

Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) Subcommittee Meeting  
November 14, 2007  
Glenns Ferry, Idaho  
Minutes

*Attendees*

TFD RRAC Members : Scott Boettger, Samanth Anderson, Yvette Tuell, Denise Alexander, Hank Mayland  
BDO RRAC Members: Grant Simonds (RRAC Chair), Nate Helm, John Robinson,  
TFD BLM: Bill Baker, Beckie Wagoner  
BDO BLM: MJ Byrne, Frank Jenks  
ISO BLM: Mikell Galloway, Terry Heslin  
FS: Jim Keller, Terry Clark, Carol Ryan, Jane Cropp, and Dick Smith

The meeting was called to order by RRAC Chairperson, Grant Simonds at 10:12 am

Introductions were made around the room. A quorum was present.

Jim Keller, Recreation Program Manager, Boise National Forest (BNF) gave a presentation on the fee increase process, that covered what increases the BNF is proposing, and explained the differences in the types of fee sites; standard vs. premium. Premium sites have garbage removal and water availability; standard sites do not.

Jim provided an overview of the results of the Recreation Facility Analysis process on the BNF. This analysis was commissioned to address the current financial situation facing the Forest and to develop a plan to better manage recreation sites. The combination of appropriated funds and recreation fee receipts on the BNF are not enough to cover operation and maintenance costs; therefore over the years, much of the maintenance costs have been deferred. Proposed fee increases, designation of some new fee sites, some reductions in services, closing a few sites, as well as reductions in seasons of operation are planned to reduce much of the deferred recreation site maintenance backlog over about the next seven years.

Handouts were provided:

- Fee Approval Process (flow chart)
- BNF Recreation Site Balance Sheet
- BNF Recreation Site Report Corrections
- Fee Increase Chart
- Typical Fee Increase Site Photographs
- Cost Definitions
- Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

Maps of the proposed fee increase sites were also provided to the RRAC Members.

Jim went over corrections to individual site business plan reports that had been included in the package of information provided to RRAC Members on a CD two weeks prior to their meeting. Shaffer Butte campground complex was reviewed as an example to provide the RRAC Members with a sense of what the information in the site reports meant.

Campground hosts are for basic maintenance such as fee compliance checks, toilet cleaning, and leaf removal. These hosts are not paid for their services, they are strictly volunteers; although they are usually compensated in some way such as reimbursement for per diem expenses as well as some other expenses such as propane used in their campers while at the site.

\*The penalty for not paying a camp fee is a \$25.00 fine. This can be paid by mailing it into the Forest Service, or appear in court like with a traffic violation.

Jane Cropp, Recreation Program Manager, Payette National Forest Service (PNFS) gave a presentation on the proposed fee increases. Jane reviewed the sites and locations with proposed fee increases as well as those with no fee change. The majority of sites are currently at \$8.00 per night; the increase will bring all proposed sites to \$10.00 single occupancy and \$15.00 double occupancy across the Forest.

All sites within the PNF are standard sites since none include trash removal. The reason for no trash removal is a combination of bees, bears and costs. There are currently 22 sites with various amenities that have no fee.

The PNF collections are approximately \$45,000./year. The proposed increase of fees will gain them \$11,000 to \$12,000 additional revenue per year. However, the proposed increases will not significantly reduce the PNF's deferred maintenance backlog. Four of their fee campgrounds are on the National Reservation System; this is where you can book/reserve your campsite on-line for a charge of \$9.00 in addition to the cost of the campsite.

At this point Yvette Tuell, representative from the Shoshone Bannock Tribes said, to date, none of the FS agencies had contacted the tribes for consultation regarding the proposed fee changes in either the Payette, Boise, or Sawtooth National Forests. She urged each of the FS agencies to make a good faith effort to consult with the tribes and set meeting dates prior to the November 29, 2007 joint RAC meeting in Boise. The meetings could take place after this time but the dates for the meetings should be set. It was also requested that both FS agencies consult with the appropriate tribes prior to the next RRAC meeting on April 10, 2008. The other RRAC members supported these requests. Dick Smith, the Forest Service Designated Federal Official, agreed to develop a strategy to improve Tribal consultation and report back at the Joint RAC meeting about progress made towards scheduling consultation meetings.

It was requested that Jim Keller and Jane Cropp, Boise and Payette National Forest Recreation Program Managers attend the Joint RAC meeting on November 29, 2007 in

