



**NATIONAL  
CONSERVATION  
LANDS**



# Rabbit Valley Camping

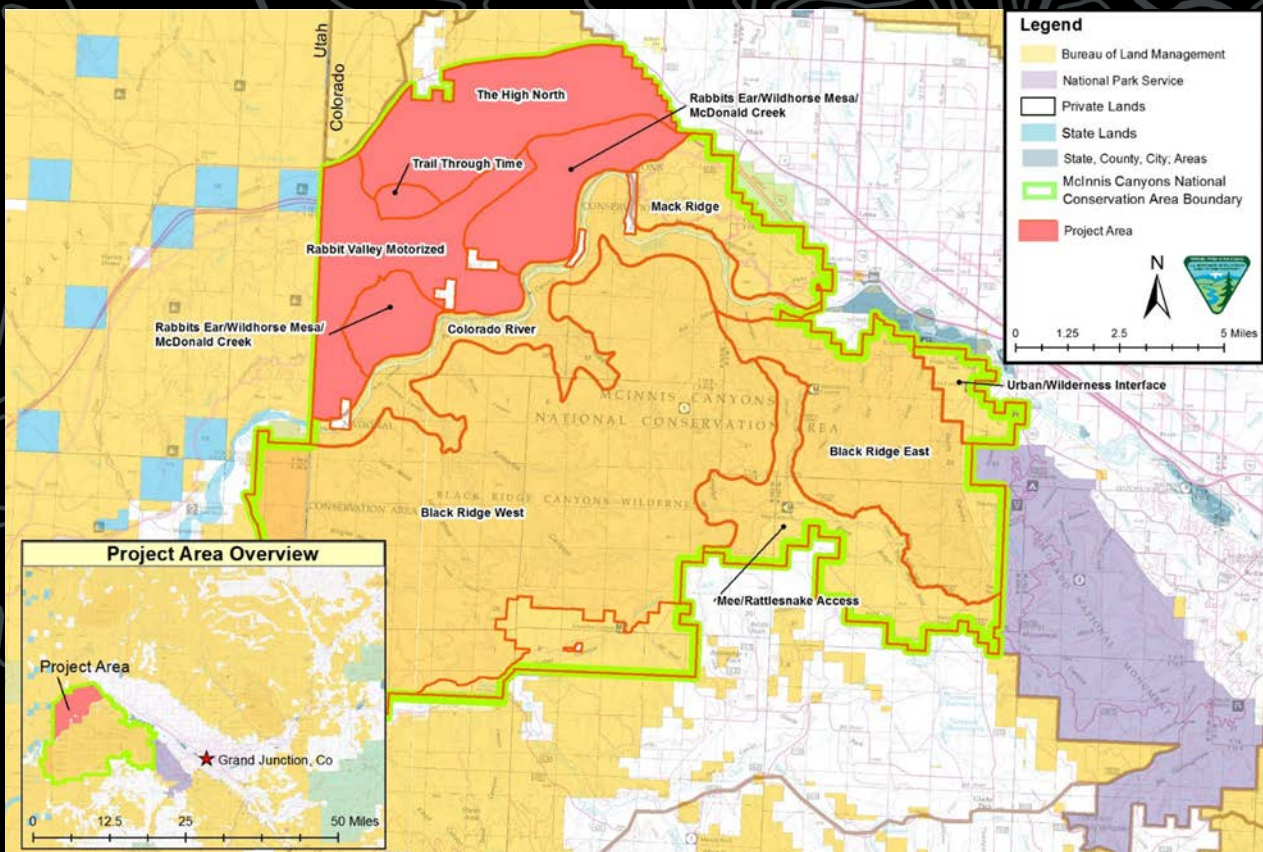
**Proposed permit and fee system for camping in Rabbit Valley**







# Introduction





# Recreation Opportunities

- OHV riding
- Mountain biking
- Horseback riding
- Hiking
- Camping
- Cultural sites
- Outstanding scenery
- Family fun
- Close to home
- En route to Moab





