

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY09 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ14 LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL
CONSERVATION AREA

STATE: AZ

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AREA DESCRIPTION:

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA) Fee Project consists of managing the revenues from the issuance and maintenance of Special Recreation Permits (SRPs). Three recreation sites are managed as group sites open for group use only on a reservation basis and under a SRP. These are: Airstrip Group Site, Maternity Well Group Site, and Ag Fields Group Site. These group sites are situated in desert grasslands and mesquite/oak woodlands. Each site is about 15 acres in size, and is often used for national bird dog trials, horse endurance rides and outdoor education camping events.

The Airstrip Group Site is the primary recreation site within LCNCA and contains livestock water, a public restroom, and a fenced perimeter with plenty of pedestrian and livestock access points. The Airstrip Group Site was designed to allow permit holders to set up camping, RV's and livestock trailers in configurations suiting their own staging needs. In addition to the group sites, other SRP's are issued for other activities outside the group site areas.

FEE SCHEDULE:

The SRP fee schedule for commercial activities is established nationally for all BLM field offices. Fee receipts derived from recreational commercial, competitive, and organized group event SRPs are routinely calculated using national fee schedule guidance found in BLM Recreation Permit Administration Manual H-2930-1, Section III.G., as established by 43 CFR 2930. Currently, the cost of an SRP is \$95 minimum, \$5 per person per day for group or competitive events.

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR FY09:

Visitor Services, Interpretation:

The LCNCA Map/guide continues to serve as primary information for visitors. A Park Ranger was stationed at LCNCA site to monitor SRP and recreation activities. No recreation fee revenues were used to accomplish this during FY09.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:

In FY09, 1,200 feet of the new interpretive Heritage Discover Trail were built at the Empire Ranch Headquarters. Recreation fee revenues were not used to accomplish this project.

Law Enforcement, Public Use, and Recreation:

Traffic monitoring devices were in place to help record visitation to the LCNCA. Several Law Enforcement Rangers regularly patrol/monitor LCNCA recreation activities. No recreation fees were used to accomplish this during FY09.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection: A Vegetation Treatment Program continued and was expanded through the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act projects. Many recreation sites were temporally impacted due to extensive vegetation treatments. No recreation fee revenues were used to accomplish this during FY09.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY10:

BLM will make the following improvements on the Airstrip Recreation Group Site:

- Installation of a pipe rail fence to delineate the parking area.
- Installation of shade structures / ramadas
- Walkway improvements to the restrooms for ADA compliance