U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management

NEVADA Black Rock Desert National Conservation Area

Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2021

Desert Dace Habitat Protection



Road Maintenance within Soldier Meadows ACEC

In August 2021, the Black Rock NCA conducted road maintenance within the Soldier Meadows ACEC to enhance recreationist safety and protect critical habitat for the Desert Dace, a threatened fish species. BLM used over \$97,000 of fee revenue to harden water crossings to protect desert dace critical habitat and continue to provide safe access to public lands.

Black Rock NCA Partnerships



2021 National Trails Day - Steamboat Trail

In 2021, the Black Rock NCA used \$153,500 to partner with non-profit organizations to host Black Rock Rendezvous, National Trails Day, and National Public Lands Day. Over 120 volunteers were recruited to accomplish stewardship projects such as restoring threatened and endangered species critical habitat, protecting wilderness areas, and maintaining around 2,000 feet of hiking trails.

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

- \$171,000 for seven travel trailers to be used by NCA Staff and LE to stay in when monitoring recreation events, conducting wild horse & burro gathers and responding to wildfires.
- \$56,000 for air quality monitoring on the Black Rock Desert Playa for public health and safety.
- \$12,000 for vault toilet maintenance at recreation sites, including Soldier Meadows Cabin & Campground, Black Rock Visitor Station, Steven's Camp, and Massacre Ranch.
- \$11,500 for supplies to support Black Rock Rendezvous (BRR), National Public Lands Day (NPLD), National Trails Day (NTD), and Black Rock NCA signs.
- \$11,000 for Desert Research Institute pollen core research to determine historic vegetation changes within the Black Rock NCA.

Vicinity Map



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

| FY21 Revenue | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| Recreation Use Permits (RUPs) | \$0.00 |
| Special Recreation Permits (SRPs) | \$69,680.84 |
| Individual Special Recreation Permits | \$0.00 |
| Interagency Passes | \$0.00 |
| Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY21 | \$69,680.84 |

| FY21 Expenditures | |
|--|--------------|
| Repair & Maintenance | \$170,780.90 |
| Visitor Services | \$557,142.63 |
| Law Enforcement | \$13,467.59 |
| Habitat Restoration | \$33,545.13 |
| Collections/Overhead | \$0.00 |
| Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY21 | \$861,337.11 |



Planned Activities



High Rock Canyon

- Individual Special Recreation Permit (ISRP) Program for Black Rock Desert Playa to help manage resource protection and public health and safety.
- Pumping vault toilets at recreation sites and any required repairs to the facilities.
- Continue expanding partnerships to host public events, including BRR, NPLD, and NTD.
- Educational and interpretive content on NSHT in the NCA for the California Trail Interpretive Center.

FY22 Planned Expenditures

| Repair & Maintenance | \$100,000.00 |
|--|----------------|
| Visitor Services | \$175,000.00 |
| Law Enforcement | \$35,000.00 |
| Habitat Restoration | \$150,000.00 |
| Collections/Overhead | \$50,000.00 |
| Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22 | \$510,000.00 |
| FY21 End of Year Carryover | \$1,450,643.97 |
| FY22 Projected Revenue | \$2,000,000.00 |

Connecting with Communities

The Black Rock Desert-High Rock Canyon Emigrant Trails National Conservation Area is an ideal place to facilitate greater well-being and offer economic benefits to its surrounding communities. One of the ways it fosters greater well-being is by capitalizing on and protecting the BLM's "Backyard to Backcountry" Recreation Brand. The Black Rock NCA epitomizes the term "Backcountry" as it has been relatively undisturbed since the time that early settlers traveled West. The remoteness that one can experience, and the lack of human influence on the landscape, attract recreationists that seldom can find a break from the average urban recreation setting. We understand the balance that community members want regarding accessibility to our scenic and Wilderness-filled area. While we have roads accessible to passenger vehicles, the NCA also offers miles of trails only passable by high-clearance and off-road capable vehicles. We maintain only a few miles of hiking trails, encouraging visitors to explore their public lands and map their adventures. By intention, the presence and extent of recreation facilities in our NCA are few and far between. Creating more developed and extensive sites would conflict with the character of the recreation setting that so many come to enjoy in the Black Rock NCA.

