

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY FY10 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

NAME OF FEE PROJECT: AZ14 LAS CIENEGAS NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA	STATE: AZ
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DESCRIPTION:

Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (NCA) Fee Project consists of managing the revenues from the issuance and maintenance of Special Recreation Permits (SRP). Three recreation sites require a SRP for their use: the Airstrip Group Site, Maternity Well Group Site, and the 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 often used for national bird dog trials, horse endurance rides and outdoor education camping events.

The Old Airstrip Group Site is the primary recreation site within Las Cienegas NCA and contains livestock water, a public restroom, and a fenced perimeter with plenty of pedestrian and livestock access points. The Old 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. Other SRP’s were also 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. As of March 2008, the SRP fee schedule is the following:

- Commercial permits are the maximum of \$95 or 3% of the gross revenue.
- Competitive permits are the maximum of \$95, 3% of gross revenue, or \$5 per participant/day.
- Organized-group use is \$5 per person per day or \$95, whichever is greater.

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY10:

In FY10, \$1,942 in revenue was collected through the issuance of 11 SRPs.

Visitor Services, Interpretation:

In June 2010, a reprint of the Las Cienegas NCA map/guide was ordered at the State Office and publication is expected in FY11. This map/guide serves as primary information for visitors. A Volunteer Site Host has also been stationed at Las Cienegas NCA site to greet visitors and deter vandalism. Recreation fee revenues were not used to accomplish any of these projects.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement:

The Old Airstrip Recreation Group Site required use of a mechanical brush hog to eliminate vegetation this past year in order for the public to safely use the site. The recreation site is within a grazing pasture and in past years the grazing livestock controlled the growth of the wild grasses; however, due to a change in the grazing program and abundant rainfall, the recreation site was overrun with tall grasses. The tall grass created a fire hazard and removal was necessary to ensuring that all SRP events were held safely. Recreation fee revenue was used to mow the site.

Half of the new interpretive Heritage Discover Trail, approximately 1600 feet, was completed at the Empire Ranch Headquarters. The trail included a trailhead with visitor filter gate and five new interpretive signs along the trail. No recreation fee revenues were used to accomplish this project.

Law Enforcement – Public Use and Recreation:

Traffic monitoring devices were in place to help calculate visitation. Several Law Enforcement Rangers regularly patrol/monitor Las Cienegas NCA recreation activities. Recreation fee revenues were not used for this project.

Wildlife Habitat Restoration, Resource Protection:

The Vegetation Treatment Program, which is responsible for removing thousands of acres of mesquite trees, is a wildlife habitat restoration program that continued in FY10 and expanded to include ARRA projects. Recreation sites received extensive vegetation treatments through the use of ARRA funds.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY11:

Using a combination of federal appropriations and possibly recreation fee revenues, the TFO will continue building the next phase of the Airstrip Recreation Group Site, which includes installation of a parking area, landscape features in the common area between public parking and the Special Recreation Area Group site event area. A wildlife friendly barb wire fence will be installed around the Heritage Discovery Trail to protect the trail from use by livestock.