Fee Program Success Story: Kern River Clean-up

One of the challenges facing Sequoia National Forest managers and local residents in the Kern River Valley is to address the mess left by people who enjoy the Kern River corridor. A 13-year old Eagle Scout candidate from Bakersfield is one example of people concerned enough to become part of the solution. As part of his Eagle Scout project, he organized volunteers from Boy Scout Troup #317 to clean up the popular Thunderbird dispersed recreation area. The scouts worked alongside Forest Service personnel to remove ash and litter and scatter rocks from makeshift fire rings. Fees collected from river rafting outfitter guides helped pay for this and other organized events on the River.

2007 Recreation Fee Program Expenditures

- Visitor Services: $117,097
- Repair, Maintenance, & Facility Enhancement: $203,824
- Cost of Collection: $13,539
- Law Enforcement: $19,347

Your Fees at Work in 2007

**Repair, Maintenance & Facility Enhancement**

- Repaired flush urinals and sinks at Lake Isabella restrooms damaged by vandals and removed graffiti.
- Painted 10% of the tables at Troy Meadow, 4 toilet buildings at Kennedy Meadows, 2 toilet buildings at Fish Creek, and 25% of tables at Horse Meadow Campgrounds.
- Reopened section of the Kanawyer Trail in the Giant Sequoia National Monument.
- Provided 13 portable toilets and 11 dumpsters at Lake Isabella.
- Provided supplemental portable toilets and dumpsters at Camp 9 and along the Kern River during high use season and holiday weekends.
Visitor Services

- Contributed funds to the Sequoia Natural History Association to produce the quarterly visitor newspaper for the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks and Giant Sequoia National Monument.
- Provided personnel to work alongside National Park Service personnel at the Big Stump Entrance Station and Kings Canyon visitor Center providing visitor information in partnership with the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park.
- Funded two river rangers who maintained river related signing, provided visitor assistance, trimmed vegetation to improve river access, coordinated volunteer river clean-up events, and provided water safety education.
- Provided campground hosts at Horse Meadow and Troy Meadow Campgrounds.

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.

Upcoming Fee Projects

- Paint 4 toilets and 25% of picnic tables at Fish Creek Campground.
- Replace roof at Big Meadows Cabin.
- Re-align sewer pipe between Camp 4 ½ Cabin and septic tank.

Recreation Fee Revenue Sources

Permits & Passes

- Federal Interagency Passes
- Kern River Outfitter and Guide Permits
- Kern River Whitewater Rafting Permit Reservations

Sites/Areas

- Standard amenity fees at the Lake Isabella High Impact Recreation Area (Auxiliary Dam, Old Isabella Road and South Fork Recreation Areas)
- National Park Service (NPS) agreement sharing a portion of the entrance fees collected at the Big Stump Entrance Station
- Expanded amenity fees at three recreation cabin & lookout rental facilities
- Expanded amenity fees at five campgrounds

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.