

Recreation Facility Analysis



5-year Program of Work and Programmatic Results of Implementation

HELENA National Forest
April 28, 2008

Recreation Facility Analysis
5-year Program of Work

HELENA National Forest

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1. INTRODUCTION

This document is a living, working road map to guide the Forest in providing a quality, sustainable recreation sites program. It describes the vision for the overall Forest recreation program and outlines proposals specific to individual developed recreation sites.

The proposals and guidance contained in this document were developed through, and are the end result of, the national Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) process. Existing and projected visitor demands, recreation program niche, resource conditions, links to the community, program costs, and revenue were all considered in developing proposals.

This document will serve as a framework from which the Forest will prioritize investments, and pursue changes in operations or maintenance of recreation sites. Proposals are wholly consistent with the Northern Region's "Recreation Strategy", and the Helena Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The Forest recognizes that site-specific analysis and public involvement may be necessary prior to implementing some of the proposals contained in this document. As implementation of site-specific proposals are considered, they will be evaluated to determine if they are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all required procedures shall be executed.

The Forest also recognizes that proposals relating to fees will require consistency with criteria outlined in the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) and coordination with the appropriate Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC).

2. SUMMARY - Programmatic Results of Implementation

A. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The purpose of the Recreation Facility Analysis process is to display the tasks needed over the next 5 years to bring the Forest's recreation infrastructure into alignment with the resources available to operate and maintain it to standard. 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 no or little use, and no longer serve the demand that existed 30-50 years ago. The fundamental premise of the program of work is to create an inventory which is sufficiently sustainable and flexible to be adapted annually to any changes in available resources. The program of work has been developed to meet the following objectives:

- Operate and maintain sites to standard within available revenue stream.
- Reduce deferred maintenance by 20% over the 5 year life of the program of work.
- Focus available resources on sites which conform most closely to the Forest Recreation Program Niche.
- Maintain and enhance customer satisfaction with available sites.

The RFA process defines the proposed actions for management of forest recreation sites in order to meet the desired future condition that aligns with the Forest Plan. For purposes of the analysis and planning for future proposed actions, four categories (A-D) of proposed management are used. These categories are:

- 1) Category A: sites that are under some type of operational or contractual agreement whose terms are longer than the 5-year period of the RFA.
- 2) Category B: sites that meet the unit niche; are environmentally sustainable within the capability and capacity of the natural resources; are supported by and provide support to local communities; and have a sustainable management cost-benefit ratio.
- 3) Category C: sites that do not meet all of the above criteria, but with a combination of mitigation, additional resources, or other type of action could be made to qualify for Category B status.
- 4) Category D: sites that do not meet all of the (Category B) criteria; or fall sufficiently short in one or more of the criterion so as to render the capability of meeting it unsustainable.

Sites were evaluated and ranked based on conformance to the forest niche and amount of recreation use (35%), financial efficiency (35%), and environmental and community sustainability (30%).

Some sites were identified as non-discretionary based primarily on existing agreements such as concession permits.

B. FOREST RECREATION NICHE

April 7, 2006 (for the coming decade)

The Helena National Forest - Our Million Acre Backyard

The accessible landscape of the Helena NF enriches the lifestyles of local residents with abundant wildlife, history, scenery and trails in a million acre “backyard” surrounding Montana’s capital city. Just as Meriwether Lewis, while traveling along the Missouri River first saw the “gates of the [Rocky] Mountains,” adventurers of all ages can still experience the forest’s western landscapes. The Scapegoat/Bob Marshall Wilderness, Gates of the Mountains river corridor and Mann Gulch fire area attract national visitors. Historic ruins and diverse ecosystems provide opportunities for cultural and natural history interpretation and outdoor education. A well-defined transportation system supports a balance of motorized and non-motorized recreation including: hiking, biking, horseback riding, cross-country skiing, OHV-riding and snowmobiling.

Settings, Special Places, and Values: The Gates of the Mountains, Missouri River and Blackfoot Rivers provide spectacular scenery, fishing and water-based recreation. The Scapegoat Wilderness is part of the nationally-renowned Bob Marshall Wilderness Complex. The Elkhorn Mountains comprise the only Wildlife Management Area in the entire Forest Service System and provide abundant wildlife viewing and hunting opportunities. The Continental Divide National Scenic Trail straddles the forest and offers spectacular vistas of forested watersheds to the west and the plains-island mountain region to the east. The Big Belt Mountain Range dominates views from both the Helena and Smith River Valleys. Mann Gulch, site of a tragic 1949 wildfire, provides visitors a connection with national fire-fighting history. The Forest is categorized into four Niche settings (see below) which establish management priorities for specific recreation activities.

Reachable & Remote – Easy (time and distance) access from local communities; relatively open topography and miles of road and trails in the mountain ranges comprising the Helena NF provide numerous outdoor recreation opportunities to access historic ruins, wildlife viewing areas, and scenic vistas of the mountains and plains.

Connections – Very close proximity/adjacent to local communities (including the Mt. Helena City Park and South Hills Trail system); recreation areas (campgrounds, trails, day use); recreation may be connected with local (community) tourism and events.

Wild - Designated Wilderness, Proposed Wilderness, undeveloped landscapes.

Passages – Pass-through river, road and trail corridors: Missouri, Smith and Blackfoot Rivers; State Highways 12, 200, 279, and 284; Continental Divide National Scenic Trail.

Activities/Opportunities/Experiences: Recreation opportunities enhance the local economy and quality of life, most commonly: hunting, hiking, wildlife viewing, driving for pleasure and interpretation and conservation education. Quality habitat affords hunters the unique opportunity to hunt trophy bull elk and bighorn sheep.

Reachable & Remote - Driving for pleasure, gathering firewood, developed and dispersed camping, fishing, cabin rentals, OHV use, cross-country skiing & snowmobiling.

