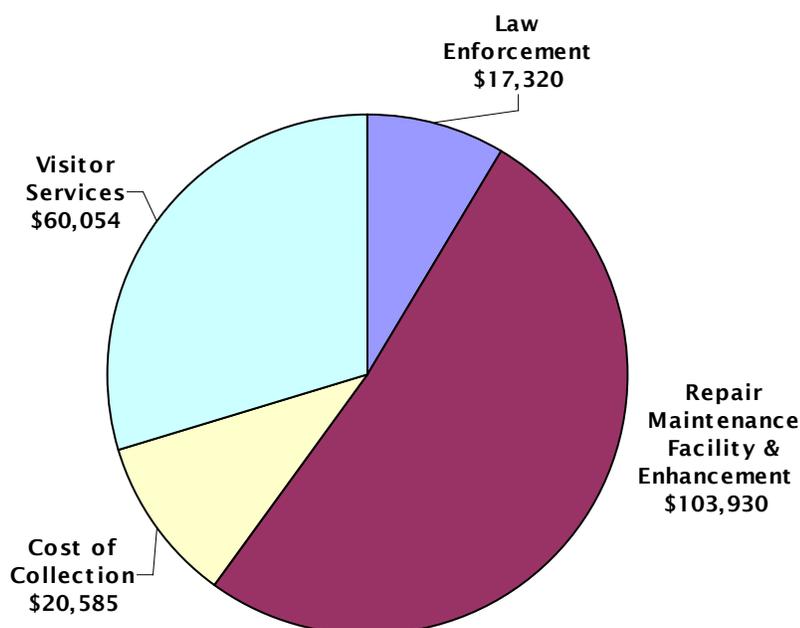




Eldorado National Forest Pacific Southwest Region Recreational Fee Program 2008 Accomplishment Report



2008 Recreation Fee Program Expenditures



Your Fees at Work in 2008

Repair, Maintenance & Facility Enhancement

- Maintained 63 miles of trail in the Desolation Wilderness.
- Provided operation & maintenance for all REA campgrounds, recreation rentals, and day use areas.
- Refurbished 5 picnic tables at Dru Barner Campground.
- Repaired and refinished decking, purchased gas and light mantels, new deck furniture, repaired plumbing and cleaned curtains at Harvey West Cabin.
- Purchased and prepared for installation of a new pre-cast concrete toilet building at the Van Vleck Bunkhouse.
- Replaced gas-fueled maintenance vehicles at Wrights Lake with a "greener" electric car.

Fee Program Success Story: Carson Pass Visitor Center receives upgrades



Carson Pass Visitor Center

The Carson Pass Visitor Center and Information Station is located on Highway 88, and serves as a portal to the Mokelumne Wilderness. In 2008, a portion of the recreation fees collected at this day use site and trailhead were used to clean and re-stain the exterior of the log building, and a new propane heating stove was installed. Thousands of forest visitors visit Carson Pass every year. Volunteers from the Eldorado National Forest Interpretive Association (ENFIA) serve as docents to provide information about flora, local history, and hiking opportunities in the area. They also issue overnight wilderness permits. Recreation fees at Carson Pass help pay for wilderness trail work and patrols, maintenance of the Visitor Center, and support for the volunteer program.

- Painted toilet buildings at Wrights Lake and Crystal Basin Campgrounds, Lovers Leap Campground and Pyramid Creek Trailhead.
- Installed signs and 21 new fire rings and parking markers at Lovers Leap Campground.
- Installed new water well pump at Pyramid Creek Trailhead.
- Installed a dog waste receptacle at Carson Pass.

Visitor Services

- Funded 5 seasonal wilderness rangers for Desolation Wilderness to provide increased public contacts, wilderness education, and law enforcement.
- Funded additional staff at the Wilderness Permit Office at the Pacific Ranger Station to provide wilderness information, handle reservations, and issue permits.
- Provided coordination and supervision for various volunteer and nonprofit groups who assist with wilderness information, patrols, and visitor services. Over 7,000 volunteer hours were contributed in 2008.
- Provided wilderness education booths and presentations at schools, fairs, and businesses.
- Provided weekly interpretive programs at Wrights Lake and Crystal Basin Campgrounds, and guided weekend day hikes
- Administered outfitter guide and recreation event permits.

Habitat Restoration

- Conducted campsite condition inventories and implemented group encounter monitoring in the Desolation Wilderness with the help of wilderness volunteers.
- Completed a trail maintenance project to address erosion concerns in sensitive riparian area at Maud Lake in Desolation Wilderness with the assistance of 5 volunteers from National Wilderness Volunteers.

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.

Upcoming Fee Projects

- Continue funding trail work, seasonal wilderness rangers, and trail/trailhead maintenance in the Desolation Wilderness.
- Provide funding for volunteer coordination and support and continue to expand the highly successful volunteer and non profit partnerships.
- Fabricate new Desolation Wilderness trailhead signs.
- Design a Leave No Trace slideshow to be used for public education at the Pacific Ranger Station.
- Install a new prefabricated concrete toilet building at Carson Pass.
- Continue to fund operation and maintenance at REA campgrounds, recreation rentals, and day use areas.
- Continue to provide interpretive programs for the public in the summer at Wrights Lake and Crystal Basin areas.
- Complete installation of solar power system for the electric maintenance vehicle at Wrights Lake.

- Complete installation of new pre-cast concrete toilet building, replace stairs, and create a parking area and ramp to improve accessibility at the Van Vleck Bunkhouse.
- Improve picnic area and five camp units for accessibility and install a prefabricated CXT toilet building at Dru Barner Campground.
- Construct and install interpretive signs for Hell Hole Vista (geology) and Hell Hole Boat Ramp (wildlife and fisheries).
- Complete improvement and restoration of Sly Guard Cabin; including a new roof, gutter and down spouts, replacement of shutters and trim pieces, construction of safety railing and purchase of furniture.
- Continue to support outfitter guide and recreation event permit issuance and administration.

Recreation Fee Revenue Sources

Permits & Passes

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

Sites/Areas

- Standard amenity day use fees at Pyramid Creek Trailhead, Carson Pass, Meiss, and Woods Lake Trailheads and Woods Lake Picnic Area.
- Expanded amenity fees at campgrounds in the Crystal Basin complex, Wrights Lake Campgrounds, Hell Hole complex, Dru Barner Campground, and Lovers Leap Campground.
- Expanded amenity fees at Recreation Rentals: Robbs Hut, Loon Lake Chalet, Van Vleck Bunkhouse, Harvey West Cabin, and Sly Guard Cabin.

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.