



File Code: 1950

Date: October 8, 2008

To Interested Public,

The McKenzie River Ranger District will be preparing an environmental assessment to analyze a long-term (approximately 20 years) Master Plan for Big Lake Youth Camp (BLYC) and the authorization of a special use permit (SUP). The previous Master Plan for BLYC is now expired, so a new plan for the future is required. The purpose of the Master Plan is to guide short and long-term improvements to the Camp to meet the desired future condition. This project will be named the “**Big Lake Youth Camp Master Plan EA Project**”.

Background

The BLYC is located along the eastern shore of Big Lake in the Willamette National Forest, McKenzie River Ranger District. Sisters, OR is approximately 20 miles to the east of the project area, which is accessed off Highway 20 at the Big Lake Road/Hoodoo Ski Area entrance, and located about 4 miles south of Highway 20 (see Figure 1). The legal description of the area is T14S, R72E, and Section 11 of the Willamette Meridian, Linn County, Oregon.

The project area located within the current Big Lake Youth camp SUP boundary is classified by the Willamette National Forest Plan as Management Area 12b: Developed Recreation – Special Use Sites and the area outside the existing camp is classified as Management Area 10f: Dispersed Recreation – Lakeside Setting.

The Oregon Seventh-Day Adventists operate the BLYC through a special use permit with the USDA Forest Service. The McKenzie River Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest administers the special use permit. The Willamette National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) requires “comprehensive and detailed” master plans be developed for campgrounds on National Forest System lands managed under a special use permit by non-Forest Service entities (page 219). The Oregon Seventh-Day Adventists are currently seeking approval of a master plan and authorization of a SUP for the BLYC to implement the proposed master plan actions.

The master plan serves as a basis for agreement between the Forest Service and Oregon Seventh-Day Adventists. It displays the overall strategy that the Oregon Seventh-Day Adventists intend to carry out in managing the BLYC for the next 20 years. Instead of considering individual



projects in a piecemeal manner, the master plan allows managers to see the entire picture, resulting in better decisions regarding management of the project area.

The Forest Service is responsible for taking the Master Plan through the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The NEPA environmental assessment will analyze the effects of the proposed management for the BLYC. The USFS, as the landowner and permitting agency, will determine what types and level of improvements and facilities can be undertaken during the implementation of the 20-year master plan. Activities included as part of the Master Plan that are not implemented within five years of the project decision, may be re-examined to determine the need for supplemental NEPA analysis and documentation.

Purpose & Need

The purpose of this project is to approve a long-term Master Plan and authorize a SUP for the BLYC. The current master plan has expired, so a new one is needed. The purpose of the Master Plan is to guide short and long-term improvements to the Camp to meet the desired future condition.

A Master Plan is needed to identify improvements to occur at BLYC over the next 20 years. These improvements are needed to ensure a quality outdoor recreation experience in an area designated by the WNF Plan for developed recreation. Improvements to existing facilities, new facilities, and restoration activities are needed to enhance camp accessibility and housing, provide quality on-site experiences for visitors, improve camp infrastructure, improve visitors' sense of arrival, and enhance the natural environment at the BLYC. The Master Plan will provide a vision to meet the following specific needs:

- 1) Enhance recreational opportunities and experience
- 2) Expand the BLYC's capacity
- 3) Expand and improve BLYC's facilities and services
- 4) Meet various accreditation organization and state standards
- 5) Implement an environmental preservation and education plan
- 6) Reduce visual impacts and enhance natural setting

Project Activities are needed to:

- 1) **Enhance Recreational Opportunities and Experience**
 - Improve current or construct new recreational facilities to provide updated and improved facilities.
 - Provide new recreational opportunities through the construction of new facilities
 - Better define physical spaces for separate uses; e.g., eat, play, sleep.

- 2) **Expand The BLYC's Capacity**
 - Increase the current capacity of 325 to better meet public demand and provide for a more enjoyable experience.

