

Hillarie Lara, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, 2018 Share the Experience photo Contest

Inyo National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2019

Trailhead Repair At Rainbow



New CXT toilet, Rainbow Falls Trailhead

Each year, Rainbow Falls Trailhead serves as the starting point for hundreds of thousands of visitors on day hikes to Rainbow Falls in Devils Post Pile National Monument and overnight trips into the John Muir Wilderness. This trailhead is also a shuttle bus stop with nearby opportunities for picnicking, swimming and wildflower viewing. The trailhead consists of a kiosk and restrooms; it was in disrepair and had a failing leach field. The forest used \$45,000 in recreation fee funds to demolish the 1960's era restroom, decommission the leach field and associated wastewater infrastructure and installed two new vault toilets. Funding was leveraged with toilet replacements in adjacent campgrounds.

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.



Forest Service

Trail Improvement

The forest completed a 2-year project with the American Conservation Experience (ACE) and the California Conservation Crew (CCC) of 20 interns. The two crews maintained over 200 miles of trail in the John Muir Wilderness including 18 miles of heavy trail maintenance and two miles of trail reconstruction. In addition, various trailhead kiosks and signs were restored and repaired. The forest supported the ACE crew with \$76,000 per year in recreation fee funds, focused on general trail maintenance. The CCC crew was funded by \$25,000 in recreation fee funds and \$100,000 in forest funds; and completed specialized heavy trail maintenance and reconstruction.



Enhanced Visitor Information

The forest runs a year-round Wilderness information office and five visitor centers, three of which are open year round. In 2019, the Wilderness Permit Office handled 20,200 calls about trip planning and Wilderness reservations and issued almost 70,000 Wilderness permits to individuals. The forest used \$180,000 in recreation fee dollars for staff and volunteers to provide recreation information, Wilderness trip planning and interpretive talks.



"Bear Awareness" Interpretive Display

Other Accomplishments

- 852 volunteers contributed 32,778 volunteer hours to clean recreation sites, maintain trails and interpretive programs.
- Over 25,000 visitors hiking in the Mt. Whitney area were given “Wag Bags” to pack out human waste. \$45,000 in recreation fee funds purchased the bags. Additionally \$25,000 in recreation fee funds paid for an extra ranger on the Mt. Whitney trail to provide presence, perform light maintenance, inform visitors and check wilderness permits.
- Operated and maintained Horseshoe Meadow and Lee Vining Canyon Campgrounds and various day use sites across the forest, including daily toilet cleaning, trash removal, cleaning campfire rings, refurbishing and replacing signs and pumping toilets.
- Installed accessible grills and picnic tables as needed at various developed recreation sites.
- Staffed the Schulman Grove Visitor Center, The Lone Pine Interagency Visitor Center, the Mammoth Lakes Welcome Center, the Mono Basin Visitor Center, Minaret Vista Kiosk and the South Tufa Kiosk.
- Staffed two visitor centers and provided interpretive talks in partnership with Eastern Sierra Interpretive Association.
- A resource assistant gave interpretive presentations at Horseshoe Meadow Campground, Cottonwood Lakes trailhead and



Mt. Langley, Cottonwood Lakes Basin, John Muir Wilderness

Contacts

**Inyo National Forest
Recreation Fee Program Contact
760-873-2464**

Email: diana.pietrasanta@usda.gov
Online: www.fs.usda.gov/inyo

**Regional Contact
707-562-8846**
Email: matthew.boisseau@usda.gov

Regional Map



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$1,024,514	\$9,140,351
Special Uses	\$160,709	\$1,297,840
Interagency Passes	\$80,940	\$502,160
Total	\$1,266,163	\$10,940,351
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$369,846	\$4,261,296
Visitor Services	\$655,444	\$2,512,317
Law Enforcement	\$14,683	\$228,114
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$24,966
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$20,122
Collections/Overhead	\$45,855	\$899,107
Total	\$1,085,828	\$7,945,922

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