



CALIFORNIA

El Centro Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

Facility Maintenance



Maintenance staff clean and sanitize restrooms.

Sixty-three vault toilets in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area (ISDRA) were maintained to accommodate the high visitation in the ISDRA. Daily duties include graffiti removal, cleaning, painting, trash collection, and toilet paper restocking. This year, 14 solar lights were installed to enhance the visitor experience; and new signs, doors, windows, and locks were installed.

OHV Search & Rescue



EMS staff transport a patient to a helicopter.

The BLM El Centro Field Office provides an off-highway vehicle (OHV) emergency medical and rescue services in the Imperial Sand Dunes. During the 2020-2021 use season, park rangers responded to 448 calls, including 62 search and rescues. These park rangers are trained to search for and evacuate injured or lost riders and may use special OHV rescue capabilities such as vehicle extrication to complete the mission.

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

- Cleaned and maintained restrooms, picked up trash, repaired and replaced signage for \$667,496.48
- Maintained and repaired facilities and roadways, performed dust abatement activities for \$5,500.61
- Processed and monitored 29 Special Recreation Permits and issued one Letter of Agreement. Provided visitor education, SRP compliance, and outreach during National Incidents for \$920,836.48
- Managed the fee contract in the ISDRA for \$7,177.00
- Provided Emergency Medical and Law Enforcement services, visitor education, permit compliance, and resource protection. \$1,125,223.49

Vicinity Map



Contacts

El Centro Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Contact

Phone Number: 760-337-4400

Email: BLM_CA_Web_EC@blm.gov

Web: <https://www.blm.gov/office/el-centro-field-office>

District Contact

Phone Number: 760-833-7100

Email: BLM_CA_Web_CD@blm.gov

Revenue & Expenditures

FY21 Revenue

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$2,191.15
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$13,684.60
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$3,716,763.58
Interagency Passes	\$680.00
Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21	\$3,733,319.33

FY21 Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$672,997.09
Visitor Services	\$920,836.48
Law Enforcement	\$1,125,223.49
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$7,177.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21	\$2,726,234.06



Planned Activities



Recreators in the Imperial Sand Dunes

- Continue responding to medical and law enforcement emergencies, proactively manage public safety, and maintain safe access for visitors.
- Continue to manage all facilities for public safety and increased customer satisfaction.
- Maintain or increase the use of volunteers to increase efficiency.
- Use fees collected as matching funds to acquire grant funding for law enforcement, emergency services, and signing.
- Provide support work to acquire deferred maintenance funding for a new ranger station.

FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$673,500.00
Visitor Services	\$921,500.00
Law Enforcement	\$1,125,500.00
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$7,500.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$2,728,000.00
FY21 End of Year Carryover	\$1,761,000.00
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$3,702,000.00

Connecting with Communities

The El Centro Field Office (ECFO) collaborates with several groups to benefit the local community and visitors. Notable partnerships are with San Diego Off-Road Coalition and the Glamis Black Bag Project. Both groups have been issued Letters of Agreement from the ECFO to coordinate trash cleanups at popular off-road locations. They share goals of coordinating with the BLM, ensuring to follow all rules and regulations, educating the public, and keeping the dunes clean for everyone’s use and enjoyment. These cleanups offer outreach opportunities for BLM staff, such as distributing maps and visitor education, helping the ECFO strengthen communications and outreach efforts (External Strategy Goal #3) in some of its most popular locations, and reaching some of its most avid users of public lands.

The ECFO also works closely with multiple partners and stakeholders to stay up to date about the interests of all public land users (Internal Strategy, Goal #2, Strategic Focus #1). This is especially applicable when the ECFO drafts the annual California Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Division (OHMVR) grants. Communicating with partners and stakeholders allows the ECFO to determine what is most important to those who would be directly affected by project funding. The ECFO can develop plans that incorporate their ideas and interests based on those conversations.

