



# Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

### Challenging the Children



On June 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017 the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail Interpretive Center hosted the second annual “Lewis and Clark Adventure Challenge.” The Adventure Challenge invites children and their families from around the Great Falls, Montana area to walk the trails of the Interpretive Center.

They went back in time to experience some of the adventures that the Corps of Discovery had over 200 years ago. The trail takes families on a 1-mile route where kids can “hunt” for bison (bean bag challenge), “catch” fish (magnetic fishing poles) at

Giant Springs State Park, flush prairie dogs from their holes (PVC tubes and stuffed prairie dogs), and fashion their very own beaded necklace with a peace medal from Lewis and Clark. Fourth graders can use the fun experience to earn their Every Kid in a Park Pass. The Challenge is possible with the help of recreation fee funds, which helps provide seasonal and permanent staff to plan and execute the event.

### Cabin Upgrades and Repairs



*Flooring replacement in the Dry Wolf Cabin*

Forest Service staff painted exterior walls and replaced old deteriorated flooring with laminated wood flooring at Dry Wolf cabin. Recreation fee revenue of about \$3,000 covered the cost of flooring materials and paint.

### 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.

*Volunteers help scrape logs for porch upgrade at Kenck Cabin.*



The Kenck Cabin, built in 1924 by a traveling doctor and later donated to the Forest Service, was slated for upgrades. However, before work began, two trees had fallen and damaged the roof. With the help of volunteers and \$2,000 of recreation fee funds, employees repaired the roof within a week and completed other planned projects.

## Other Accomplishments

- Cleared 50 miles of trails in Big Belt Mountains. Also constructed drainage features and improved tread.
- Cleared 250 miles of trails in the Elkhorn Mountains and Bob Marshall Wilderness.
- Maintenance of 37 campgrounds, 8 picnic areas, 4 boat launches, 17 rental cabins, 8 interpretive sites.
- Help fund needs for volunteer corps at the Lewis and Clark Interpretive Center. Approximately 65 volunteers contributed 9,630 hours of time. One unique ‘volunteer’ is a Newfoundland dog named Buddy who attracts quite a crowd and helps connect people to the story of Lewis and Clark.
- Conducted education programs such as “More Kids in the Woods” and “Field Investigations.” These programs expose children to outdoor classrooms by learning about scientific topics such as fire ecology, wildlife, tree identification, and more.



*Gates of the Mountains Recreation area*

## Regional Map



*Montana Conservation Corps and forest employees constructing a trail*



## Contacts

### Helena-Lewis and Clark National Forest

#### Recreation Fee Program Contact

**406-495-3761**

Email: [rglueckert@fs.fed.us](mailto:rglueckert@fs.fed.us)

Online: [www.fs.usda.gov/helena](http://www.fs.usda.gov/helena)

#### Regional Contact

**406-329-3587**

Email: [jpward02@fs.fed.us](mailto:jpward02@fs.fed.us)

## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$286,942	\$2,039,768
Special Uses	\$151,441	\$1,215,263
Interagency Passes	\$60,298	\$208,343
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$498,682</b>	<b>\$3,463,374</b>
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$137,000	\$1,560,502
Visitor Services	\$131,855	\$650,183
Law Enforcement	\$20,000	\$74,349
Habitat Restoration	\$5,000	\$60,422
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$7,000	\$233,792
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$300,855</b>	<b>\$2,579,249</b>