

2.5 Alternative C: Future Expansion

Recreation Niche Statement: The Alsea Falls SRMA provides non-motorized trail opportunities, highly developed camping and day-use activities, environmental education and interpretation program in a forested backcountry byway corridor between the Willamette and Alsea Valleys. Developed recreation site (Map 3), non-motorized trail system, and targeted interpretive information allow for a relatively natural recreation experience with amenities close to rural communities and about an hour's drive from urban population centers. Visitors will relax with family and friends while discovering the outdoors in a developed recreation site.

Intent: Provide for and improve high quality visitor experience for designated and dispersed recreation activities including camping, picnicking, swimming, fishing, non-motorized trail use, nature study, target shooting, driving for pleasure, and hunting while minimizing resource impacts. Create highly developed recreation area that provides hookups to visitors. Offer environmental education and interpretation program opportunities where visitors can enjoy and explore nature, experience a sense of wellbeing, and gain knowledge in a developed recreation site and the designated day-use non-motorized trail system. Promote developed facilities, recreation activities, environmental education, and interpretation by publicizing available opportunities to communities and visitors.

Alternative C proposes installing phone and electrical lines to the recreation site for administrative purposes with future options to expand to visitors. This alternative would include much of the proposed actions of Alternative B except alternative power sources would not be developed. The riparian trail in the picnic area would be armored in an effort to keep that opportunity. Trail and byway connections with the Eugene District's Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area would be pursued. Construct an accessible overlook for visitors to get a closer view of the Alsea Falls.

2.5.1 Overnight Use including Dispersed Recreation

- Overnight camping would remain the same as proposed in alternative B

2.5.2 Day Use and South Fork Alsea River National Back Country Byway including Dispersed Recreation

- 14 picnic sites would remain open
- 8 picnic sites would be converted to tent camping

Management actions and changes to picnic sites would remain the same as proposed in alternative B in addition to the following (Figure 11):

- Instead of closing the existing trail by the river in the day-use area, it would be engineered to reduce maintenance issues and continue to provide for a forested hiking experience
- Explore the possibility of constructing an overlook of the falls that provides accessible views of the falls, the recreation site's draw
 - ✓ The structure would be accessible and blend into the environment
 - ✓ Limb or cut trees and shrubs as necessary to provide optimal view

- Explore byway connections between the Eugene District's Upper Lake Creek SRMA.
 - ✓ The byway would follow existing roads
 - ✓ Public access would be needed on privately controlled roads
 - ✓ Install additional signs to control traffic and to provide an opportunity for interpretation

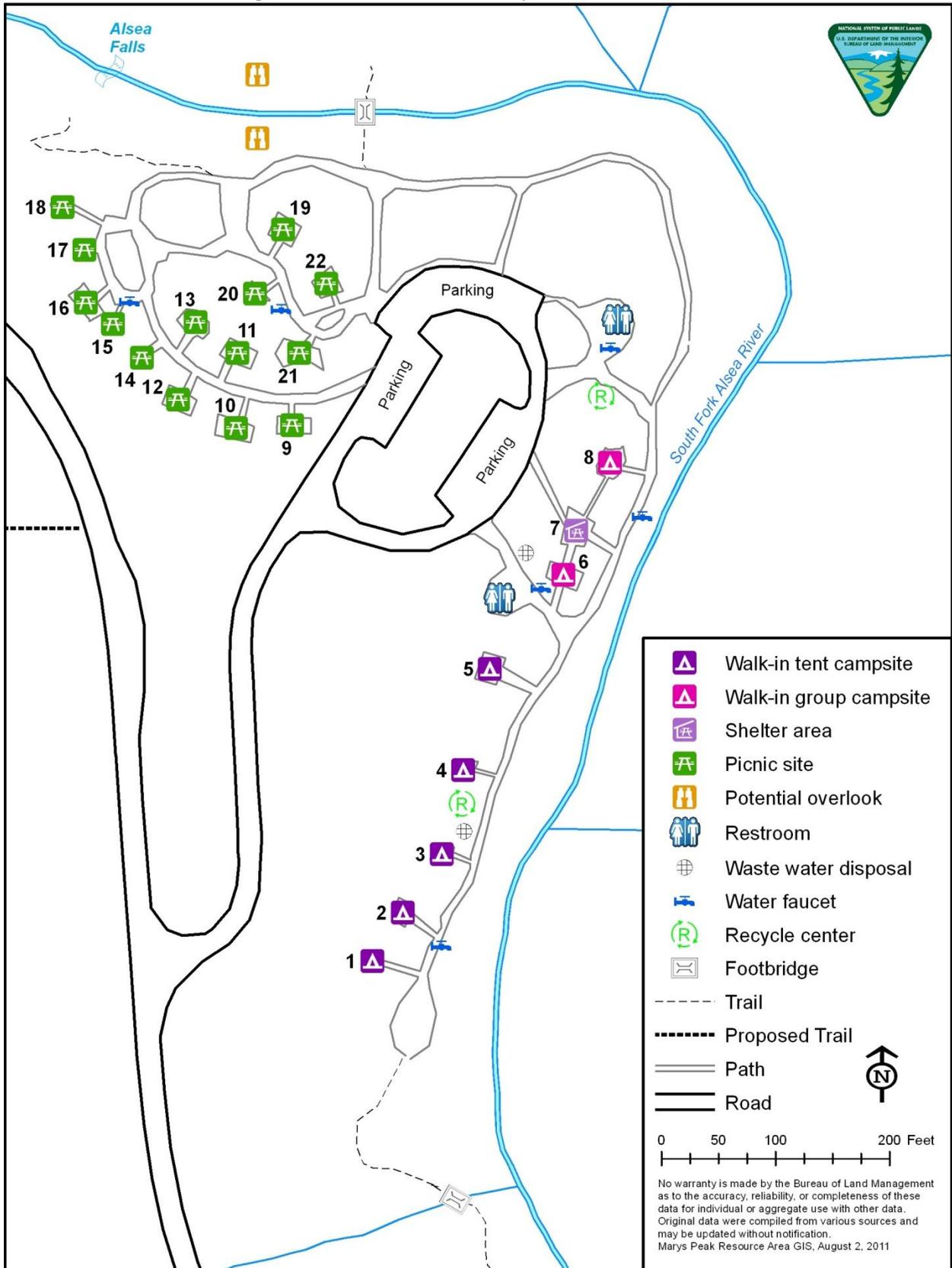
2.5.3 Trail System Changes, Development, and Additional Opportunities

