

# Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan

## Final Decision and Decision Rationale

Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment  
DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2014-0003-EA

May 2015

United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management, Salem District  
Cascades Resource Area

Township 9 South, Range 2 East, sections 25 and 26  
Willamette Meridian  
Marion County, Oregon

Responsible Agency: USDI – Bureau of Land Management

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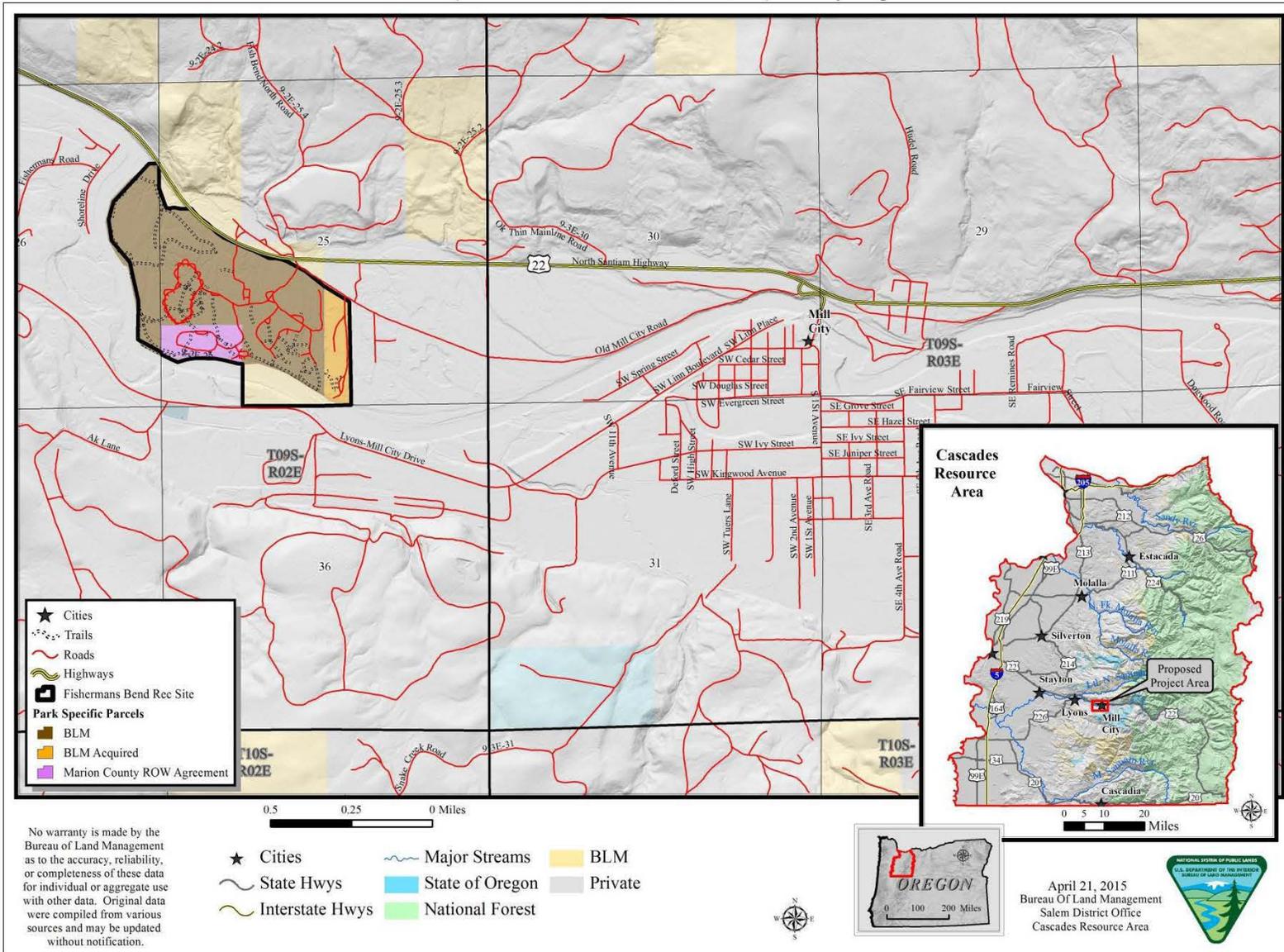
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As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering economic use of our land and water resources, protecting our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interest of all people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