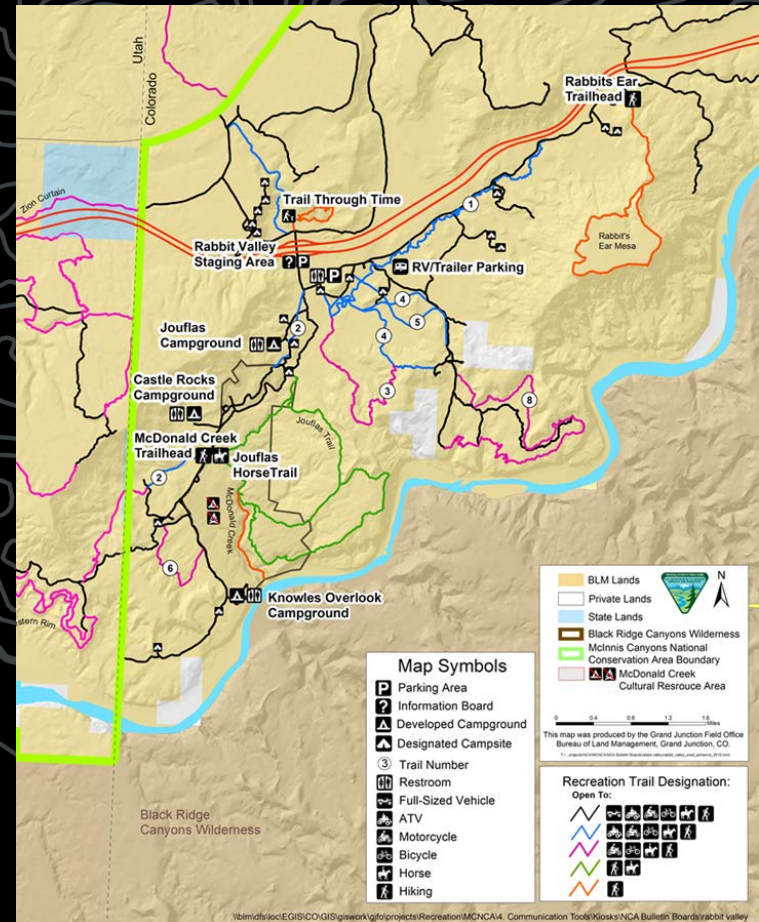


# Current Camping Opportunities

**Campgrounds:**  
(currently qualify for expanded amenity fee)

- **Joufflas Campground**  
14 sites
- **Castle Rocks Campground**  
One site
- **Knowles Overlook Campground**  
Four sites

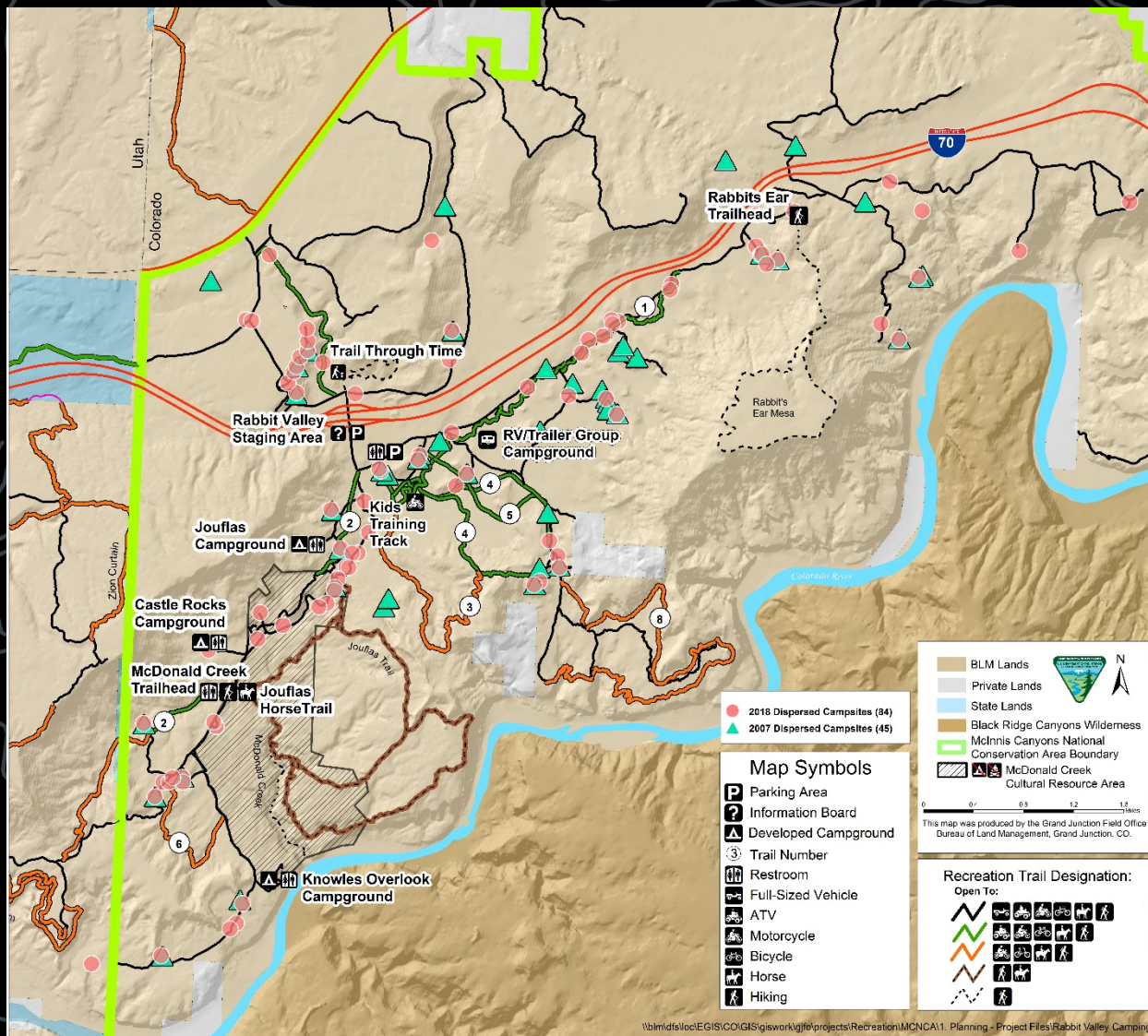
**Undeveloped visitor created sites:**  
47 sites (2007); 84 sites (2018)







