

**Summary Data for GUNNISON GORGE NCA FEE AREA**  
**Recreation Enhancement Act Fee Program Report**  
**Fiscal Year 2007**

Bureau of Land Management Recreation Fee Project and Project Number	No. of Recreation Visits	Fee Revenues \$	FY 2008 Estimated Revenues \$	Cost of Fee Collection PE Codes: *EA, EB, FH		Total Cost of Collection	Cost of Collection as % of Revenues	Total Obligations of Fee Demo. Revenues
				Capital	Operations			
<b>1. GGNCA CO01 – Gunnison Gorge Wilderness User Fees</b>	7,300 private users	\$ 29,800	\$ 25,000			<b>\$ 4,800</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>\$22,300</b>
-- Labor cost for collection & processing fees					\$ 3,800			
-- Vehicle/travel cost for collection					\$ 900			
-- envelopes/collection equipment for FY07					\$ 350			
<b>2. GGNCA SRPs (EA)</b>	3,500 commercial clients	\$30,910	\$ 25,000			<b>\$ 2,700</b>	<b>8.7 %</b>	<b>\$20,700</b>
Labor cost for billing & depositing fees					\$ 2,450			
<b>Total for GGNCA</b>	<b>10,800</b>	<b>\$ 60,710</b>	<b>\$ 50,000</b>		<b>\$7,500</b>	<b>\$ 7,500</b>	<b>12.4% average</b>	<b>\$43,000</b>

Name of Project & Project Number  <b>GUNNISON GORGE NCA COO1 Expenditures</b>	Fee Expenditures by Category & Program Element, FY 2007 (\$\$\$)						
	Visitor Services, Interpretation, maps, signs, administer SRPs & RUPs *PE- AL, EA, EB, FH, NX	Resource Protection, Habitat Restoration *PE- BA, HC, HF, HJ, JA, JD, MA	Deferred Maint. Health & Safety, *PE-HA, IB, IE	New Construction, Enhancement *PE- IC, IF, IR, HB, HC	Fee Mgmt. Agreement or Reservation Services *PE-EA, EB, FH	Annual & Routine Maintenance & Operations *PE- IA, ID, °HB, °HC, °HJ, HS	Law Enforcement, Emergency Responses *PE- NU, NV,NY, NZ
River Ranger Swift Water & Wilderness First Responder Training	\$1,500						\$1,700
Wag-bags for human waste (provided free to visitors with permit payments)	\$2,000						
Nat'l Rivers Week , Earth Day, Nat'l Boating & Fishing Week, Public Lands Day -Volunteer support for trash pickup, weed inventories, campsite rehab, etc.	\$1,000	\$2,500					
Invasive weed control - hydro- ax tamarisk contracts		\$10,000					
Wilderness visitor services, rehab projects, compliance (shuttles, horse packins, ranger per diem, supplies)	\$6,800						\$3,700
Maintenance –road repair, Chukar toilet painting, toilet & sanitation dump station pumping; routine cleanings & vandalism repairs	\$1,000		\$1,400			\$2,500	

Name of Project & Project Number	Fee Expenditures by Category & Program Element, FY 2007 (\$\$\$)						
	Visitor Services, Interpretation, maps, signs, administer SRPs & RUPs *PE- AL, EA, EB, FH, NX	Resource Protection, Habitat Restoration *PE- BA, HC, HF, HJ, JA, JD, MA	Deferred Maint. Health & Safety, *PE-HA, IB, IE	New Construction, Enhancement *PE- IC, IF, IR, HB, HC	Fee Mgmt. Agreement or Reservation Services *PE-EA, EB, FH	Annual & Routine Maintenance & Operations *PE- IA, ID, °HB, °HC, °HJ, HS	Law Enforcement, Emergency Responses *PE- NU, NV, NY, NZ
Signs, brochures, GIS & database management support	\$2,400						
Fee envelopes (5 year supply)	\$2,000	\$2,000					
<b>TOTALS FOR GGNCA CO01 EXPENDITURES = \$ 43,000(Expenditures) + 7,500(Collection Cost) = \$ 50,500 TOTAL 2007 Expenditures</b>	<b>\$16,700</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$1,400</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$ 0</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>	<b>\$5,400</b>

