



MONTANA_DAKOTAS Miles City

Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2022

Hunter Patrols/Law Enforcement



BLM Miles City FO Law Enforcement Officer patrols

The 1232 fees help fund one Law Enforcement (LE) Ranger on 2.7 million acres of public lands. The LE position does a majority of the monitoring work for the Special Recreation Permit (SRP) program. In 2022 the field office spent \$8000 of revenue to perform these duties:

- Inform hunters on safety, weather, road conditions, rules, and regulations.
- Support and monitor SRP permittees.
- Answer questions.
- Ensure safety and support law enforcement.

Amount Expended: \$8,000.00

SRP GIS Work!



BLM Fire and Fuels Employee completes GIS work

The Miles City Field Office (MCFO) manages around 40-50 SRPs annually. In 2022, BLM utilized carryover fees and the support of a permanent fire and fuels staff member to address a backlog of GIS work. The ability to carry over fees for several years was critical in obtaining help and completing an accurate GIS layer file. With this accurate GIS data, the MCFO can better serve the public and improve maps for other resources, projects, and monitoring.

Amount Expended: \$7,500.00

Recreation Fee Dollars

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/capital costs associated with the recreation fee program

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.



Other Accomplishments

Statewide SRP Audit = \$7300; an audit was completed on 3 SRP permittees within the field office.

Processed 6 new Special Recreation Permits (SRPs).

Processed 3 renewals and 4 Letters of Agreements (LOAs) for the program.

Modified SRP stipulations for resource protections as needed and necessary.

Completed RAPTOR Training for the field office.

Vicinity Map



Contacts

Miles City Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Contact

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[Published FLREA Triennial Report](https://doi.sciencebase.gov/flrea/)

<https://doi.sciencebase.gov/flrea/>

[Published FLREA Annual Revenue and Spending Plans](https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/flrea-revenue)

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/flrea-revenue>

[Connecting with Communities BLM Recreation Strategy](https://www.blm.gov/national-office/public-room/strategic-plan/connecting-communities-blm-recreation-strategy-summary)

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Revenue & Expenditures

End of Year Carryover:	\$98,966.81
FY22 Revenue	
Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$0.00
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$59,566.84
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$1,040.00
Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY22:	\$60,606.84

FY22 Expenditures	
Repair & Maintenance	\$0.00
Visitor Services	\$3,622.53
Law Enforcement	\$2,975.39
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22:	\$6,597.92



Planned Activities



BLM LE patrols SRP area site

- Career seasonal Park Ranger position = \$20,000 carryover funds.
- Law Enforcement Labor = \$7000; funds will be spent to monitor SRPs with law enforcement services including patrols & visitor contacts during peak periods & events.
- Vehicle Use = \$9000.
- Hunter Patrol Labor = \$11,000; carryover funds used for monitoring.
- GIS Labor = \$8,000; specific to GIS work for SRPs.
- Ongoing upkeep & purchase of visitation counting devices = \$6,000.
- New & carryover funds will be used for appropriate sites to purchase signs needed, trash cleanup, and other SRP administration.
- Vault toilet install = \$75,000 - \$100,000.

FY23 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$81,000.00
Visitor Services	\$31,000.00
Law Enforcement	\$16,000.00
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$8,000.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY23:	\$136,000.00
Carryover Funds To FY23:	\$152,975.73
FY23 Projected Revenue:	\$60,000.00

Connecting with Communities

The majority of the SRPs & revenue generated within the MCFO come from permittees that outfit and guide big game hunting. In addition, the field office resides on 2.7 million acres of public lands in 15 counties with very rural areas & a limited population. With the majority of SRPs being outfitters, the FO works with members of the Montana Outfitters and Guide Association (MOGA) & attends an annual meeting they hold for outfitters in Eastern Montana.

All of the fees generated within the MCFO, come from SRPs; by hiring a career seasonal position and/or using funds for current employee's time to help manage, grow, and administer the SRP program aligns with External Strategy, Goal 1: Support Community Service Providers While Balancing the Interests of All Public Lands Users. With most of the SRP permits in the MCFO consisting of Outfitter and Guides, the outfitters often change, add, or delete many of the ranches they lease; (hunt or operate on) which requires administration and GIS challenges on a year-round basis for the ORP. This will help reach that goal and Goal 2 by bringing economic benefits as we continue to support all SRPs.

