



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Mark Christiansen
(541) 383-5571
Virginia Gibbons
(541) 416-6647

Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland Host Public Meeting on Recreation Site Planning Proposal

PRINEVILLE—The public is invited to attend a presentation and question and answer session regarding a proposal for future recreation facility management on the Ochoco National Forest and the Crooked River National Grassland. The proposal is titled “Recreation Facility Analysis” (RFA) and it discusses the future management of 38 developed recreation sites, primarily campgrounds, that are currently managed by the Forest and the Grassland.

The presentation is scheduled for Monday, June 16, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Ochoco National Forest Headquarters at 3160 N.E. 3rd Street in Prineville. The evening’s activities will include a presentation and review of a proposed 5-year recreation site maintenance plan. The public will have an opportunity to ask questions and provide comments after the presentation.

The Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River National Grassland is located away from large populations and with its homesteaded grassland and stately ponderosa pines, has quietly escaped from the larger crowds. The forest & grassland has provided quality of life for generations of residents in nearby communities, as well as to hunters and others who travel here to simply enjoy exploring, fishing or horseback riding.

As growing populations settle along its boundary, the Ochoco’s contribution to the rich tapestry of recreation opportunities in Central Oregon will continue to focus on local history, outdoor recreation in a remote setting with rustic facilities and multi-seasonal access on roads and trails.

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The RFA represents a thorough evaluation of every developed recreation site. Sites were ranked and based on conformance to the forest niche and amount of recreation use (35%), financial efficiency (35%) and environmental sustainability (20%) and community stability (10%). The purpose of RFA is to create a recreation site inventory which is sustainable and flexible enough to adapt to changes in demand, available resources and opportunities.

Many of the Ochoco National Forest's recreation facilities were built 30-50 years ago and other recreation facilities receive no or very little use. As the population of central Oregon grows, our intent is to manage recreation sites to provide the best value for the public within our available resources that also reflects the long-held values of the Ochocos and the people who are woven into the history of the forest and the grassland.

"I'm hoping that community members will attend our presentation June ¹⁶ to learn about our proposed recreation plans for the future," said Forest Supervisor Jeff Walter. "It is important that we are fiscally responsible in identifying appropriate recreation sites for continued maintenance. If the public has strong feelings about which recreation sites we maintain, seasons of use or fees charged, now is a good time to provide the Forest Service with your comments."

The RFA is available on the Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/recreation/ This planning process is part of a national effort by the Forest Service to identify which recreation services and facilities will be maintained for public use and enjoyment. A comment link will be provided on the website, or e-mail comments to mchristiansen@fs.fed.us or mail comments by July 4, 2008 to: Mark Christiansen, Deschutes National Forest, 1001 SW Emkay Drive, Bend, OR 97702.

This recreation proposal is consistent with the Ochoco Forest and Land and Resource Management Plan. Any actions associated with the proposal that require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act will generate site-specific analysis and associated public involvement prior to implementation.