



Custer-Gallatin National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

Streambank Restoration



Contractors install the new concrete boat ramp at Moose Creek Day Use

The forest partnered with the Gallatin River Task Force to begin a river access and streambank stabilization project at the Moose Creek Day Use site. The project includes:

- a new concrete boat ramp,
- kayak launch area,
- rock terrace for fishing/swimming/picnicking,
- 100' of streambank reconstruction and revegetation,
- a new accessible trail along the river bank.

The new boat ramp and rock terrace will improve visitor experience while also protecting the stream banks.

About \$18,000 of recreation fee funds helped with the 2017 phase of the project costing around \$120,000. The task force is a non-profit promoting watershed protection for the Gallatin River corridor.

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.



Two Trails Stewardship Projects

Trail Drainage and Reconstruction: In partnership with the Montana Conservation Corps, the forest improved drainage and tread on approximately two miles of the Big Creek Trail. Crews installed over 32 drainage structures and seven retaining walls, dug 600 feet of re-tread, re-installed a culvert and constructed a turnpike.

The forest used about \$10,000 of recreation fee funds along with grant funding to complete the project.

A forest employee outlines the Big Creek Trail Project



Trail Bridge Reconstruction: The Buffalo Horn trail, located in the southern Gallatin Range, is a popular route for hunting, horsemen and mountain biking. It is also a main access route for horse rides from the 320 Guest Ranch and for a number of other outfitters. The Gallatin Valley Backcountry Horsemen have been a primary partner in working with the Forest to maintain and support improvements on this route.

Three bridges on this popular trail had reached the end of their useful life and were becoming unsafe for horses, visitors, and outfitted clients.

In 2017, with packing support from backcountry horsemen, six trail crew members cut new stringers and milling planks from native materials obtained on site to replace all three of the failing bridges.

The forest spent about \$11,000 of recreation fee funds on crew costs and to purchase a new grip hoist. This hoist can be used for rebuilding bridges, moving large rocks and other heavy objects.

Other Accomplishments

Campgrounds and Cabins:

- Improved cabins including: repaired log damage, replaced gravel for accessibility, installed new cabinetry at Porcupine Cabin, replaced porch at Mill Creek Cabin, purchased and installed new stoves at Spanish Creek, Maxey and Little Bear Cabins.
- Improved campgrounds including: replaced picnic tables, repaired Soda Butte Pump house roof, and installed a new kiosk, repaired ten pads and sites, replaced furniture and host infrastructure at Eagle Creek Campground .
- 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.
- Managed and coordinated 200 outfitting and guide permits and 30 recreation events.

Winter Recreation:

- Partnered with Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks to establish and operate two new beacon parks one in West Yellowstone and Cooke City.
- Supported grooming of the Rendezvous Ski Trail, which had 34,096 skier visits in 2017, in partnership with West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation.
- Provided services at Gallatin Avalanche Center including: over 150 forecasts provided daily and 100 classes with over 500 adults and 1000 youth trained.
- Maintained 35 miles of groomed snowmobile trails and Nordic ski trails. Work included trail clearing, brushing limbs, replacing trail markers, and grooming Nordic ski trails.



Photo Courtesy of T. Jones, Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness, Custer Gallatin National Forest.

Regional Map



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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$357,382	\$2,039,768
Special Uses	\$366,946	\$1,215,263
Interagency Passes	\$31,288	\$208,343
Total	\$755,616	\$3,463,374

Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$322,235	\$1,560,502
Visitor Services	\$124,792	\$650,183
Law Enforcement	\$12,725	\$74,349
Habitat Restoration	\$10,000	\$60,422
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$43,267	\$233,792
Total	\$513,019	\$2,579,249