



Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

Mining for Gems



Visitors at the two sluices trying to see if they have found the "big one"

Gem enthusiasts and rock hounds enjoy mining for rare star garnets at the Emerald Creek Garnet Area. In 2017, seasonal employees assisted with over 6,750 visitors, including 1,700 children. The average person walks away with 2 to 3 ounces of star garnets. More serious diggers occasionally find 4 to 6 pounds in a day. Operations require four employees and recreation fee revenues of \$54,000 cover about half of the total operating costs.

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.

'Moody' the Barge

The Forest operates and maintains over 110 campsites, a host cabin, and over 20 vault toilets on the islands and shore line of Priest Lake. The barge, nicknamed 'moody'; required for operations, maintenance and repairs to these sites requires about \$40,000 of recreation fee funds each year. The barge removed over 6,000 gallons of waste for the 2017 operation season.

Headed out on 'Moody' to maintain Priest Lake Campsites



Recreation Events



Big Game Outfitting on the Idaho Panhandle

The Forest has over 20 outfitter and guides under special use permits, most of those being big game and walk & wade fishing. Additionally, there were over 10 recreation events that occurred throughout the year. Fees were used to leverage trail grants to maintain trails used by our outfitters. Fees were also used to monitor recreation events.

Other Accomplishments

The Forest has 39 campgrounds and 10 historic rental cabins and lookouts that are managed under the Recreation Enhancement Act authority and benefit from the generated funding. These funds have been used for cleaning, maintenance and repairs. Even more importantly, the funds helped the Forest to successfully leverage improvement grants. Furthermore, funds were used to hire YCC and other local youth to complete much needed improvements.



Lookouts Maintained through fee dollars



Newly painted picnic tables



From the shores of big lakes to the banks of winding rivers, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests create a tapestry of land and water in the handle of North Idaho

Regional Map



Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$162,688	\$2,039,768
Special Uses	\$42,422	\$1,215,263
Interagency Passes	\$30,921	\$208,343
Total	\$236,030	\$3,463,374
Expenditures*	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$147,021	\$1,560,502
Visitor Services	\$81,095	\$650,183
Law Enforcement	\$12,937	\$74,349
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$60,422
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$0	\$233,792
Total	\$241,053	\$2,579,249

* Additional funds came from carryover dollars acquired in past years.

Contacts

**Idaho Panhandle National Forest
Recreation Fee Program Contact
208-765-7214**

Email: jjurgensen@fs.fed.us

Online: www.fs.usda.gov/ipnf

**Regional Contact
406-329-3587**

Email: jpward02@fs.fed.us