



Forest Accomplishments

Deschutes National Forest

Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region

“Recreation fees continue to supplement appropriated funds and volunteer efforts in providing trail maintenance to protect our resources while providing quality hiking experiences for forest visitors as well as supporting 80% of operations and maintenance costs at Lava Lands Visitor Center and Lava River Cave in Newberry National Volcanic Monument,” Mark Christiansen, Recreation Fee Program Coordinator.

In 2003, the Deschutes National Forest completed another successful year with the Northwest Forest Pass project (NWFP). One of many projects in the National Recreation Fee Program, it continues to provide support, along with numerous volunteer efforts and Congressionally appropriated funds, in maintaining the 1800+ miles of trail on the Deschutes National Forest and keeping Lava Lands Visitor Center (LLVC) and Lava River Cave (LRC) open for as long as possible.

The Fees

The Deschutes National Forest received approximately \$518,000 from Northwest Forest Pass (\$490,000) and Golden Passport (\$28,000) recreation fees. Lava Lands Visitor Center and Lava River Cave within the Newberry National Volcanic Monument collected 45% of the fees or about \$231,000 (\$214,000 NWFP & \$17,000 Golden Passports). The remaining 55% or about \$287,000 (\$276,000 NWFP & \$11,000 Golden Passports) was collected from pass sales at commercial vendor sites, Self-Serve Pay Stations scattered throughout the National Forest and at Forest Service offices. Accepting Golden Passports for Northwest Forest Pass fee sites substantially increased Golden Passport sales.

Revenue collected at Newberry National Volcanic Monument LLVC, LLRC, Newberry Crater entrance station, and self-serve pay stations within the Monument are tracked and returned back to the Monument to provide interpreters, visitor services staff and to complete maintenance on buildings and trails. Approximately 80% of the total operations were funded with recreation fees.

All other collections (private vendors, self-serve pay stations, and Forest Service offices) are used to supplement appropriated funds to complete trail maintenance. In 2003, this amounted to approximately 40% of all available funds for trail maintenance.

Changes to the Northwest Forest Pass project in 2004

In an effort to standardize fee sites, the Forest Service has developed criteria that must be met before a recreation site can be considered a fee site. This criteria favors more highly used and developed day use recreation sites; shifting fee emphasis from moderate to low developed trailheads towards more highly developed boat launch and picnic sites.

As a result, fewer trailheads will be designated as NWFP sites and hence, less revenue available to supplement the trail maintenance program. Visitors will see a reduction in trail maintenance and an increase in funds available for maintenance of the boat launch and picnic sites. Be sure to review the 2004 Northwest Forest Pass Site Guide when available in Spring 2004 and see if your favorite recreation site requires a pass.

To help simplify the program and bring the Newberry National Volcanic Monument into more consistent fee management with other National Monuments, a pass will be required to enter any facility within the Monument. This includes Lava Lands Visitor Center, Lava River Cave, and any trailhead, picnic area, boat launch, scenic overlook, etc. within the Monument. The fee will be \$5.00/car or \$30.00 for an annual pass. The Northwest Forest Pass and all Golden Passports will be accepted for entrance into the Monument.

Thank you, your help makes a difference!

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Prepared by the Deschutes National Forest, Pacific Northwest Region, for the Recreation Fee Program to provide information regarding program accomplishments in 2003.

For More Information Contact:
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For more information on the web visit:

www.naturenw.org



The patio behind the Lava Lands Visitor Center offers visitors an opportunity to meet with a ranger for an interpretive program or to meet informally to learn more about the area.

Your Fees At Work

The Accomplishments:



Northwest Forest Pass - Trails

- 465 miles of trail and 86 trailheads maintained including 30 linear feet of puncheon and turnpike completed
- 47 Toilets cleaned 1 or more times/week plus 2 portable toilets at Black Butte trailhead; 5 toilets retrofitted and/or repaired at Hwy 58/Rosary Lake and Whitefish trailheads.
- 15 Youth employed for a total of 420 days to do trail maintenance
- 2 bridges repaired (1 on the Whitefish trail that crosses Whitefish Creek)
- 4 months of Forest Service presence at fee sites providing information, safety and compliance patrols



Northwest Forest Pass - Newberry National Volcanic Monument (NNVM)

Visitor services:

- Operated and maintained Lava Lands Visitor Center daily for general public 184 days; Lava River Cave Entrance and Information Station for 170 days and Newberry Entrance and Information Station for 142 days
- Provided daily maintenance for picnic and information and comfort facilities: 184 days at Benham Falls and Lava Butte day use sites and 104 days at Lava Cast Forest trailhead and 10-Mile day use sites
- Dedicated one Compliance Officer to NNVM for 140 days providing information, compliance checks and safety patrols
- Developed and distributed 30,000 copies of Volcanic Vistas Recreation and Information Guide
- Provided fire information to 1,851 visitors and media at Lava Butte Lookout during the 18 Road Fire in August
- Developed and delivered 660 formal interpretive talks and guided walks attended by 10,775 visitors; provided informal interpretation to 8,342 visitors
- Developed and delivered new naturalist guided tour at LRC for 60 days
- Hosted 5,244 total students (174 classrooms) at LLVC and 3,537 students (118 classrooms) at LRC
- Developed and delivered new curriculum to 1,552 students and 324 adults attending Pathway to Discovery spring and fall conservation education classes

Partnerships/Youth:

- Northwest Interpretive Association (NWIA), Mt. Bachelor, Inc, Wolfree, Inc, and AmeriCorps partnerships provided Project SNOW conservation education, mentored 1,541 students and 680 adults at LLVC and Mt. Bachelor Ski Area
- Expanded Northwest Interpretive Association partnership to include funding of the Branch Manager, two seasonal NWIA staff, one Forest Service interpretive naturalist and \$7,500 in direct project support
- Volunteers contributed 1,200 hours of service
- Developed a community partnership with the Archaeological Society of Central Oregon that provided 10 volunteer mentors and curriculum development support that facilitated the delivery of the Time, Tracks and Trails conservation education pilot project for 286 Central Oregon grade school students and 57 adults
- Expanded Mt. Bachelor Interpretive Partnership funding of the Project SNOW conservation education program
- Expanded Wolfree, Inc. conservation education partnership to include 38 days of direct staff support for student mentoring during Project SNOW and provided 224 hours of staff and intern support to Wolfree, Inc.'s ecology education programs in Central Oregon and at the Wildwood field study site
- Expanded Northwest Service Academy AmeriCorps program to included two conservation education interns who supported projects for 3,379 students and 680 adults during 3,400 hours of service.
- Supported Paulina Guard Station Information Center operation in partnership with High Lakes Contractors, Inc. for 140 days by providing information resources and publications
- Provided \$19,600 match to Heart of Oregon YCC grant that provided three trail maintenance youth crews to NNVM and reconditioned/repainted 26 large format, wooden information and interpretive signs at LLVC
- Supported two AmeriCorps conservation education interns, provided leadership development services to at-risk youth

Habitat restoration:

- Lava Lands Visitor Center Thinning and Fuels Reduction Project in partnership with district Fuels and Silviculture teams and the Oregon Youth Challenge Program. Removed 150 Ponderosa pine trees, thinned 8 acres surrounding LLVC
- Culvert cleaning and bank stabilization around the toilet at Windy Oldenburg trailhead

The Fees

Project Name	Total \$ Dollars
Northwest Forest Pass	\$ 490,000
Golden Passport	\$ 28,000