Connections – Daily exercise and renewal, walking, hiking, mountain bike riding, folging, cultural and natural history interpretation and recreation events

Wild - Fishing, horse-packing, outfitted activities, backpacking

Passages – Auto-touring, boating, floating, hiking, walking, mountain biking, wildlife viewing and visiting historic sites (i.e., Lewis and Clark Trail)

Primary Visitors

Local	Within 30 miles; participate in multiple activities, visiting historic sites, gathering forest products, motorized/non-motorized, hunting, day use, cabins, hiking, mountain biking, camping, cross-country skiing, nature watch activities
Regional	Within 30-90 miles; overnight camping, visiting historic sites, hunting & river recreation, motorized & non-motorized activities
National/International	Primarily Western states (MT, WA, CA, ID, ND & UT); outfitter/guide clients, family/friends, boaters, Scapegoat/Bob Marshall Wilderness, Continental Divide NST, Mann Gulch, Gates of the Mountains, and Lewis & Clark Historic Sites

**Helena National Forest
Recreation Sites Niche Bridge
March 2006**

SETTING	Reachable & Remote	Connections	Wild	Passages
<p>Setting Management How will the setting be managed to support the niche emphasis?</p>	<p>Provide for undeveloped recreation</p> <p>Maintain travel routes and supporting facilities for backcountry access</p> <p>Harden undeveloped recreation areas as necessary & appropriate to protect forest resources & enhance visitor experience</p> <p>Promote “no trace” camping that incorporates pack-in pack-out practices</p> <p>Protect, interpret & monitor heritage sites (i.e., mine ruins) and other resources in concentrated use areas</p> <p>Provide for non-consumptive outfitter & guide opportunities as appropriate & based on needs analysis</p> <p>Monitor visitor use</p> <p>Develop partnerships to maintain trails</p>	<p>Bring trails and trailheads up to standard; including signage, brochures, and I&E, and ADA as necessary</p> <p>Maintain high-use infrastructure on regular basis</p> <p>Promote “share the trail” concepts among mixed user groups</p> <p>Assert FS presence as necessary to reduce vandalism at forest-urban interface</p> <p>Protect, interpret & monitor heritage (i.e., lime kilns) and other resources at forest-urban interface</p> <p>Cooperate-coordinate with Helena area community to “edge match” trail systems and management areas</p> <p>Integrate with community tourism and marketing goals, as appropriate</p> <p>Monitor visitor use</p> <p>Develop partnerships to maintain trails</p>	<p>Preserve and protect solitude, peaceful experience & scenic vistas in wilderness and other remote/wild places</p> <p>Work with outfitter-guides and other cooperators to identify and implement projects that protect wilderness access & values</p> <p>Maintain high-use infrastructure (trails) on a regular basis; avoid degradation that detracts from wilderness-remote area values</p> <p>Promote “no trace” camping and wilderness ethics</p> <p>Monitor visitor use</p>	<p>Protect landscapes, view-sheds & vistas in key travel (river, road, trail) corridors</p> <p>Identify and implement cultural & natural history I&E projects to enhance corridors (i.e., L&C Trail signing)</p> <p>Work with State, other agencies and cooperators to protect scenic quality in travel corridors, as feasible.</p>
<p>Setting Appropriateness To what degree is the setting appropriate (in which to locate) (for) developed sites?</p>	<p align="center">Moderate</p>	<p align="center">Moderate</p>	<p align="center">Moderate</p>	<p align="center">Low</p>

SETTING	Reachable & Remote			Connections			Wild			Passages		
Site Function How does this site help meet the intent of the niche emphasis?	Destination recreation, facilitate access into the backcountry			Work with community - edge match with trails - seamless			Provides remote experience			Seamless management of viewsheds with bordering agencies/entities; provide access to scenic vistas and campgrounds.		
Key Activities in support of the niche emphasis for the coming decade	Driving for pleasure, day use, visiting historic ruins, motorized and non-motorized recreation, hunting			Hiking, walking, mountain biking, fitness, recreation events, nature watch, visiting historic ruins			Horse packing, backpacking, hiking, hunting, outfitted activities, fishing, viewing wildlife, grizzly bear ecosystem			Driving for pleasure, viewing scenery, developed camping, picnicking, day use stopovers, I&E		
Site Type / Dev Scale / Capacity Type: Capacity: low <50, med 50-150, high >150	Type	Dev	Cap	Type	Dev	Cap	Type	Dev	Cap	Type	Dev	Cap
	TH	3	low	TH	3	low	TH	2-3	med	TH	3	low
	CG	3	low							CG	3	med
	PG	3	low							PG	3	med
Programmatic Strategies to utilize in the developed site program to help achieve the niche emphasis over the next ten years	<p>Commit funding to complete and implement travel plans.</p> <p>Improve urban trails and maintain to standard.</p> <p>Initiate Recreation Lodging (rental cabin) analysis to determine need and capacity. In association with that analysis, determine strategies to acquire, manage or dispose of administrative cabins that may be added to the Rental Program.</p> <p>Package and market forest recreation opportunities. (Update and maintain recreation information on Forest web-site)</p> <p>Complete an Outfitter/Guide needs analysis.</p> <p>Initiate and complete Recreation Residence Continuance Determination.</p> <p>Fund, support and implement forest cultural-natural history interpretive program.</p> <p>Integrate recreation workload with Montana Discovery Foundation (and other partners) to coordinate work plans and programs.</p>											

**** . Development Scale** The classification of the scale of development of recreation sites. Scale ranges from 0, “No Site Modification” to 5, “Extensive Site Modification”. Development scales are defined by levels of site modifications, type of construction materials used, management controls, design style, development density, and services.
(See APPENDIX A).

C. CRITICAL MONETARY FACTORS

This matrix displays asset and expense information for the Forest Recreation Sites program before and after 5-year Program of Work development.

