



News Release

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR ■ BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ARIZONA STATE OFFICE ■ ONE NORTH CENTRAL AVENUE, SUITE 800 ■ PHOENIX, AZ 85004

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Contact: Deborah E. Stevens, (602) 417-9504

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BLM Arizona Resource Advisory Council to Meet in Phoenix and Hear Recreation Fee Proposals

PHOENIX, Ariz. - The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Arizona Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet in Phoenix on March 8, 2007. Established in 1995, the statewide citizen-based council provides advice to the BLM on land management programs and issues affecting public lands in Arizona. In addition, the RAC has been authorized to review and provide advice on all recreation fee proposals for the BLM and U.S. Forest Service (FS) recreation sites in Arizona, as required by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004. The RAC will hear fee proposals for one FS and three BLM recreation fee sites in Arizona. The public is invited to attend and provide comments to the RAC on the BLM management programs at 11:30 a.m., and the recreation fee proposals at 2:30 p.m.

The business meeting will be held from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the BLM office at One North Central Avenue, Suite 800. Highlights of the morning agenda include: a BLM presentation on its proposed San Pedro Rails-to-Trails Project and RAC reports on Land Use Planning, Standards for Rangeland Health and Guidelines for Grazing Administration, Recreation and Tourism, Off-Highway Vehicle Use, and Wild Horse and Burro Program. A public comment period on these general BLM issues will be at 11:30 a.m.

The afternoon agenda will include business covering the Federal Lands Enhancement Act and the Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC). The RRAC will be briefed by FS and BLM staff on four recreation fee site proposals, including:

Sycamore Cabin (Prescott National Forest) – Less than 20-minute drive from Phoenix, Flagstaff and Prescott, this historic Prescott National Forest Ranger house is currently available for nightly rental. The fee proposal will consider an increase from \$100 to \$125 per night (excluding \$9 reservation fee). An additional \$25 per night will be charged if an RV is brought to the site.

Coyote Buttes Special Management Area (BLM Arizona Strip District) Just south of the Utah - Arizona border, with access located midway between Page, Arizona, and Kanab, Utah, on U.S. Highway 89, visitors may hike in scenic Coyote Buttes by obtaining a permit on a first-come, first-served basis. The existing permit fee is \$5 per person, per day. The fee proposal will consider the inclusion of an online lottery for hiking permits and a \$5 per application lottery fee.

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Amenity Fee Site Proposals, Annual Recreation Pass, and Long-Term Visitor Areas (BLM Yuma Field Office) Changes to the recreation fee schedules are proposed, including an increase from \$140 to \$180 for a 7-month permit, and from \$30 to \$40 for a 14-day permit at the Field Office's two Long-Term Visitor Areas. In addition, BLM also maintains seven other developed recreation fee sites, six of which are located on the lower Colorado River. The annual pass honored at all seven of these recreation sites is proposed to increase from \$50 to \$75. At the six Colorado River recreation sites, BLM is proposing to establish a \$10 day-use fee and a \$15 overnight fee. At the seventh site, the Ehrenberg Sandbowl Off-Highway Vehicle Area, BLM is proposing to establish a \$5 day-use fee and a \$10 overnight fee.

Amenity Fee Site Proposals and Annual Recreation Pass (BLM Lake Havasu Field Office) The Annual Recreation Pass fee is proposed to increase from \$50 to \$100 per year, the first increase since the program began in 2002. The Annual Pass is used in lieu of paying daily permit fees (typically \$4 to \$20 each) for an unlimited number of overnight and day-use visits at Lake Havasu shoreline campsites and Parker Strip recreation sites. An increase in the Daily Permit Fees is also proposed for the Parker Strip, from \$3 to \$4 to \$5 for day use, and from \$4 to \$10 to \$5 to \$10 for overnight. In addition, fees proposed for the Empire Landing Campground (upon its reopening in 2008) would be \$25 to \$30 per day.

A comment period on the FS and BLM proposals will be open to the public at 2:30 p.m. in the BLM office.

Following is a list of the RAC members, the category they represent and their residence.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Residence</u>	<u>Term</u>
Thomas Kelly	Commodity/Grazing	Wickenburg	9/2009
Lee Aitken	Commodity/Transportation/ROW	Tucson	9/2007
Sandra McCullen	Commodity/Off-Road Vehicle Use	Mesa	9/2009
Carolyn Loder	Commodity/Energy/Minerals	Tempe	9/2007
Steve Saway	Commodity/Off-Road Vehicle Use	Sierra Vista	9/2008
Jason Williams	Non-Commodity/Environmental	Prescott	9/2007
Jan Holder	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	Tucson	9/2007
Tina Clark	Non-Commodity/Historical/Archaeology	Yuma	9/2009
Glendon Collins	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	Phoenix	9/2008
<i>Frances Werner</i>	Non-Commodity/Dispersed Recreation	Tucson	9/2008
Linda Kennedy	Local Area/Academician	Elgin	9/2009
Norman Perry	Local Area/Public-At-Large	Mayer	9/2009
Jay Adkins	Local Area/Public-At-Large	Goodyear	9/2007
Richard Lunt	Local Area/Elected Official	Duncan	9/2008
Larry Howery	Local Area/Academia	Tucson	9/2008

RAC Chair

For additional meeting information, contact Deborah Stevens in the BLM office at (602) 417-9504.

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