



Inyo National Forest

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

Keeping Bears Wild and Visitors Happy

Bears roam most of the forest and when seen by a visitor, they are often the highlight of memorable vacation.

Unfortunately, bears love human food and become quickly addicted.

The forest has 90 campgrounds and 62 wilderness trailheads, all of which are in beautiful natural settings that are homes to bears.

The forest has long provided bear proof food storage lockers at trailheads and campsites so that visitors can secure food while they are out exploring. In 2017, placed 30 bear proof food storage lockers, at a cost of \$25,000 of recreation fee funds. These new lockers replaced old or broken ones and added to the available lockers at popular trailheads and campsites.



ACE Crew Rocks

In 2017, the American Conservation Experience (ACE), a non-profit organization that provides a range of voluntary service programs, partnered with the forest to provide resource management work experience to young adults. The three-person ACE crew, supported by \$78,000 recreation fee dollars, completed over 100 miles of important trail maintenance work.

This crew was also able to work with other volunteer groups and installed a new trail bridge on Big Pine Creek.

Clearing trees from trails



Excelling at Visitor Services

With iconic destinations like Mt. Whitney, the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest, and Mono Lake, the forest strives to provide excellent recreation information and quality experiences for visitors. About \$70,000 of recreation fee funds provided four additional temporary employees who helped provide faster service for obtaining permits, provided quality visitor information, led interpretive walks in the Bristlecone Pine forest, patrolled wilderness and repaired signs, and cleaned restrooms.



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.



Forest Service

Other Accomplishments

- Removed ten large hazardous trees from eight campgrounds to protect infrastructure and provide visitor safety.
- Replaced Big Pine Wilderness Trailhead kiosk and two interpretive signs that were damaged by heavy winter snow.
- Reconstructed White Mountain Queen Canyon Trailhead visitor kiosk that was crushed by vegetation.
- Staffed and patrolled the Mt. Whitney Trail providing wilderness information and search and rescue support.
- Removed hundreds of pounds of human waste and trash from the Mt. Whitney trail.
- Purchased and distributed 25,000 'Wag" bags for use on the Mt. Whitney trail, for packing out human waste.
- Administered and monitored outfitting and guiding special use permits - including fishing guides, mountain guides, pack stations, and shuttle services.
- Provided additional staffing to Mammoth Welcome Center, Mono Basin, Schulman Grove and the Eastern Sierra Visitor Centers.
- Staffed year-round wilderness permit information office that provides trip planning assistance, visitor information, and wilderness stewardship education in partnership with adjacent forests and national parks. Issued over 23,000 wilderness permits to 70,000 visitors, forest-wide.
- Coordinated and supported three volunteer trail projects.
- Purchased and installed four vault toilets at popular OHV campgrounds

Regional Map



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



North Fork of Big Pine Creek, John Muir Wilderness

Contacts

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Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$1,041,594	\$8,820,731
Special Uses	\$177,140	\$1,208,449
Interagency Passes	\$93,774	\$802,500
Total	\$1,312,508	\$10,831,679
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$420,557	\$4,724,634
Visitor Services	\$656,680	\$2,426,694
Law Enforcement	\$11,375	\$257,003
Habitat Restoration	\$0	\$32,340
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$33,584
Collections/Overhead	\$60,000	\$791,294
Total	\$1,148,612	\$8,265,549

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