

**WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST
RECREATION FEE 2003 ANNUAL REPORT**



**“Your Fees at Work”
High Lining boulders along the Nineteen Mile Brook Trail**

Dear Friends

I am pleased to provide you this year's Recreation Fee Demonstration Program Report.

Fees collected are used to repair, maintain and improve recreation sites and facilities to provide the best possible service to people who use and enjoy the White Mountain National Forest.

These fee dollars collected are very important to our recreation and public service program. Fees allow us to keep sites safe, clean and in good repair, beyond what we are able to accomplish with the regular appropriated funding.

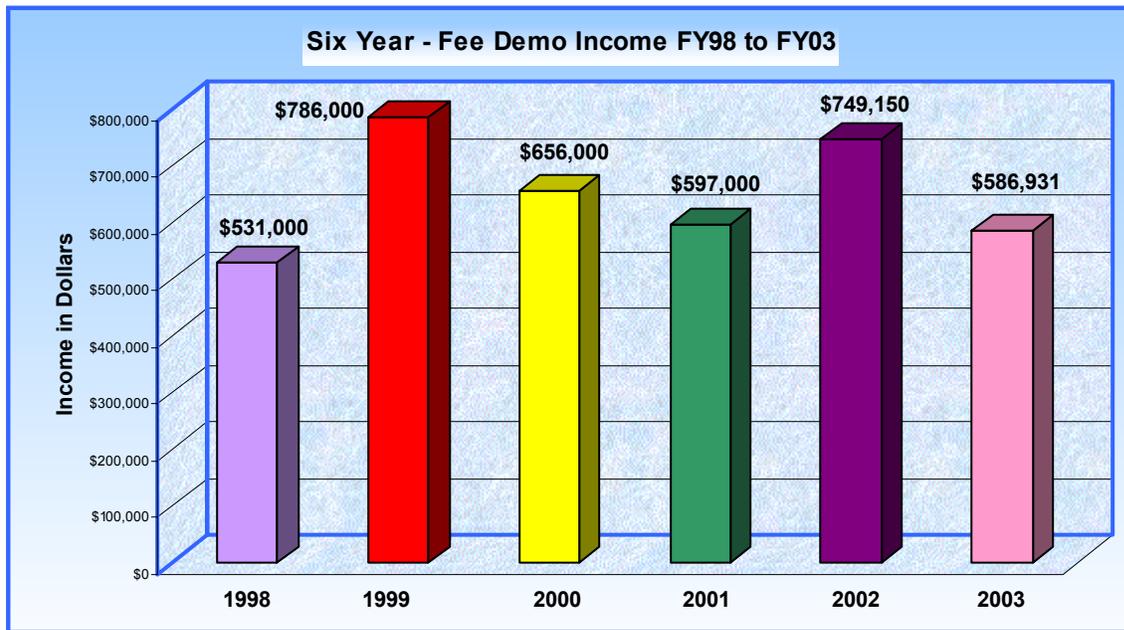
In 2003, we made two changes: 1) Golden Age, Golden Eagle and Golden Passports are now honored as parking passes at all sites across the National Forest. 2) On-site day parking passes are now valid at all sites across the National Forest. Prior to this year parking passes purchased at fee tube sites were valid only at the local site where they were purchased.

If you have comments or suggestions for program improvement, please feel free to contact any of our Forest offices.

Be sure to take the time to be safe as you visit the White Mountain National Forest.

THOMAS G. WAGNER
Forest Supervisor





Fee Demonstration Program

The Recreation Fee Demonstration Program continued its 7th year of program implementation. The program has averaged \$650,000 per year in revenue. In FY 2003, \$586,000 was generated, down from \$749,000 in FY 2002. People may ask why revenues are down this year. Over the past 7 years we have noticed that visitation rates and parking pass sales are related and result from a combination of variables such as weather, the economy and price of gas, world events and travel. This year's tourism estimates show a significant decrease in visitation across the region and our frontline staff has noticed a decline in international travelers. Nevertheless, the Fee Demonstration Program continues to provide significant revenues to fund public services and recreation site maintenance across the National Forest.





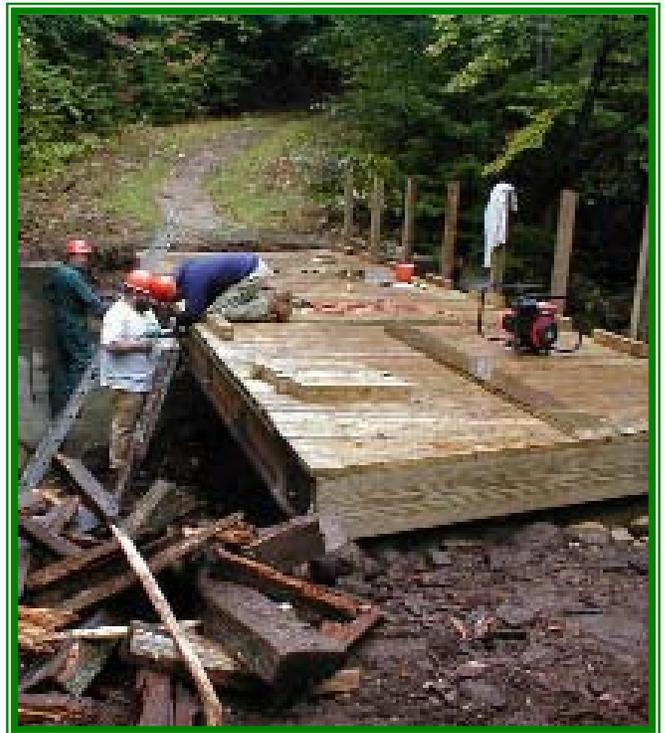
**Randolph Mountain Club Cooperative
Bridge Project-Junction of Randolph Path
and Brookside trail**



