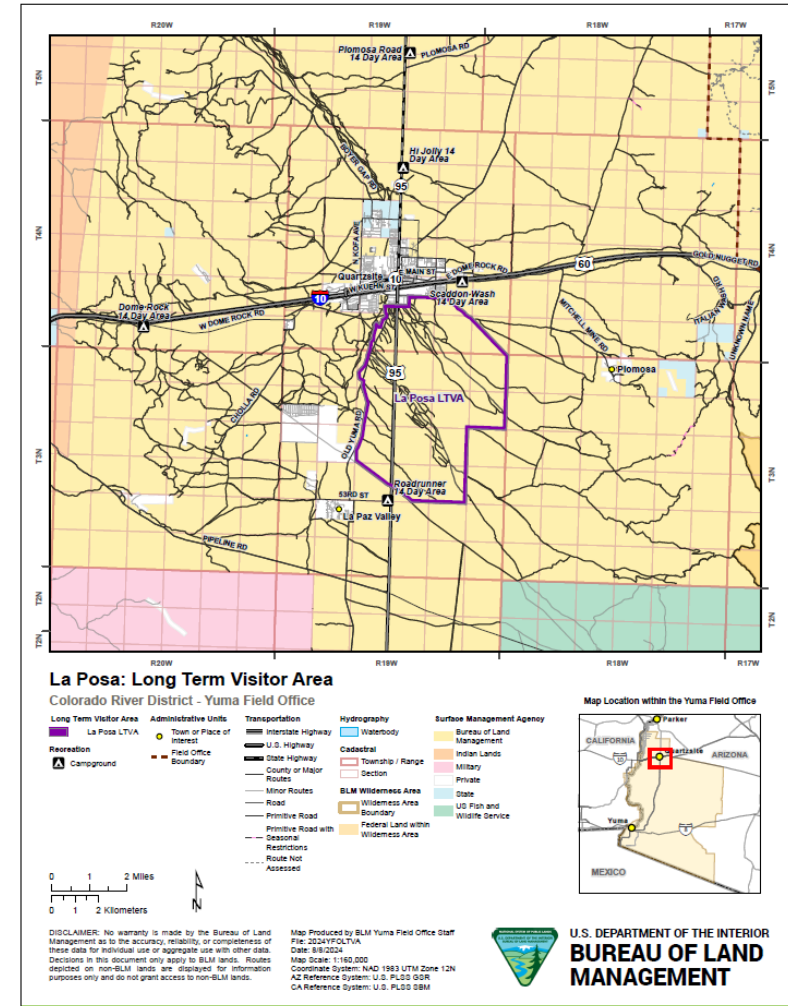
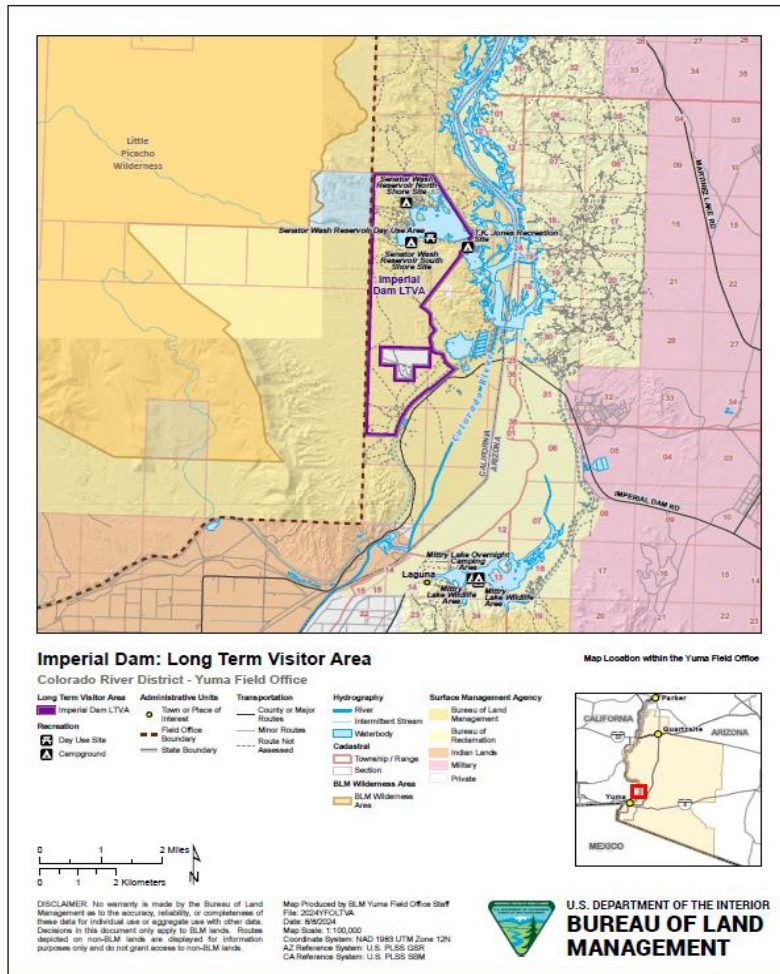


# Free 14 Day Camping Areas

- Short-term camping opportunities (14 day stay areas) are allowed on designated public land locations with no amenities.
- Many short-term public land visitors opt for the free areas due for their ease of accessibility and no fee/amenity status. Because public lands stay is limited to 14 days, people will often move around to different free areas, as well as spend time in the LTVAs with the purchase of permits.
- The highest use free 14-day camping area is located near the town of Quartzsite, and its highest occupancy is during the Big Tent and Rock and Gem Show in January.
- Although the BLM does not charge for these areas, they do have operating and maintenance costs associated with overseeing these areas because of the concentrated use.



