

## Recreation Site – Facility Master Planning

### MALHEUR NATIONAL FOREST

#### PROPOSED 5-YEAR PROGRAM OF WORK

##### **Background**

The Malheur National Forest is proposing future management of developed recreation sites through a process called “Recreation Site Facility Master Planning (RS-FMP).” Every National Forest in the nation will also complete this process by 2007.

We want to provide healthy, safe, and well-maintained recreation opportunities that are important to local communities and visitors to our area. Through the RS-FMP process, the overall goals of our recreation site program are to:

- Focus resources on the most appropriate recreation opportunities to meet changing public desires and demands.
- Maintain or enhance visitor satisfaction with the sites and services provided.
- Meet quality health and safety standards at all developed recreation sites.
- Be financially sustainable.
- Be environmentally sound.
- Support community sustainability.

Many of our facilities were built 30-50 years ago and have reached the end of their useful life without significant deferred maintenance investment. Other facilities receive little or no use, and no longer serve the kind or level of use that existed in years past. The fundamental premise of the program of work is to create an inventory which is sustainable and flexible enough to be annually adapted to any changes in demand, available resources, and opportunities.

At each forest, the RS-FMP process involves several steps: gathering inventory and financial data; identifying the forest recreation niche; evaluating each developed recreation site against established national criteria (including conformance with the forest niche, financial efficiency, and environmental and community sustainability); and ranking the recreation sites according to those criteria. Using this analysis, as well as professional judgment and assessment of our ability to meet current and future demand, the Forest has documented a proposed 5-Year Program of Work.

***We welcome your comments and suggestions on this proposal.***

## **What's Happening on the Malheur National Forest?**

A Forest's recreation niche defines the best-suited recreation experiences or benefits that the forest can provide. It's what makes a forest special, and fosters quality recreation versus quantity, or trying to be all things to all people. It provides a good description of the uniquely specific recreation opportunities provided by the Forest within the context of the forest's ecological features, opportunities provided by others in the area, and the demands and desires of recreation visitors to the area now and into the future. The Malheur National Forest niche is:

### **A Traditional Way of Life**

**A dispersed recreation destination where local communities share traditions and heritage with new generations and with visitors. Recreation visitors enjoy the freedom to hunt, drive, camp, and hike in a wild place and enjoy the beauty and diversity of forest ecosystems away from major population centers.**

This niche provides an umbrella context for all recreation programs on the Forest and helps us match up what is most wanted with what we can best provide, to create the most value for the public within our available resources.

Through this Recreation Sites Facility Master Planning, we are proposing a 5-year program of work to bring the Forest's recreation infrastructure into alignment with the forest recreation niche and the resources available to operate and maintain it to standard.

This proposed program of work is also important to address the backlog of needed maintenance at facilities that has been increasing over the years, creating health, safety, and visitor satisfaction concerns. Referred to as "deferred maintenance," the amount of work needed in sites nationally has reached \$346 million. Along with that, less than one-quarter of all Forest Service developed recreation sites is now being operated to meet all quality standards.

On the Malheur National Forest, the backlog of deferred maintenance is over \$ 2 million.

### **More about the Recreation Site Facility Master Planning Analysis:**

The Forest completed an evaluation of each developed recreation site using established national criteria, ranking their recreation sites according to those criteria, and making a recommendation for a Proposed 5-Year Program of Work using this information as well as professional judgment, and ability to meet current and future demand. The criteria include:

- Conformance to the forest niche and amount of recreation use (35%)
- Financial efficiency (35%)
- Environmental and community sustainability (30%).

We also considered if sites were under some type of operational or contractual agreement whose terms are longer than the 5-year period of the RS-FMP analysis (i.e. concessionaire-managed campground).



The **Malheur** National Forest evaluated a total of 58 developed recreation sites. The following table summarizes the number of recreation sites evaluated by "site type."

### **Malheur National Forest Developed Recreation Site Summary**

<b>Recreation Site Type</b>	<b>Number of Sites Evaluated</b>
Campground	35
Group Campground	
Horse Camp	4
Picnic Area	
Group Picnic Area	
Trailhead	5
Boat/Swim/Fish	
Interpretative Major	
Interpretative Minor	2
Cabins/Lookouts	8
Information Site	
Observation Site	1
Sno-Park	2
Snow Play	1
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>58</b>

#### **The Proposed Actions and Program of Work for the Malheur National Forest::**

Of 58 developed sites reviewed, we propose to make improvements for health and safety, improved accessibility for all people, and comfort and convenience of all visitors at 30 of our developed sites. Along with those improvements, we propose to moderately increase fees at the 15 sites where we currently charge fees, to begin charging fees at 8 additional new sites and propose to remove facilities from or reduce services at 20 sites.