<p align="center"><b>GUNNISON GORGE FEE AREA BACKLOG MAINTENANCE PROJECTS</b></p>	<p align="center">Funds Expended Through FY 2005</p>	<p align="center">Funds Expended Through FY 2006</p>	<p align="center">Funds Expended Through FY 2007</p>	<p align="center">Fiscal Year Completion Expected</p>
<p>Priority 1: Tamarisk Removal Projects \$10K contract treated 25 acres in 2006 which were heavily infested w/ tamarisk and/or knapweed. (On-going partnership project with Delta County)</p> <p>Estimated Total Project Cost: \$ 100,000</p>	<p align="center">\$15,000</p>	<p align="center">\$10,000</p>	<p align="center">\$10,000</p>	<p align="center">On going</p>
<p>Priority 2: Ongoing Campsite &amp; Trail Maintenance &amp; Rehab/Closures – sites &amp; trails receive heavy use &amp; require maintenance, upkeep &amp; rehab of social trails. 25-30 riparian sites are maintained regularly to keep impacts within sustainable levels.</p> <p>Estimated Total Project Cost: \$3,000/yr</p>	<p align="center">\$3,000</p>	<p align="center">\$3,500</p>	<p align="center">\$3,500</p>	<p align="center">On-going</p>
<p>Priority 3: Replacement of Chukar Trailhead Toilet composting toilet with vault to meet ADA &amp; health &amp; safety standards. Unit was scheduled for replacement in 2007 but problems with design of the new unit and relocation of the engineer in charge of the project to Utah delayed implementation to FY 2008.</p> <p>The project will be funded through a variety of means including fees, State Safety Program funding &amp; 1652. 2006-2007 project work paid included additional repairs to keep unit functioning until it can be replaced.</p> <p>Estimated Total Project Cost: \$ 70,000 - \$100,00</p>	<p align="center">\$2,500</p>	<p align="center">\$2,500</p>	<p align="center">\$2,500</p>	<p align="center">2008</p>

<p align="center"><b>GUNNISON GORGE FEE AREA ENHANCEMENT PROJECTS</b></p>	<p align="center">Funds Expended Thru FY 2005</p>	<p align="center">Funds Expended Thru FY 2006</p>	<p align="center">Funds Expended Thru FY 2007</p>	<p align="center">Fiscal Year Completion Expected</p>
<p><b>Gunnison Forks Day Use Area Upgrade &amp; Enhancement</b> - fees were used to purchase and place boulders to prevent vehicle impacts in a rehabbed area. In 2007, additional work was done at the site to remove tamarisk and knapweed and improve access to the new boat launch site.</p> <p>Estimated Total Project Cost: \$2-5,000/yr</p>		<p align="center">\$2,500</p>	<p align="center">\$2,500</p>	<p align="center">Completed</p>
<p><b>Added Res. Monitor &amp; Protection-</b> having visitor services/fee collector's position continues to enhance user experiences and resource protection as it frees up river ranger and LEO time to conduct additional patrols, compliance checks, and resource protection projects (tamarisk control, campsite rehab, etc).</p> <p>Estimated Total Project Cost: \$4-5,000/yr</p>	<p align="center">\$4,500</p>	<p align="center">\$4,700</p>	<p align="center">\$4,500</p>	<p>Expect to continue using fees to fund visitor service position to increase river ranger patrol time on the river, visitor contacts, compliance, and user education</p>
<p><b>Enhanced Visitor Education &amp; Outreach -</b> Fees were used to support annual river education, cleanup, and outreach trips with volunteers, local tourism groups, county commissioners. Participants received hands-on training about the NCA, wilderness management regulations, Leave No Trace and other stewardship ethics. Fourteen volunteer outreach trips were conducted in 2007.</p> <p>Estimated Total Project Cost: \$2-4,000/yr.</p>	<p align="center">\$3,500</p>	<p align="center">\$4,000</p>	<p align="center">\$4,000</p>	<p>Expect to continue using fees to offset vehicle, shuttle, horse pack in, &amp; volunteer support (food, supplies, safety equip) costs for educational &amp; resource protection river trips.</p>

