

USDA FOREST SERVICE
RECREATIONAL FEE PROGRAM
FY 05 PROGRAM SUMMARY

FOREST NAME: MEDICINE BOW-ROUTT NATIONAL FORESTS.

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REGION:

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TOTAL REC FEE RECEIPTS: \$591113.00

TOTAL REC FEE EXPENSES: \$415616.00

Golden Passports: \$10065.00

Golden Passports: \$0.00

Recreation Fees: \$511169.00

Recreation Fees: \$406987.00

Recreation Special Uses: \$69879.00

Recreation Special Uses: \$8629

BRIEF PROGRAM DESCRIPTION (PLEASE PROVIDE AN OVERALL DESCRIPTION OF THE TYPES OF SITES AND SERVICES THAT ARE INCLUDED IN YOUR FOREST'S PROGRAM – CAMPGROUNDS, CABINS, HIRAS, TOURS, VISITOR CENTERS, SPECIAL USES PERMITS, ETC.)

88 campgrounds and day use sites; 12 rental cabins; 3,000+ Christmas Tree sales; 319 recreation special use permits.

FEE SCHEDULE (IF CHANGED FROM LAST YEAR)

Campgrounds-\$5-12/night

Day Use sites-\$5/day

Christmas Trees-\$10/Tree

Rental Cabins-\$40-120/night

Group sites-\$50-200/day

Special Use Permits-3% of Gross Income (\$110 minimum)

SPECIFIC ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS YEAR (PLEASE PROVIDE SPECIFIC EXAMPLES THAT ADDRESSES THE ENTIRE FOREST'S PROGRAM SUCH AS CAMPGROUND IMPROVEMENTS, VISITOR SERVICES, ETC.)

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RENTAL CABINS

Added solar power to the Sandstone Cabin.

The Seedhouse Guard Station and the SCS Snow Survey Cabin were added to the list of available cabins on the forest.

Purchased replica historic Forest Service dishes from Western Heritage, so that those staying at LaPrele may enjoy a fuller historic experience.

We also paid the travel and per diem for Sayre Hutchison, the National Park Service historic architect, who consults for us on the week-long maintenance project at LaPrele Guard Station. Under Sayre's direction, the main house was rodent-proofed, a draft copy of the operations and maintenance manual

was put together, as well as house elevations and floor plans drawn. One of the front windows was re-installed after being rebuilt over the winter after a bear had shattered it into matchsticks. An interpretive sign was installed at a small pull-out outside the compound, with some clearing around it, so tourists on the main road could read of the story of the CCC.



Gary DeMarcay, Forest Archaeologist, Sayre Hutchison, NPS Architect, and Marcia Rose-Ritchie, District Recreation Tech., putting together the o/m manual on the first day of the maintenance week – it was COLD.



Marcia Rose-Ritchie performing one of the steps of rodent-proofing – sealing ALL cracks with sealant.



Fred Chapman, Wyoming State Historian (above), performing a more intense step in sealing the cracks. First step involves squeezing backer rod into the cracks, then covering with acrylic sealant (see below).



The rodent-proofing was performed in late May of 2005, and there was little to no sign of mice in the cabin throughout the summer. An added bonus was that the fly population seemed to go down as well.

For 2006, REA money will again pay for Mr. Hutchison's per diem and travel for the annual maintenance project. The plan for this year is to tackle the bathroom in the office so it can become usable, built new post and pole fence around the compound, rebuild the gate so that it is in keeping with historic CCC construction, and stain it and the fence to match the newly restrained buildings. We may also purchase new beds for the bedrooms.

*Initiated the rental of the Seedhouse Guard Station for the fall and winter seasons. Prior to the rental season we were able to give the guard station a face lift with new paint inside and out, refresh landscape with boulder delineation and furnish interior with new and antique art work and furniture.

CAMPGROUND AND DAY USE AREAS

Operated a collection booth this past summer at Fish Creek Falls full time which increased compliance. The increased revenue was used to enhance visitor services.

Operated Fish Creek Falls for the second winter season with full service including plowed lot and functional bathroom.

Seedhouse C.C.C. log outhouse restoration has started with the collection of materials our original completion date of October 2005 has been pushed forward to spring of 2006 due to Contractor delays

Operated Freeman Campground with new partners being Moffat County. This will be beneficial since operation of this area requires much travel time.

Campground hosts were available at most of the campground this past summer.

Interpretive Programs and nature walks – 65 Programs, 7 Moonwalks, and operation of the District Visitor Center at Centennial, Wyoming.

Hazard tree analysis and removal at all sites.

Constructed new all-season trailhead (with additional grant support) with restroom facility, perimeter fencing, signage, etc. to access the Headquarters National Recreation Trail. This is associated with the existing Tie City developed site.

Extended operating hours and season of Centennial Visitor Center and the office front desk.

Administered over 20,000 volunteer hours.

Plowed and maintained winter trailheads at 7 locations.

Installed interpretive signage at portal areas on Pole Mountain.

Constructed corral (with additional grant and volunteer support) at Headquarters trailhead.

Converted a portion of Vedauwoo Picnic Area to a tent-only campground, including all new signage.

Constructed entrance station at Vedauwoo Recreation Area.

Constructed fishing pier (with additional grant support) and accessible parking/picnicking area and trail at Lake Owen (see photos below).

Lake Owen Improvements--Photo Highlights



Boardwalk through wetland

Replaced the corrals at Big Creek Lakes Campground.

Installed 10 bear proof trash dumpsters at Big Creek Campground.

Repositioned and stabilized the boat ramp slaps at the West Boat Ramp at Big Creek Lake.

Replaced all fire grates at Hidden Lakes Campground.

PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES PLANNED FOR NEXT YEAR

Campgrounds and Day-Use Areas:

The Recreation Facility Master Plan identified 11 campground/day-use sites to be closed in the next 5 years to free up funding to operate the remainder to a higher level of service. \$100,000+ of funds will go toward reducing the backlog of maintenance projects each year for the next 14 years.

For 2006, parking barriers at all of the campgrounds on the Douglas District will be replaced, as time allows. The fence around Curtis Gulch Campground will be extended around the creek and shored up around the cattleguard to assure the cattle stay out. The fence around Friend Park Campground will be extensively repaired, as well as the cattleguard, again, to keep the cattle out. Other projects, as time allows, will include repairing and re-staining any signs or kiosks at the campgrounds, as well as the toilet buildings.

Construction of amphitheatre at Vedauwoo Recreation Area.

Christmas Tree Program:

Tree permits will be available at additional locations. The interpretive program will be enhanced. Cutting sites will be reviewed for impacts.

Rental Cabins:

2-3 additional cabins will be available for rental in 2006. Funding will continue to go towards reduction of deferred maintenance projects.

Recreation Special Use Permits:

Funding will be available to increase field presence at permitted sites. Improvements will be completed to enhance visitor use and understanding of the program. Plans include trail improvements, site restoration, trailhead improvements, and improved signing.

HAVE YOU REVIEWED/UPDATED THE CRIA? NO YES

HOW WERE RESULTS MONITORED AGAINST BUSINESS/COMMUNICATION/CRIA PLAN OBJECTIVES?

WAS THE BUSINESS PLAN MODIFIED THIS YEAR? NO YES (DESCRIBE BELOW)