

# Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2021

### Working inside the Desolation Wilderness with Volunteers

Despite a nearby wildfire, the Caldor Fire that ravaged tens of thousands of acres, most of the scenic lands inside Desolation Wilderness remained magically untouched and pristine. The area attracted thousands of hikers and campers each week throughout the summer and early fall seeking the freedom and enjoyment of this 100 square mile natural area. A place to escape both the smokey skies from a burning forest and offer a sense of freedom and enjoyment in this popular recreation fee site.

This special Wilderness area received the love and protection of firefighters, forest staff and volunteers.

Volunteers donated thousands of hours cutting downed trees out that had fallen over popular trails after windstorms blasted through the Sierras; educating our visitors about the importance of caring for a Wilderness; maintaining trails and suppressing small wildfires that did occur; and most importantly, striving to preserve the natural environment inside Desolation Wilderness in 2021.

### 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.



*Eagle Falls Trailhead to Desolation Wilderness*

Forest provided additional sanitation and refuse services at our most popular trailhead area.

Resource conditions were aggressively monitored throughout the field season, both fire status monitoring, along with any resource impacts from more than 200,000 visitors, in 2021.

Endless miles of trails inside the Desolation were brushed and cleared of fallen trees by our dedicated volunteers throughout the summer season. It was a challenging year.



*Wilderness Ranger working to cut-out an old tree that had fallen across a popular trail inside the Desolation Wilderness.*

## Other Accomplishments

- Maintained a high-quality Wilderness experience.
- Supported thousands of hours of donated volunteer time in 2021 protecting and preserving the Desolation Wilderness.
- Provided COVID-19 awareness advisory messages and posters to our visitors inside the Desolation. Their safety was emphasized throughout the year.
- Worked with the public to encourage more bear awareness actions on their part. Recommending all Desolation campers carry bear food canisters with them.
- Worked with partners such as Great Basin Institute to provide Wilderness support.
- Supported our safety awareness outreach to the public, such as wildfire awareness in the region along with virus precautions.



*View of Mt. Tallac, a scenic part of the Desolation Wilderness overlooking Lake Tahoe*

## Regional Map



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



*View of the Heart of the Desolation Wilderness*

## Contacts

### Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Recreation Fee Program Contact

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## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$339,562	\$8,921,596
Special Uses	\$28,530	\$977,102
Interagency Passes	\$1,940	\$102,752
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$370,032</b>	<b>\$10,001,450</b>
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$12,662	\$3,499,145
Visitor Services	\$46,440	\$2,921,425
Law Enforcement	\$0	\$272,025
Habitat Restoration	\$821	\$231,339
Fee Agreements	\$1,208	\$1,208
Collections/Overhead	\$3,104	\$382,632
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$64,235</b>	<b>\$7,307,774</b>

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