HELENA National Forest				
A.	CRITICAL MONETARY FACTOR	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	Program of Work - CHANGED CONDITION (does not include CATEGORY C or CATEGORY D sites)	Program of Work - PERCENT CHANGE (does not include CATEGORY C or CATEGORY D sites)
OPERATIONAL ASSETS	APPROPRIATED FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 118,699	\$ 118,699	0%
	FEE RECEIPTS AVAILABLE	\$ 53,420	\$ 107,375	101%
	OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 18,300	\$ -	-100%
EXPENSES	OPERATING COSTS	\$ 166,319	\$ 108,785	-35%
	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$ 130,248	\$ 107,266	-18%
	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE COSTS*	\$ 504,502	\$ 258,527	-49%

*-Deferred Maintenance included for all sites except CATEGORY D

Deferred Maintenance. "Maintenance that was not performed when it should have been or when it was scheduled and which, therefore, was put off or delayed for a future period."

When allowed to accumulate without limits or consideration of useful life, deferred maintenance leads to deterioration of performance, increased costs to repair, and decrease in asset value.

D. INVENTORY

The Inventory Matrix displays the recreation site inventory characteristics before and after 5-year Program of Work development. It displays by site type and displays other recreation site program characteristics including capacity, number of sites with drinking water and waste water systems, and the annual maintenance cost for drinking and waste water systems and buildings.

*** National Forest					
B.	INVENTORY CHARACTERISTICS	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	ACTION PLAN - CHANGED CONDITION Sites that you can afford to Operate	ACTION PLAN - CHANGED CONDITION Sites to be Closed that you cannot afford to Operate	ACTION PLAN - CHANGED CONDITION Sites to be Decommissioned
TIER SITE TYPE CATEGORY	CAMPGROUND DEV SCALE 2	0	0	0	0
	CAMPGROUND DEV SCALE 3	35	30	0	5
	CAMPGROUND DEV SCALE 4-5	9	9	0	0
	PICNIC SITE DEV SCALE 2-3	13	12	0	1
	PICNIC SITE DEV SCALE 4-5	2	2	0	0
	TRAILHEAD	33	27	0	6
	BOATING/ SWIM SITES/ FISHING SITES	9	7	0	2
	INTERP MAJOR/VC	1	1	0	0
	GROUP CAMPGROUND/ GROUP PICNIC	7	6	0	1
	CABINS/LOOK-OUTS	1	1	0	0
	INTERP MINOR/ OBSERVATION/ INFO SITES	7	7	0	0
	HORSE CAMP	1	1	0	0
	INFO SITE ADMIN	0	0	0	0
	OTHER 1	16	16	0	0
	OTHER 2	8	8	0	0
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS	CAPACITY (PAOT)**	13,409	12,401	0	838
	CAPACITY (PAOT-DAYS)**	2,234,634	1,953,178	0	102,019
	# SITES w/ DRINKING WATER SYSTEM \$	34	33	0	1
	# SITES w/ WASTEWATER SYSTEM \$	0	0	0	0
	DW SYSTEM ANNUAL MAINT COST	\$ 17,281	\$ 17,281	\$ -	\$ -
	WW SYSTEM ANNUAL MAINT COST	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	BUILDING ANNUAL MAINT COST	\$ 189,994	\$ 186,955	\$ -	\$ 3,039

**Sum of columns E, F, G do not equal column D due to capacity changes in CATEGORY A and B sites

E. RESULTS

The Results Matrix describes the significant programmatic results of the ranking process

HELENA National Forest				
C1.	PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	PROGRAM OF WORK - CHANGED CONDITION (does not include CATEGORY C and D sites)	Program of Work - PERCENT CHANGE (does not include CATEGORY C and D sites)
METRICS	AVERAGE NICHE CONFORMANCE SCORE	14.04	14.78	5%
	AVERAGE DEVELOPMENT SCALE	2.64	2.76	4%
	AVERAGE UNDERSERVED POPULATION SCORE	1.38	1.46	6%
	% OF CAPACITY ACCESSIBLE	0.8%	0.9%	9%
	% OF CAPACITY W/ ACCESSIBLE FURNISHINGS ONLY	8.1%	8.8%	9%
	PAOT-DAYS TO REGIONAL REQUIRED STANDARDS	280,839	338,108	20%
	CAPACITY (PAOT)	2,128	1,960	-8%
	CAPACITY (PAOT-DAYS)	437,392	338,108	-23%
	ANNUAL O&M COST PER PAOT DAY	\$ 0.68	\$ 0.64	-6%
	ANNUAL NET O&M COST PER VISIT	\$ 2.10	\$ 1.29	-39%

C2.	PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	PROGRAM OF WORK - CHANGED CONDITION (does not include CATEGORY D sites)	Program of Work - PERCENT CHANGE (does not include CATEGORY D sites)
	TOTAL DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	\$ 504,502	\$ 258,527	-49%

