



**NATIONAL
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**MCINNIS CANYONS
NATIONAL CONSERVATION AREA**



Ruby-Horsethief Colorado River Camping Permits

Proposed Fee Calendar Extension to include April and October





Background

- 25 river miles, 34 campsites
- Loma, CO to Westwater, UT
- To address crowding and non-compliance, 2012 Permit system started (no fees; phone reservations)
- 2013 Fees were established:
 - ✓ Fees are based on number of adults (17 and older) plus dogs
 - ✓ Fees are charged May 1- September 30

Group Size Fees

 - 1-5** - \$20 Per night
 - 6-14** - \$50 Per night
 - 15-25** - \$100 Per night
- 2016 the system changed to recreation.gov





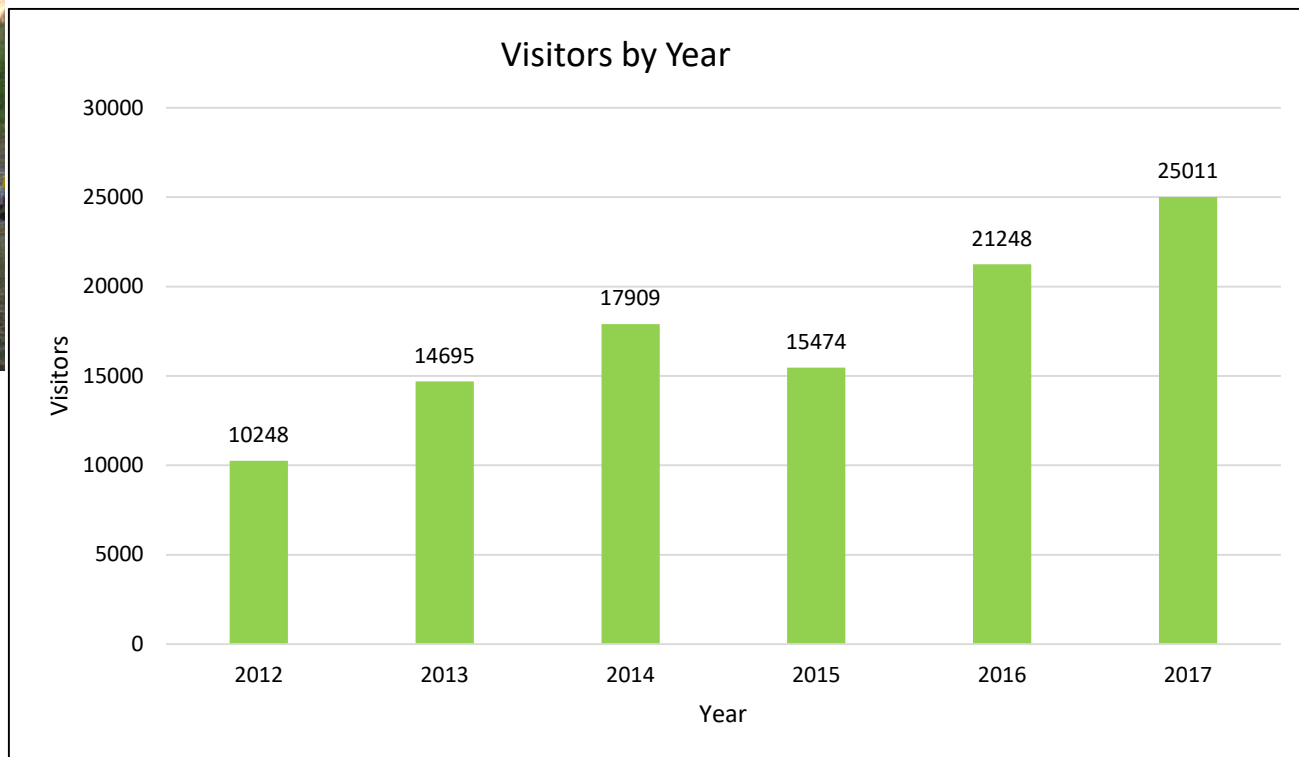
Background Continued

- Permits are available 60 days before the launch
- Commercial outfitters make reservations in August for the next year
- We have received positive feedback from both private and commercial users



