

# Tongass National Forest

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2015

Forest Service



### Tidal Trail Boardwalk

Lake Eva Trail is a popular destination for small cruise ships, fisherman and recreationists using the nearby cabin. Part of the trail consisted of stepping stones used to cross a tidal slough. For many guided and non-guided hikers, this crossing was difficult and dangerous to navigate during higher tides.

A crew consisting of three employees, two Student Conservation Association interns and a volunteer built 80 feet of raised boardwalk across the slough in June 2015. Materials were brought to Hanus Bay by boat and then hand-carried a short distance to the construction site. Locally milled yellow cedar was used for the decking and stringers and both yellow and red cedar were used for handrails. Recreation fees in the amount of \$13,811 contributed to the project.



*Before and after along Lake Eva Trail.*

### 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.

### Pack Creek Bears

Personnel from the Forest Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game manage the Pack Creek Brown Bear Viewing Area. Together, they provide an orientation and answer questions during visitors' stay. In 2015, \$53,800 in recreation fee dollars supported Pack Creek operations and benefitted nine outfitter-guide companies who deliver clients to the area. Staff provide on-the-ground training to outfitter-guides and manage the National Recreation Reservation System used by outfitter-guides use to book their visitation days. Pack Creek had an estimated 1,190 total visitors from June 1 thru September 10.



### Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$1,374,321
Special Uses	\$1,945,317
Interagency Passes	\$36,744
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,356,382</b>
Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$759,277
Visitor Services	\$1,526,384
Law Enforcement	\$64,584
Habitat Restoration	\$71,019
Fee Agreements	\$46,244
Cost of Collections	\$283,066
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,750,574</b>

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

## River Rangers

The river ranger program in Yakutat is the district's primary method of contacting backcountry visitors, anglers in particular. Two rangers patrol together on flowing waters within the Yakutat forelands, such as Situk River, Lost River, Tawah Creek, Akwe, and Italio River. Their primary responsibility is to make contact with visiting fishermen and local guiding services; they also monitor campgrounds, collect waste monofilament and trash along the rivers, and monitor outfitter and guide use, as well as assisting with other district project work. In 2015, \$14,000 in recreation fee dollars supplemented the River Ranger program.



## Contacts

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## Alaska Region Map



## Regional Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$1,582,545
Special Uses	\$2,141,828
Interagency Passes	\$43,699
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,768,072</b>
Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$1,019,818
Visitor Services	\$1,739,127
Law Enforcement	\$64,584
Habitat Restoration	\$71,019
Fee Agreements	\$46,244
Cost of Collections	\$310,684
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,308,096</b>

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