

E. USDA FS

The USDA FS has built its Fee Demo Program on the "ABCs" of service:

- **Accountability:** Building trust by sharing information on investments and performance;
- **Benefits:** Demonstrating the added value the visitor receives in exchange for fees; and
- **Convenience:** Making it as easy as possible to comply with fee requirements so that visitors' experiences are enjoyable.

Since 1996, the agency has spent \$128 million or about 80 percent of all fees collected to improve the quality of recreation settings, reduce deferred maintenance, and enhance visitor services. The remaining 20 percent has yet to be allocated. By policy, 92 percent to 100 percent of all funds are to be spent at the project where they were collected to directly benefit visitors. The remainder is allocated to regional high-priority recreation projects. The funding provided by the Fee Demo Program has resulted in enhanced services and improved facilities, including properly maintained sites, cleaner restrooms, better marked and maintained trails, increased accessibility for people with disabilities, and enhanced interpretive displays and presentations.

Ongoing visitor surveys and research being conducted by the Forest Service indicate that most visitors are pleased with the visible improvements resulting from the Fee Demo Program. Survey results also indicate that fees are not a primary determinant in individual and family recreation decisions. The USDA FS is continuing to use the results of its research and monitoring activities to adapt Fee Demo projects to suit local conditions.

Overview

The USDA FS manages about 192 million acres in 155 National Forests and 20 Grasslands across the U.S. With this large land base and so many diverse environments, the USDA FS is a leading provider of outdoor recreation. National Forests provide a wide spectrum of recreational settings ranging from primitive to highly developed. The Forest Service hosted over 214 million visits in FY 2001 (the most recent data available).

When the Fee Demo Program began, the agency encouraged the development of projects of all sizes and fee types. The USDA FS also experimented with differential pricing and first-time fees for some activities, facilities, and services. Six years later, the USDA FS continues to test different types of fees and fee collection methods, working closely with state and other Federal agencies to improve its services.

Although each National Forest is unique, Fee Demo projects often include such things as campgrounds, trailhead parking, cabin and fire lookout rentals, Heritage Expeditions, visitor centers, and reservation services. Entrance stations are impractical on most National Forests, due to the large number of access points and the degree of dispersed recreation. Although many National Forest management issues and costs are associated with undeveloped, dispersed recreation, the vast majority of National Forest system lands remain open and free to the public.

Most fees are set at minimal rates (\$3-5/vehicle/day; \$25-\$30/family/year) and many projects offer differential pricing to maximize visitor choice. To address possible concerns about minority or low-income participation, the USDA FS requires a civil rights impact assessment for each project. These assessments are updated and reviewed annually. To further address possible low income or disproportionate use issues, the USDA FS offers free days throughout the year, rewards volunteers with free passes, and coordinates with social service organizations to distribute free passes.

FY 2002 Revenue and Cost Data

Revenue

Since June 1996, the USDA FS's Fee Demo Program has generated about \$161 million in revenue. In FY 2002, 92 projects collected \$37.4 million. These projects were located on 114 National Forests in 36 states and Puerto Rico. Revenues collected in FY 2002 represent an increase of \$2.4 million (or 6 percent) from the previous year. Fee revenues are deposited into a special account and monitored to ensure that they are expended as directed by Congress. While appropriated funds will always be an important component of National Forest recreation, Fee Demo funding is essential to meet growing visitor demands. The USDA FS remains critically aware of the need to provide clearly defined benefits to those who pay fees for facilities and services.

Collection Costs

The total cost to collect fees under the Fee Demo Program in FY 2002 was \$5.9 million or 16.3 percent of gross revenue (for 13.9 percent of collections, costs were paid by fees; for 2.5 percent of collections, costs were paid by appropriations). Of this total, \$6 million was for operating expenses and \$0.2 million was for capital investments.

