



CALIFORNIA El Centro

Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Spending & Accomplishment Highlights 2022

Fee Program Management



Season permit with holographic ATV and driver

The EL Centro Filed Office (ECFO) uses 1232 resources to pay for a contractor to manage the fee program. The contractor oversees internet sales and approximately 90 off-site fee collection locations throughout California, Arizona, and Nevada. The contractor is also responsible for the staffing and permit sales at both ECFO locations, Cahuilla and Buttercup Ranger Stations. They also manage the printing and mailing of about 60,000 permits, and report all collected funds to the contract manager.

Amount Expended: \$649,340.25

Medical & Rescue Services



Search and Rescue landing a medical helicopter

The ECFO has one of the most robust and comprehensive off-highway vehicle Search and Rescue (SAR) programs within the department of the Interior. The ECFO emergency medical team responds to approximately 330 calls each season and are responsible for saving countless lives over the years. Annual training includes but is not limited to, swift water rescue, vehicle extrication, and Emergency Medical Services. Their skills and service help protect the wellbeing of about 1 million visitors annually.

Amount Expended: \$604,010.96

Recreation Fee Dollars

They support and enhance:

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.

- 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

Restroom maintenance: The ECFO has a total of 83 vault toilets. Most of these vault toilets are serviced and repaired daily.

Road and campground maintenance: Maintain access to 17 miles of roads and campgrounds by grading, watering, and removing sand.

Issue Permits: 68 Special Recreation Permits and Letters of Agreements processed and monitored for compliance.

Law Enforcement Services: 19,089 contacts that include warnings, citations, DUIs, and registration and SRP compliance.

Trash contract: Four main trash collecting points that benefit about 1 million visitors and keeps recreation areas clean.

Vicinity Map



Contacts

El Centro Field Office

Recreation Fee Program Contact

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[Published FLREA Triennial Report](https://doi.sciencebase.gov/flrea/)

<https://doi.sciencebase.gov/flrea/>

[Published FLREA Annual Revenue and Spending Plans](https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/flrea-revenue)

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/flrea-revenue>

[Connecting with Communities BLM Recreation Strategy](https://www.blm.gov/national-office/public-room/strategic-plan/connecting-communities-blm-recreation-strategy-summary)

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Revenue & Expenditures

End of Year Carryover:	\$3,418,491.89
FY22 Revenue	
Recreation Use Permits (RUPs)	\$6,010.00
Special Recreation Permits (SRPs)	\$32,799.66
Individual Special Recreation Permits	\$3,264,941.66
Interagency Passes	\$960.00
Total Recreation Fee Revenue for FY22:	\$3,304,711.32

FY22 Expenditures	
Repair & Maintenance	\$586,101.69
Visitor Services	\$670,512.31
Law Enforcement	\$999,597.34
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$1,675.51
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY22:	\$2,257,886.85



Planned Activities



Maintenance staff painting a CXT vault toilet.

- The ECFO plans to continue providing Incident Command-level activity during the peak holidays, maintaining access for visitors to Open OHV Areas and providing LE, SAR and Maintenance services year-around in these areas.
- Volunteer and seasonal hiring is planned to continue. To fill volunteer vacancies in fee areas, and seasonal employees to assist with maintenance, monitoring, or other projects as needed.
- Continue facilities and road maintenance such as cleaning vault toilets, replacing signs, and sand removal.
- Continue processing Special Recreation Permits and LOAs.
- Propose funding for the new Cahuilla Ranger Station.
- Planning Star Wars Day Event at Buttercup Ranger Station.

FY23 Planned Expenditures

Repair & Maintenance	\$1,600,000.00
Visitor Services	\$1,000,000.00
Law Enforcement	\$1,600,000.00
Habitat Restoration	\$0.00
Collections/Overhead	\$6,000.00
Total Recreation Fee Expenditures for FY23:	\$4,206,000.00
Carryover Funds To FY23:	\$4,465,316.36
FY23 Projected Revenue:	\$3,000,000.00

Connecting with Communities

The El Centro Field Office (ECFO) collaborates with several groups to benefit the local community and visitors. For example, The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), ECFO in conjunction with the LANDS Foundation and other partners are planning a Star Wars-Discover the Desert Day at the Buttercup Ranger Station in the Imperial Sand Dunes Recreation Area. The family friendly event will include fun stations, tours to the film site, and a screening of Star Wars VI-Return of the Jedi. Other notable community partnerships are with San Diego Off-Road Coalition and the Glamis Black Bag Project. Both groups have been issued multiyear Letters of Agreement from the ECFO to coordinate trash cleanups at popular off-road locations. They share goals of coordinating with the BLM and ensuring to follow all rules and regulations, educating the public, and keeping the dunes clean for everyone's use and enjoyment. These events offer outreach opportunities for BLM staff such as distributing maps and visitor education. Helping the ECFO to strengthen communications and outreach efforts in some of its most popular locations, and to reach the local community and some of its most avid users of public lands.