- 3) **Improve And Expand BLYC's Facilities And Services.**
 - Move various infrastructures to more suitable locations
 - Better accommodate guests
 - Provide room for new facilities
 - Enhance Accessibility

- 4) **Meet Various Accreditation Organization And State Standards**
 - Address Oregon Department of Human Services (ODHS) standards for the dining hall and health clinic
 - Address Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) standards for the drainfield
 - Improve the camp facilities to meet accreditation standards of the American Camping Association (ACA)
 - Improve the horse corral and stables to meet specifications for a certified program through the Certified Horsemanship Association (CHA)
 - Provide facilities within the camp to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

- 5) **Implement an Environmental Preservation and Education Plan**
 - Revegetate areas denuded by heavy foot traffic
 - Relocate buildings that are or hold the potential to impact water quality
 - Removal of hazard trees and potential fire fuels
 - Development of an environmental camp policy
 - Creation of environmental education programming for camp guests

- 6) **Reduce Visual Impacts and Enhance Natural Setting**
 - Use materials and detailing that blend with or complement the surrounding environment
 - Restore features of the natural landscape within the camp
 - Establish setbacks to protect sensitive areas in the natural landscape

Proposed Action

The proposed action includes the expansion of the BLYC Special Use Permit (SUP) boundary by approximately 25 acres, as shown in Figure 2. This expansion would support an increase in overall capacity from approximately 325 to a “peak” capacity of 460 persons to better meet public demand. Construction of new buildings and facilities, primarily within the new SUP area, are proposed, as well as the removal of a few existing facilities. In addition, the staff parking area would be upgraded, and the current maintenance building would be remodeled for alternate uses. The table listed below identifies the proposed activities, as well as the phase during which these

activities are anticipated to occur. Phase 1 represents activities that are expected to primarily occur during the initial 1-5 years after the NEPA decision, while Phase 2 represents those projects that are to occur later in time.

Table 1. Proposed New Buildings and Facilities in the proposed BLYC Master Plan

Facilities	Number	Units of Measure (Totals)				Phase
		ft ²	Miles	Gallons	Acres/Spaces	
Housing						
Duplex Cabins for Campers	8	10,000	—	—	—	1, 2
Employee Housing	3	7,500	—	—	—	1, 2
Guest Cabins	3	—	—	—	—	1, 2
Dining						
Dining Hall	1	10,500	—	—	—	1
Recreation						
Equestrian Center	1	4,160	—	—	—	1
Indoor Recreation Center	1	6,300	—	—	—	2
Outdoor Swimming Pool & Hot Tub	1	—	—	—	—	2
Equestrian Trail	—	—	0.4	—	—	1
Mountain Biking Trail	—	—	0.6	—	—	1
Support						
Welcome Center	1	4,000	—	—	—	1
Outdoor Amphitheaters	2	9,000	—	—	—	1, 2
PCT Shelter	1	600	—	—	—	2
Trip Center	1	3,500	—	—	—	2
Environmental Education Center	1	2,000	—	—	—	2
Mountain Bike Storage Building	1	800	—	—	—	2
Medical						
Health Clinic	1	2,000	—	—	—	1,2
Maintenance						
Maintenance Center	1	5,000	—	—	—	1
Pump House	1	—	—	—	—	1
Utilities & Infrastructure						
Water Tanks	3	—	—	3,000	—	1
Waste Water*	—	—	—	—	—	1
Power (Central Generator)	1	—	—	—	—	1
Fuel (Propane Tank)	1	—	—	20,000	—	1
Parking	—	—	—	—	0.8/151	1
Roads	—	—	1.02	—	—	1

* This would likely be built when needed, based on the required treatment for the new buildings.

Information

The Big Lake Youth Camp Master Plan Environmental Assessment (EA) will analyze the effects on the environment from the proposed action and compare it to the no action alternative.

Preliminary issues identified through district scoping relate to the effects of the project on:

- Riparian Reserves and Aquatic Conservation Strategy
- Concerns over increased development
- Activities adjacent to wilderness

The Big Lake Youth Camp Master Plan EA is scheduled to be released for public comments in July 2009.