The agency selects the fee collection method based on the local situation. In FY 2002, fee payment options included self-pay machines that accept credit cards, conventional self-pay fee tubes, commercial vendors (such as gas stations and convenience stores), USDA FS offices and visitor centers, the internet, entrance stations, reservation services, and inter-agency passes. The highest collection costs were generally incurred where personal interaction between the agency and visitor was greatest and where such interaction also included dissemination of information and other services. However, depending upon volume, fee machines can also be expensive.

Obligations

By the end of FY 2002, the USDA FS had obligated \$128 million (or about 80 percent of all Fee Demo revenue generated between FY 1996 and FY 2002) to reduce deferred maintenance, improve the quality of recreation settings, and enhance visitor services. Of the money collected in FY 2002, a year-end balance of \$6 million remains. It is expected that most of this unobligated balance will be obligated in FY 2003. The ability to carry over funds from one year to the next allows management units to have the flexibility to fund costly or multi-year improvements and to ensure continuity of services.

Figure 7 shows FY 2002 USDA FS Fee Demo Program expenses, in eight expenditure categories: visitor services and operations, maintenance, cost of collection, interpretation and signing, facility

enhancement, resource preservation and enhancement, security and enforcement, inter-agency transfers and other expenses.¹

A primary goal of the USDA FS is to use Fee Demo revenues to implement on-the-ground improvements at recreation sites. In FY 2002, spending patterns were generally similar to those of the past six years: 20 percent for maintenance, 30 percent for operations and visitor services; 9 percent for enhancing existing facilities; 13 percent for improving interpretation and signing; 5 percent for security and enforcement (primarily to fund routine patrols and cooperative agreements with local emergency services agencies); 5 percent for resource preservation and enhancement activities; and 1 percent for interagency transfers.² The routine patrols at campgrounds and trailheads help to protect vehicles and personal property from vandalism and provides visitors with a feeling of security.

Accomplishments toward reducing the deferred maintenance backlog are made in several of the above categories. For example, replacing a worn outhouse with a new restroom building is categorized as a facility enhancement, but it also reduces the deferred maintenance backlog. Sign replacement, interpretative enhancements, and resource preservation also have deferred maintenance elements. Project managers estimate that in FY 2002 about 36 percent of the expenditures from Fee Demo revenues contributed toward reducing the deferred maintenance backlog.

Local spending decisions are guided by public involvement, project priorities, forest planning guidelines, national priorities, the need to address critical deferred maintenance, community assessments, project business plans, and public communications plans related to each project. Local managers have wide discretion to spend funds within the authorized categories. However, Regional Fee Demo Boards are required to review business plans and provide overall project oversight. This approach provides a level of national consistency for the program.

Although the enabling legislation allows each agency to retain up to 20 percent of total revenues at the national level for allocation, the USDA FS delegates this spending authority to each of the

¹The USDA FS defines these categories as follows. Visitor services and operations: routine incidental direct costs of providing services to visitors. Maintenance: the act of keeping worn fixed assets in acceptable condition, including addressing threats to human health and/or safety. Cost of collection: direct fee collection costs paid from fee revenue and appropriations, including start-up costs and fee enforcement. Interpretation & signing: work involving the delivery of interpretation and information products and services to visitors. Facility enhancement: enhancement of existing facilities (capital improvement), generally through construction, installation, or assembly of a new fixed asset. Resource preservation & enhancement: resource and habitat restoration, enhancement, and protection work. Security & enforcement: costs associated with enforcement of laws and regulations (not including fee enforcement which is considered a collection cost). Inter-agency transfers & other expenses: Transfer of revenues to cooperating state, Federal, or municipal agencies for portions of a project not managed by the Forest Service.

²An example of an interagency transfer is the Pack Creek project in Southeast Alaska, where the USDA FS and State of Alaska jointly operate a bear viewing facility. These types of partnerships enable both parties to do more with less.