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# Overnight Management to Date

## Resource Management Plan (2004):

**Dispersed camping sites not designated unless monitoring shows unacceptable impacts.**

- **Camping limited seven nights**
- **Portable toilets mandatory for overnight, dispersed use**
- **Fire pans or fuel stoves required**
- **Woodcutting prohibited**

**\*(Dispersed sites and undeveloped sites are the same)**

## Supp. Rules July 2, 2010 FR:

**You must not camp in sites or areas not designated as open to camping by a BLM sign or map.**








# Undeveloped Camping Issues

There is more demand for camping than there are desirable sites available

More visitation = More visitor-created campsites and impacts.

- 
- New sites are created due to crowding and when existing sites become undesirable from impacts.
  - Impacts to cultural resources.
  - Visitor conflicts and degradation of the recreation setting.
  - (47 sites in 2007; 84 sites in 2018; 177 sites in 2038?)
  - BLM unsuccessful at getting visitors to follow undeveloped camping rules.





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# Campground Issues



**No developed campgrounds for RVs or camper trailers (~50% of overnight use).**

**General lack of developed camping in the GJFO/Fruita area (identified as important to the community).**

**Not enough campsites in the existing campgrounds to meet current use.**

**Campgrounds in Rabbit Valley are currently free. The maintenance is not.**





# Visitor Use



- Estimate ~30-50% of visitors are also camping
- Use is increasing (more demand for camping)

Year	Rabbit Valley
2018	34,085
2017	35,089
2016	26,342
2015	31,062
2014	28,189
2013	29,737