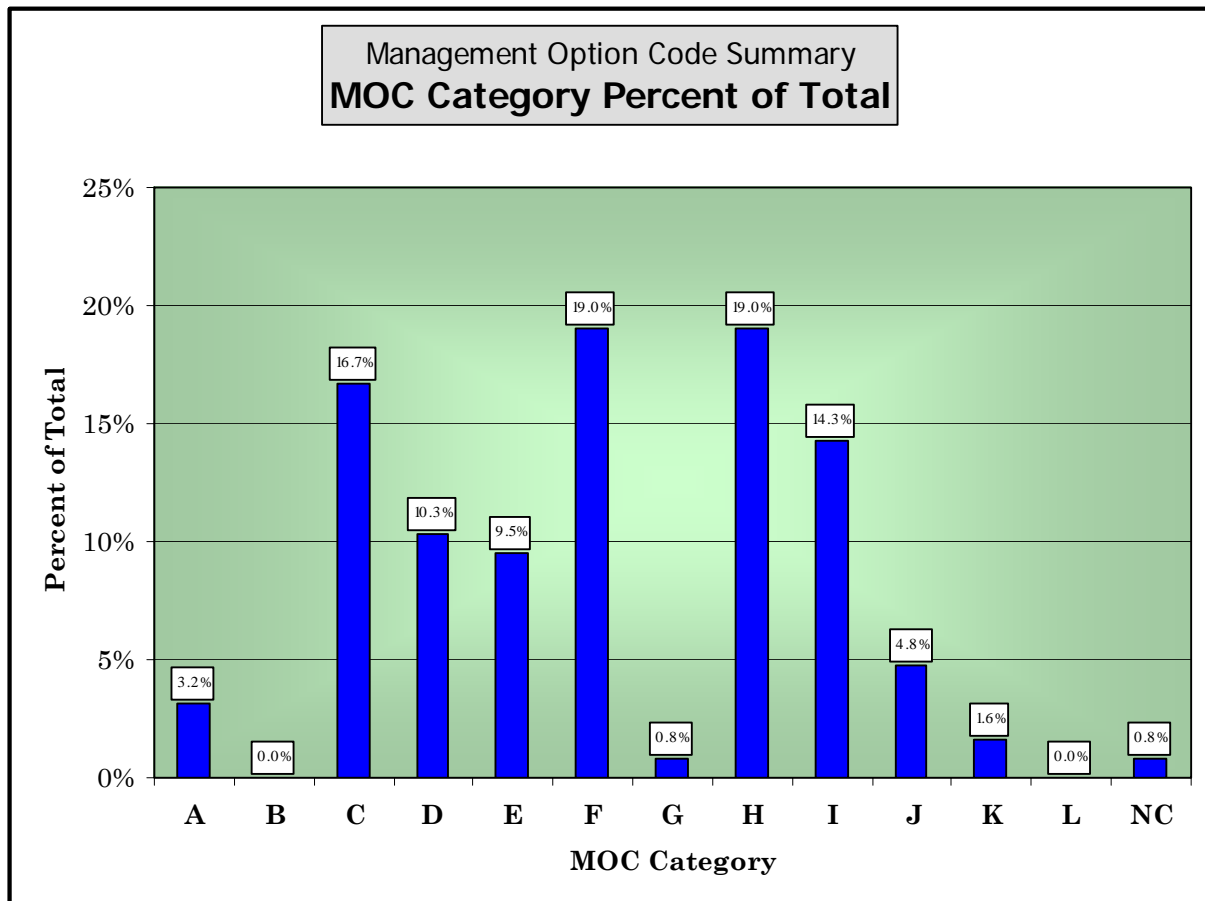
Annual O&M Cost per visit and per PAOT day are averages derived from a summation of ALL the 45 analyzed recreation facilities on the Forest; the cost per visit and per PAOT for each site and site type will vary.

PAOT - An acronym for Persons-At-One-Time; a measure of facility or site designed recreation carrying capacity, particularly for developed sites. National conventions include 5 persons per family picnic/camp unit, 3.5 persons per parking lot stall at a trailhead or visitor center, 1.5 persons per motorcycle parking stall and 40 persons per tour bus parking stall.

O&M - Operations and maintenance; includes the activities and resources required to annually operate and maintain recreation sites at a level of quality which meets their management objectives and customer satisfaction. Costs associated with O&M are generally recurrent, as opposed to capital investment costs that are generally one-time and non-recurrent.

F. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTION SUMMARY

HELENA National Forest Management Option Code Summary		
MANAGEMENT OPTION CODE CATEGORY	OPTION CODE COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
A-DECOMMISSION	4	3.2%
B-CLOSURE	0	0.0%
C-CHANGE SEASON	21	16.7%
D-REMOVE OR ELIMINATE COST SOURCE OR SERVICE SEASON	13	10.3%
E-REDUCE SERVICE REQUENCY	12	9.5%
F-INCREASE/IMPROVE SERVICES	24	19.0%
G-CONSTRUCT A NEW AREA	1	0.8%
H-CHANGE OPERATOR	24	19.0%
I-CHANGE FEES	18	14.3%
J-CHANGE CAPACITY	6	4.8%
K-SITE CONVERSION	2	1.6%
L-REPLACEMENT/REPAIR	0	0.0%
NC-NO CHANGE	1	0.8%



3. RECREATION SITES PRIORITY RANKING REPORT

The Forest's Recreation Sites Priority Ranking Report lists recreation sites in rank score priority order. Ranking is based on how well a site meets the four objectives of the RFA analysis. (Objectives are listed on page 2). Tier Category designations are based on initial ranking and Forest Leadership Team analysis.