To focus your comments on this Proposed Action, please consider the following questions:

1. Are there alternative ways to meet the purpose of the project other than the proposed action we offer, which you would like the Forest Service to consider and analyze?
2. Is there any information about the project area, which you believe is important in the context of the proposed activities, which the Forest Service might have overlooked?
3. For you or the group you represent, what are the potential effects of this proposal that you are particularly concerned about?

Please include the following information with your comments: name, address, telephone number, title of the document or project on which the comment is being submitted.

Comments would be most helpful if received by November 7, 2008, so they can be considered in the planning process. Please send any comments to Kevin Bruce (Project Team Leader). He may be reached by mail at the McKenzie River Ranger District, 57600 McKenzie Hwy, McKenzie Bridge, OR 97413; by phone at (541) 822-7260; or by e-mail at kbruce@fs.fed.us



Mary Allison
McKenzie River District Ranger
Willamette National Forest

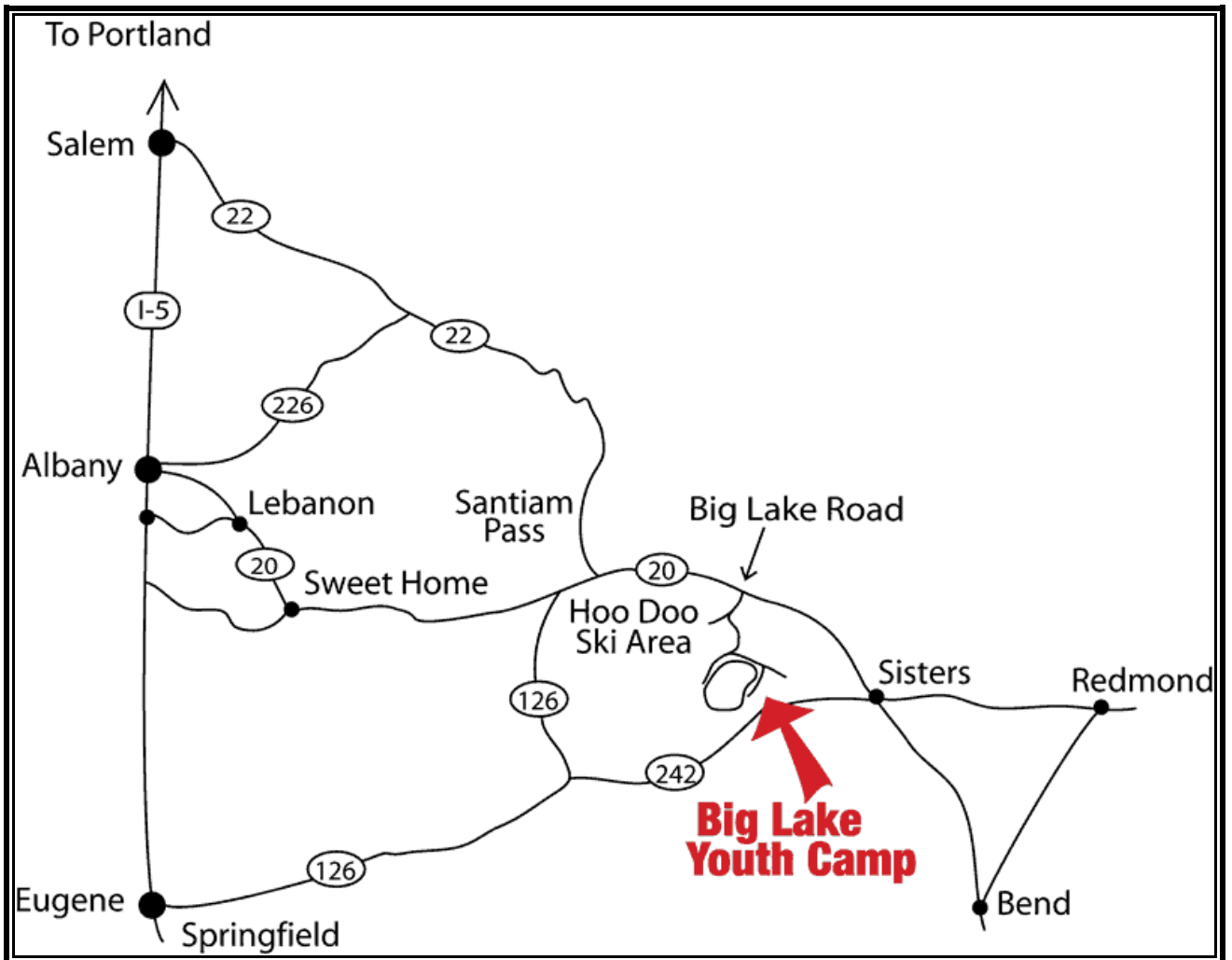


Figure 1. General vicinity map for the BLYC.

Figure 2. Proposed BLYC Master Plan.

PHASE 1 2005-2015

1. Duplex Cabins
2. Staff Homes
3. Dining Hall with Observation Tower
4. Welcome Center
5. Maintenance Center and Pump House (Upgrade Existing Bldg.)
6. PCT Support Shelter
7. Amphitheater
8. Equestrian Center
9. Guest Cabins
10. Play field
11. Tube Run
- 12a. Team Building and Adventure Course
- 12b. Archery
13. Playground Equipment
14. Existing Staff Parking (appx.)

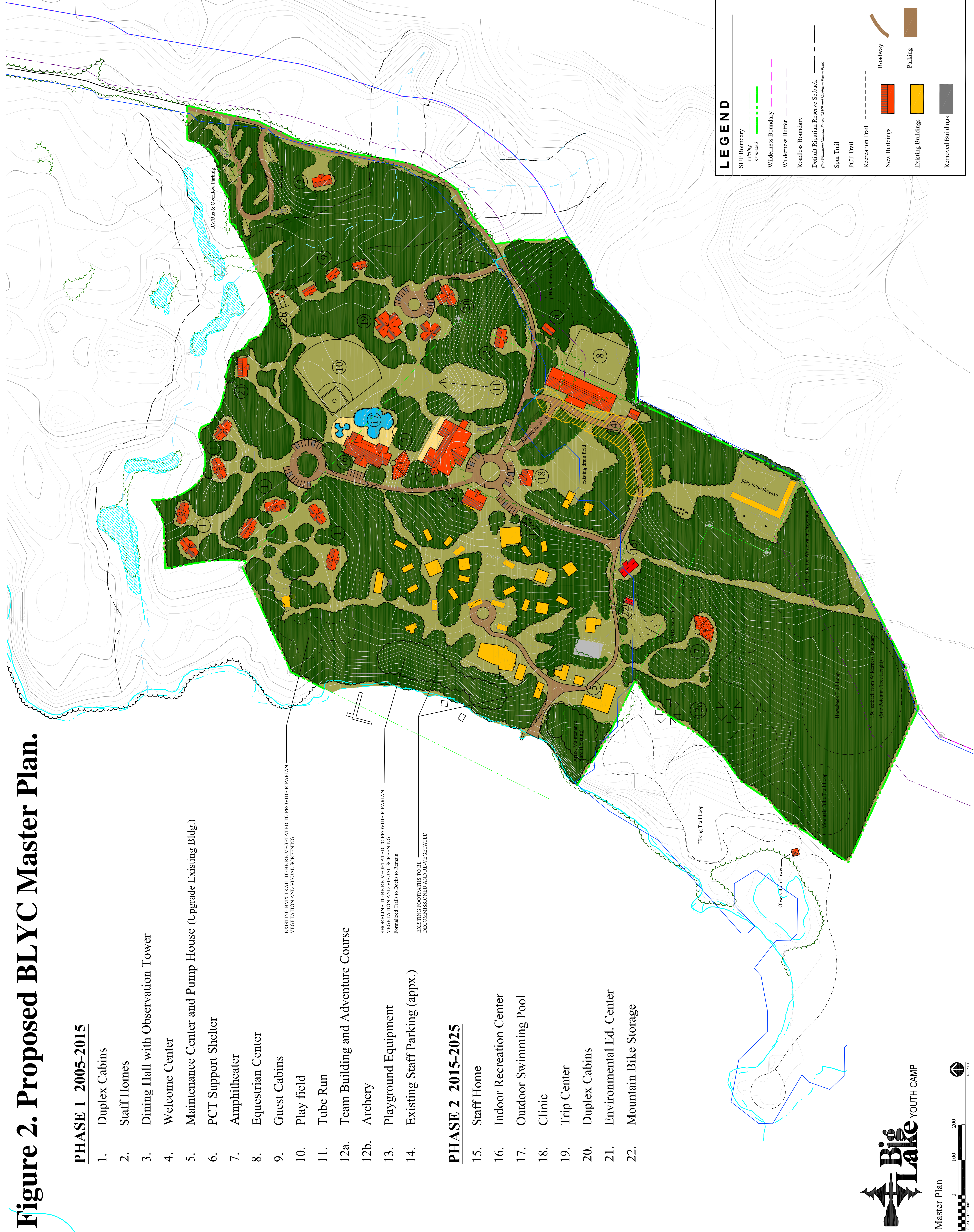
EXISTING BMX TRAIL TO BE RE-VEGETATED TO PROVIDE RIPARIAN VEGETATION AND VISUAL SCREENING

