

FY08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area **STATE:** AZ (AZ422-AZ10)

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DESCRIPTION (PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERALL DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPES OF SITES AND SERVICES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN THIS FEE PROJECT – CAMPGROUNDS, CABINS, TOURS, VISITOR CENTERS, SPECIAL USES PERMITS, ETC.)

The San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area (SPRNCA) is the first of only two Riparian National Conservation Areas in the nation. The Arizona-Idaho Conservation Act of 1988 (Public Law 100-696) designated the San Pedro RNCA to protect the riparian area and the aquatic, wildlife, archeological, paleontological, scientific, cultural, educational, and recreational resources. The San Pedro RNCA is located near the city of Sierra Vista and US Army Fort Huachuca in Cochise County, AZ and contains approximately 56,431 acres of public land. Forty miles of the San Pedro River fall within the conservation area adding to its environmental importance.

Primitive camping is allowed throughout the San Pedro RNCA except in riparian zones, where camping is restricted to protect these sensitive areas. There are two Administrative /Campground Host Sites located at the Fairbank Historic Townsite and the San Pedro House. This project includes all recreational revenues collected within the SPRNCA. Because there are no amenity fee sites within the SPRNCA, all of revenues are derived from Special Recreation Permits. These include any commercial operations or competitive and organized group events occurring within the SPRNCA, plus an individual permit issued for overnight backcountry camping permits. All other daily dispersed recreation use is free, including hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, horseback riding, fishing, and hunting in designated areas.

FEE SCHEDULE

Fees for most of the SRP program are established at the national level by the BLM Director. Other fees associated with permits may be used in addition to use fees. However, no application fees have been established for the field office; nor have fees been assessed for assigned sites or exclusive use. The fees in effect for FY 07 were the following:

- Commercial or vending: \$90 annual minimum or 3% of gross receipts, whichever is higher.
- Competitive events: \$90 annual minimum, 3% of gross income, or \$4 per participant whichever is higher.
- Organized group: \$90 annual minimum or \$4 per participant whichever is higher.

Effective April 1, 2008, the minimum commercial, competitive and organized group use fees were adjusted based on the Gross National Product Implicit Price Deflator Index in accordance with the automatic three-year fee adjustment policy published on October 19, 1989 (see WO IM No. 2008-106).

- The minimum annual commercial and/or competitive fee increased to \$95.
- The competitive event and organized group fee increased to \$5 per person per day.

The SRP fee for an individual's use of special management area is established locally. The SPRNCA has one such area – which is the overnight use anywhere within the NCA. For the entire year it remained unchanged:

- Special Mangement Area Special Recreation Permit – (Individual Backcountry Camping Permit): \$2.00 / Person / Night

[Specific Accomplishments This Year \(please provide specific examples that addresses the entire fee program such as campground improvements, visitor services, etc.\)](#)

During the FY08 approximately \$4,145 in fees were collected from 160 special management area (overnight camping) permits and 5 commercial recreation permits.

Visitor Services, Interpretation: A National Public Lands Day event at Murray Springs included volunteer service and educational activities for children. Staff and the Friends of the San Pedro meet with community groups, clubs and other volunteer organizations to provide presentations about the SPRNCA and recreational opportunities. About 150 presentations, guided walks, hikes, and equestrian rides are provided each year.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement: Limited maintenance of routes and facilities used by permitted activities, or purchase and maintenance of signs on such routes, will be provided with funds in this project account as the cumulative total in the account allows effective use of the funds. In 2008, the Miller Backcountry Camp was completed.

Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation: No funds from project AZ10 were expended on Law Enforcement or permit monitoring functions in FY08. When the cumulative sum in this account is adequate, we may undertake a monitoring program for permits.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection: This year, the Fairbank mercantile building's south, east, and west adobe walls, the roof, and drainage system were repaired. Remaining portions of buildings in the Charleston townsite were stabilized. A protective mud coating was applied to the remaining walls of Presido Santa Cruz de Terrenate. Also, the infrastructure needed to protect riparian and upland habitats was installed/repared.

[Projects/activities Planned for Next Year \(FY09\):](#)

The San Pedro Project Office and San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area are expecting approximately the same number of special recreation permits as occurred in previous years. The recreation program has proposed the following new projects for FY09 if adequate funding is procured:

1. Establish an accessible / interpretive trail at the Lehner Mammoth Kill Site. Processing of NEPA analysis was completed in FY 2008, however construction was delayed to FY09 due to lack of FY 2008 staffing and funding.

Relocate the Palominas Trail Head to a location outside the primary floodplain. If adequate funding becomes available this project will ensure the year round use of the trailhead.