- Construct a larger Fall Creek trailhead parking area by widening the existing footprint
 - ✓ Promote this area as the optimal trailhead
 - ✓ Other accommodations include tie-up posts or high leads between trees
 - ✓ Tree removal is needed in a location of an old timber sale
- Explore and build an additional non-motorized trail that connects the existing trail system with the Eugene District's Upper Lake Creek Special Recreation Management Area to the south in Lane County

2.5.4 Visitor Services, Environmental Education, Interpretation, and Information

- Instead of utilizing alternative power sources as mentioned in Alternative B, the BLM would connect to existing power lines trenched along the roadway, approximately five miles to the northwest, to the nearest house
- Connecting to existing phone lines would likely follow the same trench
- This alternative may consider providing a payphone for public use and expanding power to park visitors if demand warrants
- Additional signing is needed along routes connecting with Eugene District BLM to provide traffic regulations and an opportunity for interpretation
- Consider developing guided tours or other environmental educational opportunities for interpretation

Figure 11: Alternative C Day-Use Area Actions



2.6 Management Actions Common to All Alternatives

The following management actions apply to all alternatives and would be implemented as staff and funding allow and is not dependant on a specific alternative being chosen.

2.6.1 All Themes

- Recommend the SRMA boundary in the next LUP effort. The planning area would be brought forward as a Special Recreation Management Area during the next District Resource Area Management Planning effort.
- Develop, implement, and tailor the Salem District non-native species management plan for weed treatments for dispersed recreation, Alsea Falls recreation site, and the non-motorized trail system within the SRMA that includes methods of prevention, removal and control undesired species
- Protect resources and minimize future degradation within the SRMA by restoring damaged segments of the riverbank and harden a select few to allow river access
 - ✓ Hardening may include structure installation
- Limit visitor use within the SRMA such as number of vehicles, tents, people
- Annually review hazard trees based on district policy within the SRMA to include the identification, monitoring, and removal before the park opening

2.6.2 Safety

- Each alternative would provide a safe recreation area for staff and visitors to the SRMA
- Restrict shooting near the Alsea Falls recreation site and non-motorized trail system by creating a no-shooting zone
 - ✓ Post signs at the boundary

2.6.3 Environmental Education, Interpretation, and Information

- Increase the promotion of the recreation site to help draw visitors into the local communities hopefully increasing revenue from recreationists

2.6.4 Accessibility

- All new facilities and infrastructure, as feasible, would be universally accessible to allow full participation by persons with disabilities or limited mobility
- Modify, improve, or replace existing recreation site facilities and amenities with ones accessible for the vast majority of abilities

2.6.5 Efficiencies in Providing Recreation

- Explore the possibility of a reservation system for campsites, especially for walk-in sites, and other facilities once developed
- Implement a reservation system and limit sites (people, tents, or vehicles) in the future
- Develop standard procedure manuals or plans for recreation site operations and maintenance tasks, including but not limited to the trail system, byway, signage, interpretation, and fee collection

2.6.6 Travel and Transportation Management

- Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use within the SRMA will not be addressed within this recreation management plan
- Complete an official seasonal public vehicle closure (April 1 to September 30) of gates within the SRMA to allow trail usage on closed roads
- Continue to provide administrative access for other BLM land management activities
- Enforce OHV vehicle designations and post signage where necessary
- Trails causing resource damage would close and returned to a natural state or rerouted if allowed to remain a recreational opportunity
- With the next RMP effort, determine OHV access and manage accordingly through posting signage

2.6.7 Fee Collection

- Recreation site fees for camping and day-use would continue under current regulations. All fees would be collected under authorization from and in compliance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) [PL 108-447]
- Consistent with REA, provide the public and Recreation Resource Advisory Committee an opportunity to make recommendations and comments regarding proposed fees changes

2.6.8 Permitting of Special Recreation Events and Activities

- Require all commercial, competitive, vending operations, or group events and activities within the SRMA to obtain a Special Recreation Permit.
- The issuance of permits may be limited to five per year depending on workload and staffing capacity at the time of the request.
- All special recreation permits must conform to current BLM Manual 2930 Recreation Permits and Fees and BLM Handbook H-2930-1 Recreation Permit Administration Handbook.
- Permit vending operations only in association with a one-time special event or for firewood distribution within the recreation site

2.7 Alternatives Considered but Not Analyzed in Detail

Larger planning area alternative was dropped from analysis due to the lack of planning information, uncertainty of future budgets and maintenance of developments. The BLM lacks staff and budget to provide the necessary maintenance on trail systems that are not near extensive investment areas such as Alsea Falls recreation site.

A proposal to develop an Olympic training center was outside the scope of the planning effort. The BLM is not providing this type of recreation opportunity or experience.