# YFO LTVA Maps





# YFO Long-Term Visitor Areas

## (where do visitors come from?)

Visitors	Long-term permit (%)	Short-visit permit (%)
Arizona	16.3%	14.7%
South Dakota	7.5%	2.6%
California	6.6%	24.1%
Washington	5.9%	4.4%
Oregon	5.4%	5.6%
Texas	4.9%	3.8%
Idaho	4.6%	2.6%
Nevada	4.5%	4.1%
Colorado	4.0%	2.9%
Florida	3.4%	2.7%
Canada	6.9%	7.9%
Other Locations (origin unknown)	30.0%	24.5%



# YFO LTVA Sites Existing & Proposed Fees

This business plan outlines proposed changes to the current recreation fee program for the Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVAs) located in Arizona and California. The Business Plan proposes\*:

- Increase long term ISRP permit (7 months) fees from \$180 to \$600 and short term permit fee from \$40 to \$200 (16 U.S.C. 6802 (h)).
- Modify the short-term permit length from 14 days to 30 days. The change for the short-term permit from 14 to 30 days reflects the use trend of the typical short term permit user and encourages long visitation at the sites.

\*Additional e-commerce processing fees may apply. Option to increase fees if/when CPI increases 20%.



# Annual YFO LTVA ISRP Permits and Visitor Numbers

Fiscal Year	LTVA Program ISRP Permits	Visitor Numbers
FY 2020	7,299	18,248
FY 2021	6,498	16,245
FY 2022	8,282	20,705
FY 2023	8,629	21,573
FY 2024	9,192	22,980 @2.5 per permit 32,172 @3.5 per permit



# America the Beautiful and YFO LTVA ISRPs

- The LTVAs are designated Special Areas and require Individual Special Recreation Permits (ISRPs) for use.
- The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes, often referred to as the America the Beautiful Pass, apply to FLREA standard and expanded amenity fee recreation sites, and may not be used for ISRPs, per the FLREA (16 U.S.C. 6801 et seq.).



# YFO LTVA FY-24 Operating Costs

## – Contract Costs

Item	FY24 Contract Cost	1/3 Reduction in Cost for LTVA Season (8 Months)
Trash Imperial	\$90,948	\$60,025
Trash La Posa	\$242,000	\$161,172
Water Testing Imperial	\$60,064	\$39,642
Sewage Testing Imperial	\$1,200	\$800
Water Testing La Posa	\$60,064	\$39,642
Sewage Pumping	\$92,470	\$61,030
Annual Program Maintenance	\$150,000	\$100,000
Emergency Repair Funding	\$500,000	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$1,196,746	\$962,311



# YFO LTVA Staffing Costs to Government


- Approximately two-thirds of staffing time is dedicated to operating the YFO's LTVAs 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.



# Volunteers

In FY 2024, volunteers at the Amenity Fee and LTVA Sites provided invaluable support:

- **Volunteer Hours**
  - Donated 47,260 hours
- **Economic Contribution**
  - Valued at \$1,606,367



Volunteering at Imperial Dam LTVA



# YFO LTVA Revenues

Fiscal Year	Short-Term ISRP Permits Issued	Long-Term ISRP Permits Issued	Total LTVA ISRP Revenue Collected
FY 2020	5,309	1,990	\$570,560
FY 2021	4,125	2,373	\$592,140
FY 2022	5,649	2,633	\$651,840
FY 2023	5,707	2,922	\$754,240
FY 2024	5,674	3,518	\$849,400



# YFO LTVA Revenue Projections Based on FY24 Use

Permit Type	FY24 Permits Issued	FY24 Revenue, using existing fee structure	Projected Revenue, using FY24 Permits numbers & proposed fee structure
Short Term ISRP	5,674	\$226,960	\$1,134,800
Long Term ISRP	3,518	\$622,440	\$2,074,800
Total	9,192	\$849,400	\$3,209,600



# Priorities for Future Expenditures (YFO LTVA Plan)

- Priority is to maintain the LTVA's existing amenities and access routes. In addition, the YFO strives to achieve adequate staffing and volunteer campground host levels to provide visitor services.
- Future upgrades would include mandatory replacement of the LTVA sites' existing potable water tanks and potable delivery locations. Replacement costs for those tanks and the additional build out and return to service exceeds \$1,000,000.
- Additional expenditures could include dedicated bike paths, hiking trails, shower facilities, laundry facilities and recreational activity sites, such as horseshoes and additional ramadas, etc.



