



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Recreation Fees 2008

Forest Accomplishment Report
Pacific Northwest Region



Okanogan & Wenatchee National Forest

National Forest	Recreation Fees		Special Use Permits		Interagency Passes	
	Revenue	Expenditures	Revenue	Expenditures	Revenue	Expenditures
Columbia Gorge	\$189,559	\$189,536	\$25,096	\$12,848	\$818	\$289
Colville	\$32,974	\$24,893	\$446	\$0	\$1,549	\$647
Deschutes	\$474,799	\$463,023	\$165,983	\$89,477	\$25,659	\$692
Fremont-Winema	\$40,365	\$48,293	\$52,538	\$36,068	\$1,272	\$29
Gifford Pinchot	\$1,168,779	\$900,558	\$45,338	\$35,862	\$52,795	\$0
Malheur	\$60,263	\$66,095	\$1,201	\$0	\$608	\$0
Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie	\$622,924	\$790,868	\$52,318	\$34,230	\$85,618	\$53,536
Mt. Hood	\$282,169	\$215,672	\$29,920	\$27,798	\$8,302	\$12,590
Ochoco	\$30,091	\$32,722	\$8,168	\$0	\$1,270	\$0
Okanogan & Wenatchee	\$767,240	\$680,895	\$93,964	\$90,176	\$22,334	\$61
Olympic	\$193,159	\$137,236	\$0	\$0	\$37,195	\$515
Rogue River-Siskiyou	\$192,270	\$170,516	\$64,414	\$41,871	\$4,439	\$0
Siuslaw	\$1,747,427	\$1,616,064	\$31,728	\$10,014	\$16,188	\$47,276
Umatilla	\$88,185	\$78,122	\$36,173	\$1,931	\$1,770	\$0
Umpqua	\$513,718	\$316,498	\$16,519	\$13,014	\$13,532	\$27
Wallowa-Whitman	\$128,424	\$159,239	\$163,612	\$128,239	\$3,085	\$0
Willamette	\$241,995	\$155,767	\$52,197	\$26,176	\$11,468	\$18,068

Investment in recreation – using recreation fees wisely

Whether you have concerns or kudos, we invite you to comment on how funds collected at recreation sites are spent.

The past year brought many of us financial uncertainties and the stresses that go along with them. Connecting with nature is one way to escape these pressures. For a minimal cost, we can still have the benefits of a recreation experience.

Unfortunately, operating and maintaining forest recreation facilities is expensive. Trail maintenance, running campgrounds, cleaning restrooms, public safety, and interpretive programs all cost money. Congressionally appropriated funds and volunteer contributions do not come near covering these costs. A large part of these expenses must be covered by fees paid by users of the National Forests.

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) allows the funds we collect to be used locally for operating and maintaining recreation sites that the public uses. You can have a voice in how these fees are spent by contacting your local forest Program Coordinator (see the back page for contact information).

Pacific Northwest Recreation RAC

The Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) met twice this past year to review fee proposals submitted by both the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Of the proposals presented, most consisted of minor fee increases in campgrounds, many of which had not had fee increases in years. Notices of fee increases and new fees at campgrounds and rentals were posted during the summer. We received very few public comments about these proposals.

Recreation RAC meetings are open to the public and are announced through media, the *Federal Register* and on the web at www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits/rrac.shtml. Current fee proposals may be found on this web site for upcoming Recreation RAC meetings.

Okanogan-Wenatchee's Enchantments

Enchantment Lakes is a high alpine basin filled with lakes, larch, mountain goats, and stark granite and is considered by many to be the best hike in Washington State. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest administers a wilderness permit program for this exquisite area. REA funds employed Wilderness Rangers who completed maintenance tasks and compliance checks for the area during 2008. Additionally, REA funds provided end of the season removal of backcountry toilet facilities that protect both visitor and resource health.



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Okanogan-Wenatchee Accomplishments



Recreation Pass Revenues

Leveraged approximately 1.5 million dollars in State grants to complete work on trails and trailheads forest wide.

