



Recreation Fee Demonstration Program Stakeholders Report

USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Region February 2001

Summary of Accomplishments

Some of the significant accomplishments made possible with your fees are as follows:

Trails

Nearly 3,000 miles of trail were maintained or reconstructed. Debris was removed, drainage improved to prevent erosion, and hazard or downed trees removed. Run down bridges were repaired and new ones installed.

Facilities

New restrooms were installed and existing facilities were cleaned more often. Nearly 200 picnic tables were replaced. Trash and litter pickup was increased.

Safety

Trailhead security was improved. Climbing route and trail patrols were increased.

Information

Additional informational signs and bulletin boards were installed, repaired and maintained. Interpretive facilities were maintained and staffed. Hundreds of interpretive programs were offered and attended by thousands of visitors.



Recreation Fee Demonstration Project

Greetings!

Snow capped peaks; clear, rushing streams; towering forests; wildflower flecked meadows; abundant fish and wildlife; and a rugged fog shrouded coast define, draw, and hold us to the Pacific Northwest. More than 25 million acres of national forest lands in Washington and Oregon provide ready access to a diverse array of recreation - all at our back door.

In the past decade, recreation use on national forests in Washington and Oregon has increased as much as 40 percent. While recreation use is exploding, funding and staffing to manage our recreation resources have decreased more than 40 percent.

In this equation of growing use and declining resources, many facilities are run down, our trails are reverting to forest, and the road system that provides recreation access is falling apart. Overuse in too many areas is signaled by eroding trails and campsites, trampled vegetation, degraded water quality, growing problems with litter, and reduced opportunities for solitude.

Significant social and economic benefits are associated with the recreation that occurs on national forest system lands. As a major contributor to the Northwest economy - this asset requires some investment.

We are doing all we can to leverage limited appropriated resources to meet the needs of recreationists while maintaining the health of your lands.

One of many tools we are using to stretch limited resources is the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program. Authorized by Congress in 1996 as a pilot effort, this program allows us to keep and reinvest recreation receipts directly back into the recreation facilities and sites from which they came. In 2000, we received 6.5 million dollars. One hundred percent of these receipts remain in this region, 80 percent goes to improve recreation opportunities on the forest where the fees were collected.

As you read through this report, you will see how your participation in the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program has been a true investment in your national forests. Funds from the program are making a real difference in sustaining the quality of the natural environment and maintaining recreation facilities such as roads, trailheads, parking areas, toilets, trails, and visitor services.

See you on the trail!

Harv Forsgren

Regional Forester



Recreation doesn't exist as an island; rather it must exist in harmony with the natural resource and social systems framing it...

Harv Forsgren

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Stakeholders Report

Published by the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region for the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program to provide information regarding program accomplishments for fiscal year 2000.

Margot Bucholtz
Writer-Editor, Design

Cheri Ziebart,
Graphic Design

We Want To Hear From You!

If you would like to be on our mailing list or send us comments, please send your name, address, phone number and email address to:

Jocelyn Biro
Fee Demonstration Coordinator
USDA Forest Service
Pacific Northwest Regional Office
333 SW 1st Avenue
Portland, OR 97208
503-808-2411
jbiro@fs.fed.us

Laurie Thorpe
Asst. Program Coordinator
503-808-2427
lathorpe@fs.fed.us

Northwest Forest Pass

In response to comments and suggestions from you, we initiated the Northwest Forest Pass program. This pass is honored at over 1,000 national forest sites across the Pacific Northwest. This program consolidates the following different projects/passes into one.

If You Have Used Any of These Passes:

Mount St. Helens
National Volcanic Monument
and
Mount Margaret
Backcountry Camping
and Monument Pass

Deschutes National Forest
including Lava Lands Visitor Center
and Lava River Cave

Wenatchee National Forest

Okanogan National Forests

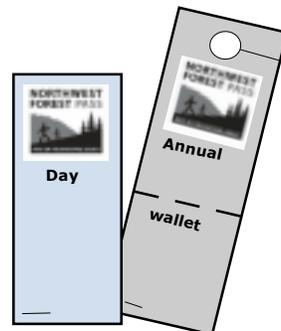
Siuslaw National Forest

Cougar Recreation Area

Heather Meadows

Trail Park

Now You Can Use Your Northwest Forest Pass



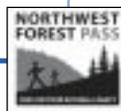
For Your Convenience

Northwest Forest Passes are available at all Forest Service offices

North Cascades
National Park Service
Complex

in addition to

*more than 240 vendors
throughout Oregon
and Washington*



call:

1-800-270-7504

visit our web site

www.naturenw.org

Your Fees at Work in Washington

The following list highlights accomplishments for the year 2000. Not all fees collected this season were expended; some will be used for projects and staffing in 2001 and beyond.

