

Caring for the Land and Serving People



Forest Accomplishment Report
Pacific Northwest Region
Recreation Fees 2009

Gifford Pinchot National Forest



Recreation fees are an investment in outdoor recreation. Current and future generations will benefit as 95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use and value.

Accomplishments provided with recreation fees:

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument:

- Operated and maintained **Johnston Ridge Observatory (JRO)** and **Coldwater Lake Recreation Area**. Approximately 450,000 people visited JRO.
- Led guided hikes, held talks at **JRO's** outside plaza, and made one-on-one contacts with roving interpreters. Approximately 78,610 visitors participated in these activities.
- Helped fund the maintenance of **JRO's** electrical, ventilation, waste treatment facilities, heat and air conditioning, computerized HVAC controls, movie projection equipment, and other critical systems and equipment.

Mount St. Helens and Mt. Adams Climbing Programs:

- Maintained access roads and trails to the major climbing routes.
- Issued over 13,000 climbing permits to **Mount St. Helens** climbers. Expanded climbing ranger and volunteer mountain steward programs, providing visitor contacts and safety to climbers. Improved signs and route marking on the summer climbing route.
- Issued over 5,200 **Cascades Volcano Pass** climbing permits to Mt. Adams climbers, distributed 6,000 human waste bags to climbers and provided for disposal, and patrolled routes seven days a week.

Fee Campgrounds:

- Operated and maintained eight fee campgrounds and completed a variety of postponed and heavy maintenance tasks, such as toilet door and roof repairs, toilet ventilation fan replacements, picnic table repairs, and information board and sign repairs.

Cabin Rentals:

- Made **Government Mineral Springs Cabin** and **Peterson Prairie Cabin** available to the public year-round. Replaced worn furniture and furnishings, performed post-rental inspections, and stocked both cabins with firewood and propane.

Special Feature

Lava Canyon Recreation Area, a visitor favorite, was reopened this year after a winter storm ravaged the area and forced closure in 2007. With repairs to the trail, viewing platforms, information signs, and a major trail bridge replacement, visitors can once again explore a mudflow-scoured canyon with views of a waterfall plunging over an ancient lava flow.



Gifford Pinchot National Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	
Source	Amount
Interagency Pass	\$88,768
Recreation Fees	\$1,255,483
Special Uses	\$12,778
Total	\$1,357,029

Expenditures	
Source	Amount
Maintenance & Repair	\$382,416
Visitor Services	\$491,850
Law Enforcement	\$15,251
Cost of Collections	\$59,874
Fee Agreements	\$12,350
Total	\$961,741

*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and the following season's startup costs.

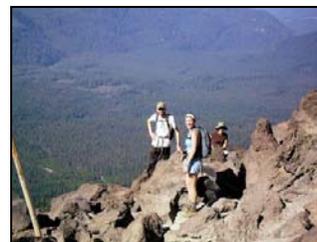
Gifford Pinchot National Forest accomplishments continued:

Northwest Forest Pass Sites:

- Operated and maintained 34 Northwest Forest pass sites, including 21 trailheads, 10 interpretive sites, and 3 picnic sites.
- Provided facilities and services to 120,000 visitors to **Ape Cave on Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument**, and led 2,700 visitors on 204 guided lantern cave tours.
- Presented 84 interpretive programs at **Windy Ridge** with 2,600 people attending the programs.
- Replaced signs, repaired interpretive trail railings and replaced bridge approaches in **Lava Canyon Recreation Area**, allowing the **Mount St. Helens Monument** to reopen the interpretive site and river trail to the public on September 26, **National Public Lands Day**.
- Performed backlogged maintenance on several key trails served by Northwest Forest Pass sites. For example, the **Loowit Trail** on the north side of Mount St. Helens had a number of drainage crossings reconstructed, one re-route, and miles of rock and logs removed.

Partnership Highlights:

- Continued partnership with **Mount St. Helens Institute (MSHI)** to manage the **Mount St. Helens Climbing Permit reservation system**, recruit volunteer mountain and climbing stewards, manage volunteer trail maintenance work parties, and provide guided walks, hikes and climbs.
- Continued the successful vendor partnership with a local business in Cougar, Washington, which hosts a climbers information and registration center, issues permits, and provides other local information to climbers.



A climbing party ascends Mount St. Helens



Climbers dump their human waste using offered 'blue bags' in this container.



An interpreter gives a talk at Windy Ridge

Children were invited to participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony at Lava Canyon Recreation Area during National Trails Day with Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief





Gifford Pinchot National Forest Projects Planned for 2010

Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument is preparing for a special **30th Anniversary Year** in 2010. Visitors will see many improvements around the Monument next year. Interpretive displays and signs are being updated at **JRO**, an outdoor amphitheater constructed, new doors, windows, and carpeting installed. Visitor services improvements are planned for **Ape Cave** and **Windy Ridge** as well. Much of the work will be completed with other funding. Recreation fee revenues will continue to fund the ongoing operations and maintenance as well as interpretive programs at **JRO**, **Ape Cave**, and **Windy Ridge**.



Ape Cave

Information:

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Pacific Northwest Region Revenues & Expenditures

Revenue*	
Source	Amount
Interagency Pass	\$466,827
Recreation Fees	\$7,804,057
Special Uses	\$666,971
Total	\$8,937,856

Expenditures	
Source	Amount
Maintenance & Repair	\$3,712,891
Visitor Services	\$2,208,014
Law Enforcement	\$290,664
Cost of Collections	\$896,979
Habitat Restoration	\$21,200
Fee Agreements	\$17,050
Total	\$7,146,798

*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and the following season's startup costs.