

Dear Friends:

This report outlines a 4-year summary and annual report of accomplishments for the White Mountain National Forest Recreation Fee Demonstration Program.

As we move into the 5th year of the demonstration program, Congress continues to debate user-generated fees to fund the services and repair facilities visitors require or expect on Federal lands.

In fiscal year 2000, the recreation fee program continued to generate an important source of revenue to help improve visitor services on the National Forest. Through the dedicated efforts of the annual and seasonal workforce, thousands of labor hours contributed to significant accomplishments. As a result of the fee program, hundreds of miles of trails were maintained, numerous facilities were repaired and opened, information was provided to thousands of visitors at our offices, and fish and wildlife habitat areas were maintained or improved. We think this work is important to the many people who use and enjoy the Forest.

The revenues from the parking pass program help meet the recreation and resource needs of the Forest and provide the services you expect when you visit the White Mountain National Forest. We would appreciate your comments and suggestions on this program to help us continue to improve it.

We hope your enjoyment of the White Mountain National Forest was enhanced by the accomplishments funded from the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program.

DONNA L. HEPP
Forest Supervisor

FY 2000 FEE DEMONSTRATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Accomplishments of the White Mountain National Forest's fiscal year 2000 Recreation Fee Demonstration Program.

ANDROSCOGGIN RANGER DISTRICT and EVANS NOTCH VISITOR CENTER

TRAILS

Eleven seasonal employees contributed a combined 350 days of work in basic trail maintenance, which includes patrol, logging, brushing, clearing and cleaning of water bars on hiking, cross country skiing and snowmobile trails across the District. These employees were able to maintain 171 miles of trail in fiscal year 2000.

DAY USE AREAS

Four seasonal employees managed 20 sites in Maine and New Hampshire as well as a developed campground (Crocker Pond) in Maine. In addition, these seasonal employees patrolled, maintained, and managed parking areas, dispersed campsites, roadside pullouts, picnic areas, and Forest roadways on the District. Winter work included management of three popular Wilderness and high use access sites. Maintenance at these sites included snowplowing, trailheads and packing and grooming of cross-country ski trails.

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Seasonal employees, funded by recreation fee revenues, provided a total of 185 days of one-on-one contact with 34,000 visitors at the Evans Notch and Androscoggin Ranger District offices during Fiscal Year 2000.

Staffed Memorial Day through Columbus Day with seasonal employees:

- ◆ Androscoggin Visitor Center - 6-7 days/week – 17,000 visitors/year
- ◆ Evans Notch Visitor Center - 6-7 days/week – 17,000 visitors/year
- ◆ AMC's Pinkham Notch Visitor Center - 4 days/week – 13,000 visitor contacts

Coordinated Campground Interpretive programs:

- ◆ 32 programs reaching 900 visitors

Participated in Community Events:

- ◆ 3 parades
- ◆ 4 fairs/festivals

Other activities included providing customer service to Forest visitors, sale of parking passes, dispensing of other printed materials such as maps, books and brochures, provide information about local attractions, served as radio dispatch and office receptionist, created and maintained interpretive materials and displays. In addition, ranger talks and children's programs at campgrounds were conducted throughout the summer while coordination and participation in various local parades, fairs, and celebrations were accomplished.

BACKCOUNTRY

Three seasonal employees provided 185 days of information and education on backcountry and Wilderness ethics, enforcement of forest protection areas, Alpine zones and other rules and regulations relative to the backcountry. They completed trailhead maintenance, signing and posting, general backcountry and wilderness patrol, backcountry site maintenance and repair, including shelter and platform sites, and management of backcountry toilet systems.

FACILITIES

The Community Partners Program funded a cooperative agreement between the Town of Stark New Hampshire, and the Forest Service to mow the wildlife opening at Camp Stark, a World War II German internment camp. The Community Partners Program was established to fund projects that mutually benefit local communities and the Forest. Projects must be implemented on National Forest land.