Olympic National Forest

Ken Eldredge 360-956-2323

Maintained/reconstructed 108 miles of trail

Maintained/repared 16 campgrounds, nine developed sites, and additional dispersed recreation areas

Additional campground improvement projects are planned pending an agreement with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Amount collected in 2000:
\$ 276,900

Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument

(Gifford Pinchot National Forest)

Dave Porter 360-891-5013

Funded operations and maintenance for two months at Mount St. Helens Visitor Center and six months at the Johnston Ridge Observatory

Facilities remained open rather than being closed or reducing services

Provided visitors with multiple daily interpretive programs at three visitor centers and two interpretive sites

Maintained recreation facilities throughout the Monument

Provided daily restroom maintenance
Provided security, resource protection and climber safety patrols of the Monitor Ridge climbing route three to four days/week

Amount collected in 2000: \$ 1,440,800

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

(across North Cascades National Park Service complex) Terry DeGrow 425-744-3400

Cleared more than 700 miles of trail, brushed 350 miles, completed 100 miles of surface repair, and 200 miles of erosion work

Constructed boardwalks

Provided daily staffing and maintenance of visitor center

Presented 180 interpretive programs

Provided maintenance for picnic areas, self-guided interpretive trails, and toilet facilities

Provided maintenance at trailheads
Prepared Suiattle Guard Station for rental and began renting

Amount collected in 2000: \$ 680,300

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests

Vladimir Steblina 509-662-4335

Maintained toilets and provided trash pickup at dispersed campsites

Funded two campground maintenance positions for the summer

Constructed new bridge on Sculpture Rock Trail

Provided trail maintenance for 355 miles of trail

Rehabilitated 10 miles of trail

Installed new toilet at trailhead

Installed hitching rails at four trailheads

Installed wooden walkway (puncheon) at Deception Pass Trail

Amount collected in 2000: \$ 632,300

Colville National Forest

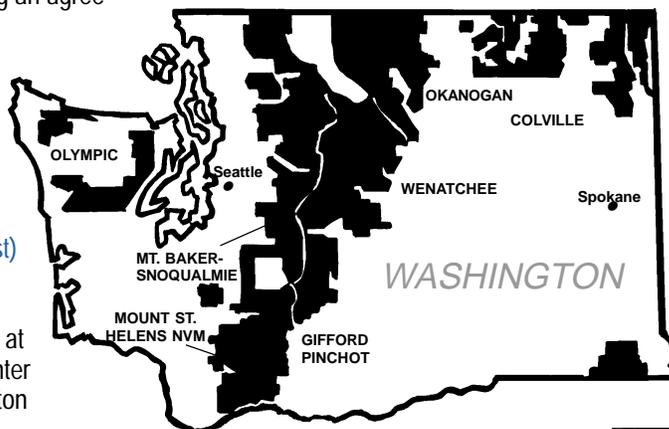
Rod Smolden 509-684-7000

Graded and surfaced campground roads

Installed three-panel visitor information boards

Installed onsite fee collection boxes
Funds collected at a boat launch site in 2000 will be used in 2001

Amount collected in 2000: \$ 13,800



Gifford Pinchot National Forest

Dave Porter 360-891-5013

Completed building repairs on Recreational Lodging cabin - Peterson Prairie

Increased maintenance, security, and compliance patrols at 175 fee sites

Identified and cleared hazard trees
Posted fee signs at sites and access roads

Increased compliance, and safety patrols
Added 24 vendors to sell passes

Amount collected in 2000: \$ 395,700



A trail worker puts finishing touches on a new trailhead.

Did you know...

That a new single person toilet purchased and installed costs \$15,000-17,000. The cost of pumping a toilet is between \$450 - \$600 depending upon the distance to a waste facility. Costs increase when there is trash in the toilet.

Your Fees at Work in Oregon

Siuslaw National Forest

Mike Harvey 541-750-7046

Operated and staffed Cape Perpetua Interpretive Center
Funded noxious weed control at the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area
Funded toilet remodel and health and safety improvements in 19 campgrounds
Maintained/operated day use sites
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 1,040,900

Willamette National Forest

Mike Harvey 541-750-7046

Installed a new accessible toilet
Replaced 12 picnic tables
Completed a new well
Provided new roof, insulation and chinking at two cabins
Replaced catwalk and railing at lookout
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 236,700

Umpqua National Forest

Jamie Stone 541-957-3349

Refinished/replaced 80 picnic tables
Monitored endangered species site
Held evening campfire programs
Refinished amphitheater benches
Increased law enforcement presence
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 311,100

