



# Flathead National Forest

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

### New Hitch Rails for Horse Riders



*Upper Holland Lake Stock Hitch Rails under construction*

Trail #35, which leads to the Bob Marshall Wilderness area is a unique horse trail. Because of its high use, it is a one-way trail with riders going uphill in the morning, and downhill in the afternoon. Riders who are ready to return to the trailhead wait at Upper Holland Lake Area; however, hitch rails at the site were deteriorated. Riders waiting to go downhill had to tie to trees, resulting in safety and resource damage issues.

Hitch rails were needed to concentrate use at the rails and provide a safe area for stock. In 2017, recreation fee revenue collected from Outfitter and Guides supported construction of these hitching rails and site restoration. This project fulfills public demand to protect and improve public access to public lands and has strong public support.

### Hornet Lookout Renovation



*Hornet Lookout Rental*

Hornet Lookout, sitting at an elevation of 6244 feet, is one of 15 fire lookouts remaining on the forest. The lookout is one of the more popular and iconic rentals as is booked almost every night during the operating season. The lookout was constructed in 1922 and was added to

the National Historic Register in 1983. Harsh weather and natural exposure take its toll on lookouts. In 2017, the forest used recreation fee revenue of \$8,000 to completely replace the windows in the cupola. As a historic building, the windows and frames had to be reconstructed in the same style and materials as the original windows. These windows, supplies and materials had to be packed up a switchback trail, which gains 800 feet in elevation. While the work was strenuous, the lookout will now better endure weather and provide a unique experience for visitors for many years.

### 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.



## Cabin Rentals

The forest operates 15 rental cabins averaging \$130,000 in recreation fees. Major improvements include:

**Swan Guard Station:**

- Refinished wood floors
- Installed new stove/oven and range hood
- Purchased bookcases, beds, chairs, tables, benches, lamps, rugs and mattresses.
- Painted living room

**Old Condon Ranger Station**

- Refinished the wood floors
- Purchased microwave, dishes, bookcases, beds, chairs, tables, benches, lamps, rugs and mattresses.
- Installed frost free water hydrant, blinds and wall heater
- Placed gravel around fire ring, water hydrant, walkway, and parking area
- Placed boulders for parking area

**Owl Creek Cabin**

- Constructed a new woodshed and stocked it with firewood
- Installed new cooking stove and refrigerator
- Installed new ridgecap on roof

**Zip's Cabin**

- Installed new gas stove



Pack String crossing the South Fork of the Flathead Wild and Scenic River



Gravel and barriers at Old Condon Ranger Station

## Regional Map



## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$158,745	\$2,039,768
Special Uses	\$288,891	\$1,215,263
Interagency Passes	\$17,140	\$208,343
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$464,776</b>	<b>\$3,463,374</b>
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$186,099	\$1,560,502
Visitor Services	\$31,729	\$650,183
Law Enforcement	\$0	\$74,349
Habitat Restoration	\$40,217	\$60,422
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$0	\$233,792
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$258,045</b>	<b>\$2,579,249</b>

## Contacts

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