

## FY08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**NAME OF FEE PROJECT: PARIA CANYON/ COYOTE BUTTES SPECIAL MANAGEMENT AREA**

**STATE:  
ARIZONA**

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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.)**

Paria Canyon, its tributaries Buckskin Gulch and Wire Pass, and the Coyote Buttes area are part of the larger Paria Canyon-Vermilion Cliffs Wilderness, designated in August, 1984. The Special Management Area consists of three smaller portions of the larger Wilderness; they are distinct units both geographically and managerially: Paria Canyon, Coyote Buttes North, and Coyote Buttes South. The SMRA contains of 8 trailheads, 2 campgrounds, and 27, 212 acres of land. Management goals include providing for the long-term protection and preservation of the area’s wilderness character while managing the area for the use and enjoyment of visitors in a manner that will leave the area unimpaired for future use and enjoyment as wilderness.

Paria Canyon, Buckskin Gulch, and Wire Pass are widely recognized as one of the longest and most stunning slot canyon combinations in the world. Accessed from four trailheads, these narrow canyons wind their way sinuously downward through seven geologic layers, eventually ending at the Colorado River just below Glen Canyon Dam. The area received over 20,864 visitors in 2008. To sustain the opportunity for the wilderness experience found in the canyons, overnight use is limited and managed through a permitting system. Recreation revenues are derived from Special Recreation Permits issued to individuals utilizing the Special Management Area.

### FEE SCHEDULE

Permit Area	Type of Fee	Fee	Effective Date
Coyote Buttes North	Lottery fee*	\$5 per application	August 1, 2007
Coyote Buttes North	ISRP	\$5 per person per day	May 1, 1997
Coyote Buttes South	ISRP	\$5 per person per day	May 1, 1997
Paria Canyon Overnight	ISRP	\$5 per person per day	May 1, 1997
Paria Canyon Day-Use	ISRP	\$5 per person per day	May 1, 1997
White House Campground	Amenity Fee	\$5 per night	May 1, 1997

*\*This is an administrative cost-recovery fee, not a part of the recreation revenue collections authorized by FLREA. It is included here, however, because it remains part of the visitor’s experience and serves to sustain management of the website servers and software related to this project.*

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

**Visitor Services, Interpretation:** A comprehensive interpretive project that includes regulatory, informational, directional, and interpretive panels for all trailheads and the Paria Contact Station was

completed in FY 2008. A combination of permit fees and federal appropriations paid for the project. The interpretive project placed interpretive panels at the Condor site, the Paria Contact Station, Wire Pass, Buckskin Gulch, Whitehouse Trailhead and Campground, Lee's Ferry, and Stateline Campground.



Major volunteer support subsidizes the four work months provided by Paria Contact Station staff so the public can receive excellent visitor service support at the Paria Contact Station and during site visits at the Paria Canyon-Coyote Buttes permit area trailheads. The volunteers donated 2,600 hours of services.

The recreation revenues pay for interpretive media printing, volunteer support services, etc.

**Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:** Four work months were utilized to repair and maintain current facilities (restrooms, trailheads and road networks). These work months were supplied by the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Recreation Aid. In addition, the interior of the Paria Contact station were painted this year before the new interpretive panels were installed on the walls.

**Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:** A BLM/Northern Arizona University partnership consists of a wilderness monitoring program. Site monitoring in Paria Canyon and Coyote Buttes is conducted annually by professors and graduate students in the Department of Geography, Planning, and Recreation. Monitoring is conducted to document visitor use impacts and the resultant data is part of the information used to assist managers in making informed land use decisions. A Paria Canyon Tamarisk Removal Project was begun in 2008, which included website updates, informational brochures, and baseline monitoring trips.

**Fee Agreements and Reservation Services:** In the Paria Canyon/Coyote Buttes Special Management Area, Individual Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) are issued for day hiking and overnight backpacking, and a limited number of permits are issued for each day. The issuing of permits/collecting fees is completed under the Arizona Recreation Online Permit System (AROLPS), an online permit and fee processing system managed internally by the agency. Expanded Amenity Fees are collected through a self-pay system for overnight camping at the White House Campground.

#### **PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR (FY09):**

In conjunction with the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument and the Kanab Field Office, Utah, interpretation enhancements will include:

1. Addition of trailhead maps depicting the 3 individual permit area boundaries that make up the special management area.
2. Creating a Leave No Trace video to be shown at the Paria Contact Station or the Kanab Field Office during walk-in lottery permit processing.

Through collaboration among the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and the Kanab Field Office, Utah, facility enhancements will include:

1. At the Paria Contact Station: the addition of 2<sup>nd</sup> volunteer RV site, the replacement of shingles on the storage shed roof, and an additional shade shelter with picnic table to provide shade for walk-in lottery permit applicants.
2. Expansion of the Stateline Campground from 4 to 7 campsites.
3. Preparation of a NEPA documentation for the Wire Pass parking lot expansion to include a plan for adding a second restroom and more parking spaces. Also included in the plan will be the development of delineated campsites at the Buckskin Gulch trailhead.

In collaboration with the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument, and the Kanab Field Office, Utah, wildlife habitat restoration and resource protection enhancements will include seven Paria Canyon tamarisk removal project trips with the goal of completing 7 miles of tamarisk and Russian olive eradication, and the development and production of a BLM brochure on the partnership project.

Law enforcement enhancements will include the placement of a full-time Law Enforcement Officer within Vermilion Cliffs National Monument by utilizing 1232 for a total of one work month.

Following extensive public review during both FY 2007 and FY 2008, the Arizona Resource Advisory Council, through the FLREA-prescribed process, has heard and concurred with the following fee change proposal to be implemented October 1, 2008 for the 2009 fiscal year:

### **FEE SCHEDULE**

<b>Permit Area</b>	<b>Type of Fee</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Effective Date</b>
Coyote Buttes North	Lottery fee	\$5 per application	August 1, 2007
Coyote Buttes North	ISRP	\$7 per person per day	Oct. 1, 2008
Coyote Buttes South	ISRP	\$5 per person per day	May 1, 1997
Paria Canyon Overnight	ISRP	\$5 per person per day	May 1, 1997
Paria Canyon Day-Use	ISRP	\$6 per person per day	Oct. 1, 2008