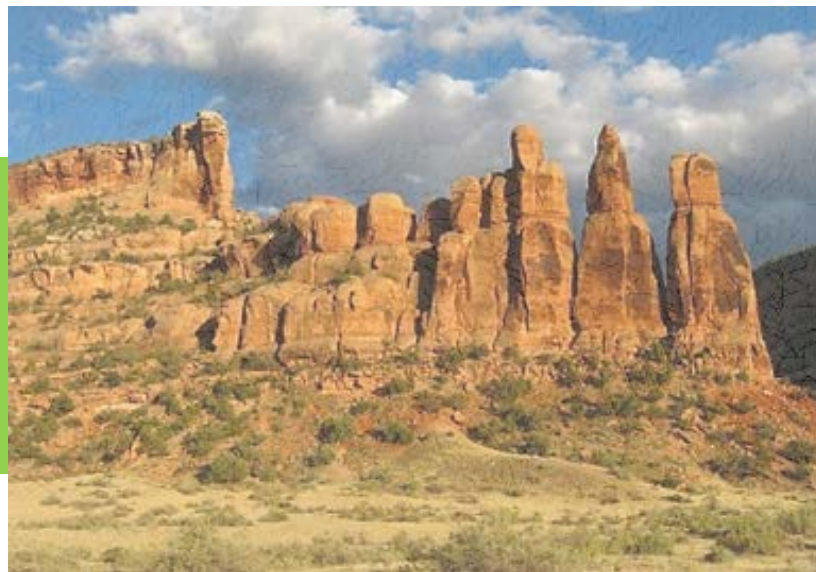


Overall Visitation

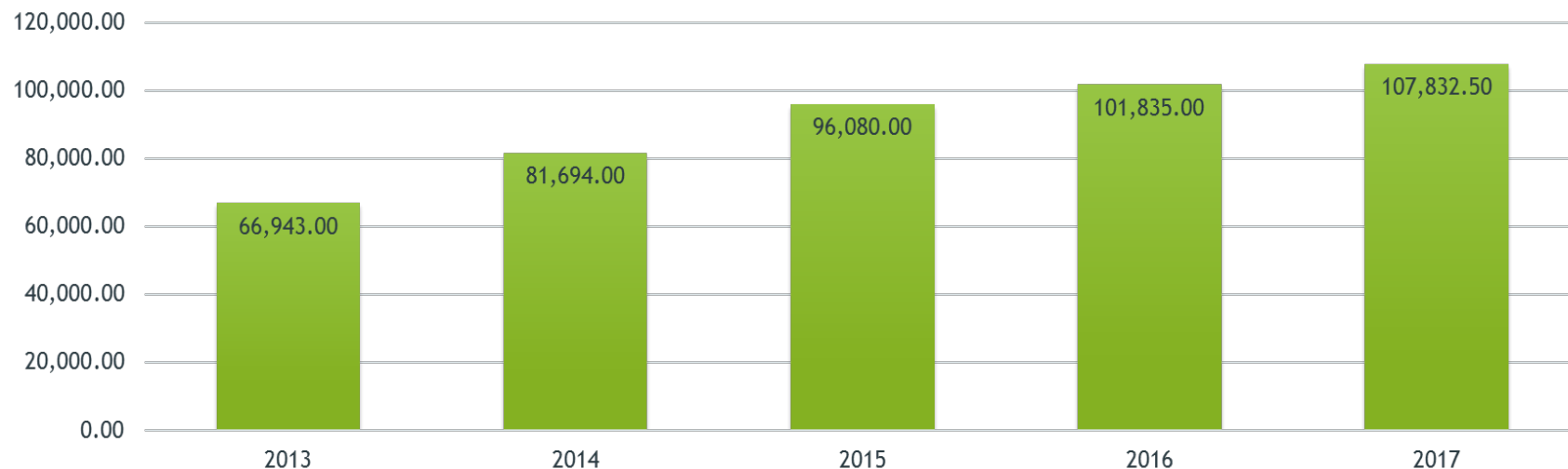




Revenue



Yearly River Fee Collection



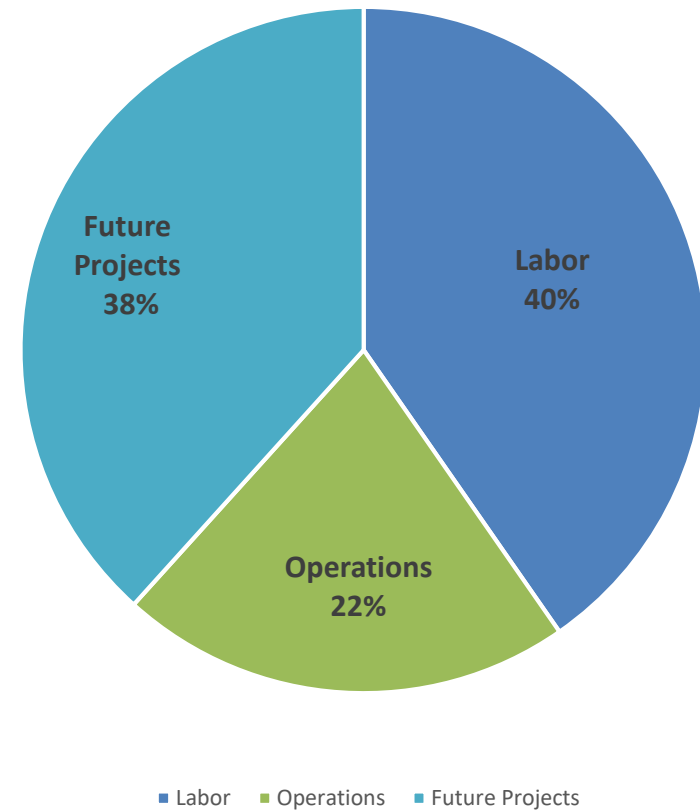


Expenses

FY2015-FY2017 Combined Ruby-Horsethief Expenses

Possible Future Projects:

