

Recreation Pass Quick Reference Sheet

(A quick primer on which passes are needed for which lands and where the money goes)

01/24/2012



Free Days: Fees are waived at Forest Service-managed day use sites on the following days:

National Trails Day - **June 2, 2012**

National Get Outdoors Day - **June 9, 2012**

National Public Lands Day - **September 29, 2012**

Veterans Day Weekend - **November 10-12, 2012**

Forest Service Recreation Passes

Forest Service recreation passes **do not** cover fees for winter sno-parks, cabin rentals, or special recreation area permits like Lake Chelan Dock permits, Enchantment Lakes wilderness permits and Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area. They also **do not** cover developed campgrounds (Interagency Senior Pass and Interagency Access Pass holders may receive a 50% discount for camping fees). Campground concessionaires are not legally required to honor Forest Service recreation passes, but some voluntarily elect to do so.

- **National Forest Recreation Day Pass: \$5.** Honored at all FS operated day-use recreation sites in Washington and Oregon where a day use fee is required during the seasonal period of operation. Allows the pass holder and any accompanying passengers in a private vehicle use of the recreation facilities when open for use. Allows the pass holder only at per-person sites. The pass is available at National Forest offices and visitor centers, via private vendors or online.
- **Northwest Forest Pass: \$30.** Same as Day Pass but is valid for one year from the last day of the month issued.
- **Interagency Annual Pass: \$80.** Honored nationwide at National Park Service, Forest Service, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Bureau of Reclamation recreation sites charging day-use or entrance fees. This pass is honored in lieu of the National Forest Recreation Day Pass and Northwest Forest Pass at FS operated day use sites in Washington and Oregon where a day use fee is required.
- **Interagency Senior (\$10) and Access Pass (Free).** These are lifetime passes that are honored nationwide at any federal site charging day use or entrance fees. This pass is honored in lieu of the National Forest Recreation Day Pass and Northwest Forest Pass at FS operated day use sites in Washington and Oregon where a day use fee is required.
- **Mount St. Helens National Monument:** Mount St. Helens, managed by the USFS, charges on a per-person fee basis. Entry to the Coldwater or Johnson Ridge sites are \$8 per person for those 16 and older (free for kids). Interagency and NWFP admits pass holder. Interagency Annual and Senior passes for pass-holders, and a Northwest Forest Pass will gain entry for one person.

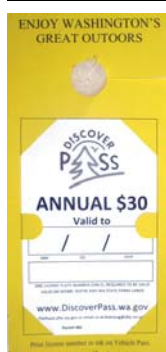
Where does the money go? Ninety-five percent (95%) of recreation fee revenue is retained locally at the district or forest to operate and maintain day use sites, boat launches, trailheads and other recreation facilities that are fee sites. A portion of the recreation fee revenue is used to fund volunteer efforts and is used as a match for grant funds.

Using recreation fee revenue as a grant match allows the Forest to successfully compete for grant funds administered by Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO). Every year the Forest brings in hundreds of thousands of dollars in grant money from the Recreational Trails Program (RTP- funding comes from a portion of the federal gas tax that is distributed to each state to fund recreational trails projects) and Non-highway and Off-road Vehicle Activities program (NOVA- funding comes from Washington state off-road vehicle use permits and about 1% of WA state gas tax revenue). Without recreation fee revenue, we would not be able to compete successfully for many of these grants and would not be able to accomplish a large portion of the trail maintenance and construction projects and developed recreation site maintenance and enhancement projects that we get done.

Five percent (5%) of the rec fee revenue goes to the Regional Office to pay for program materials and to fund select unit projects aimed at reducing deferred maintenance or enhancing visitor services.

Note: Fees charged at Concessionaire operated sites are not part of the Forest Service recreation fee program; however, a portion of their revenue is directly reinvested into the recreation sites they manage.

State of Washington Public Lands



Beginning July 1, 2011, the new Discover Pass is required to access more than 7 million acres of Washington state-managed recreation lands (**Washington State Parks, Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife**). These lands include state parks, water-access points, heritage sites, wildlife and natural areas, DNR and WDFW campgrounds, trails and trailheads. For details about the pass, see the state's Discover Pass website (www.discoverpass.wa.gov).

