



# Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

### Popular Trailhead Improved



The forest invested in Deep Creek Trailhead by improving the parking area, installing two new hitching rails, four bulletin boards,

one stock loading ramp, four picnic tables, and one restroom. The popular trailhead, used by hikers, horse riders and hunters, provides access to the William O Douglas Wilderness adjacent to Mount Rainier National Park. Iconic lakes can be reached in a short distance and visitor's can make longer trips by linking in with the Pacific Crest and other trails.

About \$30,000 in recreation fee funds leveraged a grant for \$37,000 from the State of Washington and volunteers from Backcountry Horseman of Washington to complete the project.

### 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.

### Winter High Life

The forest partners with the Lake Chelan Nordic Club to groom 26 miles of cross country and skate ski trails at the Echo Ridge Nordic Area. Approximately \$15,000 in recreation fee funds helped to groom the trails, and maintain equipment and storage buildings.

Both locals and visitors to the Chelan area frequent this 'close to town' opportunity, which helps to diversify the local economy.



*Enjoying a cross-country ski trek on the Echo Ridge Nordic Trail.*

## Other Accomplishments

- Maintained 98 campgrounds, 4 rental cabins, and 80 trailheads and picnic areas
- Provided over 400 nights lodging to over 2,000 people at rental cabins.
- Provided visitor information and routine maintenance with 28 temporary employees and 27 campground hosts.
- Maintained and installed information boards, picnic tables and fire rings, and removed hazard trees at campgrounds, picnic areas and trailheads.
- Updated interpretive signs at trailheads
- Installed 40 new speed bumps, re-stripped parking areas and roadways, and brushed campground roads.
- Leveraged about \$210,000 of grant funding to complete campground and 200 miles of trail maintenance. Grants fund about 70 percent of the temporary workforce, while recreation fee revenue directly funds about 20 percent.



Wilderness Lake in late June



Volunteer working on a toilet at Deep Creek Trailhead.

## Regional Map



## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$1,602,920	\$10,408,337
Special Uses	\$150,404	\$1,403,845
Interagency Passes	\$143,168	\$1,651,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,896,492</b>	<b>\$13,463,758</b>
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$536,320	\$5,524,514
Visitor Services	\$795,365	\$3,808,532
Law Enforcement	\$10,000	\$180,497
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$84,533
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$1,663
Collections/Overhead	\$304,056	\$1,289,246
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,645,741</b>	<b>\$10,888,985</b>

## Contacts

### Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

#### Recreation Fee Program Contact

509-664-9319

Email: [jmeier02@fs.fed.us](mailto:jmeier02@fs.fed.us)

Online: [www.fs.usda.gov/okawen/](http://www.fs.usda.gov/okawen/)

#### Regional Contact

503-808-2411

Email: [jbiro@fs.fed.us](mailto:jbiro@fs.fed.us)