

Minutes

Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) Work Group Meeting

June 7, 2007

1. A meeting of the REA Work Group was convened at the BLM National Training Center at 1:30 p.m., June 7, 2007. The agenda items are shown at enclosure 1.
2. Attendees:
 - a. REA Work Group members: Glen Collins, Frances Werner, Norman Perry, and Steve Saway.
 - b. Other RAC members: Josh Avey.
 - c. BLM personnel: Mike Taylor, Scott Florence, and Bill Harris.
 - d. Forest Service personnel: Jeff Saari, Dave Killebrew, Jerry Mastel.
3. Action on agenda items:
 - a. The Chair asked all attendees to introduce themselves and then discussed the purpose and agenda for the meeting. This work group meeting was primarily intended to review the updated Forest Service fee proposals for Haigler Canyon and Alto Pit, to preview the associated PowerPoint presentations to be given at the June 8th RRAC meeting, and to discuss tentative REA Work Group recommendations on the fee proposals.
 - b. Draft minutes of the April 23rd REA Work Group meeting. Motion made by Norman Perry, seconded by Frances Werner, to approve the minutes as stated. Motion was approved.
 - c. Haigler Canyon Campground/Picnic Area, Tonto National Forest, fee proposal. Jerry Mastel, District Ranger for the Pleasant Valley Ranger District, briefed the group on the fee proposal using a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation summarized the more detailed fee proposal presented at the April 23rd meeting and provided updated information on public outreach efforts and comments received since that time. He and Dave Killebrew fielded questions/comments concerning the following: allocation of annual pass revenues to Haigler Canyon (not easy); can people still fish in the area without paying to park in the day use fee area (yes, other parking is available); there is a \$6 fee for campground use and a separate \$6 fee for day use (yes); and could locals get a discount to the day use fee for frequent visits (not easy to administer). Overall, public comments from the local community were opposed to the proposed fees (mainly the day use fee which would have more impact on local users). However, it was also pointed out that the Forest Service has invested significant funding in protecting the perennial stream and riparian habitat by re-vegetating barren areas adjacent to the stream, upgrading the creek crossing, and developing new facilities outside of the stream channel at higher elevations.

d. Alto Pit OHV Campground, Prescott National Forest, fee proposal. On behalf of the Prescott National Forest, Jeff Saari, Region 3 Developed Sites Program Manager, briefed the group on the fee proposal using a PowerPoint presentation. He fielded questions and comments from the work group. The project has attracted good public support and is considered non-controversial.

e. Tentative REA Work Group Recommendations. After discussing the fee proposals and associated public comments, the work group's tentative recommendations (pending additional public comment at the RAC meeting) were as follows:

-- Haigler Canyon Campground. Support the proposed fee.

-- Haigler Canyon Day Use. Defer consideration of this fee until the September, 2007 RAC meeting due to the REA requirement for a six month public notice period for a new fee area. This would also give the Forest Service more time to work with the public on their concerns.

-- Alto Pit OHV Campground. Support the proposed fee.

f. Fourth Quarter Schedule. One fee proposal is planned to come before the work group for the 4th quarter. The Tonto National Forest will present their fee change proposal for the Salt River Canyon Wilderness private river permit system. Dave Killebrew will send out the proposal via email and it was agreed to conduct the next REA Work Group meeting via conference call (probably early August). Further details will be provided to all concerned.

g. Other REA Work Group business. None required.

4. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

5. Minutes submitted by: Steve Saway, REA Work Group Chair

6. Date approved: September 5, 2007