# YFO LTVA Priority Enhancement Projects

Priority Projects	Estimated Costs	Description
85K gallon water tank replacement at Imperial Dam Recreation Area.	\$500,000	One-time Cost
Replace Well House, 2 Restroom Facilities on Senator Wash South Mesa	\$1,000,000	One-time Cost for the 3 buildings
Increase the number of vault toilets in the Senator Wash area	\$200,000	One-time Cost for 3 double vault toilets. Additional Service and Maintenance Fees
Increase the number of Vault Toilets in the La Posa LTVA	\$100,000	One-time Cost of 3 vault toilets
Replace and upgrade Potable Water Tank for La Posa South	\$250,000	One-time Cost
5G cellular Booster for Senator Wash Contact Station and Oxbow	\$2,400	One-time Cost



# YFO LTVA Cost Comparisons

Area	Permit type	Permit fee	Averaged monthly fee	Averaged daily fee
Quartzsite / Yuma LTVA	Current LTVA long-term ISRP permit	\$180.00	\$25.71	\$0.84
Quartzsite / Yuma LTVA	Proposed LTVA long-term ISRP permit	\$600.00	\$85.71	\$2.83
Quartzsite / Yuma LTVA	Current LTVA short-visit IRSP permit: up to 14 days	\$40.00	\$85.50	\$2.85
Quartzsite / Yuma LTVA	Proposed LTVA short-visit IRSP permit: up to 30 days	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$6.66
Quartzsite	B-10 RV Park	N/A	\$175.00	\$5.83
Quartzsite	Desert Gardens RV Park	N/A	\$445.00	\$14.83
Quartzsite	La-Z-Daze RV Park	N/A	\$300.00	\$10.00
Yuma	Quechan Casino Resort *	N/A	\$200.00	\$10.00
Yuma	Paradise Casino *	N/A	\$200.00	\$10.00
Yuma	Cocopah Casino *	N/A	\$200.00	\$10.00



# Public Outreach

- 45-Day Public Comment Period from September 6- October 21, 2024.
- Notified the public via press releases, social media, and ArcGIS StoryMap.
- Posted on BLM websites.
- Presented 2 virtual statewide public information sessions,
- YFO presented 2 public meetings and 2 public information sessions, virtually and in person.
- Sent notification and outreach to potentially affected Tribes, Congressional representatives, state government and agencies, local government and municipalities, and interest groups.
- Sent mailers to approximately 11,600 former site users.
- Posted flyers at all LTVA and Amenity Fee sites.



# Public Outreach - Virtual and In Person Meetings

- Virtual Business Plan Presentations were on September 11 and 25 via Zoom.
- In-person presentations at La Posa South LTVA Ramada on 9 October, Imperial LTVA on November 6 and again at La Posa South Ramada on November 20 to provide information about the fee proposals.



# Responses

- During the 45-day comment period, 1,315 comments were received regarding the LTVA Business Plan.
- Of those 1,315 comments, the YFO received one comment from the Arizona Game and Fish regarding both plans, and one comment from Quartzsite City Manager.



# Comment Summary

Draft Business Plan Comments Received	Supportive	Supportive Suggestion	Conditionally Supportive	Opposed w/ Recommended Changes	Opposed	Total Responses
YFO LTVA	51	137	231	714	182	1,315

The YFO did not make changes to the proposal based on public input.



# Comment Summary - LTVA

- Concerns
  - Concerns over the use of the CPI-U to adjust for future inflation.
  - Concerns that a fee increase would drive down tourism.
  - Concerns that fee increases would impact minority or low-income populations.
- Recommendations
  - Suggested having more law enforcement services and suggesting a fee increase but at a lower rate.
- Support
  - Mitigating operational costs while maintaining peak visitation.



# Government Organization Responses

- Arizona Game and Fish (LTVA)
  - Concerns regarding not adequately serving under-served communities
  - Socio-economic concerns for adjoining communities
- Quartzsite City Manager (LTVA only)
  - Concerns regarding not adequately serving under-served communities
  - Socio-economic concerns for adjoining communities
  - Concerned for management of visitation for closed and dispersed area if plan was implemented as written



# Summary

- Benefits from the fee increases would include:
  - Continued regular/annual maintenance at the same or better level as currently occurs
  - Reduction in deferred maintenance expenses
  - Completion of project that enhance the visitor's experience
  - Less potential for environmental impacts from unaddressed issues
- This business plan proposes increases for the Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) fees for use of the YFO LTVAs:
  - From \$180 to \$600 for the Long Term Permit (7 months)
  - from \$40 to \$200, and from 14 days to 30 days for Short Term Permit
- The BLM's Colorado River District appreciates the RAC's time and would like to request RAC recommendation to implement the proposed YFO LTVA Business Plan.



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

# Questions?

