

# Gifford Pinchot National Forest

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2015

Pat Di Geronimo, Gifford Pinchot National Forest  
2014 Share the Experience

Forest Service



### Climbing the Big Ones



*Mt. Adams Climbing Ranger Jennifer talks to a group of climbers on their way up to the summit.*

Over 24,000 climbers safely ascended Mount Adams and Mount St. Helens in 2015, thanks to support provided by recreation fee funds from climbing permits. The Forest supported search and rescue on the mountains, provided climbing rangers out on trails, delivered avalanche information, and offered waste-system pack out to over 7,000 climbers. The Forest partners with the Mount St. Helens Institute and the Mount Adams Institute for items such as permit management and volunteers.

### 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.

### Recreation Reservations

Lower Falls Campground offers a great staging area to visit several waterfalls and access many nearby trails including the Lewis River Trail. In 2015, the Forest added the campground to the National Recreation Reservation System. Campers can now reserve their site in advance and know that it will be there for them when they arrive. Campers have expressed enthusiasm and appreciation for this change.



*Accessible trails in the Lower Falls Recreation Area and Campground provide convenient access to several photo-worthy viewpoints of Lower Falls and the Lewis.*

### Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$1,249,780
Special Uses	\$29,786
Interagency Passes	\$109,461
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,389,027</b>
Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$434,425
Visitor Services	\$463,031
Law Enforcement	\$10,000
Habitat Restoration	\$0
Fee Agreements	\$0
Cost of Collections	\$271,386
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,178,842</b>

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

## Additional Accomplishments

### Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument:

- Hosted 281,000 visitors at Johnston Ridge Observatory, providing interpretive programs, interactive displays, and awe-inspiring movies.
- Delivered environmental education programs to 30,000 visitors at Ape Cave and Trail of Two Forests, and 8500 visitors at Windy Ridge.
- Operated and maintained 16 trailheads and day use sites.
- Administered 49 bus tour permits, 30 outfitter/guide permits, one food vendor permit, and 17 recreation event permits including bike races, foot races, concerts, motorcycle poker ride, and "It's A Blast" opening celebration.
- Partnered with Discover Your Northwest Interpretive Association partners to help operate

Ape Caves, providing on-site staffing and lantern rentals.

- Partnered with Vetswork to perform campground maintenance and patrol.
- Partnered with Skamania County Youth Success team, Washington State School for the Blind, Boy Scouts, White Pass Discovery Team for trail and recreation site maintenance.
- Opened and maintained 11 popular fee campgrounds.



Ranger Sarah leads a cave tour at Ape Cave



## Contacts

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## Pacific Northwest Region Map



## Regional Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$8,937,597
Special Uses	\$950,614
Interagency Passes	\$794,329
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,682,540</b>
Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$4,252,920
Visitor Services	\$2,322,206
Law Enforcement	\$335,340
Habitat Restoration	\$9,517
Fee Agreements	\$13,011
Cost of Collections	\$1,046,559
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,982,553</b>

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