



# COLORADO

## San Luis Valley Field Office

### Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

#### Penitente Canyon Campground



*Penitente Canyon Groupsite Amenities*

Penitente Canyon Campground (CG) is the staging area for experiencing the 4,552-acre Penitente Canyon Recreation Area. This geologic wonder is managed primarily for its world-class rock climbing opportunities. Overnight camping, outfitters and guides, and special events have generated approximately \$10,000 annually in recent years. This funding is used in conjunction with other FLREA revenues to fund supplies, equipment, and salary for staff and volunteer hosts to maintain the CG.

#### Zapata Falls Campground



*Zapata Falls Campsite*

Zapata Falls Campground (CG) is the overnight camping destination associated with the most-visited site on BLM-managed lands in the San Luis Valley. In addition to an easily accessible nearby waterfall, the CG overlooks the adjacent Great Sand Dunes, National Park. FLREA revenues have generated approximately \$30,000 annually in recent years. This funding is used with other FLREA revenues to fund supplies and salaries for staff and volunteer hosts to maintain the CG.

### 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

BLM has worked with numerous partners, such as the San Luis Valley Great Outdoors Coalition, Colorado Mountain Club, the SLV Climbing Association, Volunteers for Outdoor Colorado, Colorado Youth Corps, and Southwest Conservation Corps to design and implement various rec site improvement projects at the Field Office's Fee Sites and Recreation permittee areas and dependent facilities. In FY21, trail maintenance and improvement projects were completed at Penitente Canyon and Stone Quarry Trail Systems. At Penitente Canyon, a climbing bolt replacement project was also completed.

## Vicinity Map



## Contacts

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## Revenue & Expenditures

### FY21 Revenue

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$77,745.47
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$4,495.00
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$980.00
<b>Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21</b>	<b>\$83,220.47</b>

### FY21 Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$64,462.89
Visitor Services	\$20,545.90
Law Enforcement	\$0.00
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
<b>Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21</b>	<b>\$85,008.79</b>



### Planned Activities



*Campers enjoying a well-maintained Zapata Falls CG*

Carryover from FY21 was \$25,000. This funding is being used for a Trash service contract for both campgrounds, salary for a seasonal Park Ranger for maintenance, reimbursements for volunteer campground hosts, and equipment and supplies.

### FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$55,000.00
Visitor Services	\$10,000.00
Law Enforcement	\$0.00
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$65,000.00
FY21 End of Year Carryover	\$25,000.00
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$50,000.00

### Connecting with Communities

A significant focus of SLVFO's implementation strategy for BLM's "Connecting with Communities" recreation strategy, as well as BLM Colorado's step-down recreation strategy "Backyard to Backcountry," is its partnership and participation with the San Luis Valley Great Outdoors Coalition (SLV GO!). SLVGO! is a collective impact organization representing all 18 communities, six counties, all levels of government, academia, industry, non-Governmental Organizations, and interested citizens regarding recreation and conservation in the San Luis Valley. A primary goal of SLV GO! is to bring greater access and connectivity to citizens and visitors of the San Luis Valley, especially to their public lands.