It is important to note these state passes are NOT valid at any federally operated recreation fee sites, including Forest Service day use sites and campgrounds.

- **Discover Pass Day Pass: \$10/car.** Allows visitors to park at Washington State recreation lands for one day.
- **Discover Pass Annual Pass: \$30/car.** Allows visitors to park on Washington State recreation lands for one year from date of purchase. Pass can be purchased online WDFW's automated system and in person at the 600 retail locations that currently sell hunting and fishing licenses, but they will be subject to a \$5 additional charge. Day passes have a \$1.50 additional charge. Some staffed state parks will also have the passes for sale, and these will be at face-value. Pass can also be purchased when renewing vehicle license tabs with the Department of Licensing.
- **Fish and Wildlife Vehicle Access Pass.** Holders of certain hunting and fishing licenses do not need a Discover Pass to access WDFW lands. A Vehicle Access Pass for WDFW lands and water-access sites will be issued free with purchase of a big-game or small-game hunting license, western Washington pheasant permit, trapping license, Watchable Wildlife decal, or saltwater or freshwater or combination recreational fishing license.

Where does the \$ go? Revenue from the Discover Pass is needed to make up the loss of general fund money that had historically been available for recreation on state lands. The state budget has almost no general fund dollars (tax revenue) for recreation on state lands. Revenues from the pass go to each agency in the proportion needed for general fund replacement for the purpose of operating and maintaining recreation lands and facilities. Legislation requires that all revenue received from the sales of the Discover Pass go directly into the Recreation Access Pass Account.

Winter Recreation - Washington Sno-Park Permits

Washington's Sno-Park Permits allow you to park at signed and plowed lots accessible to groomed and backcountry trails from about November 1st – April 30th.

For Sno-Parks on National Forest land, nothing has changed. You still need an annual or day sno-park permit, with a special groomed trail sticker where posted. No Discover Pass is required.



At Sno-Parks on State Parks lands:

If you have a Sno-park **seasonal permit**, you **do not** need a Discover Pass.

If you have a **day** Sno-Park Permit, you **must have** a Discover Pass as well.

It is important to note that Washington DNR has opted out of the State Sno-Park program. These are now called **DNR Winter Trailheads** and you **only** need a Discover Pass at these sites.

- **Sno-Park Day Permits:** \$20/day. Valid at any Sno-Park location, including Special Groomed Trail locations, until midnight of the purchase date.
- **Sno-Park Seasonal Permits:** \$40/season. Valid at all Sno-Park locations EXCEPT those designated as Special Groomed Trail locations.*
- * **Special Groomed Trails Permits:** \$40/season add-on. This optional add-on to the Seasonal Permit allows you to park at Cabin Creek, Chiwawa, Crystal Springs, Hyak, Lake Easton, Lake Wenatchee, Mount Spokane and Nason Ridge where trails are groomed for cross-country skiers.

Where does the \$ go? Proceeds from permit sales are used exclusively to maintain and improve non-motorized Sno-Park facilities. They pay for snow removal, sanitation facilities, trail grooming, trail signs, mapping, parking lot construction, education and enforcement and Sno-Park program administration on both State Park and National Forest land. The Forest Service can apply for money to fund FS personnel to accomplish some or all of the duties listed above.

National Parks

- **Entrance fee: \$15/car.** Charged at Mount Rainier and Olympic National Parks. Good for seven days. There is no fee to enter North Cascades National Park.
- **Annual pass: \$30.** Provides entrance for a year to either Olympic or Mount Rainier National Park. This pass is only good at the park where it was purchased.
- **Interagency Annual, Senior and Access passes** also provide entry to the national parks.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife

Many of Washington's National Wildlife Refuges - including Nisqually, Dungeness and Ridgefield NWR - require a recreation pass as well. Where applicable, the fee is usually \$3 per family (\$15 annually), payable at the visitor center or trailhead. They also accept the Interagency Annual and Senior passes, as well as the Federal Duck Stamp pass.