HELENA National Forest

45

SITE COUNT

8. REPORT: 5-Year Program of Work - Table of Ranked Site Planned Operating Season & Capacity

MNG ORG	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	TOTAL RANK SCORE	TIER CATEGORY	PLANNED OPENING DATE	PLANNED CLOSING DATE	PLANNED CAPACITY [PAOT]
11202	MERIWETHER PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SITE	101	CATEGORY A	20-May	15-Sep	124
11201	BAR GULCH CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	87	CATEGORY B	1-May	28-Feb	6
11202	KADING CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	81	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Sep	60
11202	PARK LAKE CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	80	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Sep	120
11202	CD NST TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	78	CATEGORY B	25-May	30-Sep	28
11201	RILLWAY CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	77	CATEGORY B	1-May	28-Feb	6
11201	SKIDWAY CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	76	CATEGORY B	20-May	30-Sep	40
11202	TEN MILE PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SITE	75	CATEGORY B	1-May	15-Oct	42
11204	ALICE CREEK TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	75	CATEGORY B	25-May	29-Nov	100
11204	SNOWBANK LAKE	PICNIC SITE	75	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Apr	56
11201	GIPSY LAKE CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	73	CATEGORY B	20-May	30-Sep	30
11204	COPPER CREEK CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	73	CATEGORY B	20-May	10-Sep	100
11202	CROMWELL DIXON CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	72	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Sep	80
11204	INDIAN MEADOWS TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	72	CATEGORY B	1-May	1-Nov	177
11201	EAGLE GUARD STATION CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	70	CATEGORY B	1-May	28-Feb	6
11202	MOOSE CREEK CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	70	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Sep	45
11201	THOMPSON STA.	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	68	CATEGORY B	1-May	28-Feb	8
11204	DRY CREEK TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	68	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	30-Nov	28
11201	MILLER CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	66	CATEGORY B			0
11202	MACDONALD PASS SKI	TRAILHEAD	66	CATEGORY B	2-Dec	20-Mar	52
11202	MOOSE CREEK CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	65	CATEGORY B	1-May	1-Apr	4
11204	CUMMINGS CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	65	CATEGORY B	1-May	28-Feb	6
11201	GIPSY LAKE DAY USE AREA	PICNIC SITE	64	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Nov	10
11201	N. FORK DEEP CR TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	64	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	52
11202	KADING CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	64	CATEGORY B	15-May	1-Mar	4
11204	NEVADA CREEK CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	64	CATEGORY B			0
11202	COULTER CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	63	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Sep	35
11202	MISSOURI RIVER FISHING ACCESS SITE	FISHING SITE	63	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	30-Nov	77
11202	STRAWBERRY CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	60	CATEGORY B			0
11202	VIGILANTE CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	59	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Sep	80
11202	INDIAN FLATS CABIN	FIRE LOOKOUTS/CABINS OVERNIGHT	57	CATEGORY B	15-Jun	31-Dec	4

MNG ORG	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	TOTAL RANK SCORE	TIER CATEGORY	PLANNED OPENING DATE	PLANNED CLOSING DATE	PLANNED CAPACITY [PAOT]
11204	ASPEN GROVE CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	57	CATEGORY B	20-May	30-Sep	165
11202	HUNTERS GULCH TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	56	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	70
11204	FLESHER PASS TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	56	CATEGORY B	1-Jun	1-Oct	21
11204	STEMPLE PASS TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	56	CATEGORY B	15-May	15-Apr	60
11204	MOOSE CREEK	CAMPGROUND	54	CATEGORY B	1-Sep	30-Nov	60
11201	DEEP CREEK PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SITE	53	CATEGORY B	20-May	15-Oct	20
11204	ASPEN GROVE PICNIC AREA	PICNIC SITE	50	CATEGORY B	20-May	10-Sep	40
11204	PINE GROVE	CAMPGROUND	49	CATEGORY B	15-May	15-Mar	42
11202	QUIGLEY GROUP USE SITE	GROUP CAMPGROUND	48	CATEGORY B	25-May	15-Sep	50
11202	MOOSE CREEK GROUP USE SITE	GROUP CAMPGROUND	36	CATEGORY B	15-Dec	15-Mar	52
11201	BIRCH CREEK TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	0	CATEGORY D			0
11201	HALL CREEK TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	0	CATEGORY D			0
11201	WEST BIG BELTS GFA - CABIN GULCH	TRAILHEAD	0	CATEGORY D			0
11201	WEST BIG BELTS GFA - DEEP CREEK	TRAILHEAD	0	CATEGORY D			0

MNG ORG – Managing Organization Number; first number denotes the Region, the next two numbers the Forest, and the last two numbers the Ranger District.

- EX: 1 = Northern Region (Region 1)
 12 = Helena National Forest
 01 = Townsend Ranger District
 02 = Helena Ranger District
 04 = Lincoln Ranger District

4. TABLE OF TASKS

A. SITE-SPECIFIC TASKS

The Site-Specific Tasks table lists tasks (Management Option Codes), one-time cost to implement and pertinent documentation for each recreation site. Only sites with proposed management changes are listed.

HELENA National Forest	\$61,200	TOTAL ONE-TIME COST TO IMPLEMENT TASKS
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8a. INFO ENTRY: 5-Year Proposed Program of Work - Table of Tasks						
MANAGING ORG	SITE NAME or PROGRAMMATIC ACTION	TASK	START DATE	FINISH DATE	ONE-TIME COST TO IMPLEMENT ACTION	TASK COMMENTS
11201	BAR GULCH CABIN	C2,F10	2007	2007	\$1,000	Change season of use to 10 months. Increase fee from \$25 to \$35
11201	BIRCH CREEK TRAILHEAD	A1a	2008	2008	\$1,000	Remove Toilet No operation dates, remove from Developed Recreation Program.
11201	DEEP CREEK PICNIC AREA	C2,D4,J2,	2007	2007	\$0	Season of use - 145 days. Remove 2 sites - 10 PAOTs
11201	EAGLE GUARD STATION CABIN	C2,F10,H3,I4	2007	2007	\$0	Season of use - 10 months. Utilize volunteer labor. Consider increasing rental fee during hunting season.
11201	GIPSY LAKE CAMPGROUND	C2,E3,E4,E5,E6,E7,H3,I3,J2	2007	2008	\$2,500	Charge \$10 fee. 130 days use season.
11201	GIPSY LAKE DAY USE AREA	C2,H3	2008	2008	\$100	130 day season. Remove one table as it needs repair.
11201	HALL CREEK TRAILHEAD	A1a,D3,E3	2008	2008	\$1,000	Remove toilet No operation dates, remove from Developed Recreation Program.
11201	MILLER CABIN	H6	2007	2007	\$0	Continue use as an administrative site. Do not add to Rental Program.
11201	N. FORK DEEP CR TRAILHEAD	E3	2007	2007	\$0	
11201	RILLWAY CABIN	C2,I4	2007	2007	\$0	
11201	SKIDWAY CAMPGROUND	D4,H3,I3,J2	2007	2008	\$6,300	Remove 4 sites - 20 PAOTs Begin charging \$10 per night. Install 2 gates. Install fee tube, sign, and unit numbers.
11201	THOMPSON STA.	C2,F10,H3,I4	2007	2007	\$0	Consider increasing rental fee during hunting season . Increase fee from \$25 to \$35. Reduce DM \$16,000 - no water system. Operating season-10 months
11201	WEST BIG BELTS GFA - CABIN GULCH	A1a,D3	2007	2007	\$1,000	Remove Toilet No operation dates, remove from Developed Recreation Program.
11201	WEST BIG BELTS GFA - DEEP CREEK	A1a,D3	2007	2007	\$1,000	Remove Toilet No operation dates, remove from Developed Recreation Program.
11202	CD NST TRAILHEAD	F10,F12	2006	2007	\$0	Change to development level 3, Within Infra link the toilet from Quigley Group Use Site.
11202	COULTER CAMPGROUND	C2	2006	2008	\$4,400	Repair water system - retain as non-fee site