Ferncroft Trailhead Kiosk Construction



Rattle River Shelter receives a new roof



Constructed a new Bridge on the Deer Brook Trail

WHITE MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST SERVICES FROM USER FEES

Your user fees are making a difference!

Revenues from the White Mountain National Forest parking pass program funded 500 days of recreation technicians and trail crews, and helped to fund cost sharing projects with friends and partners in the White Mountain National Forest. Trail crews, seasonal employees, volunteers, Youth Conservation Corps students, and Forest employees picked up trash, kept trailheads open, cleaned toilets, and maintained wildlife habitat openings. Thanks to your parking pass, public information services were provided to thousands of visitors, over 450 miles of National Forest trails were maintained, campsites, backcountry shelters, scenic vistas, and picnic areas were kept clean and maintained for continued use and enjoyment.

Trail Maintenance and Reconstruction

- Reconstructed and improved trail tread ways, step stones, rock steps, puncheons, water bars, ditches and run out ditches on the **Lend-A-Hand** (2.5 mi.), **Ethan Pond** (2 mi.), **Twinway** (3.3mi.) trails. These projects are being completed as a challenge cost share with the AMC.
- Improved and installed 35 rock steps along the **White Cairn trail**.
- Replaced a hiking bridge on the **Smarts Brook Trail** system and a culvert on the **Lincoln Woods** trail.
- Relocated 600-feet of the **Nanamocomuck Trail**.
- Removed brush on the **Black Mountain and Doublehead Ski Trails**.
- In partnership with the New England Mountain Biking Association, relocated a ½ mile section of the **Moat Mountain Mineral Site trail** to accommodate mountain biking use.
- Hosted a four-person Student Conservation Association (SCA) crew in a cooperative effort with the Wonalancet Outdoor Club. SCA resource assistants spent 12 weeks maintaining over 200 miles of National Forest system trails on the Saco Ranger District.

Backcountry and Wilderness Patrol

- Fourteen backcountry and Wilderness patrollers cleaned up litter, rehabilitated heavily used campsites, taught **Leave No Trace**, and provided backcountry information and first-aid to Forest visitors, hikers, and backpackers.
- Replaced the existing toilet at the **Cabot Cabin** with a composting toilet.

Forest Recreation Facilities, Day Use Sites, and Campgrounds

- Plowed and sanded 18 parking lots.
- Maintained winter access for three X-country ski trail systems.
- Purchased materials and supplies to construct 38 new and six large National Forest entrance signs including signs at the **Welch Dickey Parking Lot**, **Hancock Overlook**, **Livermore Parking Lot**, and the **Discovery Trail**.
- Constructed four information kiosks in support of the Kancamagus Scenic Byway project. Repaired 19 information kiosks throughout the Pemigewasset Ranger District.
- Maintained over 60 developed and day use sites on a daily basis. Repaired over 40 picnic tables at picnic sites across the Forest.
- Purchased materials and supplies to rehabilitate an archeological site through the efforts of Youth Conservation Corps students.

Visitor Information, Interpretation and Conservation Education

- Began design of an information kiosk stressing hiker safety and alpine zone awareness in Franconia Notch in partnership with the AMC, State of New Hampshire, and the Guy Waterman Alpine Stewardship Fund.
- Purchased materials and supplies to support **AMC/Forest Service Alpine Steward** volunteers. Stewards contributed over 420 hours to educate more than 2,100 visitors about alpine zone ecology on the **Franconia Ridge**.
- Continued the **hikeSafe** Program in partnership with the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department (*see www.hikeSafe.com*).
- Greeted several hundred thousand visitors at seven National Forest visitor centers.
- Provided 17 nighttime interpretive programs for campground visitors.
- Provided construction materials and labor to assemble an information kiosk and interpretive signs for the **Sandwich Range Wilderness** at the **Ferncroft Trailhead**.
- Installed information and directional signs at wilderness boundary or access points on the **East Side Road, Lincoln Woods Trail, and Sandwich Notch Road**.

Community Partners Program

- Improved parking and access at **the Guinea Pond and Welch Dickey Trailheads**.
- Continued a cooperative Law Enforcement agreement with the Town Of Rumney to provide security patrols at National Forest trailhead and parking areas.