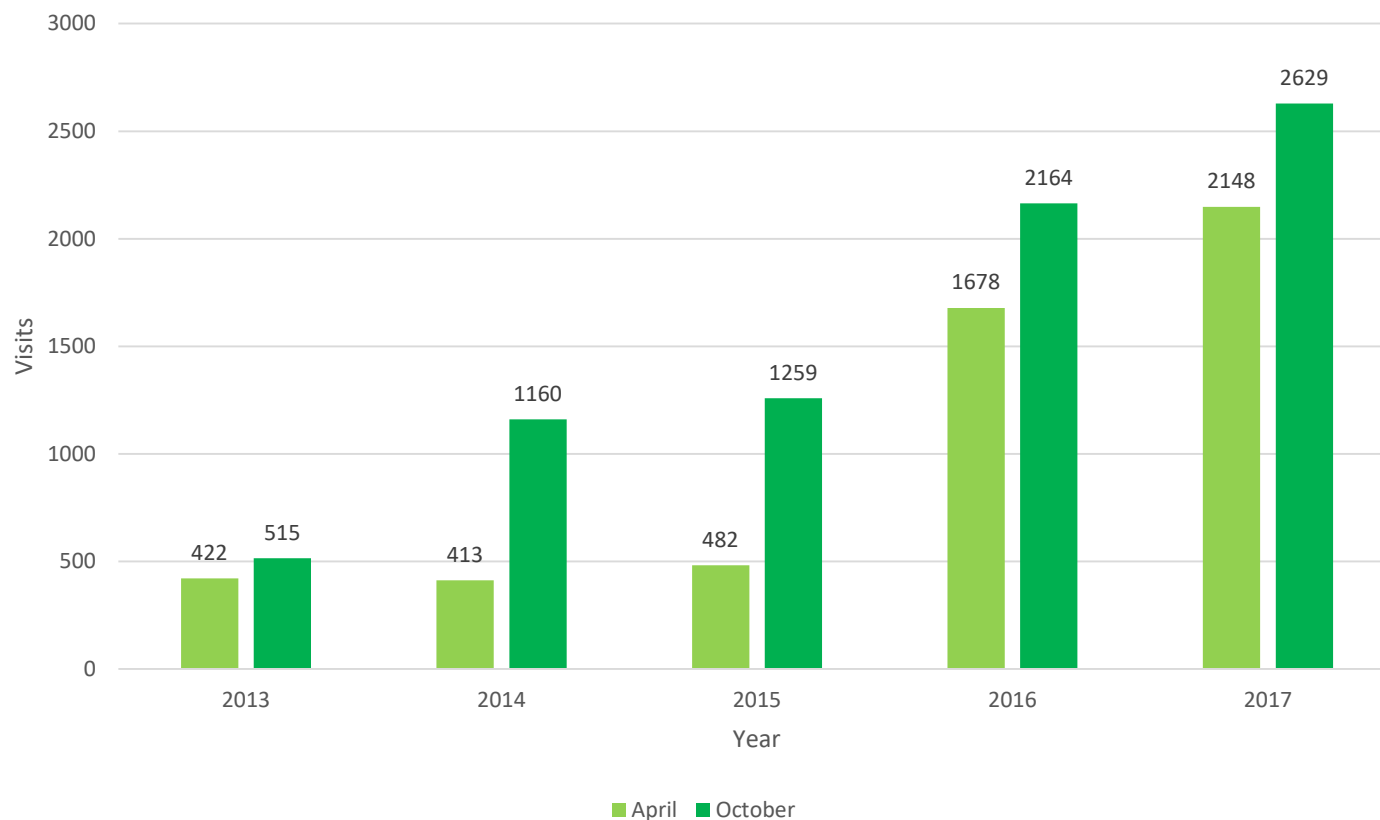
- Tamarisk Removal
- Westwater boat ramp and parking improvements
- Loma Boat Launch Road and Parking Improvements
- New boat launch in Fruita





April and October Use

April and October Visits by Year



Challenges:

- ✓ More patrols needed
- ✓ No Shows
- ✓ One group Reserving multiple campsites



Proposed Changes

- The proposed fee season would include April and October
 - ✓ Address the issue of no-shows/multiple sites
 - ✓ Allow for longer ranger seasons and more patrols during still busy months
 - ✓ Fees would stay the same





Public Comments

- We requested comments on mountainbuzz.com
- A press release was sent to local news sources
- Outfitters were emailed the proposal directly





Public Comments Continued

- 46 Comments were received
- Overall, boaters were in agreement, the fee calendar should include April and October
 - ✓ 23 of 29 comments supported the change
- Several comments asked for other changes to the fee structure
 - ✓ Charge a per person fee instead of by group size
 - ✓ Include kids in the permit price
 - ✓ Charge fees year round
 - ✓ Change the 1-5 group size to 1-6
- Several comments were not about the change but about other issues on the river





Conclusion

- Visitation during April and October has more than doubled since 2013
- Expanded fees help pay for extended ranger season
- No-shows would have more incentive to cancel a permit, addressing many complaints BLM has received about the issue
- Most boaters that commented support the change





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**We are asking for a resolution in support of expanding fees
on the Ruby-Horsethief stretch of the Colorado River**



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Comments or Questions?

