



# COLORADO

## Tres Rios Field Office

### Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

#### Vault Pumping Contract



Contractors remove trash from a toilet vault

Pumping the Tres Rios Field Office (TRFO), restroom vaults posed a particular challenge for the BLM this year due to the volume of trash dropped into the vault by visitors. The local service provider did not remove the garbage, so the BLM had to bring in a contractor outside the area. The restrooms serve both fee site campers and outfitters and guides; fees from our program areas were utilized to thoroughly pump and clean the bathrooms at four of the Tres Rios recreation sites this year (\$2,500).

#### Career Seasonal Employee-SRP/fees



Staggered start of 12 Hours of Mesa Verde SRP

Two years ago, the TRFO and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument (CANM) achieved a 'balance' in the local fee program account to hire a Career Seasonal employee for Special Recreation Permit administration. Neither SRP program manages permits that return substantial fees, though we service over 50 recreation permits. TRFO and CANM are now better able to serve our Outfitter and Guide permit holders and applicants, despite annual revenues, which would be insufficient to hire this position without 'carryover' fee collection monies.

#### 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

Safety baffles were purchased for the truck bed water tank used for watering landscape plantings (native trees and shrubs) at Bradfield Bridge Recreation Site (fee site).

### Vicinity Map



### Contacts

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Recreation Fee Program Contact**

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### Revenue & Expenditures

**FY21 Revenue**

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$6,453.71
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$9,634.88
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$80.00
<b>Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21</b>	<b>\$16,168.59</b>

**FY21 Expenditures**

Repair & Maintenance	\$10,218.53
Visitor Services	\$10,948.48
Law Enforcement	\$3,173.94
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
<b>Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21</b>	<b>\$24,340.95</b>



## Planned Activities



Career Seasonal Employee talks to NPLD volunteers

The TRFO (and CANM) are actively deficit spending our 1232 accounts to pay for the Career Seasonal position. The TRFO is bringing in approximately \$16,000 annually through fee receipts and is responsible for 50% of the projected annual cost of the Career Seasonal position (\$26,000 for TRFO's share in 2022). At this rate, given the current average yearly projected revenue, the Tres Rios has little room for other annual 1232 expenditures. However, in 2022 expenses may include restroom rental at trailheads in the Cortez area (\$2,500 to \$3,900) and cover various purchase needs. A small portion of Law Enforcement Officer labor (\$5,000) may also be charged for fee area patrols and SRP enforcement.

## FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$2,500.00
Visitor Services	\$26,000.00
Law Enforcement	\$5,000.00
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$33,500.00
FY21 End of Year Carryover	\$134,235.00
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$16,000.00

## Connecting with Communities

The use of fees generated within the Tres Rios Field Office (the majority of which come from Special Recreation Permit revenues) on a career seasonal position to help manage and grow the SRP program aligns with External Strategy, Goal 1: Support Community Service Providers While Balancing the Interests of All Public Lands Users. The SRP holders in the Tres Rios Field Office are local, family-owned businesses, often husband and wife teams with a half dozen employees at best, without the resources and staff of larger corporations. Having a dedicated employee who can help them through the process from the application stage to post-use monitoring is an excellent support to both the local service provider and the community as a whole.

In the past two years, fee revenues (both locally generated and those collected at the BLM Colorado State Office via annual pass sales) have also made possible the development of new trailheads at the Phil's World Trail System in Montezuma County, Colorado. The trailheads are within 19 miles of Mancos (pop. 1,600), 8 miles of Dolores (pop. 800), and 8 miles of Cortez (pop. 9000). Providing easy access to county residents. In 2020, 24.2% of Montezuma County residents were Native American or Hispanic, and in 2019, the median household income was \$49,470 (<https://www.colorado-demographics.com/montezuma-county-demographics>). These trails and trailheads, located so close to rural communities in SW Colorado, remove barriers to visitors of all walks of life from benefitting from outdoor activity. There are no entrance fees, they are easy to access from town, and they require no expensive equipment to participate (though the Phil's World system is known for its mountain biking trails, the newest trailheads and trails are exceptional for day hiking).

