



Sharing in a Sustainable Recreation Future for Intermountain Region National Forests

Outdoor recreation is by far the single greatest use of the Forests in the Intermountain Region, dwarfing every other use. The number of recreation visits to the Intermountain Region rose from about 1.4 million in 1930s to about 17.2 million today. That's a growth rate of over 800 percent. Not surprisingly, it is also the single greatest employer, and it provides the single greatest stimulus for local economies.

Visitors today engage in activities such as hiking, camping, picnicking, skiing, hunting, fishing, horseback riding, wildlife watching, visiting cultural sites and visitor centers, or driving for pleasure and viewing the scenery. But the kinds of recreation the public wants are far more diverse than they were in the early 1900s. Think ziplining and snowboards, OHVs and snowmobiles, rafting trips or guided backcountry trips, with gourmet meals and llamas carrying everything but your daypack.



600+ campgrounds	2400+ developed sites	5500+ recreation areas
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7 MILLION people live within 100 miles of an Intermountain Region National Forest or Grassland

30,000 miles of trails

30,000 heritage sites

170,000 acres of lakes

28,500 miles of fishable streams

6 MILLION acres of wilderness

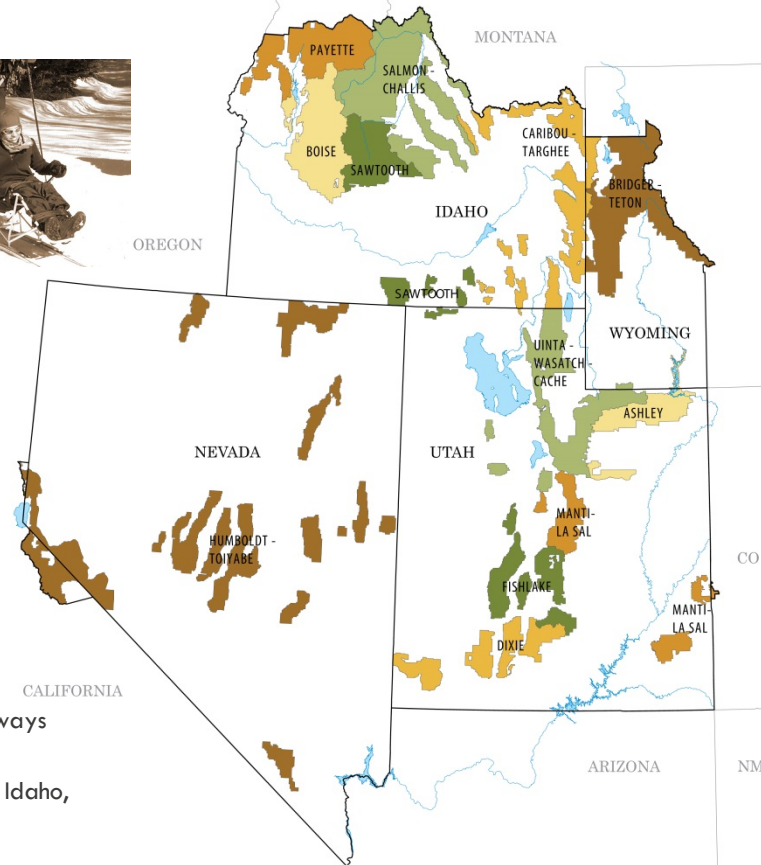
50,000 recreation reservations in FY2014

520 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers

19 visitor centers

10 National Scenic Byways **41** State Scenic Byways

60% of all downhill skiing capacity in the Utah, Idaho, Wyoming and Nevada is located on National Forests.



Challenges and Opportunities

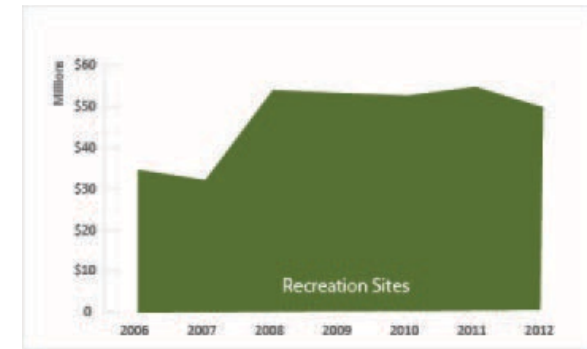
Funding for outdoor recreation in the Intermountain Region has fallen by about \$3 million in the last three years, from about \$27 million to about \$24 million - a decrease of 12%. The number of full-time employees in outdoor recreation has declined by nearly 30% since 2002.

The Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest receives 10.7 million visitors annually (a 20% increase in the last five years.) The Forest leverages appropriated funds and fees to work with a large variety of partners to expand their capacity to meet recreation needs. However, they estimate that **4 million dollars** of potential funding in partner contributions, grants and volunteer work is lost because the Forest does not have staff or financial resources in the form of matching dollars to take advantage of these opportunities. And this is just one of 12 Forests that are missing opportunities...



Deferred maintenance for developed sites and trails stands at over \$43 million.

Overall, our developed sites cannot be maintained to standard with current funding levels. Only one quarter of trails are up to standard. It would take nearly \$33 million a year to sustain our current trail system.



Public demand to assist and volunteer with heritage projects is under-utilized by 40%.

Forests do not have enough capacity to utilize all potential volunteers, nor the ability to recruit and build the relationships necessary for continued success.



Capacity to administer special uses cannot meet demand.

A 2011 OIG Audit of the Special Uses Program concluded that the Forest Service lacks the resources it needs to properly manage the special uses permit program. There is a shortage of trained staff to manage the special use demand in this region.