# Objectives:

**Reduce or eliminate impacts to sensitive resources.**

**Improve recreation opportunities and recreation setting conditions.**

**Generate revenue to be used to provide better services to the recreation user.**







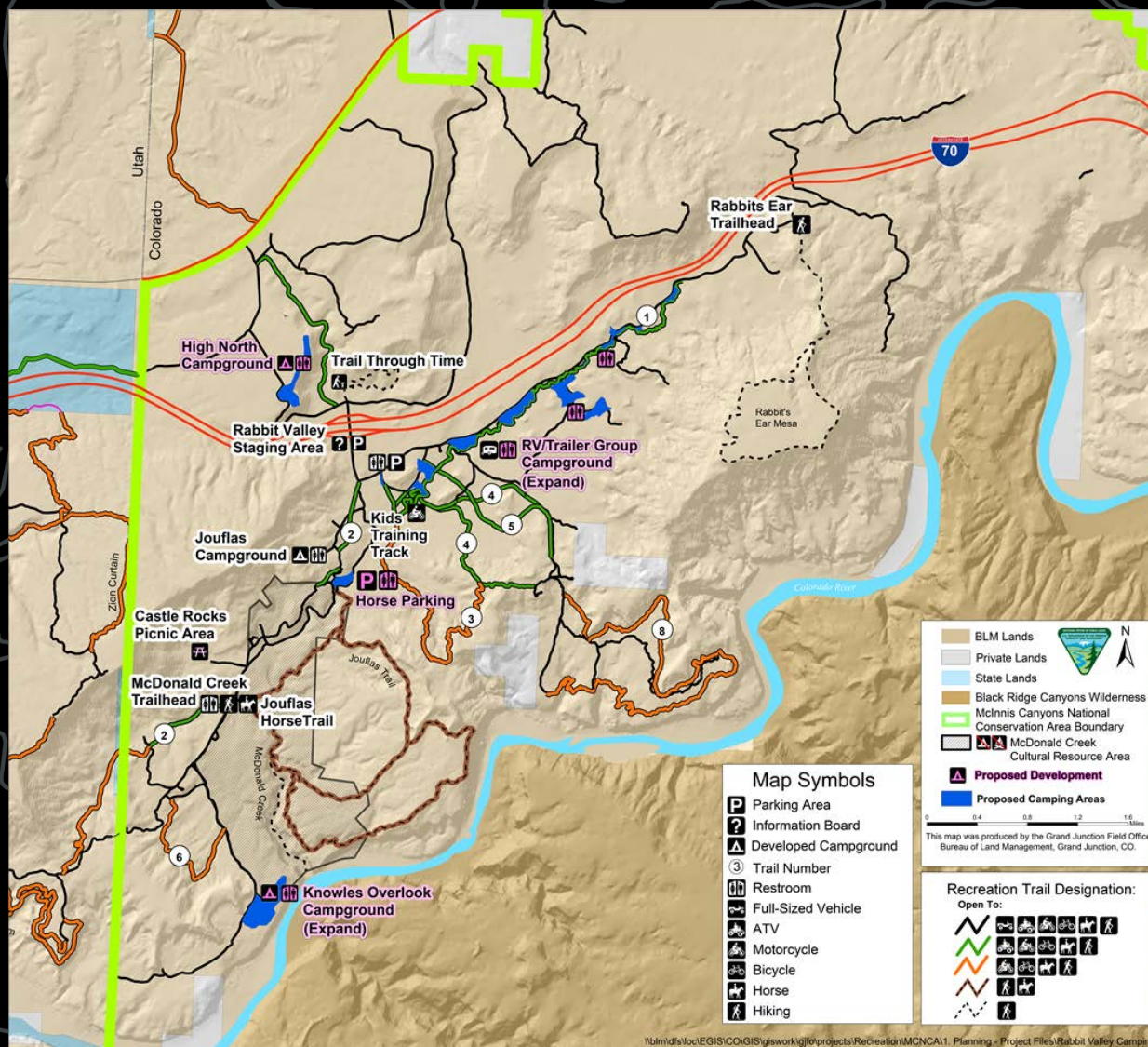
# Proposed Management Tools

- Build two additional campgrounds
- Expand Knowles Overlook Campground
- Build horse trailer parking (day use)
- Individual Special Recreation Permit (No fee/self-issue) for undeveloped camping until the proposed campgrounds are built/expanded.
- Expanded Amenity Fee for current and proposed campgrounds.
- No undeveloped camping once all proposed campgrounds are built.
- Increased stewardship education
- ~50 groups camping busiest weekends, propose ~72 total developed campsites





