



Dakota Prairie Grasslands

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2019

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

Recreation Events = Visitors

Organized recreation events are a major draw for visitors to the Dakota Prairie Grasslands, bringing people from all over the country. The popular "Badlands Race Series" used the Wannagan Campground as an aid station and checkpoint, which led to overcrowding and use conflicts. In response, the Grassland organized an employee workday to expand and enhance the adjacent Wannagan Trailhead for event use. They installed a new split rail fence, trailhead sign and information kiosk to enhance visitor experience and define the trailhead location. In addition, local volunteers joined forest trail staff to construct a spur trail connecting the trailhead to the Maah Daah Hey Trail. The fence supplies and information kiosks were purchased with recreation fee funds and trail was constructed with donated gravel.



Employees work together to construct the new split rail fence

Buffalo Gap Campground

The Grasslands purchased and installed a 12 foot by 16 foot pre-built storage shed at Buffalo Gap Campground with \$4,400 in recreation fee funds. The onsite storage reduced the amount of travel required for operations and maintenance, and improved security for equipment and supplies. The shed was upgraded to be a simple, practical workshop for campground hosts and recreation staff. Future plans include installation of the similar sheds at Civilian Conservation Corps and Hankinson Hills Campgrounds.



A storage shed was constructed at Buffalo Gap Campground

Buffalo Gap Campground is located near Medora, North Dakota. A campground host is present with flush toilets and showers during the summer months.

Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

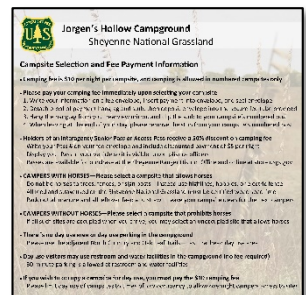
- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

New Informational Kiosks

The Grasslands spent \$3,950 recreation fee dollars to design, construct and install four new information kiosks and new information and map panels at Hankinson Hills and Jorgen's Hollow Campgrounds and Denbigh Experimental Forest.

Displayed at main kiosks and alternate entrances, these panels have improved visitor experience as well as regulatory compliance by providing visitors with current campground, fee, regulatory and stewardship information.



Jorgen's Hollow Campground Information Panel

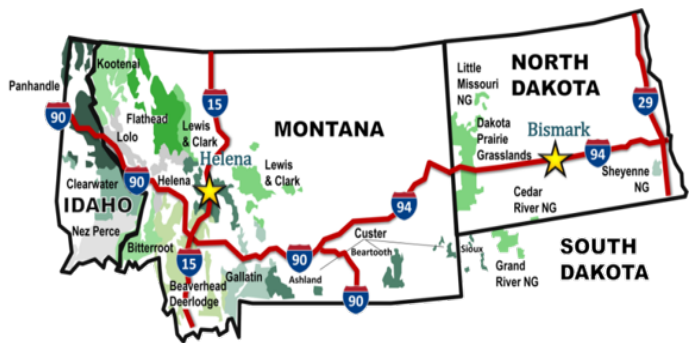
Other Accomplishments

- Replaced homestead monument posts at 35 sites.
- Repaired a washout by installing water bars at Iron Springs Bridge.
- Maintained 61.67 miles of trail.
- Maintained two campgrounds, three trailheads and Denbigh Experimental Forest.
- Conducted health and safety testing for two public water systems.
- Provided Forest Protection Officer support for routine compliance and periodic incidents.
- Organized and executed the annual 'Denbigh Day' event.
- Worked with volunteer groups throughout the district on trail and developed recreation projects.
- Participated in several events for youth engagement and public lands stewardship.
- Rented a roll off dumpster for Buffalo Gap Campground. Overnight visitors loved having trash service provided.
- Hired a landscape architect to facilitate redesign of the Civilian Conservation Corps Campground in order to improve amenities for equestrian, RV and tent campers.



Scenic overlook of the North Dakota Badlands

Northern Region



Contacts

Dakota Prairie Grasslands

Recreation Fee Program Contact

701-227-7837

Email: Robert.Schilling@usda.gov

Online: www.fs.usda.gov/dpg

Regional Contact

406-329-3576

Email: Jeff.M.Miller@usda.gov

Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$47,140	\$2,309,376
Special Uses	\$4,306	\$1,252,856
Interagency Passes	\$4,120	\$122,160
Total	\$55,566	\$3,684,392
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$30,417	\$1,810,965
Visitor Services	\$5,932	\$898,833
Law Enforcement	\$0	\$73,214
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$107,037
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$14,720
Collections/Overhead	\$361	\$279,237
Total	\$36,710	\$3,184,006