BLM/OR/WA/PL-15/030+1972

# Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Vicinity Map



## 1.0 Introduction

Fishermen's Bend Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) is one of the more popular federal recreation facilities in the Willamette Valley, hosting an estimated 80,000 visitors each year. The recreation site was constructed in the early 1960s, and since then, the Bureau of Land Management, Salem District Office has operated the facility without a long-term, comprehensive vision in place to guide visitor services and site development. The public demand for camping exceeds current capacity, the site has aging infrastructure, and obsolete riverbank protection is allowing riverbank degradation. A 17-acre parcel acquired by BLM adjacent to the original recreation site presents some opportunities to add amenities and provide a second evacuation route if needed. The goal of the BLM in this Recreation Area Management Plan is to guide operations and development for the next 10-15 years.

Fishermen's Bend provides high quality developed camping opportunities along the busy Highway 22-North Santiam corridor within 40 miles of the Salem metropolitan area and 5 miles of rural communities. A mix of reservable sites for both tent campers, RV campers and groups are well-spaced and have plenty of lush natural vegetative screening. High quality services including showers, hookups, river access for both bank fishing and non-motorized boats, and group facilities make the site one of the premier overnight sites in the Cascade Range.

BLM Salem District Recreation Planners began the planning and information gathering process in 2012 by conducting: internal scoping with BLM staff; visitor surveys at the park; and external scoping to the public, state and local agencies to identify issues, and gather ideas for management of the site. This data gathering led to development of three management alternatives that were analyzed in an environmental assessment (DOI-BLM-OR-S040-2014-0003-EA): Alternative A, the No Action alternative, where no changes will be made in current operations and development; Alternative B, Day Use Emphasis; and Alternative C, Overnight Use Emphasis (Proposed Action). An environmental assessment is a public document that provides a tool for decision making by describing reasonable alternatives, considering their possible effects, and disclosing to the public what the BLM is considering. Additional site-specific environmental documentation will be prepared for individual projects as needed.

## 2.0 Decision

Having considered the alternatives presented in the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment, and comments received through the public comment process, it is my decision to implement the Proposed Action (Alternative C) and several elements of Alternative B. The key components of this hybrid decision include,

- Adding ten cabins for overnight use, along with parking and a new site road to these sites;
- Allowing overnight use at group day-use shelters;
- Adding seventeen electrical pedestals to the group day-use shelter parking area to accommodate overnight use by RVs and tent camping in the area around group shelters;
- Proposals to increase campsite, cabin, and shelter fees and begin charging a day-use fee for day-use not associated with shelter reservation;

- Adding up to one mile of accessible trail to better connect facilities and activity areas;
- Adding a one-acre, fenced off-leash dog park on the 17-acre addition near the existing parking area located just off River Road SE;
- Removing failing river bank stabilization measures and replacing them with modern structures;
- Upgrading the hazardous boat ramp at the site with a safer one;
- Making all sites reservable;
- Improving way finding signs and interpretive programs that will add value to visitors' experience at the site.

Table 1 shows some adjustments made in response to comments received on the EA, and it takes the best advantage of the infrastructure investment the BLM has already made in the site over the years to provide the most recreation opportunities for the public. Hereinafter this decision is referred to as the **Selected Action**.

Under the Selected Action, the BLM will provide a management framework that expands the capacity of Fishermen's Bend to serve the high volume of visitors (see Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Selected Action Map, p. 9). Actions will include constructing overnight camping sites, trail and road linkages, and visitor service facilities over the next 10 to 15 years.

