United States Department of Agriculture

Black Hills National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2015

Forest Service

Truly Off-Road

Fence diverting motorized use off the old portion of the Victoria Trail.

The Victoria motorized trail is just part of the Black Hills extensive system of off-road opportunities. In 2015, recreation fee revenue helped to reroute the trail off of an old, deeply cut road on to a more contoured and enjoyable route. In addition the Forest placed berms on and fenced the old road to ensure it wouldn't continue to erode and degrade.

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.

Staying Out of the Mud

The 41-mile Merritt trail had a section about 2.5 miles long that followed the fall line of Rapid Creek. The Forest used $11,000 of recreation fee funds to move the trail from the water drainage to more sustainable ground.

A new cattle guard for Merritt Trail.

Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	$420,600
Special Uses	$50,758
Interagency Passes	$12,790
Total	**$484,148**

Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	$225,723
Visitor Services	$52,362
Law Enforcement	$31,825
Habitat Restoration	$0
Fee Agreements	$0
Cost of Collections	$54,688
Total	**$364,598**

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

Additional Accomplishments

- Maintained 264 miles of motorized trails by clearing fallen trees and brush, and fixing trail tread.
- Reconstructed three miles of trail to mitigate resource damage and enhance visitor experience.
- Installed or replaced 418 trail marker and trail assurance signs.
- Installed five OHV cattle guards and five gates on trails.
- Organized and supervised volunteers who contributed 2,311 hours of work on the motorized trail systems with an estimated value of $53,049.
- Provided information and education on the motorized trail system in offices and at events as well as through special programs such as the Discover The Hills Program at Elsworth Air Force Base
- Sold 2,130 Christmas tree tags, which supported weekend hours for sales and visitor service. Administered and monitored 42 recreation events and 52 Outfitter and Guide Permits.

Rocky Mountain Region Map

Many recreation events are held each year on the Black Hills National Forest

Contacts

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Regional Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	$3,090,587
Special Uses	$2,765,353
Interagency Passes	$272,717
Total	**$6,128,657**

Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	$1,439,958
Visitor Services	$2,105,134
Law Enforcement	$241,707
Habitat Restoration	$40,479
Fee Agreements	$12,416
Cost of Collections	$457,967
Total	**$4,297,661**

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