The 8 fire lookouts/cabins received only a cursory review during this process. Because of the nature of recreation rental management, a more comprehensive business plan is proposed to look at management of the existing recreation lodging on the Forest and to examine the opportunity to add new recreation lodging sites to provide more of those opportunities.

The specific list of Proposed Management Actions by Ranger District and Site Name is attached. Please feel free to contact your local ranger district or Forest with questions and comments about our process or proposed management actions. We would like to hear from you!

## Results

The following results can be expected upon implementation of the proposed management actions described in the attachment. These particular results focus specifically on financial sustainability, reduced deferred maintenance, and meeting quality health and safety standards at all developed recreation sites.

Result	Baseline Condition	Program of Work Changed Condition
Appropriated Funds Available <sup>1</sup>	\$47,893	\$47,893
Fee Receipts Available	\$50,210	\$124,220
Other Funds Available <sup>2</sup>	-	-
Annual Operating Costs	\$159,917	\$101,727
Annual Maintenance Costs	\$136,055	\$78,325
Deferred Maintenance Costs	\$2,110,794	\$703,314
PAOT Days Managed to Standard <sup>3</sup>	176,855	405,757
Annual O&M Costs/PAOT Day	1.57	0.38

We will also continue to monitor visitor satisfaction with the sites and services provided, and consider how our developed recreation program contributes to local community stability. Some of the proposed actions will require full National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) analysis, assuring environmental sound decisions.

How closely the Forest adheres to the plan will depend upon available funding and resources, as well as the public's interest, and in many cases, involvement and partnership to enhance our recreation program. If you are interested in helping the Forest implement or improve on the proposed program of work, please contact Jennifer Harris, 541-575-3008 or at [jlharris@fs.fed.us](mailto:jlharris@fs.fed.us) or Malheur National Forest, PO Box 909, John Day, OR 97845.

<sup>1</sup>Appropriated funds available are reflected using FY 2006 as the baseline funding year, with the assumption for this analysis that developed recreation funding will remain flat (subject to forest and regional priorities).

<sup>2</sup>Other Funds Available include funding from partnerships, grants, and other funding made available that are not appropriated funds or fee receipts.

<sup>3</sup>PAOT = People at One Time (or capacity of a site at any one time). PAOT Days equate to the number of days in a season where sites are managed to standard multiplied by total PAOT.



Attachment  
Proposed Management Actions  
Malheur National Forest

The following is a summary of the proposed management actions. Most management option code categories include sub-activities that identify more specific actions, however to simplify this summary of proposed management actions, the "primary" management action code is used. The primary management action codes are as follows:

<u>Management Action Code</u>	<u>Description</u>
A	Decommission
B	Closure
C	Change Season
D	Remove or Eliminate Cost Source or Service Season
E	Reduce Service Frequency Season
F	Increase/Improve Services
G	Construct a new Area
H	Change Operator or Work Force
I	Change Fees
J	Change Capacity (PAOTS)
K	Site Conversion
L	Replacement/Repair
NC	No Change

**Note:** \*Managed open/closed dates represent the dates that services and maintenance would occur. The site may be open to the public without any services provided or it may be physically closed outside of the managed season

## PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTIONS MALHEUR National Forest

\*Managed open/closed dates represent the dates that services and maintenance would occur. The site may be open to the public without any services provided or it may be physically closed outside of the managed season.

