

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2014 Flathead National Forest

Forest Service



Historic Communications

In 1908, over 100 miles of phone line enabled communications from Kalispell, Montana to Big Prairie Ranger Station. By the onset of the Second World War, the Forest Service had placed well over 1,000 miles of phone line along roads and trails in the Flathead Valley. A stretch still exists to connect several historic cabins and serve the Spotted Bear Ranger District. It provides a reliable mode of communication along the river during high water. With the recent designation of "historic district" thanks to these phone lines, as well as cabins and trails, preservation of these gems is important.

In 2014, recreation fee revenue contributed \$10,000 to provide a Montana Conservation Corps intern who hoisted 18 miles of phone line up off a trail. This preserves the line, and creates a safer environment for both people and wildlife.



Intern secures phone lines high up in a tree.

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

Pilot Partners



While Wilderness typically has no mechanized use, exceptions exist such as when an historic airfield sits in the middle of one. The Montana Pilots'

Association flies in to the old Schafer Ranger Station in the Great Bear Wilderness and works with wilderness rangers to maintain the historic airfield, repair camp sites, clean the restroom and bear-resistant food storage containers, and paint the landing markers. The rangers have a unique lawn mowing method - mules and horses graze during the night to keep the airstrip grass short and move into corrals during the day so pilots can land. Recreation fee revenue of \$5,500 helps fund this work each year.

Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$117,225
Special Uses	\$229,299
Interagency Passes	\$3,270
Total	\$349,794
Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$166,440
Visitor Services	\$68,663
Law Enforcement	\$14,631
Habitat Restoration	\$54,564
Fee Agreements	\$0
Cost of Collections	\$34,912
Total	\$339,210

*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and the following season's startup costs.

More Highlights

The Forest has 180 miles of groomed snowmobile trails and thousands of play-area acres. Each year, recreation fee revenue provides about \$12,000 to leverage partnerships with the State of Montana, snowmobile clubs, and outfitters and guides, who plow trailheads, put up signs, and provide maps and avalanche safety information.

Snowmobiling at Warner.



Developed Recreation

- Restored Anna Creek Work Center by replacing the dry wall, adding propane, installing a gate and patching the roof.
- Installed a new shake roof and shutters at Hornet Lookout.

Trails and Partnerships

- Partnered with the Southwest Crown of the Continent Forest Landscape Restoration Program, Backcountry Horsemen, Montana Conservation Corps and the Swan Ecosystem Center to reconstruct, restore or maintain hiking, biking and equestrian trails.
- Completed the construction of the Truman OHV Trail additions through the local volunteer OHV club.



High view of the Flathead River.

Contacts

Flathead National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Contact

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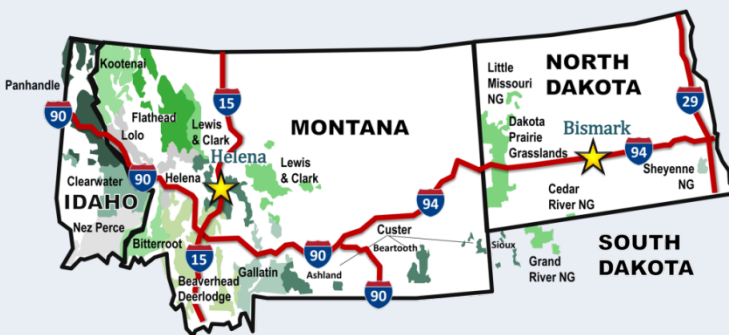
Regional Contact

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Northern Region Map



Regional Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$1,685,135
Special Uses	\$1,057,405
Interagency Passes	\$42,213
Total	\$2,784,753

Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$1,149,720
Visitor Services	\$848,621
Law Enforcement	\$100,372
Habitat Restoration	\$73,367
Fee Agreements	\$53,544
Cost of Collections	\$190,126
Total	\$2,415,749

*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and the following season's startup costs