FY 2002 USDA FS Obligations by Category

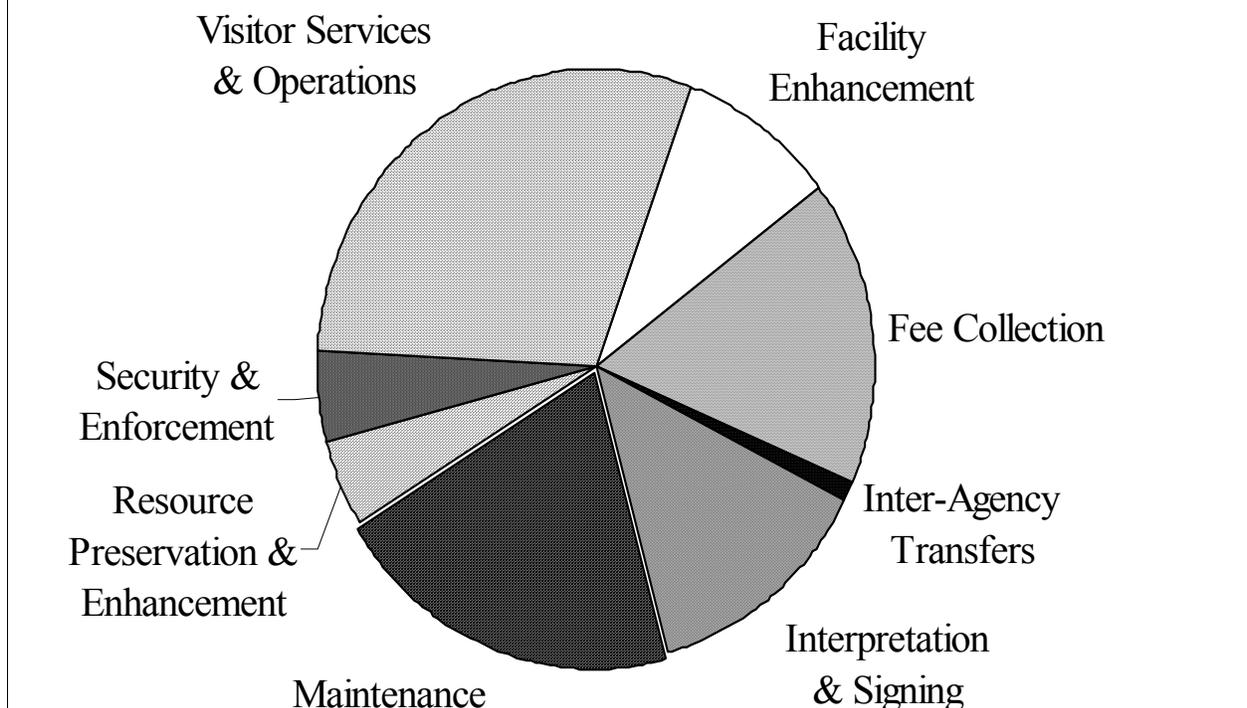


Figure 7

nine Regional Foresters. This decision has resulted in local projects retaining 92 to 100 percent of their collections, with the remaining redistributed within the region. Funds retained at the regional level are used to cover new project start-up costs, to supplement funding for priority improvements, and to provide program information to the public. This approach has increased the effectiveness of project implementation and has added a professional business focus to regional program oversight and management. One of the best examples is in the Pacific Northwest region where the Regional Office pays for a website and toll-free telephone number service that sells the regional Northwest Forest Pass.

Accomplishments

Broad programmatic accomplishments in FY 2002 included:

- Improved condition of recreation facilities, including maintenance of 7000 miles of trails;
- Increased focus on deferred maintenance: project managers estimate that an average of 36 percent of Fee Demo revenue was spent to reduce deferred maintenance;
- Provided additional visitor services through longer hours of operation, quicker responses, more frequent interpretive programs, and enhanced security and emergency aid;
- Reduced vandalism and resource damage;
- Increased agency field presence and heightened public perception of safety;
- Strengthened communications with the public and the agency's partners;

- Increased recreation-based business opportunities in communities near National Forests;
- Improved employment and volunteer opportunities through increased staffing of seasonal field crews;
- Increased spending on private business contracts to complete needed work; and
- Increased leverage of non-Federal funds and partnerships to achieve mutual objectives.

