



The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), signed into law in 2004, authorizes the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture to establish, modify, charge, collect and retain recreation fees at Federal recreation lands and waters as provided for in the Act. Ninety-five percent of all fees collected on Forest Service sites stay at the local forest/grasslands and are reinvested in operations, maintenance and other visitor services.

Accomplishments provided with recreation fees on the Flathead National Forest:

- Flathead Wild and Scenic River Crew:
 - ✓ Provided visitor information and education, monitored and maintained access sites on three forks of the river.
 - ✓ Provided visitor information and education on new resource protection regulations that included changes in stay limits, solid waste pack out and disposal, and campfire containment.
 - ✓ Supported visitor education and weed management activities in the Bob Marshall and Great Bear Wildernesses.



River Crew patrolling the North Fork Flathead River

Special Feature

Renowned for spectacular scenery, abundant wildlife, and clean, clear waters, the North Fork Flathead River provides exciting recreational opportunities. Fee funding supported the River Ranger program in 2008. These floating workers not only monitor river use and maintain access points; they provide valuable visitor information and education that is vital to maintaining the Wild and Scenic character of this river.



Flathead National Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	
Source	Amount
Interagency Pass	\$1,251
Recreation Fees	\$83,376
Special Uses	\$210,658
Total	\$295,285

Expenditures	
Source	Amount
Cost of Collection	\$17,305
Law Enforcement	\$10,678
Maintenance & Repair	\$117,963
Visitor Services	\$77,153
Habitat Restoration	\$10,678
Total	\$233,777

* Remaining funds will be used for large projects and next year's startup season costs.



2008 Accomplishments Continued:

- Completed maintenance and cleaning tasks at Devil Creek and Spotted Bear Campgrounds.
- Maintained approximately 100 miles of trail: installed erosion control structures and cleared trails of downed tree and brush.
- Completed maintenance and cleaning tasks at all eleven cabins in the recreation rental program:
 - ✓ Refurbished Mission Lookout exterior.
 - ✓ Supported volunteer crew and pack string who transported materials and a new stove for Hornet Lookout and stained the building's exterior.



Pack support for trail crews



Mission Lookout



Hornet Lookout

- Supported volunteers from the National Smokejumper Association and the Bob Marshall Foundation who completed restoration and maintenance work on the Silvertip Cabin. The cabin will be available to the public as a recreation rental in 2009.
- Processed and administered 56 outfitter and guide permits.



Silvertip Cabin



Flathead National Forest Planned Projects for 2009

- Continue to support the River Crew program on the Flathead Wild and Scenic River. In addition to their regular duties, these employees will assist in implementing new regulations associated with access and motorized use within the Wild and Scenic River corridor.
- Complete maintenance and administrative tasks associated with recreation cabin rental program including improvements at Owl Creek and Schnaus Cabins.
- Complete maintenance tasks on approximately 100 miles of mainline trails that access outfitter base camps.
- Process, administer, and monitor 56 outfitter and guide special use permits.
- Continue to support Station Guards who provide visitor information at Schafer Meadows and Big Prairie backcountry cabins.



Images from the Forest



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