

Bitterroot National Forest

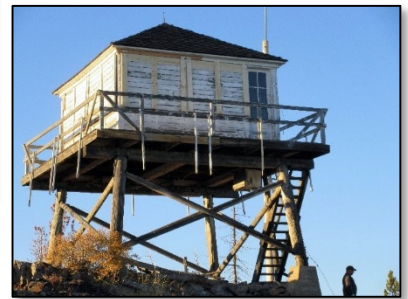
Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2016

The Effort to Repair Historic Structures



A pack string hauls shutters for Medicine Point Lookout.

Shutters gone (left) and recovered (below).



A night spent in a historic fire lookout or cabin is a unique and memorable experience for visitors. They offer an exceptional opportunity for visitors to camp on a mountain peak, near the scenic Bitterroot River in a rustic, old-time setting, or on the shores of Lake Como and learn about the history of the area.

While all cabins received some maintenance, Wood's Cabin and Medicine Point Lookout required more significant repairs. The shutters on Medicine Point Lookout had been torn off during a fierce windstorm and were swept down the hill. The Forest retrieved the shutters and repaired them, and with the help of stock horses, the shutters were carried four miles along a difficult trail, back to the lookout.

The Forest had major repairs at Wood's Cabin, which offers views of Lake Como. Work included, replacing all window and door screens, adjusting doors for better closure, sealing gaps to help prevent rodents from entering and preserve heat, replacing deck and handrails, staining the deck, repairing pipes and replacing

woods stoves.

The Forest also added gravel to the front entry way to keep mud from being tracked into the cabin and to help divert water away from the front door.

Recreation fee revenue from the rentals helps the Forest manage and maintain these historic cabins and lookouts.

Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

New screens offer better view of Lake Como



Other Accomplishments

- Operated and maintained 12 campgrounds, 1 swimming area, several boating sites, 4 day use sites, 4 rental cabins, 3 rental lookouts, and 3 group facilities.
- Maintained 37.3 miles of trail and improved 1/4 miles of trail.
- Removed noxious weeds in campgrounds and vegetation around pathways, roads and camp spurs.
- Removed hazard trees with the help of the Trapper Creek Job Corps.
- Removed dead overhead branches with pole saws, cleaned up slash and bucked up firewood for rental facilities.
- Installed 20 new picnic table planks and planed, sanded, and stained old planks within the Bass Creek Recreation Area
- Painted concrete vault toilet walls and floors within the Bass Creek Recreation Area and at Rombo and Alta Campgrounds
- Replaced damaged bear proof trash container at Rombo Campground
- Administered recreation events, such as the Lake Como Triathlon, Bitterroot Land Trust mountain bike event, and Lost Trail bike fest
- Administered 76 outfitter and guide permits and completed 35 outfitter camp inspections



A young hiker enjoying one of the many trails in the Bitterroot National Forest.

Northern Region



Contacts

Bitterroot National Forest

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$145,219	\$2,056,813
Special Uses	\$69,286	\$1,151,360
Interagency Passes	\$4,470	\$84,146
Total	\$218,975	\$3,292,320
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$36,117	\$925,542
Visitor Services	\$44,936	\$720,721
Law Enforcement	\$11,985	\$76,857
Habitat Restoration	\$3,916	\$45,474
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$12,511
Collections/Overhead	\$17,133	\$195,806
Total	\$114,087	\$1,976,910