Monitoring and Research Findings

Each project has a monitoring plan that is reviewed and updated annually. Prior to approval, a project must also complete a business plan. This plan outlines the unique goals for each project and ways to monitor success. A communication plan is also prepared for each project to ensure that visitors, local residents, and businesses are consulted and informed prior to project approval.

Regional boards of directors oversee each region's Fee Demo projects, and line officers are responsible for proper implementation. Information on the innovations and progress of the Fee Demo Program is shared at a nationwide annual meeting and through an internal newsletter. Each Region also conducts regular oversight meetings and workshops, and frequently monitors individual sites. National field reviews are conducted periodically. The Southwestern Region conducted a unique monitoring project called the "secret shopper." Two AmeriCorps employees spent the summer camping and recreating at Fee Demo sites, rating each one in several categories.

Comment Cards

While not a scientific sample of users, comment cards provide valuable feedback for improving the program. Comment cards for both individual projects and the national program are available at most points of payment and at several internet sites. Most importantly, USDA FS employees talk with visitors, answering questions and forwarding suggestions. Although there have been several protests against fees, most respondents continue to indicate that they support the concept of user fees to enhance recreation opportunities.

In FY 2002, 1,172 comment cards were analyzed to gauge program acceptance and payment convenience. Respondents most valued the agency's ability to maintain clean sites in attractive settings. A majority supported the idea of recreationists paying user fees to help fund visitor services. Others, particularly in Washington and Oregon, do not support fees, with most expressing the opinion that taxes should pay for recreation opportunities on Federal lands.

Samples of positive comments on the USDA FS Fee Demo Program include:

- "I believe the fee was extremely reasonable. I am very willing to pay fees to help with upkeep." Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky.
- "I really appreciate having Rangers in trucks at almost every turn. I even got a refill on my water at the top, thanks to one of them. Excellent support from friendly folks. Thanks a million times!" Mt. Evans, Colorado.
- "I'm glad USFS is managing the area now since use has increased dramatically in the past ten years." El Dorado National Forest, California.

- "User fees are appropriate and necessary." Kaibab National Forest, Arizona.
- "This is a wonderful site & have visited for 30 years and it looks better than ever." Carson National Forest, New Mexico.
- "Thank you! You do a great job-it is appreciated tremendously!" A National Forest in Washington State.

Research

Fee Demo projects are monitored through research projects, including surveys conducted by universities, in some cases in partnership with USDA FS research stations. Below are the highlights of three of these research projects.

Red Rock Pass (Arizona) Monitoring Study: A study conducted by Michigan State University, Arizona State University, and the USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station, evaluated the Red Rock Pass in Arizona. The study compared 2001 results to 1999 baseline data (collected prior to program implementation at this site). Data obtained included visitor trip profiles, socio-demographics, recreation behavior and motivations, information needs and communications issues, customer service perceptions, fee attitudes and preferences, assessment of the Red Rock Pass system and visitor centers, and potential market options.

The study indicated that attitudes have become more positive towards fees compared to 1999. Visitors also made it clear that charging a fee did not detract from their visit to the National Forest. Most ratings of service quality either held constant or improved. Performance at full-service or developed sites improved the most. Efforts still need to be made in the area of compliance. Noncompliance was estimated to be about 40 percent. The data also suggests that many visitors were unaware of the fee program and in which areas passes were required. Interestingly, the study found that forest visitors had an increasingly strong economic impact on the local community, with expenditures up 12.7 percent from 1999.

Finally, there continues to be strong support for making investments that restore and enhance the natural environment. Visitors in 1999 and 2001 placed a high priority on using fee revenue for maintenance (trail, road, and recreation facilities) and on cultural resource protection.

