Inyo National Forest Pacific Southwest Region Recreational Fee Program 2007 Accomplishment Report

2007 Recreation Fee Program Expenditures

- Habitat Restoration $58,000
- Visitor Services $835,039
- Law Enforcement $42,331
- Repair, Maintenance, & Facility Enhancement $72,902
- Cost of Collection $126,992

Fee Program Success Story: Removing Human Waste on Mt. Whitney

Removing the last of two toilet building foundations along the Mt. Whitney Trail.

Since 2004 visitors have been asked to remove their own solid waste from the Mt. Whitney Trail. The “Pack Out” program has been very successful. In 2007 visitors packed out 6,330 lbs of human waste. The disposal bags and trailhead receptacles were purchased entirely with recreation fees.

Prior to implementing the “Pack-It-Out” program, dehydrating toilets were located at 2 sites along the Mt. Whitney Trail. Built in 1985, the toilets simply did not work, despite countless renovations and repairs. These toilets were very expensive to operate and maintain. As the “Pack-It-Out” program has grown, use of the toilets decreased. In 2007, Inyo National Forest employees removed the toilets and restored their former sites.

Your Fees at Work in 2007

**Repair, Maintenance & Facility Enhancement**

- Painted restrooms, performed trail maintenance, and purchased/installed dog waste collection bags at South Tufa.
- Repaired and maintained interpretive exhibits at Schulman Grove.
- Constructed a wilderness education display at the Lone Pine Interagency Visitor Center.
- Repaired the water system, replaced the roof on restroom building, and removed over 100 hazardous trees at the Horseshoe Meadows Campground.
Visitor Services

- Completed 400 interpretive walks with over 4,500 visitors.
- Extended hours of visitor services at Mono Basin Scenic Area Visitor Center with additional staffing assistance through a partnership with the National Park Service.
- Provided shuttle bus system to various locations in Reds Meadow.
- Increased staffing at the Schulman Grove Visitor Center to 7 days/week from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.
- Managed the wilderness reservation office; providing 56,747 overnight visitors with reservations, trip planning, permits, and stewardship messages.
- Contributed to the Central Sierra Wilderness Education Project (WEP), an interagency program for wilderness education that launched an improved Sierra-wide trip planning website.
- Sponsored winter seminars “So You Want to Climb Whitney?” in Southern California that promoted safety and resource conservation messages for visitors planning to hike the Mt. Whitney trail.

Habitat Restoration

- Performed invasive plant species eradication at South Tufa.
- Completed habitat restoration efforts along the Pacific Crest Trail corridor in the Shadow and Ediza Lakes area.

Law Enforcement

- Provided law enforcement patrols to ensure visitor and resource protection.

Cost of Collection

- Funded salaries for employees who conducted fee collections and compliance.

Recreation Fee Revenue Sources

Permits & Passes

- Federal Interagency Passes
- Recreation Event and Outfitter & Guide Permits

Sites/Areas

- Expanded Amenity Fees at two developed campgrounds
- Standard Amenity Fees at South Tufa and Shulman Grove

Services

- Wilderness Permit reservation service
- Reds Meadow transportation system

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 email at twilton@fs.fed.us or by phone at (530) 283-7778.