



Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2016

Trail Work the Hard Way



The Lake Tahoe Basin wilderness staff, supported by \$100,000 in recreation fee revenue, hiked and patrolled 768 miles of trail, collected 204 pounds of trash, and removed 133 illegal fire rings in the Desolation Wilderness. Using cross-cut saws, they also cut and removed 82 trees that had fallen across trails, and using rakes and shovels, they rehabilitated and restored 58 camping sites. Over 180,000 hikers and campers visited the Wilderness and over 30,000 visitors requested assistance at a staffed wilderness trailhead.

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.



Green Youth Make A Difference

A "Generation Green" crew provided nearly 700 hours of critical labor inside Desolation Wilderness. With the support of recreation fee and other funding, this crew reconstructed a badly eroded water crossing at Meeks Creek. They helped trails staff to construct a rock retaining wall, and install rock steps and several delineation walls on both sides of the stream zone. This project not only resulted in improved water quality but also taught the young crew about the importance of water quality and watershed health, trail maintenance and the benefits of wilderness and backcountry recreation.



Doing More Than Book Learning



Recreation fee revenue provided \$5,000 to support two college interns who assisted Desolation Wilderness patrol staff in providing "Leave-No-Trace" ethics education to wilderness

visitors, and assisted with trails maintenance projects and restoration work. In addition, the interns assisted interpretive staff at the Taylor Creek Visitor Center, where over 150,000 people visited inside and an additional 250,000 people used the self-guided interpretive trails and the outside Stream Profile Chamber.

Other Accomplishments

- Provided trash collection, restroom maintenance, septic tank pumping, minor building repairs, trails repair work, and educational and interpretive signing at Eagle Falls Trailhead-Picnic Area.
- Supported Desolation Wilderness volunteers who contributed thousands of hours to staff busy trailheads, and provide visitor information on opportunities and conditions and "Leave-No-Trace" ethics. Volunteers also encouraged visitors to take photos of maps they had on display to avoid leaving paper maps inside the Wilderness.
- Enabled the Unit to partner with many organizations such as Sierra Nevada College, Tahoe Rim Trail Association, Pacific Crest Trail Association, and the Backcountry Horsemen of California-Mother Lode Chapter.
- Conducted multiple community events in an effort to share information that preserves the Desolation Wilderness for current and future generations.
- Oversaw outfitter and guide operations and recreation events and permit administration using approximately \$35,000.



Desolation Wilderness is managed by both the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit and the Eldorado National Forest.

Contacts

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Pacific Southwest Region



Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$308,351	\$8,692,283
Special Uses	\$35,803	\$1,079,413
Interagency Passes	\$12,270	\$335,915
Total	\$356,425	\$10,107,611
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$27,335	\$4,014,387
Visitor Services	\$120,124	\$1,584,559
Law Enforcement	\$5,885	\$205,510
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$10,784
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$2,790
Collections/Overhead	\$14,341	\$512,081
Total	\$167,685	\$6,330,111