

Introduction

The Bureau of Land Management presents live from the National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona, the BLM recreation permit and fee administration handbook. This handbook provides guidance and tools for managing the special recreation permits and fees program. And now, the host of the program, David Ballenger.

D. Ballenger: Welcome to our program on the recreation permit and fee administration handbook. The revised handbook has been in the works for a while. It was just released in December of 2014, and we're excited to introduce it today. In today's broadcast, we will cover a number of topics. We will start off by providing information on the hot topics at the national level and we'll take a look at some of the handbook revisions and the updates as they relate to our business practices. Then we'll take a look at streamlining the process for administration of permits, and next, we'll explore some additions to the handbook and how this expanded guidance will impact field operations. And most importantly, we have set aside half of the show to interact with you and take your questions.

We are fortunate to have with us today, two BLM employees who work extensively with recreation fees and permits. First is Associate Deputy State Director for the Eastern States Anthony Bobo. Anthony worked in the recreation fee program for more than a decade and has been at the forefront of negotiations related to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act or REA that has now been in place for 12 years. Good morning, Anthony.

A. Bobo: Good morning, Dave. It's good to be here with you in Phoenix.

D. Ballenger: We also welcome Jennifer Jones Outdoor Recreation Planner from the Moab Field Office in Utah. Jennifer has been involved with the issuance and administration of many SRPs and works with the National Training Center as a course instructor. Good morning, Jennifer.

J. Jones: Good morning, Dave, good morning Anthony. It's great to be here with you.

D. Ballenger: As I mentioned before, we want your participation as a part of the show and we are happy to take your questions. So don't be shy. If you think of a question during our short presentations feel free to fax, text or email to the address and the number on your screen. To call us, dial toll-free 877-862-5346. Or you can fax us at 602-906-5701. And email or text us, please send it to BLM_TC_telecast@blm.gov. We'll try to answer all of your questions with our remaining time. And if we can't, someone will get back to you soon after the broadcast. So please include your name, office location and contact information when you send in your questions.

Before we begin, let's take a moment to provide an overview of the recreation permit and fee program. This program is broad and diverse and it generates nearly \$18million annually and continues to grow. The fee program covers everything from outfitter and guides, events, campgrounds, day use and boat launch facilities to privately owned facilities located on public lands. In total, the BLM issues nearly 1million recreation permits annually.