China Flat Cabin Cleanup

Trash removal at China Flat Cabin

With the assistance of the Wilderness Volunteers, a non-profit organization, the Eldorado National Forest was able to leverage recreation fee dollars to implement a clean-up project in the Desolation Wilderness at the China Flat Cabin in the summer of 2006. Garbage and debris were removed from the China Flat Cabin and surrounding area, including barbed wire, tools and equipment, and other non-historic materials that would not deteriorate naturally. Ten volunteers participated in the week-long project. All of the garbage was packed out by pack stock. It took a packer and five mules four days to pack out all of the garbage.

For More Information

If you would like additional information about Pacific Southwest Region’s Recreation Fee Program, please contact Tamara Wilton, Recreation Fee Program Manager by phone at (530) 283-2605.
Installed a new septic system and new carpet at the Loon Lake Chalet
Installed a solar electric system for pumping water from the well at Van Vleck Bunkhouse

Visitor Services
- Hired three seasonal wilderness rangers for Desolation Wilderness to provide increased public contacts, wilderness education, and law enforcement
- Hired seven student interns to assist with campground and recreation rental operations
- Started a new nonprofit Mokelumne Wilderness Volunteers group to assist the clearing of trails, visitor education and support
- Together with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, expanded the Desolation Wilderness Volunteer and Education Program that contributed 1,400 hours and made 1,500 visitor contacts in 2006
- Provided weekly interpretive programs at Wrights Lake and Crystal Basin Campgrounds
- Administered outfitter guide and recreation event permits

Habitat Restoration
- Implemented a wilderness monitoring program to assess compliance with the Desolation Wilderness Management Plan

Law Enforcement
- Provided funding for wilderness rangers for wilderness patrol, education and enforcement of wilderness regulations

Cost of Collection
- Funded salaries for employees who conducted fee collections and compliance

Recreation Fee Revenue Sources

Permits & Passes
- Desolation Wilderness Permit & Reservations
- Golden Passports & Federal Interagency Passes
- Eldorado National Forest/Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Annual Pass
- Recreation Event and Outfitter & Guide Permits

Sites/Areas
- Standard amenity day use fees at Pyramid Creek Trailhead, Carson Pass, Meiss, and Woods Lake Trailheads
- Expanded amenity fees at developed campgrounds and recreation cabin rentals