Adventure Pass (Southern California) Monitoring Study: The California State University at San Bernardino has conducted surveys of visitors on the four National Forests in Southern California that participate in the Enterprise Forest Project, involving the Adventure Pass. During the four years of surveying, on-site responses were obtained from 5,374 visitors (an 81 percent response rate). A majority of visitors (57 percent of the total responses received over the duration of the study) indicated that they were "better off" with the Adventure Pass. About 21 percent of the visitors surveyed indicated that they were "worse off" with the Adventure Pass because they had "not noticed any improvements."

Over the four-year period results from the study indicated:

- Visitors to front-country canyons and picnic areas were more likely to indicate that they were better off with the program than they would be without it.
- Those visiting off-highway-vehicle staging areas, dispersed areas, wilderness areas and campgrounds were more likely than others to say that they were worse off with the program.
- Low-income visitors were about as likely as others to indicate that they were better off.

Recreation Fee Perceptions in Oregon and Washington National Forests: A research project conducted by the University of Florida, the Pennsylvania State University, and the Pacific Southwest Research Station obtained information about individuals' perceptions concerning fees from residents of Oregon and Washington. The survey found that:

- Most respondents had visited a National Forest in the past year;
- Interest and participation in outdoor recreation increases with income;
- Low-income respondents visit outdoor recreation areas other than National Forests, perhaps because they are closer to home;
- Acceptance of fees is greater for activities or facilities where fees have been traditionally charged;
- Acceptance of fees is greater where facilities are provided; and
- Low-income respondents approve of the Northwest Forest Pass, but are more likely to believe they cannot afford the fees.

The survey concluded that:

- Income is only one possible constraint on recreation activities, and must be balanced with other factors like race/ethnicity, type of residence, age, gender, and disability.
- Additional research is needed to understand fully the subtle and complex relationship between income and fees.
- Oregon and Washington residents have a very high interest in National Forest recreation.

Additional surveys and feedback measures have been implemented at additional Fee Demo sites throughout the country.

Performance Measures

The USDA FS is implementing results-oriented performance measures into all of its programs. These performance measures will link to broad strategic goals for the agency. The Fee Demo Program is integral to the USDA FS Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources program and has similar objectives and performance measures. Because the Fee Demo Program contributes toward the overall improvement of recreation sites, settings, and services and is not a stand-alone program, it can be difficult to isolate its contributions to improving the overall recreation opportunity. Fee revenue represents roughly ten percent of the Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources budget, but contributes efficiently to improving sites because the majority of funds stay at the site where they are collected.

Outlined below are the Fee Demo Program goals established by the USDA FS. These goals reflect the legislative intent of the Fee Demo Program and are aligned with the USDA FS Strategic Plan and Recreation Agenda.

The primary goal of the USDA FS Fee Demo Program is to: increase the quality of the visitor experience at public recreational areas and to enhance resource protection. Management objectives associated with this goal include:

1. Improving the quality of the visitor experience by generating revenue from approved recreation fee sites to reduce the backlog of repair and maintenance projects (including projects relating to health and safety).
2. Using recreation fees to improve the quality of the visitor experience through interpretation, signing, habitat, and facility enhancement.
3. Increasing the agency's capability to manage for resource preservation.
4. Covering the cost of annual program management (including fee collection).

Program Performance Measures are currently being developed for both the overall USDA FS recreation program as well as the Fee Demo Program. The following table outlines some preliminary performance measures.

