

The Recreation Enhancement Act

Recreation fees – it is your money and you should know what happens to it. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) authorized in December 2004, recognized this and required all agencies to share accomplishments that occur on recreation fee sites.

Because of REA, each Forest now retains 95% of the funds collected. Of that, at least 80% is used to help improve and maintain the facilities and services that visitors use and expect.

Fee dollars may only be spent on recreation facilities or services where a fee is charged. In the past we have heard that people would like to see fees spent on clean recreation sites, well-maintained roads and trails, friendly helpful employees, and safety and security at recreation sites.

The Salmon-Challis National Forest collects fees for recreation use on the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon Rivers in the Frank Church-River of No Return Wilderness. Fees from lottery applications and permits are used to improve the services provided for users of the Middle Fork and the Main Salmon Rivers. The non-refundable lottery application fee is \$6/application; if granted a permit, the Forest charges a \$4 per-person, per-day user fee. Season Passes entitle the pass holder to float the Middle Fork and/or Main Salmon Rivers without further payment for one year from the date of purchase.

Fees collected at the campgrounds and cabin rentals help pay for maintenance of that site, firewood at the cabins, and providing recreation guards to keep the sites clean.

Dollars	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Spent	\$74,493	\$434,942	\$273,984	\$572,600	\$556,952	\$534,769	\$575,019	\$700,082	\$801,860
Collected	\$547,346	\$501,722	\$537,000	\$567,100	\$648,785	\$526,259	\$743,086	\$740,682	\$737,173

INCOME - FY2007	
Program	
South Zone Developed Sites	\$15,569.00
North Zone Developed Sites and Campgrounds	\$11,510.00
River Private Day Use Fees	\$456,922.00
Lottery Application Fees	\$139,360.00
total fees plus O/G estimates	\$737,173.00

Projects funded over the years since fee collection was authorized include:
 (these reports took many forms over the years, and have been brought forward in their original format)

Fee Demo Project*	2002	2001	2000	1999
Indian Creek Airstrip Maintenance	0	0	\$9,529	0
Vinegar Creek Maintenance	0	\$244	0	0
Carey/Vinegar Construction	\$306	\$30,682	\$78,076	0
SCAT Machine Repairs	\$10,293	\$7,219	\$7,234	\$5,900
Indian Creek Toilet	0	\$2,807	\$49,147	0
Stoddard Trailhead Toilet Replacement	0	0	\$39,145	0
River Lottery	\$59,614	\$52,019	\$92,718	\$55,200
River Patrol	\$208,222	\$39,516	\$57,369	0
Launch Site Maintenance	\$79,016	\$48,562	\$29,554	0
Weed Eradication	\$105,403	\$46,141	\$6,506	0
Campsite restoration	\$1,796	\$661	0	0
River Road Maintenance	\$44,038	0	0	0
Native American Interpreters	\$19,316	\$38,000	\$38,908	0
Compliance	\$9,458	0	0	\$6,500
Vendor Reimbursements	\$33,884	\$8,133	\$7,972	\$6,893
Refunds (fire Closures)	0	0	\$18,784	0
<i>Total Spent</i>	\$572,600	\$273,984	\$434,942	\$74,493
<i>Total Collected</i>	\$567,100	\$537,000	\$501,722	\$547,346

2003

- processed 20,000 river lottery applications for the 4-rivers lottery program.
- River maps, permit and campsite reservation and river lottery and information website updates
- River Ranger presence increased by 40%, monitoring O/G services, campsite restoration and monitoring, river regulation enforcement activities
- Historic cabin restoration, monitoring heritage resources, 3000 acres of noxious weed treatment, search and rescue-medivac operation assistance,, youth and service partnership support
- Backlog maintenance at one boat ramp, maintenance at 4 launch sites, SCAT machine maintenance, Free SCAT machine service for human waste disposal, garbage and recycling services
- Road maintenance, emergency evac and road repair
- New construction of a fully accessible comfort station/rest room facility
- Road maintenance on 70 miles of access roads, including grading and dust abatement, Improvement to backcountry airstrip
- Operation and maintenance of river portals at 3 campgrounds and 2 trailheads.

2004

- Daily fee changed from \$5.00/person/day to \$4.00 with season pass alternatives at \$40.00 down from \$50.00.
- processed 20,000 river lottery applications for the 4-rivers lottery program.
- River maps, permit and campsite reservation and river lottery and information website updates
- River Ranger presence provided, monitoring O/G services, campsite restoration and monitoring, river regulation enforcement activities
- Routine maintenance at 5 river launch sites, three campgrounds 3 access roads and two SCAT machines, Free use of 2 SCAT machines, and cost share garbage collection
- Backlog maintenance at one historic cabin site
- Planning and design work at two river launch sites
- Noxious weed treatment
- Purchased and installed new jetboat docks at Corn Creek launch site

2005

Project Name	\$ spent in FY2005
Noxious weed eradication	\$112,499
Boundary Creek Road reconstruction	\$100,000
Permit Lottery	\$87,121
Portal Site Maintenance	\$71,285
River Patrol	\$59,828
Access Road Maintenance	\$45,093
Launch Site Improvement Planning	\$30,274
Permit Compliance and collection	\$15,164
Middle Fork Flow Gauge	\$11,500
Idaho County Garbage collection	\$10,000
Historic structure stabilization	\$8,149
American Indian Interpreters	\$7,436
SCAT machines (human waste)	\$7,298
Vendor payments (O/G's 4%)	\$6,396
Stoddard Changing Room	\$1,886
Trash bags for boaters	\$1,008
Spring Bar Ramp Gauge	\$82
<i>total</i>	\$575,019

2006

The forest continued with:

- treating noxious weeds in the high use Main and Middle Fork Salmon River corridors and around campsites;
- two river patrols on both the Main and Middle Fork rivers (about 30 total patrol rotations);
- trail maintenance, emergency repairs and limited reconstruction on the mainline Middle Fork trail system, the trail from Boundary Creek boat ramp to the Dagger Falls fish ladder and two of the main portal trails to the river corridor (about 100 miles total);
- piloted a successful program to issue small contracts to outfitters to complete trail maintenance and clearing on specific trails;
- continued the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes native American interpreter program;
- provided checkers at both of the main river portals at Corn Creek and Boundary Creek who assign campsites, provide an interpretive and safety introduction to the rivers, continue the agreement with USGS for operation of the Middle Fork gauge;
- operation of the 4-River Lottery for the main and Middle Fork Salmon rivers, the Selway and Hells Canyon;
- operation and maintenance of 2 SCAT machines, one each at the upper and lower end of the Main Salmon access portals

2007

The forest provided:

- treating noxious weeds in the high use Main and Middle Fork Salmon River corridors and around campsites;
- two river patrols on both the Main and Middle Fork rivers
- contract for the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes native American interpreter program;
- provided checkers at both of the main river portals at Corn Creek and Boundary Creek who assign campsites, provide an interpretive and safety introduction to the rivers,
- the agreement with USGS for operation of the Middle Fork gauge;
- operation of the 4-River Lottery for the main and Middle Fork Salmon rivers, the Selway and Hells Canyon;
- operation and maintenance of 2 SCAT machines, one each at the upper and lower end of the Main Salmon access portals
- re-introduced Magnesium Chloride (dust palliative) treatment on the Main Salmon River Road and Boundary Creek roads
- Planning and design for Salmon River Sites on the Nez Perce NF – Carey Creek, Vinegar Creek, Spring Bar, and Wind River Trailhead.