



NEW MEXICO

Río Grande Del Norte National Monument

Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

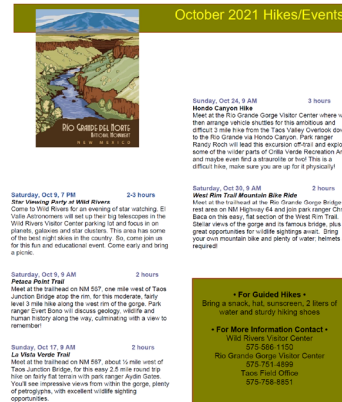
Shelter Design Prototype



Construction of new shelter at Petaca Campground

With assistance from various BLM New Mexico construction and heavy equipment crewmembers, the agency built a prototype to explore an option to blend well with visual resources while balancing low maintenance facilities. The cost of the crew working for a week at the Petaca Campground was \$23,488, with the campground being completely renovated.

Return to Monument Guided Hikes



October 2021 Hikes/Events

Sunday, Oct 24, 8 AM 2 hours
Hondo Canyon Hike
Meet at the Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center where we'll arrange vehicle shuttles for this ambitious and difficult 2-mile hike from the Tappan Valley Overlook down to the Rio Grande via Hondo Canyon. Park rangers Randy Poch will lead the excursion. Observe and explore some of the wilder parts of Chispa Verde Recreation Area and maybe even find a bluebird or owl! This is a difficult hike, make sure you are up for it physically!

Saturday, Oct 9, 7 PM 2-3 hours
Star Viewing Party at Mesa Rivera
Come to Mesa Rivera for an evening of star watching. El Valle Astronomers will set up their big telescopes in the Rio Grande Visitor Center parking lot and focus in on planets, galaxies and star clusters. This area has some of the best night views in the country. So, come join us for this fun and educational event. Come early and bring a picnic.

Saturday, Oct 9, 9 AM 2 hours
Petaca Point Trail
Meet at the trailhead on NM 507, one mile west of Tappan Junction Bridge along the rim. For this moderate, fairly easy 2-mile hike along the west rim of the gorge, Park ranger Evert Bono will discuss geology, wildlife and human history along the way, culminating with a view to remember!

Sunday, Oct 17, 8 AM 2 hours
La Mesa Verde Trail
Meet at the trailhead on NM 507, about 1/2 mile west of Tappan Junction Bridge, on the easy 2.0-mile round trip hike on fairly flat terrain with park ranger Austin Garcia. You'll see impressive views from within the gorge, plenty of petroglyphs, with excellent wildlife sighting opportunities.

For Guided Hikes
Bring a snack, full sunscreen, 2 liters of water and sturdy hiking shoes.

For More Information Contact:
Visit: Tappan Visitor Center
575-586-1100
Rio Grande Gorge Visitor Center
575-751-4389
Trail: Field Office
575-758-5851

October Guided Hikes Flyer

In 2021, the field office restarted popular summer and fall weekly guided hikes after a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic. Hikes range in difficulty and cover topics such as geology of the Río Grande Rift, wildlife and habitat, cultural history and wildflowers. The guided tours are led by park rangers and expert guest speakers. Monthly cost of a park ranger working in the Monument averages \$3,500.

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



Other Accomplishments

- Toilet pumping and portable toilet rentals in new locations
- Visitor contact and maintenance with Park Managers, Park Rangers and volunteer camp hosts
- Law Enforcement patrols
- Planning and administration of Special Recreation Permits
- Potable water sampling
- Purchase of trail maintenance supplies
- Cleaning supplies
- Equipment repair
- Visitor Center Internet

Vicinity Map



Contacts

Río Grande Del Norte National Monument

Recreation Fee Program Contact

Phone Number: Taos Field Office 575.758.8857

Email: BLM_NM_TAFO_Admin@blm.gov

Web: <https://www.blm.gov/office/new-mexico-state-office>

District Contact

Phone Number: Farmington District Office
505.564.7600

Email: blm_nm_comments@blm.gov

Revenue & Expenditures

FY21 Revenue

Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$175,809.14
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$0.00
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$0.00
Interagency Passes	\$0.00
Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21	\$175,809.14

FY21 Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$8,169.58
Visitor Services	\$176,057.27
Law Enforcement	\$359.98
Habitat Restoration	\$70,038.35
Collections/Overhead	\$972.56
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21	\$255,597.74



Planned Activities



A volunteer event is planned with climbers and the Access Fund for Dead Cholla climbing access route

There are no planned projects with use of returned fees for 2022. This is an opportunity to potentially accumulate carryover for projects in 2023.

FY22 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$8,578.00
Visitor Services	\$184,860.00
Law Enforcement	\$378.00
Habitat Restoration	\$73,540.00
Collections/Overhead	\$1,020.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22	\$268,376.00
Prior Year Carryover	\$37,440.00
FY22 Projected Revenue	\$184,600.00

Connecting with Communities

Part of the strategy within the BLM Recreation and Visitor Services Program is to connect with communities, making the benefits of recreation more accessible while supporting local social, economic, and environmental goals. In 2021, the BLM met External Goal 1. Support Community Service Providers While Balancing the Interests of All Public Lands Users and Strategic Focus 1: Proactively Engage with Communities.

This was achieved through a variety of cooperative agreements and collaborating with local municipal schools. An agreement for Trail Stewardship with Enchanted Circle Trails Association has benefitted recreation use within the Río Grande del Norte National Monument by removing hazard trees along trails and with assistance in the design and planning of guide sign replacements and wayfinding maps for a trail system on Taos Valley Overlook.

Working with Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, BLM completed trail maintenance at Wild Rivers Recreation Area.

BLM partnered with New Mexico Wilderness Alliance to conduct wilderness character monitoring and to provide entry signs, boundary signs, and sign kiosks for Cerro del Yuta Wilderness and Rio San Antonio Wilderness.

Park Rangers from the Wild Rivers Recreation Area helped deliver environmental curriculum on site to schools from Questa and Red River, New Mexico.

Strategic Focus 2: Plan and Manage Recreation Efforts To Achieve Specific and Desired Benefits to the Community While Promoting Responsible Shared Use of Public Lands. A Travel Management Plan for Horsethief Mesa was completed which addressed public access for a variety of uses, provides for parking and in addition designated proposed new shared use trails which the public desired for specific types of recreation experience outcomes. Adaptive management criteria is built into the plan to address the potential need for additional seasonal closures and use restrictions.

