



# MONTANA\_DAKOTAS Miles City Field Office

## Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

### Career Seasonal Employee/SRPs



*BLM seasonal employee monitors MCFO public lands*

The Miles City Field Office (MCFO) annually administers 40-50 permits. In 2021 MCFO received approval to hire a Career Seasonal employee for SRP administration. BLM's ability to carry over fees for multiple years was vital in getting this position. There is currently only one Outdoor Recreation Planner. The MCFO can better serve the public, permittees, and new SRP applicants with this additional position. The MCFO spent \$17,000 from "carryover" funds, which was invaluable.

### Hunter Patrols/Law Enforcement



*BLM Law Enforcement patrols public lands*

The MCFO funds 2-3 career, seasonal employees for one to two months and a law enforcement employee during hunting season. In 2021 the MCFO spent \$18,000 of SRP revenue for the following duties:

- Informing hunters about safety issues, road conditions, rules, and regulations
  - Providing LNT education
  - Answering questions
  - Assisting with safety and law enforcement issues
- Funds allow the public to enjoy hunting opportunities with greater safety, knowledge, and comfort while having a better experience.

### 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:

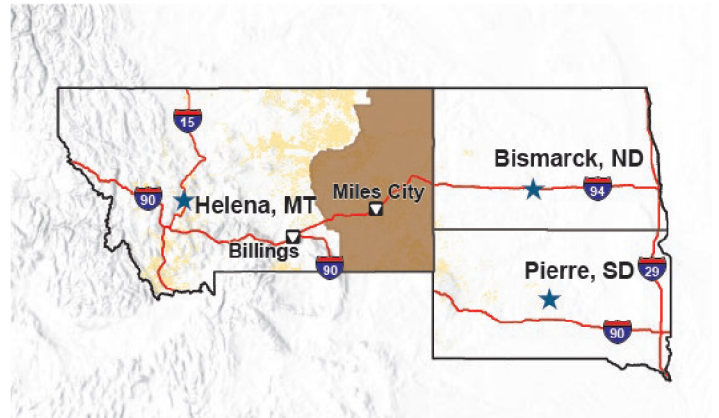
- Maintenance, repair, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety
- Interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments, and signs
- Habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation that is limited 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

- Processed all-new Special Recreation Permit (SRP) applications and permit renewals
- Modified SRP stipulations for resource protection
- Utilized SRP revenue for vehicle use costs and fuel costs
- Purchased necessary field supplies and administrative supplies for SRP processing and monitoring

### Vicinity Map



### Contacts

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Recreation Fee Program Contact**

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### Revenue & Expenditures

**FY21 Revenue**

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$0.00
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$50,306.63
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$940.00
<b>Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21</b>	<b>\$51,246.63</b>

**FY21 Expenditures**

Repair & Maintenance	\$0.00
Visitor Services	\$0.00
Law Enforcement	\$6,875.11
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
<b>Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21</b>	<b>\$6,875.11</b>



### Planned Activities



*Unauthorized off-road tracks found during hunter patrol monitoring*

- Law Enforcement = \$7000; monitor SRPs including patrols & visitor contacts
- Vehicle Use = \$9000
- Hunter Patrol = \$11,000; monitoring during hunting season
- Upkeep & purchase of visitation devices = \$6000
- Carryover funds will be looked at to purchase new signage, trash cleanup, special recreation permit administration, vault toilet pumping, and future projects past the 2022 fiscal year.

### FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$0.00
Visitor Services	\$6,000.00
Law Enforcement	\$7,000.00
Habitat Restoration	\$20,000.00
Collections/Overhead	\$0.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$33,000.00
FY21 End of Year Carryover	\$51,000.00
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$45,000.00

### Connecting with Communities

The use of fees generated within the Miles City Field Office (MCFO), all of which come from Special Recreation Permits (SRP), by hiring a career seasonal position 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. The SRP permits in the MCFO consist mainly of hunting Outfitters and Guides; a majority of them also have another business, such as ranching, which they run with a small staff, if any. The SRP program is an extensive program to administer and a full-time job all in itself; having a career seasonal position that focuses on helping permittees and applicants go through the process from the initial application to file updates to post use monitoring is a huge benefit to the public user and the community.

The MCFO annually reviews SRP renewals and processes new applications for compliance with our Approved Resource Management Plan (ARMP) and other laws and regulations. This allows us to track and adequately administer all commercial, competitive, and organized group use while ensuring the American public receives fair market value from the commercial use of its public land. The permits provide resource protection measures through the use of stipulations to safeguard future use by the public. The permittees bring in tourism revenue to the local communities, which actions support Goal 2: Connecting with Communities Strategy: Facilitate Greater Well-Being and Economic Benefits with Communities.

Over the next year, the MCFO will continue to be involved in public outreach and educational opportunities by utilizing hunter patrols during hunting season and high-use days.