Completed Special Projects:

- ◆ Completed the construction of two visitor information kiosks in Gorham and Bethel
- ◆ Catalogued District slide show, slides, prints and organized library
- ◆ Updated, designed, and translated (into French) Recreation Opportunity Guides
- ◆ Assisted with backcountry patrol in Tuckerman Ravine
- ◆ Assisted with search and rescue operations

AMMONOOSUC AND PEMIGEWASSET RANGER DISTRICTS

TRAILS

Eight seasonal employees totaled 510 days of service and project accomplishments by completing 275 miles of trail maintenance on hiking and cross-country ski trails including day use areas.

DAY USE AREAS MAINTAINED

Seven employees were funded and provided a total of 757 days of day use area maintenance and visitor services including maintenance of approximately 40 trailheads, cleaning toilets, mowing grass, painting and minor repairs to improvements such replacing table boards etc., signing and posting, maintaining the fee stations, implementing the forest protection Area Program, enforcing roadside camping rules and roadside camping cleanup and signing.

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Five employees provided a total of 628 days of visitor information services at New Hampton, Waterville Valley Chamber of Commerce, White Mountain Attractions, and Lincoln Woods (year round). Support to guest services on Friday and Saturday evening was provided by enrollees in the Senior Citizen Employment Program. The Senior Citizen Employment Program is an employment program for people over the age of 55. These employees assist the Forest Service with natural resource work such as campground and administrative office maintenance and clerical services.

In addition, activities funded with all or part of fee demo revenues included information to Forest visitors, sale of parking passes, dispensing of other printed information such as maps, books and brochures and information about accommodations and attractions.



BACKCOUNTRY

Three backcountry/general forest area and 3 Wilderness rangers contributed a total of 555 days, providing information and education, enforcement of forest protection areas, and other rules and regulation, some trail maintenance, and reports of trail conditions.

The popular Rumney Rocks parking area received improvements by clearing and grubbing debris, removal of topsoil, improving drainage, installing parking guides and surfacing with gravel. Thirty-six additional spaces were created to provide safer access and parking opportunities at this site.



Mountain Pond Shelter

SACO RANGER DISTRICT

DAY USE AREAS

Seven employees contributed a total of 760 days on the Saco Ranger District. Through their efforts, 26 sites and approximately 65 trailheads were maintained using program revenues. Work included the cleaning and general maintenance of sites, such as mowing grass, painting and minor repairs to picnic tables, repairing and installing signs at information kiosks, picking up trash, enforcing roadside camping rules and roadside camping cleanup and signing.

Improvements were made at the popular Diana's Bath recreation site. The parking area was graveled and smoothed, a fee tube installed, and signs, including an entrance sign, were placed. Benches were installed along the main trail, a fence constructed around a parking lot island, .7 mile 6ft. wide accessible trail and a 40ft. accessibility bridge constructed.

TRAILS

Two hundred and eighty-nine miles of trail on the Saco received basic maintenance. Because of the volume of work, repeated trips were often necessary, requiring the crew to visit once for blow down removal, once for drainage cleaning, and again for bushing and blaze and cairn work.

BACKCOUNTRY

Five employees performed regular patrols in Wilderness and dispersed areas providing visitor information, enforcing Forest Service regulations, and maintaining backcountry shelter and tent sites including human waste composting. Work also included maintenance of trailhead and backcountry information and regulation signs, rehabilitation of illegal and high-impact campsites, and construction and repair projects on facilities. The outhouse at South Baldface shelter received a new roof, new vents, a cricket over the collector door, and a new lid on a composter. The roof at Flat Mountain Pond was repaired. The roof at Doublehead Cabin was repaired. A service project was facilitated with Outward Bound's Connecting with Courage program, extensive revegetation accomplished on four work projects at Sawyer Pond Shelter and tent site. Fifty-two miles of trail were surveyed for data entry into Forest inventory database. The cedar well cover below the summit of Mt. Carrigan was replaced.

VISITOR INFORMATION SERVICES

Revenues were used to provide services to 75,000 visitors to the Saco Ranger District visitor center. Visitors received information about camping, day use areas, the Kancamagus Scenic Byway, and surrounding area. Fee revenues also provided the staffing of the Russell Colbath House, and informal interpretation at recreation sites.



Recreation fee parking pass revenues fund trail maintenance and cleaning.



Community Partners Program fish screen installed to improve fishing opportunities at Virginia Lake in Maine

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