

Helena - Lewis & Clark National Forests

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2016

Granite Butte's Debut

Volunteers working to renovate the Granite Butte Lookout.



Lightening protection was installed on the Granite Butte Lookout in 2016, which finalized a multi-year effort to restore the lookout for preservation and public enjoyment. The full renovation effort occurred in partnership with the Montana Wilderness Association, the Montana Backcountry Horseman, and numerous community volunteers. The Forest held a grand opening ceremony in July, 2016 and opened overnight reservations in August, 2016. In the first months the lookout was rented 85% of the available nights.

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.

Lewis & Clark Interpretation

The Forest made several investments at the iconic Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. The Forest fixed the audio visual system in the main auditorium, which had several faults in the lighting controls and had poor sound. In addition, recreation fee revenue helped provide for needs such as pest control, light fixture and bulb replacement, emergency systems upkeep, and supplies.

The Center boasts a robust volunteer cadre of 65 people who contributed 9,776 hours of their time. One member of this cadre is a Newfoundland dog named Buddy who always attracts quite crowd and uniquely connects people to the story of Lewis and Clark.

With over 51,000 visitors to the Center, recreation fee revenue helps provide permanent and seasonal staffing, volunteer support and costs associated with the many special events and programs.

Finally, funds enabled rangers to partner with local schools to put on center specific education programming such as "More Kids in the Woods" and "Field Investigations."

Interpretive walk for youth.



A field investigation class.

Other Accomplishments

- Maintained 37 campgrounds, 8 picnic areas, 4 boat launches, 17 rental cabins and 8 interpretive sites. Worked included visitor contacts, as well as cleaning and minor repairs.
- Provided education on proper storage of food and attractants for visitors to grizzly bear country.
- Provided education to equestrians on feed free of weed seeds.
- Cleared 80 miles of trail.
- Constructed trail drainage features and maintained and improved trails as needed.
- Administered outfitter and guide permits.



Granite Butte Lookout Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Montana Conservation Corps help clear trail.



Northern Region



Contacts

Helena - Lewis & Clark

National Forest

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$320,611	\$2,056,813
Special Uses	\$131,588	\$1,151,360
Interagency Passes	\$29,066	\$84,146
Total	\$481,264	\$3,292,320
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$160,906	\$925,542
Visitor Services	\$136,680	\$720,721
Law Enforcement	\$15,026	\$76,857
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$45,474
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$12,511
Collections/Overhead	\$40,423	\$195,806
Total	\$353,034	\$1,976,910