

## II. Accomplishments of the Program

### A. Interagency Coordination

The Fee Demo Program has facilitated an increased level of collaboration among the land management agencies. The collaborative efforts were discussed in detail in the April 2002 *Interim Evaluation Report*. The agencies have continued to coordinate on their fee policies and practices in a wide variety of ways and with many different types of entities. These collaborative efforts typically arise from site-specific conditions such as adjacent boundaries, similar recreation activities, or the desire to involve non-Federal entities in decisions affecting a particular site. A majority of these collaborative efforts have been successful, and the agencies continue to seek additional opportunities to work together.

Interagency coordination and consistency took an important step forward in FY 2002 with the establishment of the Recreational Fee Leadership Council (Council). The Council is co-chaired by the DOI's Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget and the USDA's Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment. The Council includes representatives from each of the Federal land management agencies at the Assistant Secretary or Under Secretary level, the agency heads (from NPS, FWS, BLM, and the USDA FS), and the legislative affairs directors from each agency. During FY 2002 the Council focused on legislative activities. In FY 2003, the Council plans to address a variety of issues including legislation, pass policies, program evaluation parameters, reporting and tracking mechanisms, cost of collection, and outreach.

Agency fee managers continued to use the Recreation Fee Demonstration Coordination Task Force to address interagency issues and coordinate interagency projects. Over the past year, the Task Force has collaborated on legislation efforts, report preparation, special events (such as the Veteran's Day fee free weekend discussed below), and other Fee Demo projects.

In FY 2002, the agencies initiated efforts to develop a single reservation system. Beginning in 2003, a single reservation system will allow visitors to make reservations at all NPS, USDA, BLM, and FWS recreation sites.

Some of the more notable FY 2002 collaboration efforts are identified below.

#### **Idaho: South Fork of the Snake River and Kelly Island Recreation Site**

The South Fork of the Snake River fee project is a partnership including the USDA FS, the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and Bonneville, Madison, and Jefferson counties. Fee revenues are used for operation and maintenance of ten sites located on the South Fork Snake River. This project is included as part of the statewide Visit Idaho Playgrounds Pass program.

A report is produced by the partners annually to inform the public of Fee Demo projects and expenditures as determined by the working group. The report is distributed to season pass holders and to businesses throughout the area. Completed projects are listed on the back of annual season passes and a news release is issued. Throughout the year the BLM gathers ideas from the public, outfitters and guides, and fishing clubs on what projects to fund with fee revenue.

**Colorado: Rocky Mountain National Park and the Arapaho National Recreation Area**

The Rocky Mountain National Park and the USDA FS's Arapaho National Recreation Area Annual Pass sells for \$50 and allows entry to both areas. The Park and the Recreation Area share a common boundary. Individual annual passes to the sites cost \$30, so the visitor saves \$10 by buying the joint pass. The revenue generated from pass sales is split equally between the sites.

**Ohio: Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park**

The Carillon Historic Park, a privately owned site that is legislatively authorized as part of the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park, accepts the National Park Pass for entry.

**Utah: Uinta National Forest & Timpanogos Cave National Monumnet**

A partnership among the Uinta National Forest, Timpanogos Cave National Monument, Utah County, and the State of Utah to implement the American Fork Canyon Fee Demonstration Project continues to be highly successful. The partnership has been well received by the surrounding communities, and has been successful in completing projects funded by Fee Demo reveunes. Some of the items funded by the American Fork Canyon Fee Demonstration Project in FY 2002 include:

- Replacing 1,500 feet of guardrail along the Alpine Loop Scenic Drive over a two-year period. The State of Utah received \$12,000 for this project. The project is about 50 percent completed with the entire old guardrail removed and installation of the new guardrail is planned for May 2003. The previous guardrail was not adequate for the type of roadway and was badly corroded and weathered. This guardrail is along a steep mountainous section of the Alpine Loop Road and was a high priority for the American Fork Canyon Fee Demonstration partnership.
- Supporting law enforcement activities in Utah County. Utah County received \$5,500 from Fee Demo revenues for this effort. Before implementing the fee demonstration program, drug and alcohol use in American Fork Canyon was rampant. Because of the increased presence of the County Sheriff, USDA FS and Park Service staff, arrests and citations for drug and alcohol use have dropped.
- Providing \$1,500 to the Utah County Search and Rescue Team and \$2,000 to the Timpanogos Emergency Rescue Team.