

## FY08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**NAME OF FEE PROJECT:** VIRGIN RIVER CANYON RECREATION SITES **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.)**

The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area is surrounded by the scenery of cliff walls of the Beaver Dam Mountains and Paiute Wilderness areas and the river riparian of the Virgin River Corridor ACEC. The recreation area is located on Interstate-15 about a 20-minute drive south from St George, Utah and 20-minute drive north of Mesquite, Nevada. The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area consists of a campground, a closed rest stop, and a day-use site.

The Virgin River Campground consists of 77 sites and 2 flush-toilet, heated/air-conditioned restroom facility. Most sites have picnic tables. Some sites have covered picnic tables. A few sites have areas for tent use.

The Virgin River Day Use area consists of 38 sites and flush-toilet, heated/air-conditioned restroom facility. The site also is access point to an interpretative trail, a trailhead into the Paiute Wilderness area, and boating access for the Virgin River.

The Virgin River Rest Area (closed) was donated to the BLM by Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The rest area consists of several sheltered areas, a house, water system and a parking lot. All of these facilities are planned to be removed, except for the water system that supplies the campground and day use sites.

### **FEE SCHEDULE**

**CAMPGROUND - \$8/NIGHT; \$4/NIGHT FOR GOLDEN AGE; \$90 MONTH**

**DAY USE - \$2/SITE; \$15 RESERVATION FEE**

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

The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area collects an average of \$15,300/year. About \$7,000/year provides campground host to oversee and maintain the site. The remaining amount is spent on supplies and repairs.

**Visitor Services, Interpretation:** The recreation area had 5 campground hosts (2 year-around hosts and 3 half-year hosts) maintaining the area. The hosts also maintained bathrooms at 3 other recreation sites. The hosts answered questions and concerns as needed.

**Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:** The following was completed this year:

- The water well pipe had a corrosion hole in it. A new pump was installed, and the pipe was replaced with plastic pipe, as required by Arizona State Water Inspector. A new wellhead enclosure was welded together.
- The Day Use Area's restroom was upgraded to heat pump.
- Large water break and resulting electrical short was repaired.
- Replaced and installed stolen fee tube.

**Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation:** During FY 2008, one fee box was ripped out of the ground and stolen and two vehicles abandoned within the recreation area. Since September 2008 an Arizona Highway Patrol Officer is living onsite as a campground volunteer. He will be domiciled there until he transfers to Kingman at an unknown future date.

**Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:** The Rest Area parking lot was used for helicopter stage area for Big Horn research in the surrounding wilderness areas.

**Fee Agreements and Reservation Services:** There is an agreement with Arizona Strip Interpretation Association (ASIA) to collect, count, and deposit the recreation fees for the Virgin River Gorge Recreation Area.

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

BLM is currently scheduling to add a cement pad to the Recreation Area's water well and additional security wall and locks as required.

In addition, non-fee revenue funds had been transferred from the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) to facilitate removal of a closed I-15 Interstate Rest Area many years ago. These funds will be spent on the removal of the rest area, to be completed by FY2010. Any remaining funds will be spent on improvements for the campground and day use area.