RANGER DISTRICT	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	*PLANNED OPEN DATE	*PLANNED CLOSING DATE	PLANNED CAPACITY (PACT)	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTION(s)	MGT OPTION CODE(s)	PROPOSED YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION
Bear Valley	BEAR VALLEY WORK CENTER	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	January-00	January-00	4	Develop business plan Consider adding as an accessible rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC	2007
Bear Valley	BILLY FIELDS FOREST CAMP	HORSE CAMP	May-05	November-05	20	Reduce services, remove tables, upgrade toilet	E,D,F	2008
Bear Valley	CANYON MEADOWS CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Remove facilities, high vandalism, low occupancy	A	2007
Bear Valley	DEER CREEK GUARD STATION	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	May-06	November-06	5	Develop business plan to assess retention as a rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC,D	2007
Bear Valley	FALL MTN LO	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	May-06	November-06	2	Develop business plan to assess retention as a rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC	2007
Bear Valley	MURDERS CREEK GUARD STATION	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	May-06	November-06	5	Develop business plan to assess retention as a rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC	2007
Bear Valley	OREGON MINE FOREST CAMP	HORSE CAMP	May-05	November-05	15	Reduce frequency of services, upgrade toilet.	F,E	2008
Bear Valley	PARISH CABIN CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	85	Increase fee to \$8: campground was posted for fee increase fall 2006 pending review by RAC. Improve site accessibility. Replace water system.	I	2009
Bear Valley	PINE CREEK TH	TRAILHEAD	January-00	January-00	0	Return to original location & condition, remove toilet.	A	2010
Bear Valley	STARR BOWL	OTHER WINTER SPORTS SITE	November-05	February-05	18	Increase volunteer support. Flesh out volunteer expectations and formalize agreement.	H	2010
Bear Valley	STARR CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	29	Eliminate lower loop, abandon water system. Increase fee to \$6 pending review by RAC. Retain toilet in lower loop and keep area as lowest development scale.	J,I	2007
Bear Valley	STARR SNOWPARK	SNOWPARK	November-05	February-05	70	No change	NC	2010
Bear Valley	SWICK OLD GROWTH INTERP SITE	INTERPRETIVE SITE (MINOR)	May-05	November-05	21	No change	NC	2010
Bear Valley	WICKIUP CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	15	Eliminate south portion of CG, remove old restroom. Begin charging fee of \$6 pending review by RAC. toilet removal = \$6,000	J,D,I	2008
Emigrant Creek	ALDER SPRINGS CAMP	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	15	Replace toilet	F	2010
Emigrant Creek	ALLISON GUARD STATION	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	May-06	November-06	5	Develop business plan. Consider adding as an accessible rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC	2007
Emigrant Creek	BUCK SPRING CG.	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	40	Begin charging fee \$6, pending review by RAC. Review for accessibility standards.	I	2008
Emigrant Creek	CALAMITY BUTTE LO	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	January-00	January-00	2	Develop business plan to consider adding as a rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC	2007
Emigrant Creek	DELINTMENT LAKE	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	218	Increase fees to \$10 Campground posted in fall 2005, pending review by RAC. Improve site accessibility. Develop switchback trail to picnic area to meet accessible grade requirements.	I	2007
Emigrant Creek	DOE SPRINGS CG	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	25	Upgrade toilet	F	2010
Emigrant Creek	EMIGRANT	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Reduce operational season, add water system (poss. new well), replace toilet. Increase fees to \$8: campground posted for fee increase fall 2006, pending review by RAC.	F,I	2009
Emigrant Creek	FALLS	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	30	Increase fees to \$8: campground posted for fee increase in fall 2006, pending review by RAC. Improve site accessibility to toilet and water.	I	2008



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RANGER DISTRICT	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	*PLANNED OPEN DATE	*PLANNED CLOSING DATE	PLANNED CAPACITY (PAOT)	PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTION(s)	MGT OPTION CODE(s)	PROPOSED YEAR OF IMPLEMENTATION
Emigrant Creek	IDLEWILD CG	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	70	Remove sno-park, reconfigure site, reduce season, add water system, replace toilet. Increase fees to \$10: campground posted for fee increase in fall 2006, pending review by RAC. Improve site accessibility to picnic tables, water and BBQs.	F,F,I	2010
Emigrant Creek	JOAQUIN MILLER	HORSE CAMP	May-05	November-05	60	Reduce season to 180 days, remove 6 old toilets, install one new one. Increase fees to \$8: campground posted for fee increase in fall 2006, pending review by RAC. Review for accessibility standards.	I,C,F	2008
Emigrant Creek	MOPIE SPRINGS	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Remove facilities. Reduce to Development Scale 0.	A	2007, 2010
Emigrant Creek	PENDLETON SPRINGS CAMP	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	50	Replace toilet, define sites.	F	2010
Emigrant Creek	PINE SPRINGS OVERLOOK	OBSERVATION SITE	March-05	November-05	35	Improve interp signs, add interp along trail, ADA improvements, pave. Interp improvements = \$15,000, paving/ADA = \$20,000.	F,F,F	2010
Emigrant Creek	ROCK SPRINGS	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	70	Begin charging fee of \$6, pending review by RAC.	I	2008
Emigrant Creek	TAMARACK FOREST CAMP	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	20	Upgrade toilet, begin charging fee of \$6, pending review by RAC.	F,I	2010
Emigrant Creek	TIP TOP	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	70	Upgrade toilet, begin charging fee of \$6, pending review by RAC.	F,I	2010
Emigrant Creek	YELLOWJACKET CG	CAMPGROUND	April-05	November-05	150	Investigate partnership funds with state to add accessible fishing pier. Remove well (1 of 2), upgrade toilet. Address accessibility to water and picnic areas and BBQs. Increase fee to \$10: campground was posted for fee increase fall 2006, pending review by RAC.	D,F,H,I,I	2010
Long Creek	DEERHORN FOREST CAMP	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	25	Increase fees to \$8: campground was posted for fee increase fall 2006, pending review by RAC. Review for accessibility standards.	I	2007
Long Creek	DIXIE CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	68	Increase fee to \$8: campground posted for fee increase fall 2006, pending review by RAC. Improve accessibility at fee station and to water.	D,I	2007
Long Creek	HEAD O' BOULDER FOREST CAMP	CAMPGROUND	August-05	November-05	35	Reduce season, open only during hunting season.	C	2006
Long Creek	LOWER CAMP CREEK FOREST CAMP	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	31	Begin charging fee \$6, pending review by RAC. Install toilet, NEPA and DEQ permit done.	I,F	2008
Long Creek	MAGONE LAKE RECREATION AREA	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	331	Don't replace beach. Upgrade docks with state partnership. Move fee station for accessibility, install accessible toilet between sites #2 and #4 w/ paths. Increase fee to \$13: campground was posted for fee increase fall, 2006, pending review by RAC.	D,I,F	2009
Long Creek	MAGONE SLIDE TH	TRAILHEAD	May-05	November-05	10	No change	NC	2010
Long Creek	MIDDLE FORK CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	50	Develop water source- would serve several campgrounds in the area (not within this CG). Increase fee to \$8: campground posted for fee increase in fall 2006, pending review by RAC.	I,F	2010
Long Creek	RADDUE FOREST CAMP	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Decommission ASAP	A	2007
Long Creek	SUNSHINE GUARD STATION	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	January-00	January-00	6	Develop business plan. Consider adding as an accessible rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC	2007



