



# COLORADO

## McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

### Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

#### Providing Visitor Information



*BLM staff patrol the Colorado River*

The Ruby-Horsethief section of the Colorado River is 25 miles from Loma, Colorado, to Westwater, Utah. The flat water makes it an excellent trip for all boaters, from the most seasoned to beginners and families. There are 34 campsites available for reservation on Recreation.gov. The fees collected allow us to provide Park Rangers to answer questions on the phone and on the River. Our visitor services staff stay busy answering questions about campsite selection, gear requirements, and on the ground conditions

#### Riparian Restoration



*Youth Corps Crew Removing Invasive Tamarisk*

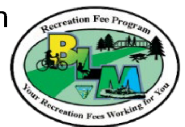
Through our partnership with the Western Colorado Conservation Corps, we treated 15 acres of invasive tamarisk and secondary weeds such as Russian knapweed along the River. The removal is done in a phased approach, with native plant seeding based on the condition of remaining vegetation in treated areas. We completed cutting and piling of tamarisk and burned piles to reduce the risk of fire in native cottonwood galleries, improve riparian habitat, and improve camping opportunities for permit holders.

#### 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 recreationDirect operating or capital costs associated with the recreation fee program



## Other Accomplishments

In June of 2021, BLM closed on the Crow Bottom acquisition and is pursuing another key acquisition along the Colorado River. Cadastral survey and environmental site assessments for these acquisitions were funded with fee dollars. BLM is working toward a camping permit and fee system for the Rabbit Valley area; we improved campsites and signage in FY21 using fee dollars. In partnership with Colorado Canyons Association, we get hundreds of school kids on the River to learn about river recreation and resources on BLM lands and the Catalpa property, a private inholding that CCA leases.

## Vicinity Map



## Contacts

### McInnis Canyons National Conservation Area

#### Recreation Fee Program Contact

Phone Number: 970-244-3000

Email: [cewing@blm.gov](mailto:cewing@blm.gov)

Web: <https://www.blm.gov/programs/national-conservation-lands/colorado/mcinnis-canyons>

#### District Contact

Phone Number: 970-244-3000

Email: [ecoulter@blm.gov](mailto:ecoulter@blm.gov)

## Revenue & Expenditures

### FY21 Revenue

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$289,550.49
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$304.05
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$0.00
<b>Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21</b>	<b>\$289,854.54</b>

### FY21 Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$63,326.22
Visitor Services	\$19,542.69
Law Enforcement	\$0.00
Habitat Restoration	\$59,043.79
Collections/Overhead	\$3,687.24
<b>Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21</b>	<b>\$145,599.94</b>



### Planned Activities



*BLM employee teaches river users about Petroglyphs*

In 2022 we plan to continue providing excellent service to permit holders and start a new Ruby-Horsethief volunteer river ranger program. We will be continuing our riparian restoration work at the May Flats and Blackrocks project sites. We continue to work toward additional acquisitions to improve access and conserve habitat. We also plan to implement the Rabbit valley permit system and make further improvements there. We plan to reinvigorate our youth education programs along the River in 2022 after canceling several trips due to the pandemic. We also plan to conduct a cultural resources inventory along the River.

### FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$10,000.00
Visitor Services	\$150,000.00
Law Enforcement	\$10,000.00
Habitat Restoration	\$25,000.00
Collections/Overhead	\$10,000.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$205,000.00
FY21 End of Year Carryover	\$84,000.00
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$289,000.00

### Connecting with Communities

Colorado Canyons Association (CCA) is the Friends group of McInnis Canyons National Conservation Areas (MCNCA). CCA provided crucial assistance in visitor services for the NCA at the BLM office, organizing volunteer projects, and creating awareness in the community surrounding the stewardship and management of MCNCA. In FY 2021, they helped BLM staff host river cleanups, trail monitoring classes, and educational trips for area youth. BLM works with CCA and our community partners to reach underserved youth in our communities. We have built partnerships with groups like the Riverside Education Center, Dual Immersion Academy, and Mesa County Partners to help remove barriers students may face when visiting and recreating on public lands. These partnerships allow the BLM to host students in an outdoor classroom setting and provide a safe environment for students to feel supported while developing new skills and learning about the resources we manage. These partnerships offer hundreds of youth in our community with new experiences, such as place-based learning, hiking, rafting, and camping, on their public lands. While providing students with new knowledge, experiences, and skills, we also teach them about potential careers in public land management. We are striving to build a workforce that reflects the face of the community we serve, which will help us better reach underserved youth and help them understand that public lands are for all Americans and see themselves in a career in conservation.