**Table 1: Final Selection of Actions and Modifications to the Proposed Action**

Theme or Activity	Proposed Actions Carried Forward into the Selected Action	Additions from Alternative B to the Selected Action
<b>A. Overnight Use</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construct up to 10 cabins/yurts in Group Loop</li> <li>2. Add up to 8 single family campsites in River Loop</li> <li>3. Monitor and adjust overnight season based on site demand and funding levels</li> <li>4. Sites not reserved will remain available as first come-first serve</li> <li>5. Expand restroom facilities with showers to accommodate increased use</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. Add 24 water hookups to interior single-family campsites in Camp Loop</li> <li>7. Add 17 electrical hookups added to group picnic shelters to allow overnight use</li> </ol>
<b>B. Day-Use</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Increase hours of day-use site access after addressing site security of visitors and infrastructure</li> <li>2. Enhance parking areas with striping</li> <li>3. Group day-use shelters will be available for overnight use through reservation</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. Construct a one acre off leash dog park on the 17-acre addition which will include a 4 foot high chain link fence, benches, water, and restroom</li> <li>5. Remove unsightly fencing no longer needed between the 17-acre addition and Fishermen's Bend</li> <li>6. Upgrade the single lane boat ramp (20 foot wide) in the same location along the river</li> <li>7. Lengthen trailered boat parking</li> </ol>

Theme or Activity	Proposed Actions Carried Forward into the Selected Action	Additions from Alternative B to the Selected Action
<b>C. Fees</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Expanded amenity fees will be adjusted (campsites, cabins, and shelters) to account for inflation and additional services (hookups)</li> <li>2. All campsites, cabins, and shelters will have a 12 month advance reservation window</li> <li>3. Install an automated fee station to accept site fees</li> <li>4. Construct a centralized kiosk for visitors to self-register for a site</li> <li>5. Construct a camp host site near the centralized kiosk</li> <li>6. Main office will not assist visitors in making site reservations</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. Fees charged for all day-use including use of the rest stop, dog park and boat ramp/picnic area</li> <li>8. Allow non-reservation day-use in the rest stop, dog park, and boat ramp/picnic area locations only</li> </ol>
<b>D. Special Recreation Permits (SRP)</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Require all commercial activities and competitive events using park facilities to obtain an SRP</li> <li>2. Require an SRP on a case-by-case basis for group events, including but not limited to family reunions, scout camps, school outings, or weddings</li> <li>3. Deny an SRP if the activity is found to negatively impact the recreation setting or increase user conflicts</li> <li>4. Consider vending SRPs, such as firewood sales or shuttle services, on a case-by-case basis as appropriate to support or enhance recreation experience at the site</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. No Additions</li> </ol>
<b>E. Trails</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Limit trail use to hiking and biking only; no equestrian or off-highway vehicle use</li> <li>2. Construct up to one mile of trail segments to provide connections</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. Delineate and designate trails on the 17-acre addition in proper locations</li> </ol>
<b>F. Travel and Transportation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Construct a 400 foot road to access 6 new cabins</li> <li>2. Construct a 2,000 foot egress road</li> <li>3. Expand parking to accommodate larger vehicles</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. No Additions</li> </ol>
<b>G. River Access and Bank Stabilization</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Improve river access locations in stable locations</li> <li>2. Remove and restore river access points causing resource damage</li> <li>3. Remove existing concrete stabilization</li> <li>4. Stabilize bank to prevent additional facility and infrastructure damage</li> <li>5. Complete consultation with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) regarding rip-rap removal, restoration of riverbank, and boat ramp replacement projects to obtain a biological opinion for these projects</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. No Additions</li> </ol>

Theme or Activity	Proposed Actions Carried Forward into the Selected Action	Additions from Alternative B to the Selected Action
<b>H. Environmental Education and Interpretation</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop a sign plan</li> <li>2. Reduce services offered in absence of volunteer or partnership assistance</li> <li>3. Seek partnerships with the local community and volunteers to provide environmental education and interpretation services to visitors</li> <li>4. Self-guided information in the form of signage or additional brochures will become the primary means for distributing information about the park's natural history and resources</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Signage of all kinds will be updated and blend in with the environment.</li> <li>6. Use available technology such as Quick Response (QR<sup>1</sup>) codes to provide site interpretation via smart phones</li> </ol>
<b>I. Vegetation Management and Noxious/Non-Native Plants</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Continue the hazard tree monitoring program within the site</li> <li>2. Plant native vegetation in disturbed areas and as screening between sites</li> <li>3. Trim and remove encroaching vegetation adjacent to trails, roads, campsites, and shelters</li> <li>4. Develop a site specific comprehensive noxious/non-native plant management plan and remove noxious/non-native plants</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. No Additions</li> </ol>

### **Volunteer Program and Partnership Agreements**

- Continue to utilize non-profit and government agencies that play a large role in operating and managing Fishermen's Bend.
- Utilize volunteers to assist in delivering environmental education and interpretation programs. Environmental education and interpretation programs may provide additional opportunities for volunteers.
- Collaborate with local government or interest group partners to develop the dog park. Utilize staff, volunteers, or community partners to complete dog park monitoring and maintenance.

