



National Forests in Texas

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

Spillway Project - Preventing a Failure

The forest took major steps to repair Ratcliff Lake Spillway. Several major rainfall events in recent years have taken their toll on the 80 year old Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed spillway. The very popular Ratcliff Lake Recreation Area, which surrounds the lake, is dependent on the lake and, had the spillway failed, could have put the public and a state highway in jeopardy. Recreation fee funds of \$88,000 and several other funding sources paid for spillway replacement drawings and construction. Completion of the project is scheduled for 2018.

Ranger surveying damage to Ratcliff Lake Spillway. Erosion dropped the section he is standing on five feet.



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.



Equipment Helps With Safety

The forest invested \$13,000 of recreation fee funds to purchase safety and surveillance equipment used by law enforcement to provide additional safety in developed recreation sites.

While all forest law enforcement officers are very busy, their assistance with situations in our developed recreation areas has become more critical in recent years and the Forest wanted to help them achieve success.



Youth Group Helps with Repairs



American Youth Works Crew from Texas Conservation Corps helped with repair of many recreation facilities on the forest including, boardwalk repair, bathhouse maintenance, sign installation, and recreation area trail maintenance.

Other Accomplishments

- Provided visitors with information, maps, and pass sales.
- Purchased fire-rings and signs for scouts and Texas Conservation Corp crews to install in 2018.
- Processed and monitored 24 recreation event special use permits.
- Repaired the trail maintenance mini tractor for use on the very popular motorized Sam Houston Multi-Use Trail.
- Mowed developed recreation areas to keep grassy areas beautiful and useful. Maintained ten vault toilets.



A popular stop along the Sawmill Hiking Trail on the Angelina National Forest

Regional Map



The extremely popular Sam Houston Multi-use Trail requires ongoing attention.



Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$529,642	\$7,790,073
Special Uses	\$6,242	\$1,704,464
Interagency Passes	\$46,550	\$528,471
Total	\$582,433	\$10,023,008
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$112,491	\$4,625,554
Visitor Services	\$166,458	\$1,400,284
Law Enforcement	\$13,350	\$180,257
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$304,256
Fee Agreements	\$48,951	\$55,183
Collections/Overhead	\$42,161	\$1,272,180
Total	\$383,411	\$7,837,714

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*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and upcoming startup costs.