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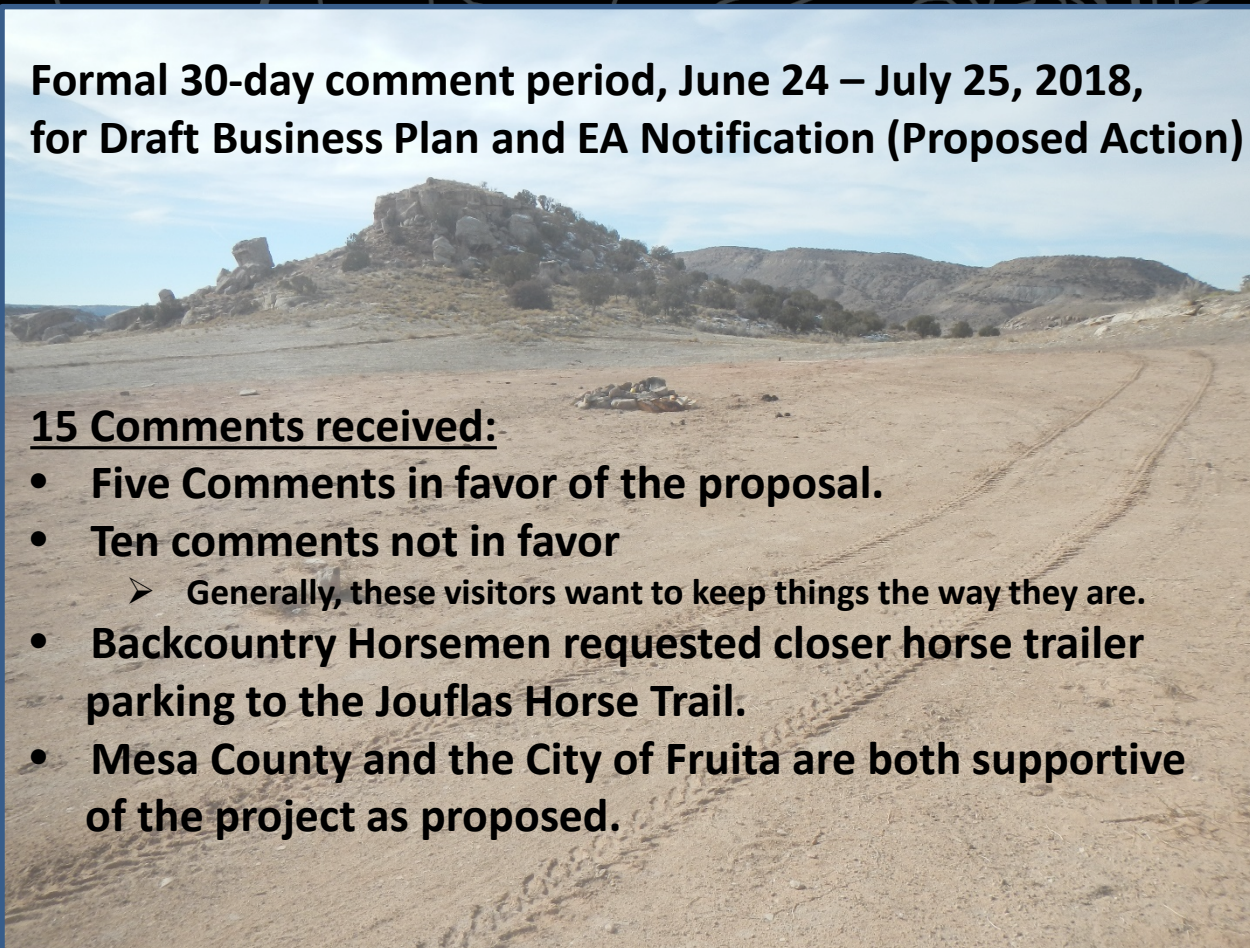


# Public Input

**Formal 30-day comment period, June 24 – July 25, 2018,  
for Draft Business Plan and EA Notification (Proposed Action)**

**15 Comments received:**

- **Five Comments in favor of the proposal.**
- **Ten comments not in favor**
  - **Generally, these visitors want to keep things the way they are.**
- **Backcountry Horsemen requested closer horse trailer parking to the Jouflas Horse Trail.**
- **Mesa County and the City of Fruita are both supportive of the project as proposed.**







Campgrounds	Current No. of Ind. Sites	Proposed No. of small Sites (~0.15 acres)	Proposed No. of RV/Trailer sites (~0.25 acres)	Proposed No. of sites for up to 5 vehicles with trailers and/or RVs (~0.35 acres)
Joufflas	14	14	0	0
Knowles Overlook	4	15	0	0
Castle Rocks	1	0	0	0
High North	NA	0	15	0
RV/Trailer Area	NA	0	22	6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>6</b>