### **Business Plans or Fiscal Accountability Systems**

- Update the existing business plan to reflect new operating season, fees, and expenditures.
- Provide fee expenditure information online and post at the main office for visitors to see where fee dollars are spent.

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<sup>1</sup> QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response Code) is the trademark for a type of matrix barcode (or two-dimensional barcode). A barcode is a machine-readable optical label that contains information about the item. The QR code system has become popular due to its fast readability and greater storage capacity.

## **Website Development and Outreach Efforts**

- Update website at least quarterly with current site information.
- Create an interactive site map showing new developments and post on the site's webpage for users to download as needed.
- Actively promote Fishermen's Bend using multiple avenues such as Travel Oregon, county tourism offices, and social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter.
- Market Fishermen's Bend through the National Recreation Reservation Service ([NRRS](#)) and Travel Oregon.

## **Monitoring Recreation Resources and Human Use**

### *Recreation-caused Resource Effects or Impacts*

- Monitor vegetation and bare soil disturbances and evaluate against 2015 baseline to maintain each site's disturbance footprint.
- Install barriers that will not attract attention to the casual observer as needed to maintain or reduce ground disturbance.
- Monitor trails and correct problem to protect natural resources. Tread surfaces will be determined by trail location, i.e., natural, gravel, or paved. Close and rehabilitate non-designated trails.

