

Idaho Panhandle National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2016

Garnering the Garnets



Emerald Creek Garnet Area

Gem enthusiasts and rock hounds enjoy mining for rare star garnets at the Emerald Creek Garnet Area, one of only two places in the world they can be found. In 2016, seasonal employees assisted over 7,200 visitors with the sifting and sluicing process. Visitors generally can find and keep around 2 to 3 ounces. Providing this unique opportunity relies on close to \$50,000 of recreation fee funds to cover about half of the total operating cost.

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 benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

Barging Out the Trash

The Forest operates and maintains over 110 campsites, a host cabin, and over 20 vault toilets on the islands and shore line of Priest Lake. The barge required for operations, maintenance and repairs to these sites requires about \$25,000 of recreation fee funds each year. These funds also supported a grant of \$70,000 to construct new pylons, replace the engine and complete barge maintenance. The barge removed over 6,000 gallons of waste for the 2016 operation season.

Barge used for operations and maintenance on Priest Lake.



Little Guard Lookout



Little Guard ready for use

In 2015, a significant fire closed the Little Guard Lookout, which had been wrapped to protect it from the fire.

In 2016, the Forest spent about \$4,000 of cabin rental funds to support skilled laborers who stained the wood exterior and painted the concrete. In addition the Forest reconstructed the unique rock stairs at the site.

Other Accomplishments

The Forest has 39 campgrounds and 10 historic rental cabins and lookouts that are managed under the Recreation Enhancement Act authority and benefit from the generated funding. These funds have been used for cleaning, maintenance and repairs. Even more importantly, the funds helped the Forest to successfully leverage four separate improvement grants. The Forest used those funds to hire YCC and other local youth to complete much needed improvements.

Recreation fee funds are also used to process, administer and monitor over 10 recreation events and 20 outfitter and guides special use permits.



Walking among Forest's ferns and ancient cedars.

Priest Lake in winter.



Northern Region



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$161,856	\$2,056,813
Special Uses	\$34,322	\$1,151,360
Interagency Passes	\$5,416	\$84,146
Total	\$201,594	\$3,292,320
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$103,598	\$925,542
Visitor Services	\$28,295	\$720,721
Law Enforcement	\$7,362	\$76,857
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$45,474
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$12,511
Collections/Overhead	\$18,033	\$195,806
Total	\$157,288	\$1,976,910