



Cary Miller, Custer-Gallatin National Forest, Share the Experience Photo Contest 2017

Custer Gallatin National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2019

Wilderness Trail Safety Improved



Trail crew constructing puncheon on the West Boulder Trail

A forest trail crew constructed 98 feet of puncheon deep in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness, on the West Boulder trail. The trail is a main artery into the Wilderness, and is a popular travel corridor for the public and outfitter-guides. The crew replaced two failing puncheons that became a safety hazard due to age. The Forest Service Region One Pack String assisted by packing in 70 treated planks for use on one puncheon, while native materials were used to construct the other puncheon. Recreation fee funds covered the trail crew salary for the project, totaling approximately \$4,000.

Improving River Access

The forest continued working in partnership with the Gallatin River Task Force to improve river access sites and reduce impacts to the river from recreational use. In 2019, the forest hired a consultant to design improvements to the Deer Creek Trailhead and Upper Deer Creek River Access Site. The project will improve river access for outfitters by creating a safer access point away from a busy trailhead. Approximately \$10,000 of recreation fee funds covered the cost for this design work.



Erosion at the current river access at Deer Creek Trailhead

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.

Avalanche Clean-up



Volunteers from the American Hiking Society clear a trail of avalanche debris

Other Accomplishments

Campgrounds and Cabins:

- Repaired cabin gates, cleaned cabin chimneys, installed a new woodshed at the West Bridger Cabin, repaired the toilet and installed a new fence at the Deer Creek Cabin and installed a new woodstove at the Garnet Mountain Lookout.
- Replaced picnic tables, graded and filled potholes in interior roads at Half Moon Campground, and stained and prepared 17 tabletops for installation at campgrounds in the Main Boulder river drainage.
- Monitored and tested eight water systems, removed hundreds of hazard trees and treated noxious weeds.

Trails and Wilderness:

- Improved trails and maintained 1,500 miles of non-motorized and 800 miles of motorized trails; removed hazard and downed trees, repaired water bars and maintained trail infrastructure.
- Conducted over 10,000 hours of trail patrols.
- Managed and coordinated 200 outfitter and guide permits and over 30 recreation events.

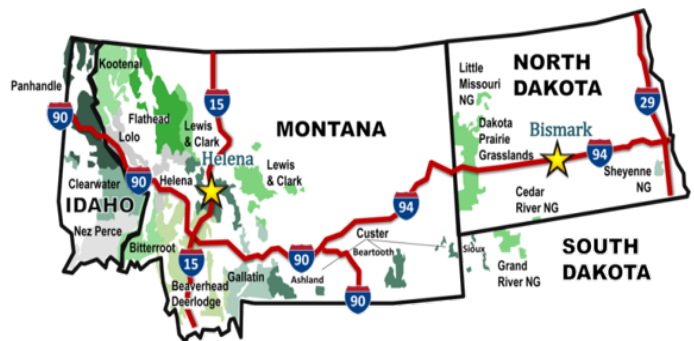
Winter Recreation:

- Conducted educational patrols to inform the public about avalanche conditions, travel plan and wilderness regulations.
- Supported grooming of the Rendezvous Ski Trail in partnership with the West Yellowstone Ski Education Foundation.



The headwaters of the East Fork of the Main Boulder River

Northern Region



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$310,860	\$2,309,376
Special Uses	\$368,913	\$1,252,856
Interagency Passes	\$26,040	\$122,160
Total	\$705,813	\$3,684,392
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$397,727	\$1,810,965
Visitor Services	\$173,807	\$898,833
Law Enforcement	\$15,785	\$73,214
Habitat Restoration	\$12,405	\$107,037
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$14,720
Collections/Overhead	\$53,452	\$279,237
Total	\$653,176	\$3,184,006

*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and upcoming startup costs.