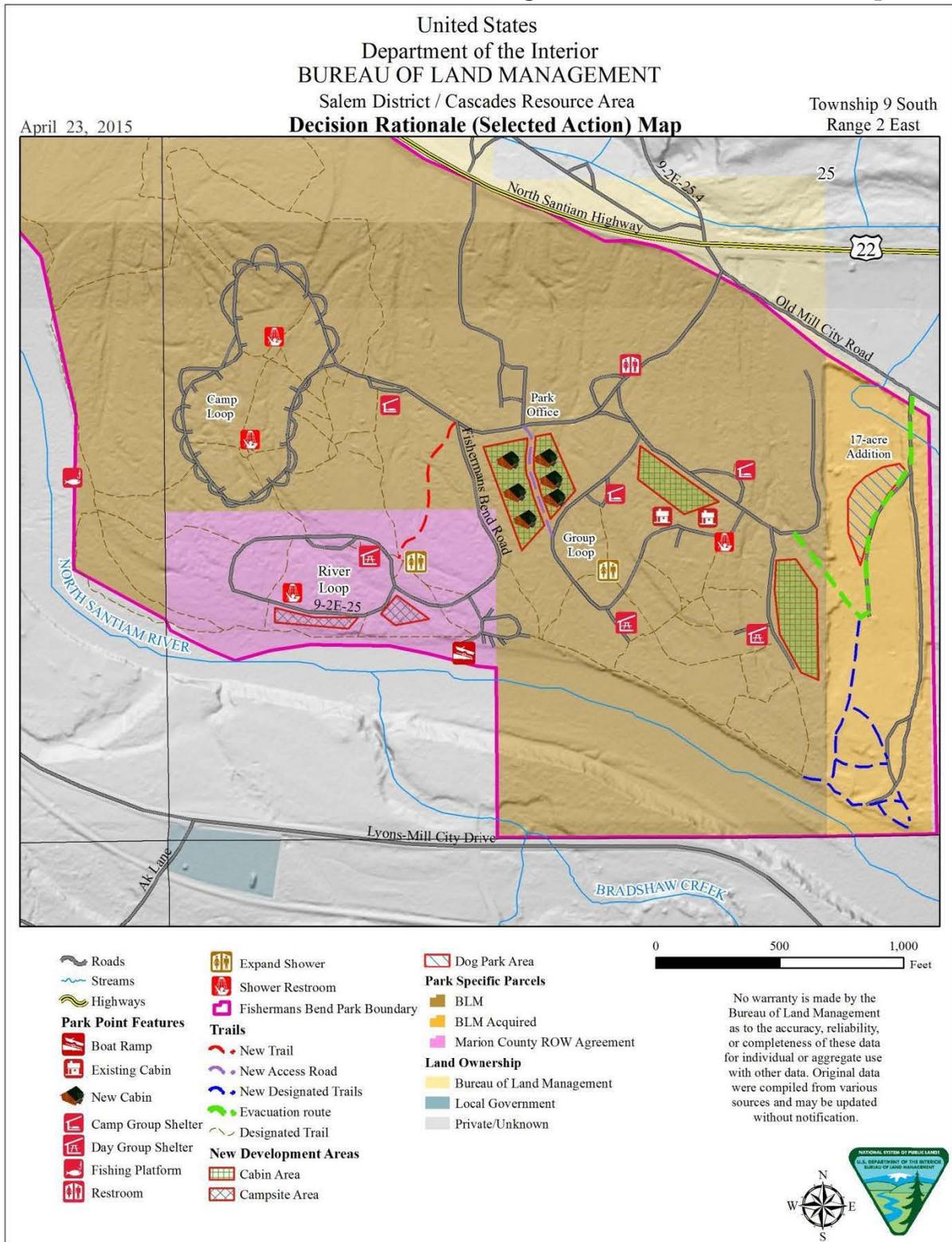
### *Law Enforcement Role*

- Continue periodic site patrols by BLM/FS Law Enforcement Officers and/or Marion County deputies.
- Utilize all available law enforcement programs and emergency services personnel to respond to emergencies at the site as needed.

### *Visitor Satisfaction and Demand*

- Continue to take advantage of the BLM Visitor Satisfaction Survey. Analyze survey results against past surveys to quantify visitor satisfaction and recreation demand.
- Continue to monitor and record the number of individuals turned away due to the site reaching capacity. Provide recommendations and information to shift visitors to other recreation sites that meet their needs.

# Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Selected Action Map



### 3.0 Decision Rationale

The existing recreation management situation within the Fishermen's Bend Special Recreation Management Area, as described in the EA, has led to a variety of issues including site capacity and utilization, bank erosion and river access, development or activities on the 17-acre addition, vegetation and non-native plant management, and impacts to natural resources. Scoping of partner agencies and members of the public identified these and other issues that should be remedied as part of this planning effort.

The site's demand for camping exceeds current capacity, it has aging infrastructure, forest stand health is declining, river erosion continues to threaten infrastructure, and the acquired land presents an opportunity for expansion. The selected action meets the need to provide resource protection while increasing site accessibility, safety, availability of amenities, and site environmental education/interpretation in a managed natural environment to provide for high quality recreation experiences.

#### 3.1 Comparison of Alternatives in Regard to the Purpose and Need

##### No Action Alternative (Alternative A)

This alternative proposes to continue existing management and operations of Fishermen's Bend *as is*. The existing mix of first come-first serve and reservable campsites would not change; walk-up reservations at the main office would not change. No large-scale site development or alterations would occur. Stream bank protection would continue to fail causing undue erosion. Fee schedules would remain the same and contribute to a decline in overall services and maintenance. Visitors would continue being turned away as site capacity is reached.

##### *Relationship to Purpose and Need*

*I did not select this alternative because it does not meet the purpose and need of the analysis; it does not address the needs to provide resource protection or increasing demand for high quality recreation opportunities at the park.*

##### Alternative B

This alternative proposed site alterations and development actions that utilize existing facilities and maximize site efficiencies. Alterations of existing structures would include adding water hookups to 24 single-family campsites in Camp Loop and 17 electrical hookups spread between the three group picnic shelters. The focus is on increasing environmental education and interpretation programs and day-use activities. The site would continue to provide the same amount of high quality overnight opportunities similar to the No Action Alternative. Construction of a self-registration kiosk and new camp host site would maintain the current mix of first come-first serve and reservable sites while seeking to increase site utilization. The main park office would not assist with reservations during the off-season. The BLM proposes charging a new standard amenity/day-use fee and overnight fee increases, which would be used to maintain the site's infrastructure. No new campsite or

trail construction would occur. Construction of a one-acre fenced, off-leash dog park would occur on the 17-acre parcel. A few minor safety actions such as new egress road, removing unsafe riverbank concrete, and installing natural structures to protect the fishing platform would occur. The boat launch would receive an update to current design standards. Hours of day-use access to the rest stop and boat ramp/picnic area would increase.