MANAGING ORG	SITE NAME or PROGRAMMATIC ACTION	TASK	START DATE	FINISH DATE	ONE-TIME COST TO IMPLEMENT ACTION	TASK COMMENTS
11202	CROMWELL DIXON CAMPGROUND	F16,I4	2007	2008	\$0	Road needs work. Open 5/25 to 9/30. Increase the fee to \$10.
11202	HUNTERS GULCH TRAILHEAD	H3	2007	2008	\$2,500	Establish agreement with Back Country Horseman for maintenance of facilities - keep open
11202	INDIAN FLATS CABIN	F10,F16,H6	2007	2008	\$0	Increase fee from \$25 to \$35
11202	KADING CABIN	C2,F10,F16	2007	2008	\$0	Increase fee from \$25 to \$35
11202	KADING CAMPGROUND	D5,H3,I4	2007	2008	\$0	Increase fee from \$25 to \$35
11202	MACDONALD PASS SKI	D3,H2,H6	2007	2008	\$1,000	Bi-athalon decision. Remove Toilet
11202	MERIWETHER PICNIC AREA	F6,F12,F13,J2	2008	2009	\$1,700	Upgrade water system, change season to 5 months. Remove 2 sites.
11202	MISSOURI RIVER FISHING ACCESS SITE	C2,F10,H3	2006	2007	\$0	Work with Trout Unlimited - adopt site
11202	MOOSE CREEK CABIN	C3,F6,F13	2006	2008	\$0	Upgrade / repair outbuildings. Open 5/1 to 10/15; and 12/1 to 4/1. A pit project is planned by heritage. Charge \$50. Intermittent season is 5/1 thru 10/15 and again 12/1 to 4/1 Increase fee to \$50
11202	MOOSE CREEK CAMPGROUND	C2,I4	2007	2008	\$0	Increase fee to \$10
11202	MOOSE CREEK GROUP USE SITE	D3,K2	2006	2008	\$2,000	Manage as a trailhead. Remove toilet if O&M partnership not feasible.
11202	PARK LAKE CAMPGROUND	C2,F10,F13,G1,H3,I4,I5,J1	2006	2008	\$1,500	Add a gate. A CIP project in 2007-2008 will add a Picnic Area adjacent to this site. Increase fee from \$8 to \$10
11202	QUIGLEY GROUP USE SITE	C2,D8,K2	2006	2007	\$1,500	Cap water system. Manage as a trailhead.
11202	STRAWBERRY CABIN	H6	2006	2006	\$0	Use as administrative site. Give back to Fire for administrative use. Do not include in feasibility study.
11202	TEN MILE PICNIC AREA	C2,H2,H3	2006	2007	\$0	Reduce season, 5/1 to 10/15.
11202	VIGILANTE CAMPGROUND	F8,F9,F10,H3,I4,I5,J2	2006	2008	\$1,500	Make accessible & bring up to standards currently closed part of the year. Remove three units with CIP project in 2006-2007. Increase fee from \$5 to \$10
11204	ALICE CREEK TRAILHEAD	NC1	2006	2006	\$0	No change to existing site Fence DM costs within Infra are inaccurate.
11204	ASPEN GROVE CAMPGROUND	C1,D8,E1,H3,I4,I5	2007	2008	\$1,700	Increase fee from \$8 to \$10. Maintain handpump. Phase out pressurized system as major repair/replacement costs needed.
11204	ASPEN GROVE PICNIC AREA	C1,D8,E1,H3,I4	2006	2006	\$0	Maintain existing handpump/well. Phase out pressurized water system as repairs needed.

MANAGING ORG	SITE NAME or PROGRAMMATIC ACTION	TASK	START DATE	FINISH DATE	ONE-TIME COST TO IMPLEMENT ACTION	TASK COMMENTS
11204	COPPER CREEK CAMPGROUND	C1,E1,H3,I4,I5	2007	2009	\$16,000	Increase fee from \$8 to \$10. \$4,000 DM is revegetation after fire of 2003.
11204	CUMMINGS CABIN	E1,I4	2006	2011	\$0	Maintain in Cabin rental program. Increase fee to \$45.
11204	DRY CREEK TRAILHEAD	D3	2007	2009	\$1,000	Remove toilet
11204	FLESHER PASS TRAILHEAD	C2	2007	2009	\$6,000	Reduce season of operation
11204	INDIAN MEADOWS TRAILHEAD	C2,E1,H3	2007	2008	\$2,500	Retain as a non-fee site
11204	MOOSE CREEK	C5,F6	2007	2009	\$1,000	Replace toilet with SST.
11204	NEVADA CREEK CABIN	H6	2007	2007	\$0	Continue use as an administrative site. Consider for cabin rental program (include with feasibility study). No operation dates until feasibility study is completed.
11204	PINE GROVE	F6,F13	2007	2009	\$1,000	Replace existing toilet with SST. Improve signing.
11204	SNOWBANK LAKE	H3	2006	2006	\$0	Snow warriors
11204	STEMPLE PASS TRAILHEAD	D4,H3	2006	2007	\$2,000	Remove picnic tables and benches

B. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIONS

HELENA National Forest

8b. INFO ENTRY: 5-Year Proposed Program of Work - Programmatic Actions

ACTION CATEGORY	ACTION	TIME FRAME
DEVELOPED CAMPGROUNDS	The HNF will collect fees at all campgrounds when they are open. Fees will be collected when campgrounds meet 6 of the 9 criteria identified in REA.	
	Campground fee receipts will be targeted at routine O&M, small (non-CIP) improvements, deferred maintenance and other developed recreation program activities.	
	Campground fees will be increased to \$10 or \$12 per unit for each developed campground. An additional \$4 fee will be collected per vehicle parked outside of the campground spur. Increased staff presence will be necessary to ensure compliance with new fee policies, particularly the new extra vehicle fee.	
	The HNF will seek to increase use of volunteers, partners and campground hosts for campground and rental cabin O&M. This will require increased coordination (and cost) by the district recreation staff.	
	The HNF will meet a goal of 65-70% cost recovery for its campground operations within 5 years. Fees will be adjusted to reflect operating costs and inflation and will be reviewed by local Resource Advisory Boards in accordance with REA.	
	The HNF will implement RSFMP management option codes recommended by the recreation staff. The forest will promote “pack-in/pack-out” and related “user-responsibility” concepts that reduce operations O&M.	
	Decisions to retain or decommission water systems in developed recreation facilities will be made using the water-system decision tree, with the guidance of forest engineering staff.	
	To the extent possible, the HNF will pursue a common rental cabin and campground user fee schedule with nearby forests.	
	Reduced operating seasons and services could result in displacement and resource impacts within forest GFAs. Systematic monitoring will be implemented to evaluate the effects of RSFMP actions in both developed facilities and forest dispersed recreation areas.	
OTHER PROGRAMS	<p>Beyond the forest niche statement, the RSFMP process did not include detailed consideration of dispersed recreation or other NFRW-funded programs. However, the inter-connectivity between developed recreation and these other programs could not be ignored during RSFMP and the following programmatic action items were identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Commit funding to complete and implement travel plans. o Improve urban trails and maintain to standard. o Package and market forest recreation opportunities (update and maintain recreation information on forest web-site) o Complete an Outfitter/Guide needs analysis. o Initiate and complete Recreation Residence Continuance Determination. o Fund, support and implement forest cultural-natural history interpretive program. o Integrate recreation workload with Montana Discovery Foundation (and other partners) to coordinate work plans and programs 	

RENTAL CABINS	The HNF will complete a feasibility study to determine recreation rental cabin demand and capacity; the study will be funded & completed in 2007 or 2008.	
	SUP-terminated isolated cabins being considered for inclusion in the rental cabin program will be appropriately “moth-balled” until the feasibility study is completed.	
	Future-use determinations will be completed for cabins no longer considered feasible for or removed from the cabin rental program. Other administrative uses and heritage values will be considered in this analysis.	
	Rental cabin O&M and improvements will be done with HNF recreation & heritage personnel, the R1 Historic Buildings Preservation Team, the Montana Discovery Foundation, and site stewards & volunteers (i.e., Passport in Time).	
	To reduce wear & tear and O&M costs, staff presence will be increased at rental cabins to insure that visitation/use is compatible with cabin capacity. Operating seasons will allow for “down-time” to complete non-routine cabin O&M and address deferred maintenance. Increased staff presence may need to be calculated into O&M costs.	
	The HNF will meet a goal of 75-80% cost recovery for its rental cabin operations within 5 years. Fees will be adjusted to reflect operating costs and inflation and will be reviewed by local Resource Advisory Boards in accordance with REA.	
	Fee receipts generated by the rental cabin program will be used for cabin O&M and improvements, and for other developed recreation operations.	

C. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE REDUCTION ANALYSIS

Variable DM Reduction Rate					
DM Total	% Reduction	Reduction \$	Annual Expenditure Required for 4 or 5 Years to Meet Target	Target DM \$ by Target Date	Target Date
\$504,502	20%	\$100,900	\$20,200	\$403,601	2010
\$403,601	50%	\$252,251	\$50,500	\$151,351	2015
\$50,450	20%	\$100,900	\$20,200	\$50,450	2020

Straight Line DM 14 Year Reduction Rate					
DM Total	% Reduction	Reduction \$	Annual Expenditure Required to Meet 2020 Target	Target DM \$ by 2020	Target Date
\$504,502	90%	\$454,052	\$32,400	\$50,450	2020
DM Total After MOC Staff Work	Target DM \$ by 2020	Reduction \$ After MOC Staff Work	Annual Expenditure Required to Meet 2020 Target after MOC Staff Work		
\$259,052	\$50,450	\$208,602	\$14,900		
* Reduction from MOC staff work			\$245,450		
Yrs. Resulting from staff work			8		

Annual Funds Available for DM			
Annual Expenditure Required to Meet 2020 Target after MOC Staff Work	Annual Granger Thyre Fee Off-set	Annual Revenues Available for DM	Remaining Annual DM Reduction Shortfall
\$14,900	\$ -	\$0	\$14,900

