United States Department of Agriculture

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2014

Sierra National Forest

Forest Service

Lakeside Campsites Restored to Natural Environment

Years of high-intensity campsite use have caused significant degradation to areas around Sadler, Fleming, and Rae lakes. These impacts include lakeshore trampling, tree root exposure, removal of riparian vegetation and downed woody debris, and creation of social trails. To address this, Wilderness rangers and 30 California Outward Bound volunteers used recreation fee revenue to close and restore 11 campsites. Restoration included removing all campsite improvements, flush-cutting of stumps, de-compacting soil, placing barrier rocks and logs, and replacing the organic duff layer where feasible.

The project enables several quality campsites to remained in the vicinity of each lake to provide ample low-impact camping and protects habitat for two endangered amphibian species.

This project also initiated a partnership between the Forest and Outward Bound, the largest single outfitter operating in the Forest's Wilderness areas.

California Outward Bound students helped restore campsites too close to water at Sadler Lake in the Ansel Adams Wilderness.

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.

Forest Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	$41,282
Special Uses	$41,281
Interagency Passes	$16,308
Total	**$98,871**

Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	$6,926
Visitor Services	$43,229
Law Enforcement	$0
Habitat Restoration	$0
Fee Agreements	$0
Cost of Collections	$1,439
Total	**$51,594**

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

Interns in the Wilderness

Recreation fee revenue enabled four interns to become Wilderness rangers to assist with outfitter/guide field inspections, campsite impact monitoring, trail sign repair, solitude monitoring, meadow monitoring, campsite cleanup, trail clearing, and visitor education.

These interns helped the Forest make 4,485 public contacts, complete 34 outfitter/guide inspections, clear 388 trail miles, maintain 2,205 waterbars, remove 940 pounds of trash, and eliminate 758 fire rings. The interns received training in crosscut saw use, campsite restoration techniques, visitor contact methods, packstock handling, Leave No Trace ethics, and meadow monitoring.

Interns use a crosscut saw to clear trail in the John Muir Wilderness.

Pacific Southwest Region Map

Off road riding in the Sierra National Forest..

Contacts

Sierra National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Contact

559-297-0706 x4921

Email: sburkindine@fs.fed.us

Online: www.fs.usda.gov/sierra

Regional Contact

801-625-5152

Email: jwilson08@fs.fed.us

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Regional Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	$6,406,393
Special Uses	$942,706
Interagency Passes	$265,449
Total	**$7,614,548**

Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	$3,134,824
Visitor Services	$1,766,862
Law Enforcement	$275,511
Habitat Restoration	$18,359
Fee Agreements	$18,043
Cost of Collections	$626,431
Total	**$5,840,030**

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