



ALASKA

Anchorage Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

Special Recreation Permit Monitoring



Western Alaska SRP helicopter monitoring

Monitoring the majority of Special Recreation Permit (SRPs) in the Anchorage Field Office (AFO) requires the use of helicopters and small aircraft. Most of AFO's SRP compliance work is associated with outfitter and hunting guides operating in remote areas of northwest Alaska. Additional SRP compliance work funded by recreation fees include heliskiing operators in the Neacola Mountains and monitoring various competitive races and activities along the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

Helicopter Ski Monitoring



Glacial landscape within Neacola Mountains

AFO is fortunate to manage the stunning Neacola Mountains located just west of Anchorage. This world class mountain terrain challenges athletes from all over the world. Aerial monitoring is conducted by BLM's ranger/pilot and outdoor recreation planners.

Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. Current and future generations benefit as 100% of the funds collected are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

They support and enhance:

- Maintenance, repair, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety
- Interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments, and signs
- Habitat restoration directly related to wildlife- dependent recreation that is limited to hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or photography
- Law enforcement related to public use and recreation
- Direct operating or capital costs associated with the recreation fee program



Other Accomplishments

The Campbell Tract Special Recreation Management Area (CTSRMA) used recreation fees to pay labor costs for a term outdoor recreation planner. This individual helped plan and coordinate recreational enhancement activities, including summer trail construction and maintenance, winter trail grooming activities, and recreation use inventories. Additional recreation fees were used for research and planning efforts associated with a draft revised CTSRMA Recreation Area Management Plan, which is currently under public review. The recreation fees also sponsored a Municipality of Anchorage’s youth trail crew which enhanced visitor satisfaction and safety by removing vegetation and improving trail surfaces on existing trails within CTSRMA.

Vicinity Map



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

FY21 Revenue

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$0.00
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$34,260.35
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$0.00
Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21	\$34,260.35

FY21 Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$11,468.36
Visitor Services	\$37,526.24
Law Enforcement	\$3,126.72
Habitat Restoration	\$1,904.40
Collections/Overhead	\$0
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21	\$54,025.72



Planned Activities



Historic Rohn Cabin on Iditarod National Historic Trail.

In 2022, recreation fees will be used for aviation costs (helicopter and fixed-wing) associated with monitoring SRPs. Additional fees will be used to maintain shelter cabins along the Iditarod National Historic Trail. Winters have been brutal on some cabins, and foundation repair work is needed and planned for the fiscal year (FY) FY2022. The BLM is partnering with a National Park Service Historic Restoration Crew to conduct work on the historic cabin at Rohn. Fees are also planned to expand recreational trails on the CTSRMA, improve signage, and update visitor guide materials.

FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$30,000.00
Visitor Services	\$0.00
Law Enforcement	\$0.00
Habitat Restoration	\$40,000.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$70,000.00
FY21 End of Year Carryover	\$34,000.00
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$80,000.00

Connecting with Communities

In FY2021, AFO collaborated with Alaska Trails and the Municipality of Anchorage (MOA) Park & Recreation Department, Youth Employment in Parks. A crew of 30 high school students performed trail work and brushing around CTSRMA trails. They improved trail drainage and resurfaced a half mile of trail with 500,000 pounds of material. These recreation fees funded projects resulting in improved recreational opportunities and providing safer trail experiences. They also fostered stewardship and an increased appreciation of public lands in the youth trail crew participants.

The AFO recreation program has maintained a 30+ year working relationship to manage a seamless recreation visitor experience on CTSRMA and the neighboring MOA's Far North Bicentennial Park. CTSRMA provides for recreational experiences for nearly 500,000 visitors annually in the heart of urban Anchorage, Alaska. The AFO Recreational program and the CTSRMA based Campbell Creek Science Center, routinely collaborate on the expenditure of recreation fees to provide for youth and adult educational programs and outdoor recreational activities, including National Public Lands Day and National Trails Day events.

