

Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2019

Education and Restoration



Removing a rotted and unsafe water crossing structure inside Desolation Wilderness

During the 2019 season, \$200,000 in recreation fee funds supported the Desolation Wilderness Rangers and dedicated volunteers. Rangers educated visitors about wilderness ethics, regulations, safety and navigation and provided information about scenic attractions. Rangers also maintained and restored dozens of miles of trails, including removing over 150 downed trees from trails, restored wildlife habitat collected hundreds of pounds of trash and maintained campsites with volunteer help. Their work helps preserve and protect the Desolation Wilderness for current and future generations.

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.



Studying the Desolation

A Wilderness Ranger working with the youth conservation group "Generation Green"



In 2019, the forest used recreation fee funds to support a Wilderness Fellow from the Society for Wilderness Stewardship. The Fellow collected data from over 250 campsites and completed over 90% of the required solitude monitoring activities in the Desolation Wilderness, in accordance with the Wilderness Stewardship Performance Program. The Fellow analyzed this data and made recommendations for potential management actions to preserve this highly popular Wilderness area. The Fellow also helped the Desolation Wilderness Rangers with trail restoration work.

50th Anniversary Activities

2019 was the 50th Anniversary of the designation of the Desolation as a Federal Wilderness Area. Wilderness staff and volunteers led education and interpretive programs for visitors at the forest's office and at Wilderness trailheads. Wilderness staff also helped with National Public Lands Day activities, providing cross-cut saw demonstrations and wilderness education to visitors.



Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Desolation becoming a Federal Wilderness

Other Accomplishments

- Collected trash, maintained restrooms, pumped septic tanks repaired trails, installed interpretive signs and completed minor building repairs at Eagle Falls Trailhead-Picnic Area.
- Recreation fee funds leveraged nearly 4,000 hours donated by Wilderness Volunteers to protect and preserve the Desolation Wilderness. Volunteers at trailheads provided ethics information, education brochures and safety advisories. Volunteers also performed trails maintenance work such as removing downed trees from trails, cleaning water bars, picking up litter and patrolling backcountry areas to monitor campsite conditions and remove illegal fire rings.
- Partnered with organizations such as Sierra Nevada College, Lake Tahoe Community College, the Pacific Crest Trail Association, the Tahoe Rim Trail Association and the Backcountry Horsemen of California to maintain and preserve the Desolation Wilderness.
- Students from Sierra Nevada College spent several weeks working in the Wilderness with forest staff, learning trail maintenance, Leave No Trace ethics and Wilderness history.



Overlooking Desolation Wilderness from the Lake Tahoe Basin. A 100 square mile preserved scenic and natural area.

Contacts

**Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit
Recreation Fee Program Contact
530-543-2621**

Email: don.lane@usda.gov
Online: www.fs.usda.gov/ltbmu

**Regional Contact
707-562-8846**

Email: matthew.boisseau@usda.gov

Regional Map



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Revenue & Expenditures

| Revenue* | Forest | Region |
|----------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| Recreation Fees | \$247,870 | \$9,140,351 |
| Special Uses | \$26,840 | \$1,297,840 |
| Interagency Passes | \$26,680 | \$502,160 |
| Total | \$301,390 | \$10,940,351 |
| Expenditures | Forest | Region |
| Repair & Maintenance | \$49,407 | \$4,261,296 |
| Visitor Services | \$128,047 | \$2,512,317 |
| Law Enforcement | \$8,699 | \$228,114 |
| Habitat Restoration | \$5,911 | \$24,966 |
| Fee Agreements | \$0 | \$20,122 |
| Collections/Overhead | \$23,152 | \$899,107 |
| Total | \$215,216 | \$7,945,922 |

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