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Prairie City	BIG CREEK CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	70	Reduce sites that used to be group area. Increase fee to \$8: campground posted for fee increase in fall 2006, pending review by RAC. Reduce services commensurate with use, except for holidays and hunting season, need 3 accessible sites and accessibility to toilet and handump.	J,I	2007
Prairie City	CRANE CROSSING CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Remove facilities. Reduce to Development Scale 0.	A	2007
Prairie City	CRESCENT CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	25	Monitor travel management impacts to reconsider decision. Open for hunting season only.	C	2009
Prairie City	ELK CREEK CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Decommission to lowest development scale or look for community support.	A	2010
Prairie City	ELK FLAT SPRING CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Remove facilities. Reduce to Development Scale 0.	A	2007
Prairie City	HUDDLESTON SNOPARK TH	SNOWPARK	November-05	February-05	53	Pave parking, install groomer shed	F	2008
Prairie City	LITTLE CRANE CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	0	Decommission to lowest development scale or look for community support.	I	2010
Prairie City	MALHEUR FORD TH	TRAILHEAD	May-05	November-05	14	No change	NC	2010
Prairie City	MURRAY CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	25	Relocate 3 sites away from stream, upgrade all facilities. Begin charging fee of \$8, pending review by RAC. Strive to have all sites accessible.	F,I	2008
Prairie City	NORTH FORK MALHEUR CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	25	Reduce services, manage as development scale 2.	E,	2006
Prairie City	SHORT CREEK GUARD STATION	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERN	January-00	January-00	4	Develop business plan. Consider adding as an accessible rental facility. Business plan cost = \$2000, adding site = \$8000	NC	2007
Prairie City	SKYLINE TH	TRAILHEAD	January-00	January-00	0	Remove facilities. Manage as development scale 0.	A	2007
Prairie City	SLIDE CREEK CG	CAMPGROUND	January-00	January-00	35	Monitor travel management impacts to reconsider decision.	F	2009
Prairie City	SLIDE HORSE CAMP	HORSE CAMP	January-00	January-00	15	Begin charging fee of \$8, pending review by RAC. Sign accessible facility.	I	2008
Prairie City	STRAWBERRY BASIN TH	TRAILHEAD	May-05	November-05	70	Add interpretive display to inform visitors about avoidance of day-use and stock-use impacts.	F	2010
Prairie City	STRAWBERRY CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	45	Increase fees to \$8: campground was posted for fee increase fall 2006, pending review by RAC. Improve sites & toilet accessibility.	I	2008
Prairie City	SUMPTER VALLEY RR INTERP SITE	INTERPRETIVE SITE (MINOR)	May-05	November-05	7	Reconstruct site parking and trail extension. Ensure reconstruction/construction meets accessibility standards; Seek TEA dollars to fund this.	F	2008
Prairie City	TROUT FARM CG	CAMPGROUND	May-05	November-05	126	Look for volunteer support/funds or eliminate shelter. Improve accessible sites, improve fee station and picnic area for access., address safety concerns at fishing jetties.	H,A,I	2009