Table 11. USDA FS Strategic Goal: Increase the quality of the visitor experience at public recreational areas and enhance resource protection.		
Management Objective	Performance Measure	FY 2002 Data (baseline)
Improved visitor experience through enhancements to sites, settings, and services.	1) Trend in visitor satisfaction with recreation programs and facilities. 2) Trend in visitor satisfaction with value for fee paid.	Visitor input on: 1) condition of developed recreation facilities*-- .05 percent poor; 8.1 percent fair; 8.9 percent average; 38.7 percent good; 43.8 percent very good. 2) Value for fee paid-- 3.0 percent poor; 1.7 percent fair; 11.4 percent average; 22.7 percent good; 54.6 percent very good.
A reduction in the backlog of repair and maintenance sites/projects (including projects relating to health and safety).	1) Trend in investments toward completion of backlog maintenance projects. 2) Percentage of identified backlog sites/projects completed.	1) 36 percent of Fee Demo investments toward deferred maintenance.** 2) data not available.
Fee collection costs (including fee enforcement) provide for most efficient use of fees for investing in improvements.	Decreasing trend in average agency cost of collection (including fee enforcement).	Total collection costs from fees and appropriations: 16.3 percent**
*Source: National Visitor Use Monitoring and Visitor Contact Survey results for FY 2002. These results are for all National Forest sites, not just Fee Demo sites. For more information see www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/nvum . **Source: FY 2002 project manager estimates in annual project progress report.		

National Accomplishments

National Recreation Reservation System

Over 1,200 National Forest campgrounds, cabins, group picnic sites, and other resources are available for advance reservation services through Reserve USA, which features both 1-800 call-in and internet reservation service. Emergency closures due to fires and flooding during FY 2002 affected many reservation sites, resulting in loss of reservations and revenue. July and August FY 2002 reservations decreased by 4,521 reservations compared with 2001. FY 2002 highlights include increased inventory, with new additions slated for 2003, implementation of lock and security functions for cabins, performance surveys conducted for customers and field users (with results expected in early 2003); and business center enhancements.



Fee Demo funding provided these volunteers with tools, materials, logistical support and supervision.

Accomplishments in Facility Enhancement

Work done in Dakota Prairie Grasslands campgrounds in North Dakota is typical of facility enhancement accomplishments. Like many other USDA FS units, deferred maintenance needs have tended to consume most of the available appropriated funding.

Fee Demo receipts paid for accessibility upgrades for persons with disabilities, new restrooms, new campfire rings, and additional picnic tables. Some of the labor for these enhancements was donated by youth enrolled in a program administered by the Casey Foundation, a nonprofit organization offering services to children. The children were introduced to good work habits and resource conservation, with the USDA FS providing the tools, materials, logistical support, and supervision.

The following are other accomplishments in this area:

- Campers to the Coronado National Forest in Arizona now have additional benches, animal-proof trash containers, and lantern holders.
- A wheelchair accessible ramp provides better access to a courtesy dock and marina slips in the Flaming Gorge National Scenic Area in Utah (Ashley National Forest).
- A new boardwalk was constructed from the North Kawishiwi River to Clear Lake in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota (Superior National Forest).

Accomplishments in Interpretation and Signage

In the Hudson-Meng Bison Bone Bed Visitor Center in northwestern Nebraska, youth participated in an excavation program called “Archaeologist For a Day.” Children visiting the area can take a tour and learn how archaeologists work. The children then use tools to excavate a mock dig area. At the end of a two-hour session, each child receives a certificate of accomplishment. Fee Demo funds pay for the site interpreter.



Ranger raking up ashes in a USDA FS campground fire pit.

Other interpretation and signing accomplishments included resumption of campground interpretive programs on the Clearwater National Forest in Idaho in partnership with the Idaho Humanities Council. These popular "fireside chats" had disappeared in the early 1990s due to lack of funding.

Accomplishments in Maintenance

Both recurring and deferred maintenance are important elements that the Fee Demo Program supports. In the Red Rock country of Sedona, Arizona (in the Coconino National Forest), Fee Demo funds paid for the removal of 22,296 pounds of garbage and 19 abandoned vehicles. Forest employees also greeted half a million visitors, repaired or replaced 144 signs, conducted 66 interpretive programs, removed 164 unnecessary fire rings and 39 transient camps, and maintained 42 miles of trail.

The National Forests of North Carolina reduced the deferred maintenance backlog at many of the developed sites, including rehabilitation of 30 campsites and making 6 campsites accessible; repairing and replacing failed septic and water systems; replacing picnic tables, grills, and lantern posts; removing hazardous trees; improving restroom facilities; maintaining trails and parking areas; and increasing visitor contacts and security patrols.

