



COLORADO Gunnison Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

Alpine Loop Dispersed Camping



Investing in GFO's Dispersed Camping Infrastructure

In FY21, the Gunnison Field Office committed \$42K to purchase fire rings for installation along the Alpine Loop. These fire rings will be installed in FY22 to designate 200 dispersed campsites in this destination recreation area. The project will partner with CPW, CYCA, and local gov's. Designation of campsites is necessary to protect sensitive wetlands, alpine tundra, riparian areas, and cultural sites from the impacts of dispersed camping. Commercial groups and competitive SRPs heavily utilize the Alpine Loop.

Hartman Rocks Visitor Study



Measuring Visitor Use and Satisfaction

In FY21, the Gunnison Field Office committed \$25K of 1232 funds to fund a visitor study and Government Performance and Results Acts (GPRA) Survey at Hartman Rocks Recreation Area in partnership with Western Colorado University (WCU). The task agreement funded a WCU Masters Student to install and monitor 14 traffic counters and conduct 177 Government Performance and Results Act Surveys to a random sampling of visitors between June and September 2021. The FY21 GPRA Satisfaction Measure was 98%.

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

Recreational fees generated from Gunnison Field Office's SRP and RUP programs provided significant benefits to the American Public in FY21. Gunnison Field Office provided Volunteer Campground Hosts at two popular campgrounds, including Oh Be Joyful and Mill Creek. \$7,280 was re-imbursed to the hosts through out-years 18x, 19x, and 20x. \$50,039.52 of 1232 funds were utilized to fund labor for critical support positions that benefit the public, including law enforcement, Gunnison Field Office Admin, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Assistant Field Manager (for time processing fees), and a Visitor Use Assistant. \$11,750 was used for cleaning supplies, signage, and project support, including porta-potty facilities for high-use recreation areas.

Vicinity Map



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

FY21 Revenue

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$55,231.96
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$57,929.19
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$1,680.00
Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21	\$114,841.15

FY21 Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$32,389.86
Visitor Services	\$5,930.94
Law Enforcement	\$27,629.08
Habitat Restoration	\$5,873.03
Collections/Overhead	\$16,250.57
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21	\$88,073.48



Planned Activities



BLM Seasonal Monitoring a Motorized Event

GFO plans to field three campground hosts in FY22 (an additional host at Hartman Rocks) with a projected total reimbursement of \$11,000. These hosts will continue to orient visitors, maintain facilities, and manage reservation systems. GFO has committed \$38,000 in a task agreement with Colorado Youth Corps Association to fund two developed recreation/wilderness interns and a visitor use assistant intern to maintain facilities, orient and educate visitors, and process fees. GFO will employ 2 additional 6-month (1,039 hour) recreation park rangers; a total of \$49,123.92.

FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$81,588.23
Visitor Services	\$5,000.00
Law Enforcement	\$28,000.00
Habitat Restoration	\$12,000.00
Collections/Overhead	\$17,000.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$143,588.23
FY21 End of Year Carryover	\$39,073.48
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$115,000.00

Connecting with Communities

In FY22, BLM will designate 200 dispersed campsites along the Alpine Loop. The project has broad support from local communities, with three Counties (Hinsdale, San Juan, and Ouray) committing \$5,000 to support campsite designation through boulder placement and trash hauling (roll-off dumpsters). These tourism-based economies have recognized the need to protect natural and cultural resources as we welcome visitors to our public lands. BLM has committed 1232 funds to purchase infrastructure and staff time for site inventory and monitoring. To facilitate the project, BLM has partnered with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife Motorized Grant program and Colorado Youth Corps Association. This partnership will enable Youth Corps members from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds to explore a career in public lands as they earn competitive wages and work in a treasured and breathtaking landscape. BLM staff will provide project oversight, support, and supervision during the eight-week youth corps project. The project's end state will be a dispersed camping environment that protects natural and cultural resources, is free of charge, and is available to all members of the public.

