

Custer-Gallatin National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2016

The Restoration of a Historic Cabin



Porcupine Cabin provides year-round rental opportunities to visitors from all over the country. In 2016, the Forest completed a major renovation project in cooperation with the Montana Conservation Corps, the Historical Preservation Crew and volunteers.

Crews removed the interior walls to reach damaged and rotting materials in the original log siding. They then removed the crumbling mortar and inserted traditional mortar using modern techniques that retain historical values and appeal. The crew refurbished the hand-adzed walls to their original 1914 look, extending the life and integrity of the cabin and improving cleanliness and rodent control. The crew also sealed the exterior of the foundation, which had begun to disintegrate by locating similar rocks and mortaring them to the base of the structure.

The entire project ultimately stabilized the cabin and improved the appearance and maintenance ability. Grant funding, appropriated dollars and recreation fee revenue funded the work.

Winter Recreation

- Gallatin Avalanche Center services included: 150 forecasts provided seven days a week and 100 classes with over 500 adults and 1000 youth trained.
- Partnered with Montana State University to establish two beacon parks.
- Supported grooming of the Rendezvous Ski Trail, which had 23,000 skier visits in 2016, in partnership with West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation.
- Provided groomed community ski trails at Bozeman and Hyalite Canyons with the Bridger Ski Foundation.
- Groomed five winter trail systems.



Snow rangers patrol backcountry areas, make visitor contacts, and report snow conditions.

Other Accomplishments

Campgrounds and Cabins:

- Maintained 27 rental cabins, and cut and hauled 1500 cords of firewood for public use.
- Operated and maintained over 150 toilets.
- Supported 15 campground hosts and visitor center staff who greeted visitors, answered questions, helped ensure visitor safety, picked up trash, and cleaned facilities.
- Monitored and tested 8 water systems, removed hundreds of hazard trees and treated noxious weeds.

Trails and Wilderness:

- Improved trails including turnpikes, bridge replacements, and trail relocations.
- Maintained over 1,500 miles of non-motorized and 800 miles of motorized trails by removing hazard and down trees, cleaning water bars, and maintaining trail infrastructure.
- Conducted over 10,000 hours of trail patrols.

Special Recreation Permits:

- Managed and coordinated 200 outfitting and guide permits and 30 recreation events.



Hilgard Basin, Lee Metcalf Wilderness

Replacing a puncheon in the AB Wilderness with Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness Foundation.



Northern Region



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$301,085	\$2,056,813
Special Uses	\$373,443	\$1,151,360
Interagency Passes	\$9,190	\$84,146
Total	\$683,718	\$3,292,320
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$160,952	\$925,542
Visitor Services	\$268,835	\$720,721
Law Enforcement	\$16,230	\$76,857
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$45,474
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$12,511
Collections/Overhead	\$45,822	\$195,806
Total	\$491,839	\$1,976,910