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Bureau of Land Management

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News Release

Oregon/Washington

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BLM Proposes Fee Changes in Nestucca River Corridor and New Recreation Pass

Salem, Ore.— The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is proposing several fee changes at recreation sites in the Nestucca River Corridor and a new recreation pass that could be used at day-use sites. An increase in fees at Alder Glen, Dovre and Fan Creek Campgrounds is being considered. The proposal also includes the establishment of fees at Elk Bend Campground, and the Elk Flat, Grassy Flat and Whipup Flat Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) Trailheads. The BLM is seeking input on these changes.

The fee changes are being proposed because maintenance needs at these sites are not being fully met due to increased costs to operate them. It has been at least seven years since fees at these sites have changed. The proposed fees will enable the agency to improve services and add amenities desired by visitors at these sites, and help ensure that the sites remain operational for years to come.

A new annual pass, the Northwest Oregon BLM Pass, is also being proposed. The pass could be used at all day-use sites currently within the Eugene and Salem Districts where fees are charged for passenger vehicles and motorcycles, except Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area. This annual pass would cost $30 and is designed to make it easier for frequent visitors to enjoy public lands while providing cost savings. The pass could also be obtained by contributing at least 12 hours of volunteer service on the Northwest Oregon District each year.

The proposed fee changes will be reviewed by the Coastal Oregon Resource Advisory Council (RAC) in September. Approved changes would go into effect no earlier than the 2017 recreation season, however, fees will not be charged until standard and expanded amenities are in place on site. “These sites are valued places that provide an array of recreation opportunities,” said Jeff McCusker, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner, “The proposed fees will allow us to offer the amenities that visitors expect to find at these sites and enhance the overall visitor experience.”

Through criteria established by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), an assessment was conducted on the number and kind of standard and expanded amenities provided at each site. Amenities include picnic tables, toilet facilities, tent spaces, and drinking water. Business plans containing a regional comparative market study of fees charged for other similar recreation facilities in the local area were also used to determine the new fees and fee increases that are being proposed.

REA allows the BLM to keep 100% of the recreation fees collected and use the funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve fee sites. Fees are one part of a comprehensive funding strategy to support recreation sites and services. This funding strategy also includes appropriated funding, volunteer assistance, interagency cooperation, grants, partnerships with the private sector, and commercial operations.

Please send feedback to Recreation Planner Dan Davis at BLM_OR_NO_REC_publiccomments@blm.gov or (503)315-5935.

Additional information is available online at http://www.blm.gov/or/districts/salem/recreation/index.php.

Fee Proposal within Salem District Bureau of Land Management's Coastal Oregon RAC with a little in Northwest Oregon RAC		
Recreation Site or Area Name	**Existing Fees**	**Proposed Fees**
Nestucca River Corridor: Alder Glen Campground, Dovre Campground, Fan Creek Campground, Elk Bend Group Site, Nestucca OHV Trail System Trailheads (Tillamook County with a little Yamhill County)		
Basic Campsite	$10	$15
Group Campsite	**NEW**	$75 (up to 30 people) $2.50 for each additional person
Small Group Picnic Shelter		$50 (max. 30 people)
Day-Use Vehicles (up to 9 people)		$5

Fee Proposal Within Both Northwest Oregon RAC and Coastal Oregon RAC Boundaries		
Northwest Oregon BLM Pass: All day-use sites where fees are charged for passenger vehicles and motorcycles		
Day-Use Vehicles (up to 9 people and motorcycles)	Free-$5	$5
Annual Day-Use Vehicle Pass(up to 9 people and motorcycles)	Free-$25	$30

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The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, the most of any Federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations. In Fiscal Year 2015, the BLM generated $4.1 billion in receipts from activities occurring on public lands.