The Bessey Recreation Complex on the Nebraska National Forest repaired and painted a swimming facility and bathhouse (a long-overdue deferred maintenance need).

The Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota mechanically swept eight miles of the Mi-Ge-Zi paved bike trail each week during the summer.

The Prescott Forest in Arizona replaced the safety railing on Granite Basin Lake Dam. Originally installed when the dam was built in 1939, the railing was destroyed by flooding in 1983.

The Bald Butte rental cabin in the Fremont and Winema National Forests in Oregon sports a replacement propane heater meeting safety and health codes.

Fishing enthusiasts in Alabama's National Forests now have use of a new fishing pier that replaced a dilapidated one, and hunters appreciate new information boards and signs at the Uchee Range.

The Chequamegon-Nicolet National Forest in Wisconsin regularly groomed 91 miles of cross-country ski trails and installed 20 new ski trail intersection signs. To facilitate access, USDA FS employees also plowed 9 parking lots.



This safety rail in the Prescott National Forest in Arizona was paid for using Fee Demo Funding.

The Cherokee National Forest in Tennessee made major campground improvements, including toilet replacement, rehabilitating 34 campsites, repairing or replacing 39 tables, 44 grills, and 20 lantern posts, reroofing 5 structures, repairing two lift stations, and installing 79 bear-proof trash cans.



Trails were reconstructed in the Superior National Forest in Minnesota (see photos above), including removal of over 700 downed or hazardous trees.



The Bitterroot National Forest in Montana used Fee Demo funds from the Recreation Lodging Program to restore the Gird Point Lookout

The Olympic National Forest in Washington completed maintenance on 47 miles of trails that had been deferred 8 years. The Bitterroot National Forest in Montana used Fee Demo funds from the Recreation Lodging Program to restore the Gird Point Lookout. Almost like new, it will become available for overnight use by the public in 2003. Camping in lookouts is becoming quite popular because of their unique history and spectacular scenery.

Accomplishments in Resource Preservation and Enhancement

In the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire, the Youth Conservation Corps obliterated riparian zone



Before



After

campsites at dispersed camping areas and installed 400 feet of erosion control. Construction of a river take-out site (see before and after photos above) on the Nantahala River (National Forests of North Carolina) accomplished many objectives. By replacing a constantly eroding gravel surface with asphalt, sedimentation of the river was significantly reduced. Fish are healthier because their water is cleaner. More than 150,000 river users are grateful because their vehicles and gear are less muddy. Commercial boat operators are happier because their customers are happier.

Accomplishments in Security and Enforcement

For years, vandals have written graffiti on a scenic rock outcropping in the Cleveland National Forest in southern California. A contractor was hired with Fee Demo funds to restore the natural rock surfaces. Graffiti Rock has been graffiti-free for more than 8 months.

USDA FS employees at Mt. Shasta (in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest) in California participated in 29 search and rescue operations, installed new weather instruments for avalanche forecasting, and taught 10 avalanche safety courses in California and Oregon.

Damaged and deteriorated warning buoys were replaced and new buoys added at Cave Run and Laurel River Lakes in the Daniel Boone National Forest in Tennessee. Mountain rescue gear and security cameras were also purchased.

Cleanup of illegal dumping in southern California National Forests.



Before



After

The Mendenhall Visitor Center in Juneau, Alaska (in the Tongass National Forest) installed a perimeter and motion sensing alarm system and upgraded surveillance cameras around/in the recreation complex.

Accomplishments in Visitor Services and Operations

The Fee Demo Project at the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center in Alaska includes a modest fee for the movie "Voices from the Ice." Fees are assessed only from Memorial Day through the end of September (when 92 percent of all visits occur), which allows free visits during the winter.

The Allegheny National Forest in Pennsylvania increased visitor contact by 95 percent on their off-highway vehicle trails, produced new and improved trail maps and brochures, and provided more information for trail riders.

