

FY08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ05 GILA BOX RIPARIAN NCA

STATE: AZ

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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 Gila Box Riparian National Conservation Area (RNCA) is one of only two Riparian National Conservation Areas in the nation. The Arizona Desert Wilderness Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-628) designated the Gila Box RNCA to protect its riparian habitats and related values for present and future generations. The Gila Box RNCA is located between Safford and Clifton in Graham and Greenlee counties, and contains approximately 21,767 acres of public land and 1,720 acres of private land within its designated boundary. A 15-mile segment of Bonita Creek and 23 miles of the Gila River are within the RNCA. Two other waterways, Eagle Creek and the San Francisco River, flow into the RNCA, for a total of four perennial waterways in the conservation area.

Primitive camping is allowed throughout the RNCA except in riparian zones, where camping is restricted to protect these sensitive areas. An Administrative Site/Campground Host Site is located on the level terrace southwest of the Kearny Camp monument. Expanded Amenity Fee sites include Riverview Campground and Owl Creek Campground. The one Standard Amenity Fee site is the Flying W Group Picnic Area. These fee sites are available year round. Dispersed recreation use outside the fee sites includes hiking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing, picnicking, camping, horseback riding, fishing, boating, pleasure driving, and hunting.

FEE SCHEDULE

- **RIVERVIEW CAMPGROUND**
- **Owl Creek Campground** \$5.00/campsite/day
- **Flying W Group Picnic Area** *\$50.00 for first 50 people*
\$75.00 for 50-75 people
\$100.00 for 75-100 people

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR (PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES THAT ADDRESSES THE ENTIRE FEE PROGRAM SUCH AS CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS, VISITOR SERVICES, ETC.)

Visitor Services, Interpretation:

Funds were spent to provide supplies to the site hosts at Riverview Campground for the operation of various sites within the Gila Box. In addition, some of the fees were used to install amenities to upgrade and maintain the site host's area. The result of these expenditures through the years has been the ability of BLM to recruit and retain quality site hosts. The hosts in FY08 were on site during the heavy use season, conducting day to day maintenance of the facilities including trash pickup and providing visitor information and assistance. They also provided a point of contact for emergency assistance for law enforcement and medical needs.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:

Fees collected in FY08 were used to cover the annual operating costs of keeping the facilities maintained and clean.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR (FY09):

CONTINUANCE OF SITE HOST PROGRAM WITH SUPPLIES BEING PROVIDED FOR OPERATION OF THE VARIOUS FACILITIES WITHIN THE GILA BOX RNCA.