

FY08 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: ARIZONA STRIP DISTRICT
SPECIAL RECREATION PERMITS (AZ16)

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 Arizona Strip District Special Recreation Permit (SRP) fee project was established to account for fees collected for commercial / competitive SRPs and organized group events in the Arizona Strip Field Office, the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, and the Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument, all located within the Arizona Strip District.

Most of the SRPs issued were for the commercial services of hunting guides/outfitters and tour guides. Trophy hunts for mule deer and bighorn sheep occur at several locations on the District. The Arizona Strip District manages commercial guides for touring, sightseeing, and hiking the challenging and scenic areas of the Grand Canyon region, as well as several competitive and organized group events. Commercial applications for motorized and non-motorized guiding and sightseeing in the Monuments on the District are increasing in numbers each year. In coordination with the St. George Field Office in Utah, the Arizona Strip Field Office has hosted, for some 20 years, the annual Rhino Rally, a motorcycle race sponsored by the Wizards Motorcycle Club (see photos attached below on page 2), as well as portions of the Color Country Endurance Ride (an equestrian event). In recent years, organized events such as the Tri-State ATV Jamboree have provided well-managed, guided ATV touring, using numerous combinations of looping routes in the Southern Utah/Northern Arizona area. Its popularity has grown beyond local and regional riders to national renown.

The BLM co-manages Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monument with the National Park Service (NPS) which issues Commercial Use Authorizations (CUA) for commercial/organized group events on NPS-administered lands. Commercial and/or competitive activities and/or organized group events that occur on both NPS and BLM-administered land in that Monument may be issued both a CUA and a SRP. The Arizona Strip District staff also works cooperatively with the Kanab Field Office and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument in Utah to administer recreation in the northeastern portion of the District and in Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.

FEE SCHEDULE

As established by 43 CFR 2930.

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

Thirty SRPs were issued on the Arizona Strip District.

Visitor Services, Interpretation: Stipulations attached to SRPs were reviewed, consolidated, and improved. These stipulations include, as conditions of all issued permits, requested that clients / participants be provided Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly educational information.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement: No funds were expended on repair or maintenance of facilities in FY08.

Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation: The SRP fees collected were used to improve permit monitoring and case file management such as labor for handling and deposit of fee receipts, development of SRP management policies, training associated with SRP management, purchasing equipment and supplies directly related to SRP monitoring and compliance (GPS devices and software, cameras, etc.). Some funds were expended for law enforcement activities associated with monitoring visitor safety and resource conditions during the Rhino Rally.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY09: The Arizona Strip District and Vermilion Cliffs and Grand Canyon-Parashant National Monuments are expecting approximately the same number of special recreation permits as occurred in previous years with some slight increases. One major change to be implemented in the Arizona Strip District SRP fee program for FY2009 is the institution of a permittee education day in the spring similar to those conducted for the Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument. Permittees receive Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly information as well as specific information on resource and access conditions on the Arizona Strip District. The event allows permittees an opportunity to interact with BLM staff and management and provides an opportunity for more informed guides and event coordinators to assist with improved public education and safety.

District recreation staff is also working on a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (EA) for issuing motorized SRPs on designated routes in the Monuments in FY2009. The EA will be completed with extensive public involvement and will analyze impacts associated with this permitted use. The EA will result in criteria to be used in evaluating future motorized SRP applications in the Monuments and will assist District management and staff to protect the public's recreational experiences and Monument resources.