



Custer Gallatin National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2020

Gallatin River Access



A new accessible fishing platform constructed at Upper Deer Creek on the Gallatin River.

The forest partnered with Gallatin River Task Force to complete a second river access project at Upper Deer Creek on the Gallatin River. The project used \$10,000 recreation fee funds as well as \$185,000 in partner raised funds to complete the following improvements including two new graveled parking areas for fishing and boating access, a new boat ramp, an accessible fishing platform, and 400 yards of accessible gravel trail.

Recreation Fee Dollars

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

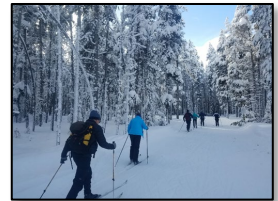
- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

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



Rendezvous Ski Trails

In 2020, the forest contributed \$20,000 of recreation fee funds towards trail grooming on the Rendezvous Ski Trails. Forest staff regularly patrolled the trail in the winter to provide education and maps to skiers. In the spring and fall, staff spread grass seed on the trails, treated noxious weeds, and hosted a workday where staff cleared trees that had fallen during the summer months.



Skiers enjoying the Rendezvous Ski Trails

Rental Cabin Repairs

In partnership with the Montana Conservation Corps, the forest made the following repairs to cabins:

- Cabin Creek Cabin received a new extended chimney which alleviated the winter snow blockage.
- Meyers Creek Cabin received new bedframes and mattresses.
- Mystic Lake Cabin received new mattresses.
- Repaired chimneys at West Boulder, Ibex, and Fourmile Cabins.
- Rebuilt widow frames, sanded and stained trim, installed a new fence, and replaced the woodstove at Mill Creek Cabin.
- Crandall Creek Cabin was caulked and prepared for chinking.
- Stained the trim at Porcupine Cabin.
- Painted Fox Creek cabin.
- Installed a new woodstove at Ibex Cabin.
- Replaced and relocated the vault toilet at Trail Creek Cabin.



Montana Conservation Corps crew member, Ellie DeVos, working on Porcupine Cabin.

Other Accomplishments

- Trained employees, interns and volunteers on new cleaning procedures due to the COVID-19 virus requirements and successfully operated developed recreation sites during a busy summer season.
- Hired a Wilderness ranger for the Spanish Peaks Unit of the Lee Metcalf Unit and several Wilderness rangers for the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness. Rangers were tasked with trail maintenance, campsite restoration and cleaning, and making visitor contacts.
- Reissued 82 priority use outfitter and guide permits.
- Hosted seven Montana Conservation Corps interns and two Unity College interns to support campground and rental cabin operations and perform trail maintenance.
- Provided weekly grooming of 40km of cross-country ski trails in the Hyalite drainage.
- Provided funds for plowing of 14 miles of Hyalite Canyon Road for winter recreational access including ensuring access for our winter avalanche education, ski, and ice climbing outfitters.
- Installed electricity at the host site at Eagle Creek Campground.
- Purchased trailhead and trail signs including new maps printed on durable metal for bulletin boards.
- Trail crews cleared trails that serve outfitters and guides.



Moose along the shoreline of Emerald Lake

Northern Region



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$345,201	\$2,609,509
Special Uses	\$228,926	\$647,951
Interagency Passes	\$17,500	\$94,980
Total	\$591,627	\$3,352,440

Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$334,267	\$1,598,853
Visitor Services	\$152,033	\$794,329
Law Enforcement	\$14,224	\$68,824
Habitat Restoration	\$11,178	\$107,098
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$45,525	\$275,233
Total	\$557,227	\$2,844,337