

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY  
FY10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

<b>NAME OF FEE PROJECT:</b> AZ08 VIRGIN RIVER CANYON RECREATION AREA	<b>STATE:</b> AZ
<b>Fee Project Contact:</b> Jon Jasper, Outdoor Recreation Planner	<b>Phone:</b> (435) 688-3264
<b>Email:</b> jonathan_jasper@blm.gov	

**AREA DESCRIPTION:**

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 area, and a day-use area. This fee project also includes receipts from the sale of the America the Beautiful Interagency Passes.

The Virgin River Campground consists of 77 sites and a 2 flush-toilet, heated/AC, restroom facility. Most sites have picnic tables, some with covered picnic tables, and a few sites have areas for tent use.

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

The Cedar Pockets Rest Area was donated to the BLM by the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). The rest area initially consisted of several sheltered areas, a house, water system and a parking lot. All of these facilities had been planned to be removed, except for the water system that feeds the campground and day-use areas.

**FEE SCHEDULE:**

Virgin River Campground: \$8/night; \$90 month  
 Virgin River Day Use: \$2/site; \$15 reservation fee

**SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY10:**

In FY10, The Virgin River Canyon Recreation Area had a visitation of 41,040 visitors (11,588 visits to the campground). \$22,493 was collected in campground fees and \$9,220 from the sale of Interagency Passes.

**Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:**

During the spring of 2010, a large portion of the Cedar Pockets Rest Area was removed, including the shelters, irrigation, secondary electrical, parking lot, and walkways. The main electrical system which supports the recreation area and the interstate interchange was not removed; nor was the water system (a pump house and two storage tanks) which remains in use for entire recreation area. The caretaker's house and a drive way to the remaining facilities also were not removed. This project was paid for using a large portion of the funds in a restoration account left by ADOT when they abandoned the rest area. The remaining funds in this account went toward replacing and staining the redwood tops of all 88 picnic tables through recreation area.

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding was utilized to add a solar field, ADA accessible enhancements, and for trail maintenance in FY10. Ramps, walkways, and five new accessible shade shelters were installed throughout the recreation area. Accessible stalls were also installed in three bathrooms in FY10. Trail maintenance contracts were awarded to American Conservation Experience for youth crews to work on trail projects.

Recreation fee revenues were used to install heat pumps in the bathrooms and for several plumbing fixes.

**Visitor Information and Services, Interpretation:**

About \$10,220 a year provides support for campground hosts to oversee and maintain the site and for cleaning supplies.

**PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY11:**

In FY11, recreation fee revenues will be used to purchase new roofing material which will be installed in the bathroom structures. Five to seven new accessible shade shelters, which are currently under construction, will also be completed in FY11.

Solar field construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2011 and all of the ARRA projects are expected to be completed in FY11.