Siskiyou National Forest

Jim Heck 541-471-6520

Increased trash collection in camp grounds from three days/week to daily
Increased number of porta-toilets
Added a potable water spigot at River Bar Campground
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 168,500

Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Stan Hinatsu 541-308-1708

Funded two seasonal trail patrol employees - increased public contact, law enforcement and security, routine trailhead maintenance
Maintained 35 miles of trail
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 311,800

Mt. Hood National Forest

Cecil Dewing 501-668-1792

Maintained 147 miles of trail
Maintained 58 trailheads
Installed four trail information signs
Replaced two seasonal bridges
Purchased toilet for installation in 2001



Amount collected in 2000: \$ 201,500

Deschutes National Forest

Mark Christiansen 541-383-5571

Maintained 251 miles of trail
Removed 1,460 down trees
Installed two self serve pay stations
Installed one portable toilet
Repaired damage caused by vandalism
Removed graffiti from Lava Cave walls
Amount collected in 2000: \$336,000

Fremont National Forest

Barry Shullanberger 541- 947-6359

Added 20 post parking barriers
Maintained and administered six recreation and cabin rentals
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 18,300

Rogue River National Forest

Jim Heck 541-471-6520

Constructed 30 feet of boardwalk
Replaced worn out signs at trailheads
Installed new horse watering troughs
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 47,000

Umatilla National Forest

Tommy Fulgham 541-278-3719

Installed new interpretive facility
Maintained and administered eight historic recreational rental cabins
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 37,600

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest

Dan Ermovick 541-523-1250

Repaired three campground bridges
Repaired five restrooms
Repaired 1,000 feet of campground road
Completed 185 miles of heavy trail maintenance
Installed eight new trail signs
Installed four hitching racks
Installed historic logging exhibit
Reprinted 1,000 copies of recreation area hiking and activity guide
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 84,300

Malheur National Forest

Carole Holly 541-575-3026

Maintained and administered Allison "cook house" rental cabin - one of seven historic buildings in the complex
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 38,800

Ochoco National Forest

Laurel Skelton 541-416-6500

Replaced six picnic tables with accessible tables
Installed two accessible cooking/fire rings
Replaced site posts
Amount collected in 2000: \$ 18,000

Did you know. . .

The cost of routine trail maintenance ranges from \$420 - \$1,300 per mile. Routine maintenance includes clearing trails and cleaning water bars. Costs increase when trail bridges have to be repaired or reconstructed or when trails require additional maintenance due to erosion, heavy use or blowdown.

Pacific Northwest Region Fees Collected & Cost of Collection

<u>Project</u>	<u>Forest</u>	<u>Northwest Forest Pass</u>	<u>Total Collected</u>	<u>Cost of Collection</u>	<u>% of total revenue used to collect fees</u>
1 Mount St. Helens National Volcanic Monument	Gifford Pinchot Washington		\$1,440,800	\$19,100	1 %
2 Siuslaw Oregon Dunes	Siuslaw Oregon		\$342,500	\$52,500	15 %
3 Newberry Crater National Volcanic Monument	Deschutes Oregon		\$12,900	\$4,200	33 %
4 Trail Park Pass	14 National Forests in the Pacific Northwest		\$339,700	\$28,200	8%
5 Heather Meadows	Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Washington		\$47,800	\$12,500	26%
6 Okanogan Parking Pass	Okanogan Washington		\$3,000	0	0
7 Wenatchee Recreation	Wenatchee Washington		\$264,900	\$24,700	9%
8 Cougar Recreation Area	Willamette Oregon		\$40,900	\$7,000	17%
9 North Umpqua Basin	Umpqua Oregon		0	0	0
10 Rogue Wild & Scenic River	Siskiyou Oregon		\$94,900	\$10,400	11%
11 Regional Camping	12 National Forests in the Pacific Northwest		\$976,100	\$111,300	11%
12 Multnomah Falls	Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area		\$227,000	\$1,800	1%
13 Golden Passport Sales	Region-wide		\$188,800	\$200	0
14 Recreation Lodging Program	9 National Forests in the Pacific Northwest		\$94,800	\$7,300	8%
15 Cascade Climbing	Gifford Pinchot Washington		\$67,800	\$3,200	5%
16 Northwest Forest Pass			\$2,115,300	\$115,800	5%
17 CG Safety Net			\$49,000	\$3,500	7%
18 Heritage Expeditions			\$16,900	\$500	3%
19 National Reservation System			223,000	28,400	13%
Totals			\$6,546,100	\$430,600	6.6%



Logo indicates inclusion into the Northwest Forest Pass

Stretching Your Dollars

Thank-you Volunteers and Partners

Thanks to all of our partners and the hundreds of volunteers including (but not limited to):

Backcountry Horseman Association

■
Mountaineers

■
Washington Trails Association

■
Northwest Interpretive Association

■
Oregon Equestrian Trails

who "gave back" to the national forest. You contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars in both time and materials. Your contributions are significant. You cleared, repaired and reconstructed hundreds of miles of trail, served as hosts and fire lookouts, and provided information.

