

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

RECREATION FEE PROGRAM SUMMARY

FY11 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 offer drinking 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 2011, the SRP fee schedule is the following:

- Commercial permits are the maximum of \$100 or 3% of the gross revenue.
- Competitive permits are the maximum of \$100, 3% of gross revenue, or \$5 per participant/day.
- Organized-group use is \$5 per person per day or \$100, whichever is greater.

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN FY11:

Visitor Services, Interpretation: A walking tour guide booklet and 3 additional interpretive signs were developed for the Heritage Discovery Trail located at the Historic Empire Ranch Headquarters.

A new visitor Contact Station was opened at the Empire Ranch Headquarters, following the guidelines in the Empire Ranch Adaptive Reuse plan, the Huachuca House was transformed into usable space for visitor to learn more about the Empire Ranch and LCNCA. None of these projects were funded by recreation fee revenues.

Repair, Maintenance, and Facility Enhancement: Recreation fee revenues were used to monitor/test and maintain water sources at Las Cienegas NCA's Airstrip Recreation Group Site and Empire Ranch Headquarters to meet/exceed ADEQ Potable water standards.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR FY12:

- Maintenance and mowing, in selected areas, at Road Canyon Recreation Camp Area.
- Install a parking delineation pipe rail fence at the Airstrip Recreation Group Site.
- Continue monitoring and testing well water sources used at Las Cienegas recreation sites.
- Produce a revised edition of the LCNCA Map and Guide is expected in FY12.
- Provide printed interpretive materials for the new Empire Ranch Visitor Contact Station.