Naches Ranger District

- Reset Scatter Creek toilet.
- Repaired and/or replaced 12 bulletin boards and permit boxes at trailheads.

Cle Elum Ranger District

- Maintained 400 miles of motorized trails and 300 miles of non-motorized trails.
- Completed several reroutes to lower trail grade and rehabilitate rutted trail sections.
- Built trail bridges across two fish-bearing streams.

Wenatchee River Ranger District

- Maintained 38 miles of trail.
- Replaced two trailhead bulletin boards.

Entiat Ranger District

- Maintained 290 miles of trail, including removal of downed trees: 195 miles of multiple use trails, 55 mile of wilderness trails and 45 mile of non-wilderness and non-motorized trails
- Completed drainage structure maintenance on 200 miles of trail.
- Reconstructed and restored 8 miles of motorized-multiple use trails.
- Completed heavy maintenance and tread restoration on 10 miles of motorized-multiple use trail and 4 miles of wilderness trails.
- Constructed a 31 foot-long trail bridge.

Methow Valley Ranger District

- Constructed and installed steel hitch rails at 4 trailheads.
- Reconstructed unloading ramps at 8 trailheads.
- Installed 9 new bulletin boards at trailheads.
- Installed 9 additional fee tubes.
- Improved signing at trailheads.
- Maintained and removed downed trees across approximately 400 miles of trail.



Removing downed trees across a trail



Reconstructing trail tread

Contact



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www.fs.fed.us/r6/wenatchee
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Campground Revenues

Leveraged \$150,000 in State grants to complete work in developed campgrounds.

Naches Ranger District

- Installed new barrier posts and rocks to prevent shortcutting over hillside from the South Fork Group Site into the campground.
- Purchased a new chainsaw for hazard tree removal.
- Repainted approximately one-quarter of the bulletin boards in campgrounds and day use areas.

Chelan Ranger District

- Resurfaced the gravel parking area at Snowberry Campground.

Methow Valley Ranger District

- Built and installed 14 new bulletin boards.
- Built and installed 33 fire grates.

Tonasket Ranger District

- Repaired water systems at Oriole and Salmon Meadows Campgrounds.
- Purchased and installed three new bear-resistant dumpsters at Bonaparte Lake and Lost Lake Campgrounds.
- Purchased and installed two new ADA accessible picnic tables at Lost Lake Campground.



Recreation Rental Revenues

Naches Ranger District

- Repaired broken windows and stairway rail, and repainted the twenty-seat outhouse interior at American Ridge "Ski Bowl" Lodge.
- Purchased new furniture, repaired windows, replaced hardwood flooring at American River Guard Station.

American River Guard Station





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Special Recreation Permit Revenues

Enchantment Lakes Permit revenues fund annual helicopter removal of backcountry toilets, Forest Service Wilderness Rangers to patrol the permit area, maintenance of the trail system within the permit area, and the management and rehabilitation of areas to maintain a primitive to pristine setting.

Echo Ridge Nordic Area Permit revenues fund the maintenance and operation of the Nordic trail system and the facilities provided at the site. Trails within the Nordic permit area are groomed 2-4 times per week.



Chelan Boat Dock Permit revenues fund general dock maintenance. This year, the entire decks of Graham Harbor and Deer Point docks were repaired.

Christmas Tree Permits revenues help to fund the plowing of roads accessing harvest areas, field patrols, and extended office hours.



Partnerships

The forest has a great volunteer base made up of clubs and individuals.

- Volunteer groups built puncheon and turnpike across muddy trail tread on the Cle Elum Ranger District.
- Campground Hosts are an integral resource at campgrounds and guard stations across the Forest.
- Youth Conservation Corps, Northwest Youth Corps, Washington Trails Association and Pacific Northwest Trail Association performed heavy trail maintenance on the Wenatchee River, Naches, Methow Valley, and Tonasket Ranger Districts.
- AmeriCorps completed trail maintenance and education patrols on the Entiat and Chelan Ranger Districts.
- Chelan Winter Sports Club groomed the trails at Echo Ridge.