# **GUNNISON GORGE NCA/WILDERNESS (CO-01) RECREATIONAL ENHANCEMENT ACT FEE PROGRAM**

## **FY 2007 Major Accomplishments**

### **1. Riparian Weed and Campsite Inventories -**

Gunnison Gorge river rangers, volunteer and Uncompahgre Field Office resource specialists completed inventories of 30 campsite and day use areas along 23 miles of Gunnison River corridor in the NCA/Wilderness. The inventories, which include photo monitoring plots and data on soil, vegetation, invasive weeds, human sanitation, social trails, and litter are needed to compare current conditions with baseline inventories to track trend and changes in site condition and use. Analyzes of the results are used to: make changes in regulations to enhance wilderness protection; determine where closures, reclamation projects or weed treatments area needed, and implement and monitor impact thresholds and benefits-based management objectives in the recreation management zones in the river corridor.

### **2. River Ranger Funding for Increased River Patrols, Service Projects and Education**

Again this season, fees were used to partially fund river ranger/visitor services positions and provided funding support for service projects and educational programs. Twenty five river patrols were conducted during the 2007 river season (May – October). Many of these trips involved partners and/or volunteers completing various service type patrols eradicating noxious weeds; cleaning campsites; maintaining trails; and inventorying/monitoring resource conditions within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. The river rangers also conducted a number of educational river trips with various partners and interest groups. The river rangers partnered with Black Canyon of Gunnison National Park interpretive specialists to provide on-the-ground training of front desk and field seasonal. They also again assisted the Colorado Division of Wildlife with the annual trout sampling survey to determine fish populations and fishery health. These efforts have been mutually beneficial and have helped to solidified strong cooperative relationships improving resource management for the Gunnison Gorge NCA. The permit fees provide the BLM with additional capability to conduct and complete river patrols, user compliance checks, campsite surveys, weed inventories and other service projects within the Gunnison Gorge NCA/Wilderness. The river rangers are critical to the overall success, implementation and management of the Gunnison Gorge NCA.

### **3. Gunnison Gorge Tammy Whackers - Tamarisk Eradication & Site Rehabilitation Projects**

A continuing, very successful, and important use of fees since 1999 is the funding of our on-going battle to eradicate invasive tamarisk trees and other noxious weeds in the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness. This year, fees were used again to fund a \$10,000 hydro-axe contract to remove dense, solid stands of tamarisk on approximately 15 acres within the Gunnison Gorge Wilderness area. Fees help buy chemicals and equipment for weed control and to provide support for BLM river rangers and volunteers who worked in the Gorge throughout the summer. Volunteer “tammy whackers” receive a free annual day use pass for the Gorge in appreciation of their efforts. This year, fees helped fund six overnight river trips with tammy-whacker volunteers who assisted in evaluation of past treatment sites, retreatment of regrowth areas along 20 miles of river corridor and side drainages to ensure a complete kill, and continued removal of old stumps from previously treated areas which help restore the Wilderness area’s naturalness. The river rangers also continued their work with the National Park’s biologists on projects to reduce tamarisk in the Black Canyon Wilderness. This work helps control re-infestations of tamarisk in the river corridor coming from upstream sources within the Park.

