



Lolo National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2020

Food Storage and Hungry Bears



Grizzly Bear near Big Larch Campground.

The forest has a robust food storage order in effect. Food, garbage, carcasses, and all other attractants must be stored in a bear resistant manner. Garbage is generated from developed campgrounds at a fast rate. The forest provides bear resistant garbage containers to manage the issue. Recreation fee funds generated by popular lakeside campgrounds are crucial for purchasing and maintaining infrastructure to keep campers and animals safe. Monitoring of dumpsters for function and locks is conducted twice daily on the Seeley Lake Ranger District. In addition, nine new dumpsters were purchased totaling \$19,000. A total of 34 dumpsters on district all provided by recreation fees.

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.



Stock Support to Partners

The forest has an extensive stock program that provides critical support to the conservation mission in the backcountry. In 2020, recreation fee funds supported a Temporary Packer Stock Manager at a salary cost of \$14,000. Fee funds also paid for stock farriers, hay, and the upkeep for 16 animals at a cost of \$13,000. The stock program supports backcountry wilderness and trails programs by trekking supplies to the field for partners like the Montana Conservation Corps and agency force account crews.



Forest Service packer and crew loading a mule up for a backcountry hitch.

Wildlands Training Center

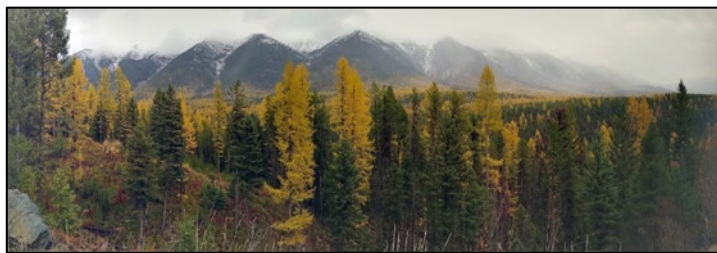
The Recreation Enhancement Act program supports the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center (NWTC), which provides traditional skills training. The NWTC is fully funded by recreation fees and collects tuition for classes and clinics. Funds are used to pay instructors and cover supplies which allows for a quality training. Examples of available trainings include packing, horsemanship, crosscut saw, and axemanship. Under the banner of Heritage Expeditions, Ninemile ensures folks can take quality, safe, and real time trainings to keep alive traditions that are still being used every day, in a world that is full of technology.



A student and instructor testing a newly sharpened crosscut saw.

Other Accomplishments

- Funds support Cost Share Agreements for the Seeley Nordic Club and the Seeley Lake Drift Riders Snowmobile Club.
- Supported annual operating costs for the maintenance of 400 miles of very popular snow trails on the Seeley Ranger District.
- Supported much needed maintenance at the Ninemile Wildlands Training Center, which receives in excess of 2,000 visitors per year: new carpet, fresh paint, trim, and ceiling tiles were replaced.
- Supported seasonal trail crews completing work on trails used by outfitters and guides primarily in the Great Burn Proposed Wilderness. Work included clearing trails, maintaining, and installing drainage structures to prevent erosion and completing tread work to increase visitor safety.



Northern Region



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$303,533	\$2,609,509
Special Uses	\$32,926	\$647,951
Interagency Passes	\$7,040	\$94,980
Total	\$343,499	\$3,352,440
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$196,186	\$1,598,853
Visitor Services	\$29,177	\$794,329
Law Enforcement	\$6,031	\$68,824
Habitat Restoration	\$3,015	\$107,098
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$7,190	\$275,233
Total	\$241,599	\$2,844,337