

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2014 Dakota Prairie National Grasslands

Forest Service



Gone in a Flash!

The trouble with an electric-powered water system is that so much more can go wrong ... especially when lightning hits. One well-placed bolt fried the electrical panel, blew up the well pump, and melted the well casing at Buffalo Gap Campground. This rendered the flush toilets, showers, and water spigots useless, giving 37-site campground only one vault toilet. Replacing the electrical panel, well pump, and casing cost nearly \$20,000 of recreation fee revenue. The new \$19,000 pressure pump is scheduled to be installed in spring 2015, also thanks to fee revenue support.



One lightning strike can create a lot of damage.



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.

Overgrown

Two field technicians worked hard to kill noxious weeds in developed recreation sites. Canada thistle and Absinth wormwood, two invasive non-native plants that threaten native prairie resources were treated according to manufacturer's specifications and Forest Service approved rates. Recreation fee revenue combined with appropriated funds covered salary, chemicals, and equipment. This ongoing work not only helps prevent the spread of these plants to other parts of the Grasslands but is required under North Dakota State law.

Botany technician sprays at Sather Lake Campground



Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$9,244
Special Uses	\$4,442
Interagency Passes	\$1,171
Total	\$14,857
Expenditures*	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$12,818
Visitor Services	\$5,630
Law Enforcement	\$0
Habitat Restoration	\$7,857
Fee Agreements	\$0
Cost of Collections	\$2,616
Total	\$28,921

*Expenditures may be funded with previous years' revenue.

Trash Talk

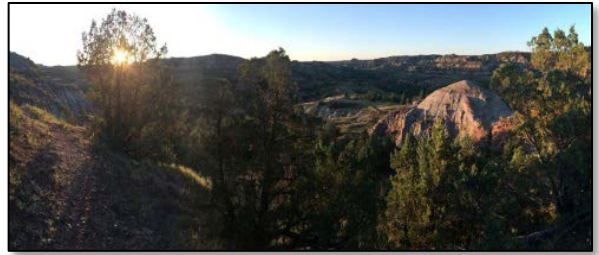
Visitors to Dakota Prairie campgrounds are used to packing out their own trash; however the Buffalo Gap Campground was an exception. Garbage cans had been available, but proved to both be costly and actually invite trash to be dumped even when trash cans are not inside the holders. Using \$3,000 of recreation fee revenue the trash can holders were removed and the campground joined the "Pack It In, Pack It Out" crowd. Since the removal of the holders, the campground has been much cleaner – bravo campers!



Trash cans such as this are no longer available at Buffalo Gap. Pack it in, pack it out is the order of the day.

Other Accomplishments

- Repaired "Big Blue" – the campground mower.
- Purchased recycled rubber parking barriers.



Sunset over the Badlands.

Contacts

Dakota Prairie National Grasslands

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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

Northern Region Map

