



United States Department of

Recreation Site Facility Master Planning

Inyo National Forest

Looking for Ways to Improve Recreation Opportunities on the Inyo National Forest

The Forest Service is reviewing more than 200 developed recreation sites across the Inyo National Forest, through a process called "Recreation Site Facility Master Planning" (RSFMP). This process will allow the Forest Service, with ideas and information from the public, to provide the best recreation opportunities in the right national forest locations.

Many of the Inyo's developed recreation sites were built 30-50 years ago, while others have been upgraded more recently (*See Highlight on inside page*). We know that over the years, visitor preferences and demographics have changed and that some sites do not meet visitors' expectations and needs.

RSFMP Process

This study will look at the operation and maintenance of the campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, boat ramps, visitor centers, and other facilities in the Inyo National Forest to assure that sound economic decisions are made that meet current and future visitor and community recreation needs.

National Forests around the country are conducting similar studies and following a similar process. The RSFMP process involves seven steps designed to identify developed recreation sites that are best suited for the Inyo. The process will also determine any modifications needed to make these recreation sites consistent with visitor needs and uses.

The RSFMP is a tool to help the Forest Service align its developed recreation sites with the unique characteristics of the Inyo National Forest, projected recreation demand, visitors' expectations, and revenue opportunities.

As a part of this process, the Forest Service will consider federal funding, fees collected at recreation facilities, and how partners and volunteers might help to fill funding gaps.

We Want To Hear From You

Your ideas about how to care for the recreation facilities in the future is an important part of the process. We are aware that certain sites, even those in less than desirable condition, are important to groups and individuals. It is valuable for us to hear from you to help round out our understanding of what is important to consider in this process.

Opportunities to learn from you will be available throughout the process.

One of the early steps in the RSFMP is to describe the recreation opportunities and settings in the Inyo National Forest and to identify special places. You are invited to add to this discussion by sharing your ideas and information about your use of these recreation facilities (*See inside right page*).


Forest Service Pacific Southwest Region



February 2007

Seven Steps Of Recreation Site - Facility Master Planning

The RSFMP involves seven steps, each bringing the Forest's developed recreation sites in closer alignment with the Forest's unique characteristics, projected demand, visitor expectations, costs for operation and maintenance, and revenue.

- 1 Step 1: Prepare Site Inventory and Financial Data.**
In this step, the inventory of recreation sites is updated, along with estimates of the costs for operation and maintenance and deferred maintenance for each recreation site.
Completed mid - February .
 - 2 Step 2: Identify Forest Recreation Program Niche.**
Recreation-visitor use, market data, and public input are examined to determine the focus of the Forest's recreation program. This will include a map that displays the Forest's recreation settings and a summary paragraph that characterizes the Forest's unique recreation program "niche."
Scheduled for March 2007.
Public comments needed for "niche" development 
 - 3 Step 3: Identify Operational Efficiencies.**
Recreation sites are examined to determine if efficiencies can be undertaken to further reduce site expenditures and eliminate deferred maintenance while maintaining recreation opportunities. A proposed set of management options is developed for each site to reduce costs or provide services in other ways.
 - 4 Step 4: Rank Recreation Sites.**
Recreation sites are rated through the use of a series of questions involving the sites' conformance with the Forest recreation program niche; their financial and operational efficiency; their effects on environmental sustainability; and their effects on community stability.
 - 5 Step 5: Propose 5-year Program of Work to Stakeholders.**
The proposed 5-year program of work for recreation sites is prepared based upon the analysis completed in the previous four steps. Broader discussions with stakeholders are sought to explore alternative ways of operating sites or building new partnerships.
Scheduled for early April
Public review of draft plan in May.
 - 6 Step 6: Finalize 5-year Proposed Program of Work.**
The 5-year program of work for recreation sites is refined, based upon the broader discussions with stakeholders.
Date to be determined but must be ready to implement by December 31, 2007.
 - 7 Step 7: Implementation.** Annually, site-specific steps are proposed to implement the 5-year program of work for recreation sites. Prior to implementation of individual projects, National Environmental Policy Act and other agency coordination requirements are completed.
After December 31, 2007. Projects will be listed in the Inyo's Schedule of Proposed Actions.
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Specifically Concerning the Development of the Forest's Recreation Program Niche.....



During the first week of March, Inyo National Forest staff will meet to create the initial draft of the Forest's recreation program niche (Step 2 of the RSFMP process). As part of this step, the staff will be exploring the following topics and we would like to hear from you on these topics.

- ◆ **Understanding What is Unique** - What is unique or exceptionally distinctive about the Inyo National Forest and/or the recreation opportunities it provides?
- ◆ **Understanding Our Visitors** - What are the things that Forest visitors are most satisfied about?
- ◆ **Understanding Our Communities** - What is the importance of the Forest and/or recreation opportunities it provides to local communities?
- ◆ **Of Long-Term Value** - Twenty-five years from now, what do you expect the public to value the most about the Forest?

This is an important step since all the recreation sites will be evaluated later in the process on how well they meet the Forest niche and the result will effect the ranking in Step 4.

What You Can Do

You are encouraged to add your ideas and answers to these questions to the discussion. Feel free to send your responses to Mary Beth Hennessy, RSFMP Project Coordinator, during the month of March so we can incorporate them into Step 2.

You can e-mail us at: inyo_rsfmp@fs.fed.us

Or mail us at:

RSFMP, Inyo National Forest
351 Pacu Lane Suite 200
Bishop, CA 93514



Or call us at: 760-873-2515

We will keep the latest information on our website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/rsfmp. If you would like to be added to the RSFMP mailing list or you have specific questions or concerns about RSFMP please contact us.

Highlight - Bishop Creek Campground Enhancement



Bishop Creek is nestled beneath the towering eastern escarpment of the Sierra crest. It is spectacular in its scenic qualities and offers many opportunities for camping, biking, fishing, boating and hiking.

Through a negotiated agreement as a part of re-licensing of hydroelectric facilities, the Inyo National Forest and Southern California Electric agreed to improvements of recreational facilities and opportunities in the Bishop Creek drainage. In 2006 the Forest Service completed improvements to camping opportunities by expanding the Forks and Big Trees campgrounds and constructing a new campground named "Bitterbrush". In addition, a mountain bike trail was constructed linking Intake 2 to Forks, Big Trees and Four Jeffrey's Campgrounds. A total of 62 new campsites increases camping opportunities during the busy summer season and Bitterbrush offers a lower elevation setting enjoyed by early and late season campers.

For more information about this campground or other camping opportunities on the Inyo Forest, please visit our website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo

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Thank you for your participation in determining how quality recreation opportunities can continue to be provided on the Inyo National Forest.

USDA Forest Service

Inyo National Forest



Recreation Site Facility Master Planning Project

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Contact:

Mary Beth Hennessy, Project Coordinator
760-873-2515

Email: mhennessy@fs.fed.us



For more information on this project and the opportunity to share your ideas contact Mary Beth Hennessy (information above)

or visit our website at:

www.fs.fed.us/r5/inyo/rsfmp

For More Information Regarding Specific Inyo National Forest Recreation Sites

Contact:

**Mono Lake Ranger District/
Mono Basin Scenic Area**

PO Box 429
Lee Vining, CA 93541
(760) 647-3044

Mammoth Ranger District

P.O. Box 148 - 2500 Main St.
Mammoth Lakes, CA 93546
(760) 924-5500

White Mountain Ranger District

798 North Main St
Bishop, CA 93514
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**Mt. Whitney Ranger District/
Interagency Visitor Center**

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