SHORELINE TO BE RE-VEGETATED TO PROVIDE RIPARIAN VEGETATION AND VISUAL SCREENING
Formalized Trails to Docks to Remain

EXISTING FOOTPATHS TO BE DECOMMISSIONED AND RE-VEGETATED

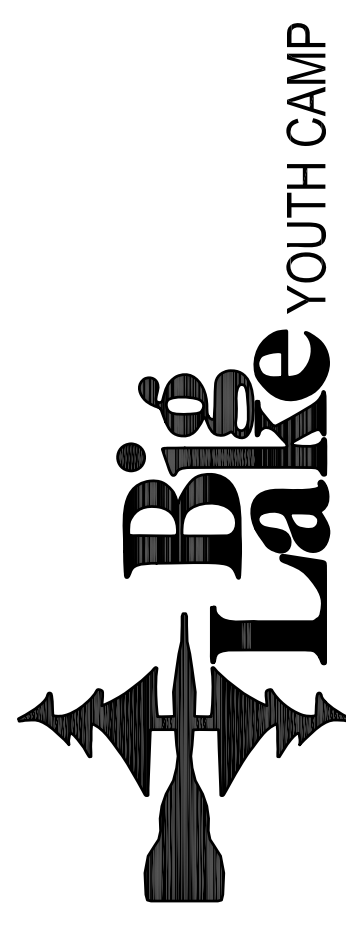
PHASE 2 2015-2025

15. Staff Home
16. Indoor Recreation Center
17. Outdoor Swimming Pool
18. Clinic
19. Trip Center
20. Duplex Cabins
21. Environmental Ed. Center
22. Mountain Bike Storage

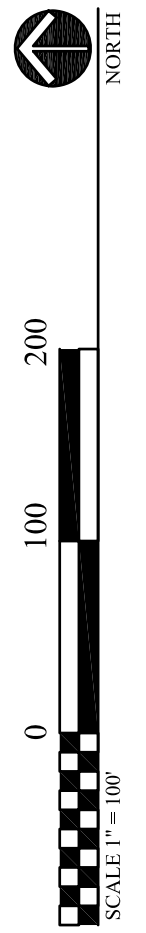


LEGEND

- SUP Boundary
 - existing
 - proposed
- Wilderness Boundary
- Wilderness Buffer
- Roadless Boundary
- Default Riparian Reserve Setback
(Per Williams National Forest OAMP and Northwest Forest Plan)
- Spur Trail
- PCT Trail
- Recreation Trail
- New Buildings
- Existing Buildings
- Removed Buildings
- Roadway
- Parking



Master Plan



Drawn: TERBW Checked: FLA
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