5. APPENDIX

A. RECREATION SITE DEVELOPMENT SCALE GUIDE

Scale #	Definition
0	<p>No site modification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No constructed improvements evident at the site ○ Little to no controls or regimentation ○ Primary access usually over primitive roads ○ Spacing informal and often established by user
1	<p>Almost no site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rustic or rudimentary improvements designed for protection of the site rather than comfort of the users. ○ Use of synthetic materials excluded. ○ Minimum controls are subtle. ○ No obvious regimentation. ○ Primary access usually over primitive roads ○ Spacing informal and extended to minimize contacts between users.
2	<p>Minimal site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rustic or rudimentary improvements designed primarily for protection of the site rather than the comfort of the users. ○ Use of synthetic materials avoided. ○ Minimum controls are subtle. ○ Little obvious regimentation. ○ Spacing informal and extended to minimize contacts between users. ○ Primary access usually over primitive roads. ○ Interpretive services informal, almost subliminal.
3	<p>Moderate site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities about equal for protection of natural site and comfort of users. ○ Contemporary/rustic design of improvements is usually based on use of native materials. Inconspicuous vehicular traffic controls usually provided. ○ Roads may be hard surfaced and trails formalized. ○ Development density about 3 family units per acre. ○ Primary access may be over high standard roads. ○ Interpretive services informal if offered, but generally direct.
4	<p>Heavy site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some facilities designed strictly for comfort and convenience of users. ○ Luxury facilities not provided. ○ Facility design may incorporate synthetic materials. ○ Extensive use of artificial surfacing of roads and trails. ○ Vehicular traffic control usually obvious. ○ Primary access usually over paved roads. ○ Development density 3-5 family units per acre. ○ Plant materials usually native. ○ Interpretive services, if offered, often formal or structured.
5	<p>Extensive site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities mostly designed for comfort and convenience of users and usually include flush toilets; may include showers, bathhouses, laundry facilities, and electrical hookups. ○ Synthetic materials commonly used. ○ Formal walks or surfaced trails. ○ Regimentation of users is obvious. ○ Access usually by high-speed highways. ○ Development density 5 or more family units per acre. ○ Plant materials may be non-native. ○ Formal interpretive services usually available. Designs formalized and architecture may be contemporary. ○ Mowed lawns and clipped shrubs not unusual.

B. MANAGEMENT OPTION CODE LIST

A – DECOMMISSION [Capture decommissioning costs in 5-year Program of Work]

1. Decommission
 - a. As soon as practical
 - b. Begin glide path
2. Partial Decommission (e.g., remove campsites next to boat ramp)

B - CLOSURE

1. Close – defer decommissioning
2. Partial Closure – defer decommissioning (e.g., close campsites next to boat ramp but don't remove yet)
3. Closure pending completion of site improvements

C - CHANGE SEASON [If a change, reflect in columns J or K, in worksheet 3, the change in operating days]

1. Increase season
2. Reduce season
3. Intermittent closure during season
4. Open weekends/holidays only
5. Open for hunting season only

D – REMOVE OR ELIMINATE A COST SOURCE or SERVICE SEASON [use Site task cost detail in Worksheet 2b of the Ranking Template]

1. Reduce mowed area
2. Remove trashcans
3. Remove restroom facilities
4. Remove tables and/or grills
5. Other changes to site design or features to reduce costs
- 6.
7. Other changes to eliminate on-site services
8. Close or remove water system
9. Close or remove waste water system

E - REDUCE SERVICE FREQUENCY SEASON [use Site task cost detail in Worksheet 2b of the Ranking Template] *THESE CODES ARE RARELY USED AND REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTATION*

1. Reduce service – mow less frequent
2. Reduce service – trash and clean-up less frequent
3. Reduce service – restroom cleaning less frequent
4. Reduce service – staff presence reduced on site
5. Reduce service – less frequent bulletin board posting
- 6.
7. Reduce service – other

F – INCREASE/IMPROVE SERVICES [use applicable rates in Features section of Recreation Sites module in Infra]

1. Add electrical hook-ups
2. Increase amps of existing electrical hook-ups
3. Add water hook-ups
4. Add sewer hook-ups
5. Add hot showers
6. Upgrade existing feature (e.g., replace SST with flush toilets)
7. Add amenities (playground, swim area, etc)
8. Add a Host site(s)

9. Major reconstruction/upgrade of the recreation area
10. Increase staff presence (including law enforcement)
- 11.
12. Improve visitor information and bulletin boards
13. Improve signing
14. Add water delivery service to individual users
15. Add greywater/blackwater pumping service to individual users
16. Other
17. Add a toilet building(s)

G – CONSTRUCT A NEW AREA

1. Construct a new site

H – CHANGE OPERATOR or WORKFORCE

1. Change to a concession operation [**apply a 60% savings to O&M cost per operating day**]
2. Operate through a partner agreement (e.g., local community, State agency, etc)
3. Volunteer (increase use of volunteers at the site)
4. Contractor (begin or expand use of contracting)
5. Prison labor (begin or expand use of prison labor)
6. Other

I – CHANGE FEES

1. Eliminate fee
2. Reduce fee
3. Begin charging a fee
4. Increase current fee
5. Increase fee compliance efforts

J – CHANGE CAPACITY (PAOT) [If a change, reflect in columns S or T, in worksheet 3, the change in capacity]

1. Increase Capacity (Add a loop, build additional sites, add parking, etc)
2. Reduce Capacity (i.e., close a loop, remove camp units, eliminate a parking area, etc.)

K -- SITE CONVERSION

1. Change in Development Scale
2. Change in Site Type
3. Study feasibility of converting site from FA&O facility to recreation site

L – REPLACEMENT/REPAIR

1. Replacement of an existing constructed feature that results in the reduction of Deferred Maintenance
2. Repair of an existing constructed feature that results in the reduction of Deferred Maintenance.
3. Conversion of constructed features to meet accessibility standards.

NC – NO CHANGE (i.e., none of the above site specific changes apply)

1. No change – currently USFS operated
2. No change – currently concession operation
3. No change – currently operated by a partner under some other type of formal agreement

Note – A site can have more than one code