\*50 groups camping busiest weekends  
Propose ~72 total developed campsites

Campgrounds	Tent or Trailer spaces	picnic tables	Drinking water	Access road	Refuse containers	Toilet facilities	Fee collection	Reasonable visitor protection	Device for containing a campfire
Joufflas	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
Knowles Overlook	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
High North	X	X		X		X	X	X	X
RV/Trailer Area	X	X		X		X	X	X	X

Campground/Fee Area	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	*Max Vehicles Per Site
Joufflas	\$0	\$20	2
Knowles Overlook	\$0	\$20	2
High North	\$0	\$20	2
RV/Trailer Area	\$0	**\$20-\$50	2-5
ISRP	\$0	\$0	2-5







Campground Name	Agency	Campground Fee(s)	Amenities Offered *
McInnis Canyon National Conservation Area, Rabbit Valley campgrounds	Grand Junction BLM	(Proposed) \$20 per site for two vehicles. \$10 for each additional vehicles at group sites (up to five total).	Vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings.
Saddlehorn Campground	National Park Service, Colorado National Monument	\$20 per site per night, plus monumment entrance fees (\$5-\$15).	Flush toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, charcoal-only grills, tent/trailer spaces up to 40 feet, two ADA accessible sites.
James M Robb-Colorado River State Park	Colorado Parks and Wildlife	\$28 for full-hookup trailer site with electric; \$18 for tent site; plus park entrance fees (\$7 daily).	Flush toilets, drinking water, showers, trash recepticles, picnic tables, fire rings.
Spruce Grove Campground	US Forest Service, Grand Mesa National Forest	\$12 per site per night	Vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, tent/trailer spaces up to 45 feet.
Jumbo Campground	US Forest Service, Grand Mesa National Forest	\$18 per site per night; \$6 per night electric fee	Flush and vault toilets, drinking water, picnic tables, fire rings, tent/trailer spaces up to 60 feet, three ADA accessible sites.
Goose Island Campground	Moab BLM	\$20 per site per night	Vault toilets, picnic tables, fire rings, shade structures.

**Fair market value assessment of fees charged at similar Campgrounds in the area**





Annual Fee Revenue	FY 2018 Final Total	FY 2019 Projected	FY 2020 Projected	FY 2021 Projected	FY 2022 Projected	FY 2023 Projected	FY 2024 Projected
Site or Pass Type							
Joufflas	\$0	\$22,325	\$22,325	\$22,325	\$22,325	\$22,325	\$22,325
RV/Trailer Group Use	\$0	\$0	\$44,660	\$44,660	\$44,660	\$44,660	\$44,660
Knowles Overlook	\$0	\$6,378	\$6,378	\$6,378	\$23,920	\$23,920	\$23,920
High North	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$23,925
<b>Total Annual Revenues</b>	\$0	\$28,703	\$73,363	\$73,363	\$90,905	\$90,905	<b>\$114,830</b>

Service Provided	FY 2018 Costs	Projected Costs upon Full Development
Operations/Visitor Services		
Overhead/Admin	\$2,064	\$3,669
Personnel	\$7,000	\$23,123
Vehicles	\$515	\$6,701
Equipment	\$0	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$100	\$500
Misc.	\$0	\$0
Law Enforcement		
Personnel	\$10,580	\$15,474
Annual Maintenance		
Personnel	\$15,240	\$17,913
Vehicles	\$2,062	\$3,093
Equipment	\$500	\$500
Materials & Supplies	\$1,250	\$4,680
Weed Treatments	\$275	\$826
Vault toilet pumping	\$3,750	\$6,750
Collections:		
Personnel	\$0	\$5,760
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$43,336</b>	<b>\$89,049</b>







- ✓ Reduce or eliminate impacts to sensitive resources.
- ✓ Improve recreation opportunities and recreation setting conditions.
- ✓ Generate revenue to be used to provide better services to the recreation user.

## **Revenue Expenditures:**

**Continue services**

**Improve campground infrastructure**

**Hire seasonal park rangers**

**Hire campground hosts as needed**

**Future recreation infrastructure**

**Matching funds for projects**

**Increase security presence**

**Long term stability**





**Suggestions on how to resolve the issues in Rabbit Valley?  
comments or questions?**





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**We are asking for resolution in support of charging fees at  
Campgrounds in Rabbit Valley**