



Recreation Facility Analysis Planning

FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FORESTS

Proposed Five-Year Program of Work

Updated Nov. 4, 2008

BACKGROUND

The Fremont-Winema National Forests are proposing future management of developed recreation sites through a process called "Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA)." Every National Forest in the nation will also complete this process by 2008.

The Forest wants to provide healthy, safe and well-maintained recreation opportunities that are important to local communities and visitors to the area. Through the RFA process, the overall goals of our recreation 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.

RFA guided the Forest through evaluation of all developed recreation sites, including campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, Sno-Parks, horse camps, cabin/lookouts, boat/swim/fish areas and interpretative and observation sites. This study considered alignment with the recreation niche, financial efficiency and environmental and community stability. Through the RFA process, the Forest drafted a "program of work" outlining the proposed management of these sites over the next five years.

Many of the facilities on the Forest were built 30-60 years ago. Some have reached the end of their useful life. Other facilities receive little or no use, and no longer serve the demand 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. Therefore, the program of work can be updated should the Forest have a need to re-evaluate its recreation program.

WHAT MAKES THE FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FORESTS SPECIAL?

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 Fremont-Winema National Forests' niche is:

“Find Yourself in South Central Oregon”

Framed by major migratory bird flyways the Fremont-Winema National Forests provide a picture of solitude and serene beauty in a spacious open landscape, from majestic snow-capped peaks, lakes and streams, to park-like stands of large ponderosa pines with a lush understory of grasses and wildflowers. Scenic routes throughout the forest provide easy access for visitors. Backcountry solitude experiences contrast with some nodes of concentrated water-based recreation.

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

Through this RFA planning, the Fremont-Winema National Forests are proposing a Five-year Program of Work to bring the Forest's recreation infrastructure into alignment with the Forest's 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.

MORE ABOUT THE RECREATION FACILITY ANALYSIS PLANNING

The Fremont-Winema National Forests 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 Five-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 and operational efficiency (35%)
- Environmental and community sustainability (30%).

The Forest also considered if sites were under some type of operational or contractual agreement whose terms are longer than the five-year period of the RFA (i.e. concessionaire-managed campground).

The Fremont-Winema National Forests evaluated a total of 85 developed recreation sites. The following table summarizes the number of recreation sites evaluated by “site type.”

DEVELOPED RECREATION SITE SUMMARY

Recreation Site Type	Number of Sites Evaluated
Campground	38
Trailheads	19
Sno-Parks	7
Picnic Area	6
Cabin/Lookouts	5
Horse Camps	3
Boat/Swim/Fish Areas	3
Interpretative Areas	2
Observation Site	2
TOTAL:	85

THE PROPOSED FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM OF WORK

The Five-year Program of Work is a living document, in that it can be updated as needed. The following is a summary of the management actions defined in the program of work:

- Major facility replacement at 18 developed recreation sites.
- Facility improvements at 17 developed recreation sites.
- Restore the Fremont Point recreation cabin.
- Reduce deferred maintenance backlog of approximately \$1,966,000.
- Increase fees at eight developed recreation sites.
- Start charging fees at 10 developed recreation sites.
- Partially remove or reduce services at 10 developed recreation sites.
- Convert two developed recreation sites into dispersed recreation spots.
- No additional facilities proposed for concessionaire operation.

The Forest 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 Rich Kehr, Forest Staff Officer, at (541) 883-6722 or rkehr@fs.fed.us.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS

Please provide comments on the proposed Five-year Program of Work by Friday, June 13. However feedback will be accepted at any stage of the process. Comments can be submitted as follows:

Mail: Fremont-Winema National Forests
ATTN: Recreation Facility Analysis
2819 Dahlia
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

E-mail: fwnf-rfa@fs.fed.us

Fax: (541) 885-3452

FIVE-YEAR PROGRAM OF WORK DETAILED SUMMARY

Proposed Facility Improvement Sites

SITE NAME	RANGER DISTRICT
Lower Buck Creek Campground	Silver Lake
Silver Creek Marsh Campground	Silver Lake
Lofton Reservoir Campground	Bly
Walt Haring Sno-Park	Chemult
Digit Point Boating	Chemult
Digit Point Campground	Chemult
Digit Point Day Use	Chemult
Head of the River Campground	Chiloquin
Wood River Day Use	Chiloquin
Annie Creek Snow Park	Klamath
Aspen Campground	Klamath
Crystal Springs Picnic Area	Klamath
Great Meadow Sno-Park	Klamath
Pelican Guard Station	Klamath
Rainbow Day Use	Klamath
Rocky Point Boat Launch	Klamath
Sunset Campground	Klamath

Proposed Existing Facility Replacement & Repair Sites

SITE NAME	RANGER DISTRICT
Can Springs Campground	Lakeview
Cottonwood Campground	Lakeview
Dog Lake Campground	Lakeview
Rogger Trailhead	Lakeview
East Bay Campground	Silver Lake
Silver Creek Marsh Campground	Silver Lake
Thompson Reservoir Campground	Silver Lake
Lofton Reservoir Campground	Bly
Corral Springs Campground	Chemult
Digit Campground	Chemult
Jackson Creek Campground	Chemult
Oux Kanee Overlook	Chiloquin
Head of the River Campground	Chiloquin
Spring Creek Campground	Chiloquin
Annie Creek Sno-Park	Klamath
Aspen Campground	Klamath
Rainbow Day Use	Klamath
Sunset Campground	Klamath

Proposed Facility Reduction Sites

SITE NAME	RANGER DISTRICT
Jackson Creek Campground	Chemult
Oux Kanee Overlook	Chiloquin
Spring Creek Campground	Chiloquin
Willow Creek Campground	Lakeview
Cox Pass Trailhead	Lakeview
Antler Trailhead	Silver Lake
Farm Well Horse Camp	Silver Lake
Hadley Butte Launch Site	Paisley
Lee Thomas Trailhead	Paisley
Moss Pass Trailhead	Paisley

Proposed Conversion Sites

SITE NAME	RANGER DISTRICT
Dismal Creek Campground	Lakeview
Overton Reservoir Campground	Lakeview

Proposed Fee Increase Sites

SITE NAME	RANGER DISTRICT
Digit Point Campground	Chemult
Williamson River Campground	Chiloquin
Aspen Cabin	Lakeview
Drakes Peak Lookout	Lakeview
Bald Butte Lookout	Paisley
Currier Guard Station	Paisley
East Bay Campground	Silver Lake
Hager Mountain Lookout	Silver Lake

Proposed New Fee Sites

SITE NAME	RANGER DISTRICT
Walt Haring Sno-Park	Chemult
Lofton Reservoir Campground	Bly
Cottonwood Campground	Lakeview
Dog Lake Campground	Lakeview
Campbell Lake Campground	Paisley
Deadhorse Lake Campground	Paisley
Marster Springs Campground	Paisley
Silver Creek Marsh Trailhead	Silver Lake
Silver Creek Marsh Campground	Silver Lake
Thompson Reservoir Campground	Silver Lake