



Flathead National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2020

Flathead Wild and Scenic River Patrols



Thanks to the support provided by special use fee funds, the forest can staff a river crew that patrols the North, Middle, and South Forks of the Flathead River. In 2020, \$67,500 in recreation fee dollars paid for four employees and a Montana Conservation Corps Fellow. River crews-maintained access sites which included cleaning up trash, updating and repairing signs and kiosks, and making public contacts. They also performed encounter monitoring and campsite inventory within the river corridor. Finally, the crew patrolled the river providing public education opportunities and regulation enforcement. Having a four-person crew allowed for a 31% increase in river miles patrolled and a 41% increase in the number of river monitoring days.



River Rangers clean up trash at popular dispersed camping sites along the Flathead Wild and scenic River

Improvements to Anna Creek Cabin

The forest invested approximately \$6,500 into Anna Creek Cabin to make it suitable for a winter rental. Investments included insulating the attic with blown-in insulation, two new propane heaters, and gear racks and other minor improvements. The Forest Service built Anna Creek Cabin in 1953 and used it as a work center from 1953 until the 1980s. The forest opened Anna Creek Cabin to summer public rentals in 2016. In December 2020, after making the improvements, the forest opened Anna Creek Cabin to winter public rentals with a winter rental season of Dec 1 – March 31. Anna Creek Rental Cabin is only accessible by snowmobile in the winter.

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.



Anna Creek Rental Cabin on a sunny winter day.

Other Accomplishments

Rental Cabin Program Highlights -

Schnaus Cabin - New exterior paint, new stove fire bricks. Roughly \$1,500-\$2,000 invested with salaries, supplies, transport etc.

Ben Rover Cabin - New exterior paint, new Greg-Built/finished table. Roughly \$1,500-\$2,000 invested with salaries, supplies, transport etc.

Silvertip Cabin - Funded improvements around the rental cabin and trail maintenance that accesses the site.

Swan Guard Station - New kitchen utensils and pots and pans purchased. Re-painted the interior of the cabin.

Old Condon Ranger Station - Replaced screen door. Repaired and painted all window screens. Purchased new porch furniture. Replaced pots and pans and utensils.

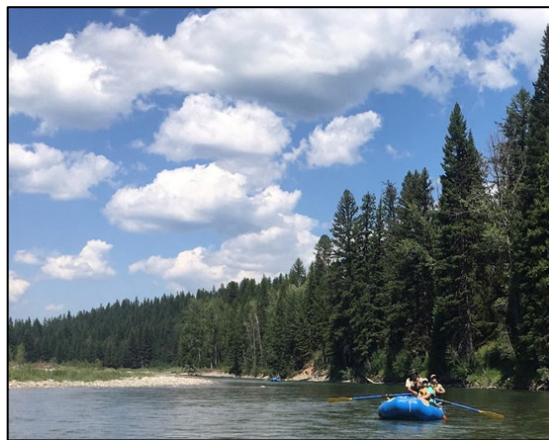
Special Uses Program Highlights:

Trail Maintenance - Funded three seasonal employees on the trail crew for the Bob Marshall Wilderness at Spotted Bear and provided partial funding for two others.

Purchased three head of stock to support the Spotted Bear Wilderness and Trails program.

Funded trailhead and river access site restroom pumping across all sites across the forest.

Funded improvement to signage and kiosks at various trailheads and river access sites.



North Fork of the Flathead Wild and Scenic River

Northern Region



Contacts

Flathead National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Contact

406-758-3538

Email: Christopher.Prew@usda.gov

Online: www.fs.usda.gov/flathead

Regional Contact

406-329-3587

Email: Jeffrey.P.Ward@usda.gov

Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$181,525	\$2,609,509
Special Uses	\$163,961	\$647,951
Interagency Passes	\$18,160	\$94,980
Total	\$363,646	\$3,352,440
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$267,376	\$1,598,853
Visitor Services	\$113,808	\$794,329
Law Enforcement	\$0	\$68,824
Habitat Restoration	\$86,679	\$107,098
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$0	\$275,233
Total	\$467,863	\$2,844,337

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