# Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2020

## Planning for Campground Improvement



Typical Site within Shadowy St. Joe that will be completely renovated between 2021-2023

The forest used \$50,000 in recreation fee revenue to support survey and design efforts in campgrounds along the Lower St. Joe River Corridor. These upcoming improvements will support services to promote the health, safety, and enjoyment for recreation users. The Shadowy St. Joe Campground will be redesigned to accommodate larger recreation vehicles. This will include adding one pull-through site and two double sites. All camping spurs lengths will be expanded, and roadways widened around corners. All facilities and sites will be designed to meet current accessibility requirements. Finally, all sites will now have electrical as well as complete redesign of the water system throughout the campground. The Tin Can Campground is used by smaller sized recreational vehicles in more of

a remote setting. Upcoming improvements include replacing two existing toilets dated from the 1970's with two new vault toilets. Updating all 11 sites to meet current accessibility requirements with new accessible living spaces including fire rings and picnic tables. All renovation and improvement work will be designed to enhance

the recreational vehicle user's experience by providing safe, sanitary, accessible, functional, and aesthetically pleasing facilities. This survey and design will assist in the construction efforts in future years through Great American Outdoors Act funding as well as possible grants through the State of Idaho.

## **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.

# **Popular Boat-in Campsites**

The forest operates and maintains over 110 campsites, a host cabin, and over 20 vault toilets on the islands and shoreline of Priest Lake and Upper Priest Lake. Maintenance and improvements are complex and labor intensive which is why the forest relies on fee revenue to upkeep the barge. This year the barge made it possible to clean and pump over 20 vault toilets which included disposing at least 8,000 gallons of waste. These sites are highly sought after and with the COVID-19 pandemic, these sites were utilized every day throughout the summer. The forest replaced picnic tables and fire rings which required boat transportation.



Pumper Barge that pumps 20 vault toilets along Priest Lake and Upper Priest Lake



#### **Other Accomplishments**

The forest has 39 campgrounds and 12 historic rental cabins and lookouts that are managed under the Recreation Enhancement Act authority and benefit from the generated funding. These funds have been used for cleaning, maintenance, and repairs. Even more importantly, the funds helped the forest to successfully leverage other funds to hire Youth Conservation Crews and other conservation crews to complete much needed improvements.

Recreation fee funds are also used to process, administer, and monitor on an annual basis, over ten recreation events and 23 outfitter and guides special use permits. Due to COVID-19, the forest only had winter recreation events such as the dog sled and vintage snowmobile races.

Vintage Snowmobile Recreation Event



#### **Contacts**

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From the shores of big lakes to the banks of winding rivers, the Idaho Panhandle National Forests create a tapestry of land and water in the handle of North Idaho

# **Northern Region**



# Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$230,471	\$2,609,509
Special Uses	\$23,355	\$647,951
Interagency Passes	\$7,860	\$94,980
Total	\$261,686	\$3,352,440
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$111,528	\$1,598,853
Visitor Services	\$75,891	\$794,329
Law Enforcement	\$8,972	\$68,824
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$107,098
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$0	\$275,233
Total	\$196,391	\$2,844,337
*Corrector funds will be used for large projects and uncoming startup seets		

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