



# Eldorado National Forest

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2021

### Storm-Damaged Bridge Repair



*Repaired Chappell Bridge heading into Desolation Wilderness*

The Chappell Bridge on the Wright Meadow Trail, in the Desolation Wilderness, sustained significant damage from the overly abundant snowfall recorded during the winter of 2018-2019. Though the supporting steel I-beam structure remained intact, several of the planks and rails collapsed.

American Conservation Experience interns and forest staff replaced broken planks and the entire deck received other repairs including treatment with wood stain. Additionally, seven hazard trees that posed a risk of falling on the bridge were safely dropped in a different direction. The work was supported by a variety of funding sources, including recreation fee funding which paid for materials in the amount of \$2,195.

### Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

### Long Awaited Access to Red Peak

Forest interns and staff cleared dozens of trees that fell due to a large wind event from a quarter mile section of the Red Peak Trail in the Desolation Wilderness. The trail was hazardous and impassable through this section causing user created trails resulting in resource damage. The crew spent three days bucking out 36 trees and improving the route, so it was safe and passable for the public. This helps maintain the trail corridor, keep visitors safe, and protects the resource. Due to this route now being passable, the Backcountry Horseman were able to provide packing support for tools and water to the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps worksite.

*Upper Red Peak Trail in Desolation Wilderness – American Conservation Experience crew and forest staff*



### Van Vleck Receives a Facelift

Van Vleck Bunkhouse, a popular recreation rental, received new paint inside and out. Forest staff completed the work using recreation fee funds in the amount of \$1,600 to purchase materials.

- New paint for the interior walls (walls were stained due to years of propane light usage indoors)
- New paint for the exterior of the bunkhouse
- New paint for the vault toilet
- New stain for the front and back entrances of the deck



*Van Vleck Bunkhouse and Deck Repainted*

## Other Accomplishments

- Administered outfitter and guide permits.
- Hosted two motorcycle endurance races and one equestrian ride, one mountain bike event, a foot race event and a handcart re-enactment event.
- Maintain water systems, permit fees and repairs, including several attempts to repair the water system at Dru Barber Campground.
- Dismantled illegal fire rings and restored illegal campsites in Desolation Wilderness.
- Conducted campsite inventory and encounter monitoring in Desolation Wilderness.
- Compliance patrols conducted in Desolation and Mokelumne Wilderness Area.
- Maintained and repaired cabins and lookout rentals. This included pest control, painting, and minor repairs. Janitorial, bathroom, and propane services were put on hold.
- The Christmas Tree Program was 100% on-line at Recreation.gov website. Updated digital information including our cutting area maps and Quick Response code.
- Staffed the visitor information center for the Desolation Wilderness. Forest staff provides permits, issues overnight permits to walk in customers, and provides trip planning information to the public.



Silver Lake looking at Thunder Mountain

## Contacts

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## Regional Map



USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$108,147	\$8,921,596
Special Uses	\$3,686	\$977,102
Interagency Passes	\$1,880	\$102,752
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$113,713</b>	<b>\$10,001,450</b>
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$142,577	\$3,499,145
Visitor Services	\$92,000	\$2,921,425
Law Enforcement	\$70,329	\$272,025
Habitat Restoration	\$1,595	\$231,339
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$1,208
Collections/Overhead	\$0	\$382,632
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$306,501</b>	<b>\$7,307,774</b>

\*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and upcoming startup costs.