The Wasatch-Cache National Forest in Utah hired a seasonal employee to maintain the water systems at 14 campgrounds.

The El Portal Visitor Center in Puerto Rico implemented a special visitor package for educational groups sending low-income people.

To minimize the impacts of on-site fuelwood gathering, campers to Canyon Creek (in the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests) in Colorado receive a free bundle of firewood with their purchase of a camping permit.



Visitors get assistance from the Hart's Pass Guard Station on the Okanogan NF (WA)

In the Heather Meadows area of the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest in Washington, those wishing to find the perfect Christmas tree were given the opportunity to start their search a week earlier and in advance of winter storms that make travel difficult. Road access to new cutting areas was also improved.

Visitors to Reds Meadow on the Inyo National Forest in California are required to use a shuttle service to reduce congestion in the crowded canyon. Fee Demo revenues pay for the shuttle. With ridership more than doubling, from 35,000 to 65,000 visitors, the fee was reduced because of increased efficiencies, from \$9 to \$5 for adults and from \$4.50 to \$2.50 for children.

The Santa Fe National Forest in New Mexico has a project typical of many across the nation. The Forest issued a prospectus for management of its developed facilities (consisting of campgrounds, group sites, and picnic sites) by the private sector but received no bids. Rather than close the facilities to the public, the Forest has kept them open under the campground safety net project, and even made maintenance improvements.

Matching Funds and Volunteers

On the Caribou-Targhee National Forests in Idaho, three new wheelchair accessible restrooms were installed in the Emigration Campground using \$3,000 in Fee Demo revenue as a match for a \$39,000 grant (a leverage of 13 to one). Another \$500 in Fee Demo funds matched an \$8,000 grant to install accessible ramps.

In southern California, more than 4,500 volunteers made \$4,000,000 in service, repair and maintenance contributions. Of those, 550 volunteers received an Adventure Pass in recognition of at least 100 hours of volunteer service.

At the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area in the Siuslaw National Forest in Oregon, Fee Demo revenue provided \$42,000 in matching funds for an off-highway vehicle grant (\$109,000) to manage riding areas. Elsewhere on the forest, Fee Demo revenues provided matching funds of \$45,000 to obtain \$365,000 of Oregon Department of Transportation Scenic Byway funds for redesign and reconstruction of Devils Churn wayside on Highway 101.

Heritage Expeditions

The Willamette National Forest in Oregon offered four heritage expeditions. Participants in the Obsidian Cliff expedition monitored cultural resources and conducted specialized cultural resource inventory, including GPS mapping of ancient tool-making tools and other data collection.

Another expedition initiated “Honorary CCC Company 2002,” a group of local high school students working to restore several historic sites, including Longbow and the old Santiam Wagon Road. CCC alumni joined the



Fee Demo Heritage Expedition offered to students in Oregon.

group as advisors and shared the unique history of the CCC era. The expedition concluded with the fifth annual CCC Alumni Picnic. South Santiam Services, Inc. and the Portland Chapter of CCC Alumni were partners in this event. Supplies for the restoration work were purchased using dollars generated by Fee Demo heritage expeditions in previous years.

The Coast to Crest expedition followed Native American trade routes from the Oregon Coast to the Crest of the Cascades. Partners included the Siuslaw National Forest, Oregon State Parks, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz, and Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde.

The fourth expedition, “Trekking the Old Santiam Wagon Road,” explored a major trade route between the Willamette Valley and Central Oregon. Trekkers relived the 1859 Wiley party expedition that followed the Indian trail that eventually became the Santiam Wagon Road.

In addition to the 38 participants in these multi-day expeditions, another 82 paid \$10 each (\$5 with a Golden Age Pass) to attend daylong Heritage Hikes. The monthly excursions, held June to September, explored Sand Mountain, Tidbits Mountain, Trapper's Butte, and South Pyramid.

YOUR FEE DOLLARS DO WORK!

