

FY08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: YUMA FIELD OFFICE SPECIAL RECREATION PERMIT PROGRAM (AZ320, 1232, AZ21)

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 Yuma Field Office Special Recreation Permit program includes two components: (1) individual use of two specially-designated Long-Term Visitor Areas (LTVA), and (2) commercial uses, competitive events, and organized group activities on the public lands. The field office's Imperial Dam and La Posa LTVAs, which collectively encompass over 12,000 acres, provide long-term recreation vehicle (RV) camping opportunities on the public lands between September 15 and April 15 of each year. The Yuma Field Office sold a total of 6,998 Special Recreation Permits in FY2008 for individual use of the LTVAs, which includes the use of centralized services and amenities, such as trash disposal, potable water, black and grey water dump stations, restrooms, and shade ramadas. The Yuma Field Office also processed a total of 59 annual Special Recreation Permits in FY2008 to local businesses and recreational clubs for commercial uses, organized groups, and competitive events on the public lands.

FY2008 LTVA Fee Schedule: Short-visit permit (14-days): \$40.00

Long-term permit (September 15 – April 15): \$180.00

All LTVA permits are honored at all other LTVAs for the length of their validity, including at the five LTVAs managed by the BLM California Desert District.

Fee Schedule for Other Special Recreation Permits: Special Recreation Permits fees for commercial uses, competitive events, and organized groups are collected in conformance with the national fee schedule established by the BLM Director.

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

Visitor Services, Interpretation: Through the use of recreation fee revenues, the Yuma Field Office processed numerous Special Recreation Permits for commercial uses on the public lands in FY2008. Annually, these vendors provided a variety of services to public land visitors, including RV repair work, RV water delivery and sewage pumping, wireless internet, big game hunting guides, and food concessions, that enhanced the recreational opportunities, experiences, and benefits of the public lands.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement: The Recreation and Visitor Services Division maintained approximately 10 miles of primary access roads within the Imperial Dam and La Posa LTVAs during FY2008, including the paving of approximately 1.5 miles of roads. These road maintenance and enhancement projects have addressed public health issues involving dust, public safety issues involving older roads, and issues involving soil erosion and damage to native vegetation.

Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation: BLM Law Enforcement officials regularly patrol and respond to issues at all of the Yuma Field Office's developed recreation sites and areas with funding from the Recreation and Visitor Services Division. Law enforcement staff is also responsible for collecting recreation fees from each LTVA contact station and safely delivering the monies to the field office.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection: BLM signage is continuously monitored, maintained, and updated at the two LTVAs. Signage alerts the public to applicable BLM regulations concerning overnight camping, firewood collection, and off-highway vehicle use that are critical to protecting the resource values within and near the LTVAs.

Fee Agreements and Reservation Services: N/A

Projects/Activities Planned for Next Year (FY09): The Yuma Field Office does not have any large-scale infrastructure projects planned for the Special Recreation Permit program in FY2009. Rather, the field office Recreation and Visitor Services Division will focus on utilizing collected recreation fees to maintain the existing facilities and amenities provided at the LTVAs, including but not limited to, access roads, volunteer contact stations, potable water delivery systems, black and grey water dumping and holding systems, and signage. Budget shortfalls over the last two fiscal years have forced the Yuma Field Office to utilize volunteer labor to complete many of the critical Park Ranger duties within the LTVAs; and the Yuma Field Office hopes that revenues generated from the Special Recreation Permit program in FY2009 will enable the Recreation and Visitor Services division to again hire seasonal Park Ranger positions to complete these tasks. In addition, the Recreation and Visitor Services Division will continue utilizing collected recreation fees in FY2009 to support the preliminary planning steps necessary to install a second RV black and grey water dump station and holding facility within the La Posa LTVA.