



# George Washington and Jefferson National Forests Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

## Historical Railway Partnership



*One of 38 trestles visitors cross between Whitetop Station and Damascus on the Virginia Creeper National Recreation Trail*

The Virginia Creeper was once a line of the Norfolk & Western Railway. It was thought to be the steepest railroad grade in the eastern United States. Today it is a National Recreation Trail (NRT) and has been inducted into the Rail-Trail Hall of Fame.

The Virginia Creeper is very popular with bicyclists, many whom rent bikes and take shuttles from Damascus to Whitetop Station for an easy downhill ride back to Damascus. About 18 miles of this section of trail are located on Mt. Rogers National Recreation Area.

Recreation permit fees from the shops that rent bikes and provide shuttles to this section of trail are used to fund a variety of visitor services. These include hiring a seasonal employee to ride the trail to provide visitor information and assistance, perform minor trail maintenance, pick up trash, and report trail conditions to the forest. In addition, these fees, along with funds from the Friends of Mount Rogers, help fund the volunteer program that staffs two visitor centers on the trail. Lastly, the fees help print the hang-tags used by the shuttle operators.

## A New Look at Sherando Lake

Sherando Lake is the most heavily visited campground on the forest. Visitors enjoy the day use area lake and the beautiful picnic pavilion constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The forest used about \$90,000 of recreation fee dollars to refinish the pavilion's wood floors and replace the shake roof.

In addition, using another \$8,000 of recreation fee funds, forest staff, campground hosts, Youth Conservation Corps workers, and others replaced 50 amp electric hookup pedestals at 30 campsites, installed 14 bear resistant food storage lockers, replaced several campsite grills, constructed ash depositories, installed a new gate, and installed bear warning signs.



## Youth Workers at Cascade Falls

The Cascade Falls Day Use Area offers picnicking and a hike to the most beautiful waterfall in Virginia. Thousands of people visit this site every year, which is partially funded



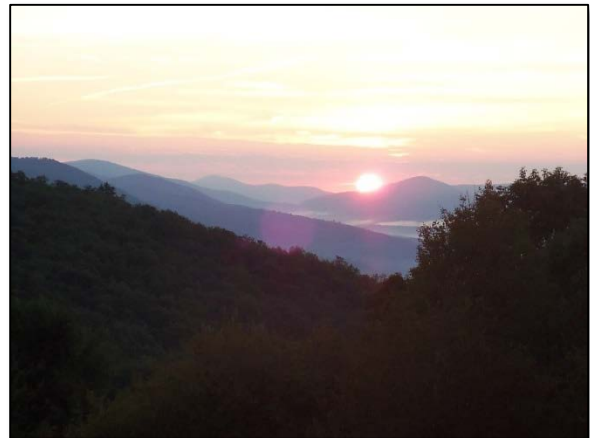
through recreation fee revenue. Funds provide on-site seasonal staff and Youth Conservation Corps participants who offer information and services, pick up litter, clean picnic area and restrooms, maintain the site and trail, and rehabilitate user created trails.

## Other Accomplishments

- Provided visitor services and operations including cleaning, mowing, trash collection, pumping vault toilets and tanks, supported volunteer campground hosts program, oversight of special recreation events, and purchase of supplies.
- Tested drinking water, operated drinking water systems, tested swim water, performed hazard tree inspections and removal, and installed safety and flood hazard signs at swim sites and waterfalls where needed.
- Repaired waterline leaks at Bark Camp, High Knob, and Sherando Lake Campgrounds.
- Repaired the water filtration system and sewage lagoon aerator, jetted sewer pipes exterior at Trout Pond Recreation Area. Also finished construction of the accessible fishing pier.
- Graveled campsites, paths, parking lots and roads within five developed recreation sites.
- Replaced skylights and doors in restroom buildings, and added new grills, and information board at Cave Mountain Lake.
- Removed trees and limbs at Brandywine Lake and Sherando Lake Recreation Areas.
- Painted Sunrise Cabin and stained Stony Fork Cabin with the help of Great Appalachian Valley Conservation Corps.



*Accessible fishing pier and benches at Trout Pond*



*Sunset at Syms Gap on the Appalachian National Scenic Trail*

## Regional Map



## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$941,765	\$7,790,073
Special Uses	\$66,254	\$1,704,464
Interagency Passes	\$39,644	\$528,471
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,047,663</b>	<b>\$10,023,008</b>
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$465,123	\$4,625,554
Visitor Services	\$57,139	\$1,400,284
Law Enforcement	\$0	\$180,257
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$304,256
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$55,183
Collections/Overhead	\$87,918	\$1,272,180
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$610,180</b>	<b>\$7,837,714</b>

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