

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY09 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ05 GILA BOX RIPARIAN NCA

STATE: AZ

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AREA DESCRIPTION:

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, Owl Creek Campground, and the Flying W Group Day Use 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: \$5.00/campsite/day

Owl Creek Campground: \$5.00/campsite/day

Flying W Group Day Use Area: \$50.00 for first 50 people, \$75.00 for 50-75 people, \$100.00 for 75-100 people

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FY09:

Visitor Services, Interpretation:

Recreation fee revenues 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. A result of these expenditures throughout the last



few years has been the ability of BLM to recruit and retain quality site hosts. The hosts in FY09 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:

Fee revenues spent in FY09 covered the annual operating costs of keeping the facility maintained and clean. Fees funded a maintenance contract which included trash pickup and cleaning the restrooms.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY10:

- Continuance of Site Host program with supplies being provided for operation of the various facilities within the Gila Box RNCA.
- Pump vault toilets.