



Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2020

Snow Lakes Trail Rockslide



Blasting rock on the Snow Lakes Trail.



Large boulder needing removal on the Snow Lakes Trail

In 2016, a large rockslide occurred on the Snow Lakes Trail that completely obliterated a set of switchbacks above Nada Lake. This is a very high use trail which provides access to the popular and busy Enchantment's area of Alpine Lakes Wilderness. After the rockslide, visitors had to scramble over boulders to find the trail on the other side of the slide which resulted in a braid of new user trails. In 2020, with partial funding from recreation fee funds collected by the Enchantments overnight permit system and trailhead fees, the forest's trail crew, stock program, wilderness crew, and partners from The Access Fund cleared boulders from the slide area and rebuilt the section of affected trail. This entire project took four weeks to complete, with weekly support from the district pack string of mules. The project also required the use of explosives to break large rocks into smaller pieces that could then be moved with rigging equipment. After the project, the Snow Lakes Trail is now much safer and is in a more accessible condition restoring safe public access to a very popular destination.

Vault Toilet Facility Move

Beaver Lake Campground was destroyed by a severe wind event and flooding from a creek breach in 2018. The only surviving infrastructure at the campground after this dramatic but natural event was the concrete vault toilet. Nearby Beth Lake Campground needed a new vault toilet to replace the old and delapidated structure serving the site. Plans were made to move the vault toilet from the destroyed Beaver Lake Campground to Beth Lake Campground, two miles away. This project salvaged a functional toilet in good condition from the old site and relocated the toilet to new site in need of an upgraded facility. Recreation fee funds were used to hire a local contractor to move the toilet building. Forest employees finished the job by cleaning up the old toilet site and landscaping around the toilet at the new site. Cost of the project was approximately \$20,000.

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.



Transporting and installing the vault toilet at the Beth Lake Campground

Other Accomplishments

- Served maximum capacity crowds at recreation sites across the forest due to increased use during the first summer of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Accomplished increased frequency and intensity of cleaning toilets, trash collection, and managing overflow parking at popular recreation sites due to increased use.
- Implemented new protocols for public and employee safety allowing for recreation sites to remain open during the pandemic, including social distancing, wearing masks and other personal protective equipment, and collecting fees.
- Maintained approximately 100 campgrounds and about 80 trailheads and picnic areas.
- Staffed over 20 temporary personnel positions to provide visitor information and conduct routine and deferred recreation site maintenance.
- Maintained and installed information boards, picnic tables, and fire rings, and removed hazard trees at campgrounds, picnic areas, and trailheads.
- Leveraged about \$200,000 of grant funding to complete campground maintenance and 200 miles of trail maintenance. Grants fund about 70 percent of the temporary workforce, while recreation fee revenue directly funds about 20 percent.



Alpine Lakes Wilderness

Regional Map



Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$1,188,573	\$9,471,377
Special Uses	\$119,900	\$790,291
Interagency Passes	\$70,046	\$596,384
Total	\$1,378,519	\$10,858,052
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$431,649	\$6,661,939
Visitor Services	\$601,239	\$4,570,429
Law Enforcement	\$8,048	\$202,074
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$144,521
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$0
Collections/Overhead	\$216,917	\$1,295,453
Total	\$1,257,853	\$12,874,416

Contacts

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