Did You Know . . .

There are many opportunities to volunteer on your national forest?

You could be working in visitor information, campgrounds or trails or a Passport in Time archaeology project. Whatever your interest and skill level, there may be a volunteer position just for you!

Visit your local forest to find out more about volunteer contributions and how you can help.

Thank-you!

Recreation Fees

Recreation Fees alone are not enough to pay for everything that needs to be done and with a 41 million dollar backlog of work, it won't happen overnight. Fee revenues vary year to year depending on weather, economy, and visitor interest. We stretch congressionally appropriated dollars as much as possible using fee dollars, volunteers, grants, and partners to complete projects to improve your recreation experience.

Volunteers Make Significant Contributions

Fees generated on the **Gifford Pinchot National Forest** were used to support 3,300 hours of volunteer time. They completed 43.6 miles of trail brushing and tread maintenance. Fees collected on the **Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest** were utilized to support 50,000 hours of volunteer labor valued at over \$600,000.

Doubling Dollars

Fees generated from the Recreation Fee Demonstration Project were doubled when used as "matching" dollars for grant resources, such as Interagency Committee grant, and others that require matching dollars.

Siskiyou National Forest constructed a new trailhead when fee demo dollars were combined with Capital Improvement dollars.

Umpqua National Forest purchased boat docks for Diamond Lake and Lemolo Lake with Fee Demo and Marine Board Partnership.

Wallowa-Whitman National Forest repaired three campground bridges, five restrooms, and 1,000 feet of campground road. Used Youth Conservation Corps crew for trail maintenance. Reprinted 1,000 copies of recreation area hiking and activity guide.

Gifford Pinchot National Forest funded two Off Road Vehicle Trail Rangers through a state grant to perform Off Road Vehicle education and law enforcement.

Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forests used funds to match a Washington Interagency Committee grant to support trail programs.



Trail maintenance work is performed by a volunteer.



A volunteer installs an interpretive sign.

We Are Listening

Your Comments Make a Difference

As the Recreation Fee Demonstration Project enters its fifth year, we value your comments and appreciate the interest you have taken in your national forests. We have actively requested comments from visitors, focus groups and through comment cards. We have used this feedback to improve the program each year.

Here are some of the more frequent comments we received.

The recreation fee denies low income families access to public lands.

It is our responsibility to ensure that everyone has access to public lands—regardless of income. This is why there are thousands of non-fee areas open to the public. Throughout the year, there are “free days” at Recreation Fee sites. Golden Age Passport (62 years of age and older) are accepted and reduce the cost of a Northwest Forest Pass by 50 percent.



There are too many passes. Make one pass for all public lands.

In 2000, we developed the Northwest Forest Pass, consolidating eight different projects into one. In 2001, The Mount St. Helens Climbing Pass will become part of the Cascade Volcano Pass.

I'm already paying taxes - why do I have to pay additional fees?

Visitor use in the last decade has increased as much as 40 percent. Meanwhile, staffing and Congressionally appropriated funding for recreation decreased by 40 percent. This does not cover the cost of maintaining restrooms, trails, picnic areas, campgrounds, and providing security.

Recreation Fees enable us to maintain and improve visitor services. Additionally, we are stretching funds through volunteers, partners, and grant opportunities.

I want to see my money returned to the forest.

The strength of this program is that 80 percent of the money stays on the forest.

A bridge on the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest was reconstructed after heavy winter snow caused the existing bridge to collapse.



Accessibility Improved

Funds from the Fee Demonstration Program help to improve accessibility for everyone. It is important that our sites are accessible for everyone to experience, regardless of physical abilities. The **Ochoco National Forest** replaced six picnic tables with accessible tables and installed two accessible cooking/fire rings. The **Willamette National Forest** installed a new accessible toilet. The **Siuslaw National Forest** installed an accessible viewing platform. Expect to see more projects that improve accessibility in the future.



Viewing platforms and boardwalks improve accessibility to National Forest lands.



Looking Ahead

Each year we evaluate this program and set priorities on how best to spend the fee collections.

Our priorities for the upcoming year:

- Provide staffing and support for information centers and programs
- Increase the frequency of toilet cleaning and maintenance.
- Maintain trails - this includes clearing fallen trees, surface repair, and erosion control.
- Increased security and safety patrols at trailheads and trails.



Recreation Fee Demonstration Project

*Your fees
at work*

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USDA Forest Service
