

http://www.denverpost.com/news/ci_29855779/blm-proposes-fees-improvements-paradise-cove-cliff-jumping

The Denver Post

Denver and the West

BLM proposes fees, improvements for "Paradise Cove" cliff jumping hideaway

Paradise Cove visitation has risen sharply in recent years, up to 18,000 yearly

By Jesse Paul

The Denver Post

Posted: 05/05/2016 04:49:03 PM MDT [Add a Comment](#)



Guffey Gorge area - known as the "Paradise Cove" hideaway - west of Colorado Springs may soon have a parking fee. (*Jesse Paul, The Denver Post*)

The Bureau of Land Management is proposing a parking fee and infrastructure improvements to the popular Guffey Gorge area — known as the "Paradise Cove" hideaway — west of Colorado Springs.

The agency says the spot's small size, increasing visitation and isolated location make management necessary to prevent ongoing environmental impacts and public health risks.

"The dramatic increase in visitor use at this site in recent years has caused a number of issues and concerns that need to be addressed," Keith Berger, BLM's Royal Gorge field manager, said in a statement. "We have worked closely with stakeholders and local agencies to develop a strategy that addresses these concerns and still allows the public to enjoy the site."

BLM says Guffey Gorge averages about 18,000 visitors each year and has dramatically shifted from a quiet use area to an overcrowded party spot.

[A draft business proposal](#), first reported by The Gazette, calls for a \$6 per-day, per-vehicle fee from May to December and for the development of a parking area and installment of a permanent toilet. The plan also calls for providing trash receptacles and increasing security presence.

The cove, carved out by Four Mile Creek, sits off Teller County Road 102 between Cripple Creek and the town of Guffey. It has become a popular swimming hole and cliff jumping spot for day trippers.

The cove has grown in popularity over the past several years as word of the secluded spot has leaked out. The BLM's draft management plan also calls for a ban on alcohol and amplified sound at the site.

Comments on the plan are being solicited until May 13 through the Royal Gorge Field Office at 719-269-8500 or in an e-mail to rgfo_comments@blm.gov.

Jesse Paul: 303-954-1733, jpaul@denverpost.com or [@JesseAPaul](https://twitter.com/JesseAPaul)