## HOW ARE WE ACCOUNTABLE TO THE PUBLIC FOR GUNNISON GORGE FEES?

- × Upon first entering the Gunnison Gorge NCA, visitors encounter a sign with a brochure box that provides “Gunnison Gorge Fee Area Information.” The brochure explains Gorge permit fees and provides a list of projects and uses that fees are spent on in the Gorge.
- × Permit fee dollars are used to fund one-two visitor services/fee collector seasonal positions, weekly river cleanups, backcountry patrols by river rangers, and invasive weed and tamarisk control throughout the river corridor. These employees provide visitor services and participate in very visible resource protection projects (campsite cleanups and rehabilitation, environmental education, etc. etc.)
- × Permit fees also fund maintenance of an accessible toilet at the remote Chukar put-in site. This toilet replaced a high-maintenance, troublesome toilet that we had received numerous visitor complaints about. Fees helped fund the addition of an accessible ramp (made out of TREX recycled materials) to this 2001 deferred maintenance project. Signs in the toilet notify users that fees were used to construct and maintain the unit. Public feedback on the toilet is extremely favorable.
- × Fees helped fund upgrades to four Wilderenss trailheads which included new registers and fee boxes and kiosk signs that include improved maps and text changes which better clarify the difference between camping and day use fees. The change is resulting in fewer user complaints and improved user compliance.
- × Fees continue to fund some of the annual costs associated with of the NCA/Wilderness brochure (with improved fee info) and a joint BLM/NPS newspaper which provide maps and information about the NCA and National Park. The joint publication explains the different fees that are charged at the areas, and how the fees are used by the BLM and NPS.
- × Visitor service personnel employed during the busy summer months inform people at the Chukar Trailhead, boater put-in site, and other Gorge access points that their positions are funded by permit fees. These persons noted in their end-of-season meetings that visitors were very receptive of BLM having someone stationed at these high use sites to answer questions, not only about fees, but about the area in general.
- × Gunnison Gorge Wilderness River Rangers spend a portion of their time discussing permit fees and issues with people they contact in the Gorge. While not all contacts are positive, the Rangers report that the majority of people are more accepting of permit fees particularly when it is explained to them that the fees stay in the Gorge to fund clean-up and resource protection projects and education efforts such as brochures, signs, programs, etc.
- × All volunteer “Tammy Whackers” involved in the Gorge tamarisk eradication program are given a talk by the River Rangers on how fees are utilized in the Gorge for resource protection projects and visitor services. Volunteers receive a free day-use pass in appreciation of their services.
- × The Uncompahgre Field Office also maintains a web site which provides information about Gunnison Gorge Fees, the rationale behind the fees, and how they are used to manage the Gorge. Check out our Gunnison Gorge Fee Information site at <http://www.co.blm.gov/ubra/gorgefees.htm> and also the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area web site at <http://www.co.blm.gov/ubra/gorgenca.htm>!  
<http://www.co.blm.gov/ubra/gorgefees.htm>

**Gunnison Gorge NCA/Wilderness  
Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)  
Report to Congress**

**FY2007**

**How REA is being implemented in the Gunnison Gorge National Conservation Area?**

The Gunnison Gorge Wilderness Area was established as one of the first ten BLM Recreation Fee Demonstration sites in 1997 and the first Fee Demo site in Colorado (CO01). In 1997 the Gunnison Gorge Fee Pilot Work Group, a sanctioned subgroup of the BLM's Southwest RAC composed of representatives from Delta and Montrose Counties, private and commercial use groups, local businesses, and general public, helped develop & analyze guidelines and alternatives for fee collection. The approved BLM fee collection strategy for the NCA set fees at \$3.00 per person for day users; \$5.00 per person/day for camping in undeveloped, designated campsites along 14 miles of the Gunnison River corridor (i.e., \$10 for one night camping, \$15 for 2 nights camping); and \$15 per person for an annual day use pass. Fee apply to all users 16 yrs of age and older. Gunnison Gorge commercial outfitters pay user fees for their clients in addition to their 3% SRP fee.

Through the working group, use fees were established at four developed recreation sites on the west rim of the Gunnison Gorge NCA. These sites meet the minimum requirements for charging user permit fees within the NCA. In 2007, in an effort to provide additional visitor services, improved visitor amenities (facilities, access, & safety), and comply with FLREA collection requirements, all four fee sites were upgraded through BLM's Deferred Maintenance Planning process. The sites have new kiosks, expanded parking, surface hardening, ADA accessible, ADA accessible picnic sites, double locking self service fee tubes, and improved visitor signing/information.

Currently there are no plans to modify or establish any additional fee sites within the Gunnison Gorge NCA. If it is determined that additional fee sites or modifications to the existing fee sites are warranted, REA requirements will be followed.

**How is the Gunnison Gorge NCA dealing with enforcement and/or compliance with Section 8(b), 8(c), and Section 15?**

No fees collected under Fee Demo and/ or REA authority have been used for biological monitoring of listed or candidate species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (8b).

Administration, Overhead, and Indirect costs have been kept at or below the 15 percent average of total revenues collected. See spreadsheet #1

No fees collected under Fee Demo/REA have ever been used for employee bonuses (section 15).