



Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

Support for Grooming Lolo Pass Ski Trails



Snow cat grooming winter trails at Lolo Pass

Located on the Idaho and Montana State line, the Lolo Pass Visitor Center supports an enormously popular backcountry winter snowmobile and cross country ski trail system. In 2015 grooming of that system became in jeopardy when the existing groomers were no longer able to continue operations. However, the forest worked with a private donor to create an amazing web of partnerships to renew and improve the groomed trail system.

Missoula Snowgoers Snowmobile Club and the Missoula Nordic Ski Club provide trail grooming for both user groups.

The partners retrofitted a very large snowmobile trail groomer with ski trail track setters as well as the necessary hydraulics and electronic controls. The private donor along with Discover Your Northwest Interpretive Association contributed 25%, the Forest contributed 25%, and an Idaho Parks and Recreation equipment grant provided remaining 50% for this retrofit.

This partnership improved the quality of the winter recreation experience and safety for both motorized and non-motorized enthusiasts. Depending on snow conditions, approximately \$8,000 to \$12,000 of recreation fee funds support the Missoula Snowgoers to groom the ski trail system at Lolo Pass. The Nordic Ski Club contributes some grooming and in-kind matches.

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.

Repairs to Bald Mountain Lookout



Bald Mountain Lookout: New Catwalks and Lightning Protection

Bald Mountain Lookout offers both day-use as well as overnight stays. However, the lookout had developed leaking issues, resulting in damage both to the roof and lookout interior. Additionally, the lightning protection system was outdated and needed to be upgraded to meet new safety standards. To address this issue, the forest removed the old roof and installed a new roof membrane, as well as the foam board and plywood that are supported by the ceiling joists; and installed a new roof. The forest used \$12,500 of recreation fee funds as well as \$19,000 in grant funds and \$86,000 in appropriations.

Other Accomplishments

Campgrounds

- Supported hosts who provided information and assistance, and completed maintenance and cleaning tasks. These volunteers contributed over 10,000 hours of work during the summer season.
- Increased safety by removing hazard trees and limbs, and by testing drinking water.
- Funded pumping of vault toilets, garbage removal and regular maintenance at campgrounds.
- Helped provide additional Forest Service patrols for public safety and assistance, including emergency medical services on major weekends.
- Maintained recently installed signs and information boards

Rental Cabins and Lookouts

- Purchased supplies and completed cleaning and maintenance tasks at rental cabins and lookouts.

Rivers

- Funded maintenance to river access sites and provided river ranger support for both river recreationists and outfitters using outfitter and guide fee revenue.
- Funded the River Ranger program on the Wild and Scenic Lochsa and Salmon Rivers; rangers provided visitor information and education and monitored natural resources.
- Maintained river put-in/take-out facilities and whitewater trailhead signs.

Outfitters and Guides

- Administered outfitter and guide special use permits. This included funding permit administrators and backcountry and wilderness rangers to provide visitor information to outfitters and clients and monitor resource conditions. This effort helps ensure that the sites or areas used by guides are well-maintained and improved, that guides follow the terms of their permits and that illegal guiding does not occur.



A float and jet boat river for all seasons

Regional Map



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$296,810	\$2,039,768
Special Uses	\$101,868	\$1,215,263
Interagency Passes	\$9,430	\$208,343
Total	\$408,108	\$3,463,374
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$171,172	\$1,560,502
Visitor Services	\$51,646	\$650,183
Law Enforcement	\$2,000	\$74,349
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$60,422
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$11,100	\$233,792
Total	\$235,918	\$2,579,249