#### ***Relationship to Purpose and Need***

*I selected some actions from this alternative such as the dog park, adding hookups to existing facilities, charging a day-use fee, and allowing overnight use of day-use shelters. Adding these components to the selected action provides an area to reduce user conflicts in the overnight areas within the park, increases overnight opportunities, and increases site revenue to maintain Fishermen's Bend. It also allows for an area where visitors can run their dogs off-leash. The leash restriction will remain in affect elsewhere within the park.*

#### **Alternative C (Proposed Action)**

As funding becomes available, this alternative proposed to increase site capacity with the construction of new campsites, cabins, access road, and a self-registration fee machine. It would construct an additional volunteer host site to assist with the increased workload generated by additional infrastructure and visitor usage. The camping season would adjust based on demand and funding levels. All overnight and day-use sites and shelters would be available for reservations 12 months in advance. Sites not reserved would remain available on a first come-first served basis using the self-registration kiosk. The BLM proposes increasing overnight fees. Restroom buildings would expand to include showers for overnight guests. A few connecting trails would be developed to create better flow of site visitors. Visitor information improvements would include self-guided interpretation panels. Full riverbank stabilization would protect infrastructure along the North Santiam River. Site restoration with the addition of soil amendments and native vegetation would occur as funding becomes available. A second exit would be constructed across the 17-acre addition to facilitate emergency ingress/egress. Hours of day-use access to the rest stop and boat ramp/picnic area would increase after addressing site security of infrastructure and visitors.

#### ***Relationship to Purpose and Need***

*I selected most actions from this alternative because they best meet demand for overnight camping. Free day-use was removed from the proposed action because it did not provide for cost-effective and sustainable recreation. Restoring the whole 17-acre addition was also removed to allow for the dog park and trail designation in that area.*

#### **Selected Action for Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan**

The selected action as described in Table 1 provides a mix of the Proposed Action Alternative C and Alternative B for additional overnight opportunities while addressing demand associated with day-use.

***Relationship to Purpose and Need***

*I selected this mix of actions because it best meets the purpose and need identified for the Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Area Management Plan. This alternative will implement projects that improve the infrastructure, augment existing recreation opportunities, and provide more recreation opportunities without affects to the environment.*

My decision includes a number of actions that will be implemented in phases over a number of years as funding becomes available. Non-development actions such as administration, operations, maintenance, and monitoring, will occur as soon as possible and on a continuing basis as determined by policy, processing, and procedures. My first priorities are to correct high priority resource issues and known safety concerns. Table 2 shows the implementation schedule/priorities for the actions included in this decision. This decision also incorporates a number of project design features contained in Appendix 1.

**Table 2: Prioritized Development Schedule<sup>2</sup>**

Within the first five years (Phase 1 development)	
<b>Priority #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Add 24 water hookups to interior single-family campsites in Camp Loop</li> <li>➤ Add 17 electrical hookups added to group picnic shelters to allow overnight use</li> <li>➤ Upgrade the single lane boat ramp in the same location</li> <li>➤ Remove unsightly fencing between the 17-acre addition and Fishermen’s Bend</li> <li>➤ Construct a self-registration kiosk and associated camp host site near the entrance</li> <li>➤ Delineate and designate trails on the 17-acre addition in proper locations</li> <li>➤ Construct an egress road in the northern portion of the 17-acre addition</li> <li>➤ Remove failing concrete stabilization and protect visitors while planning for bank stabilization below</li> </ul>
<b>Priority #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Design and develop bank stabilization along the North Santiam riverbank</li> <li>➤ Striping for parking and installation of speed bumps in day use and campground areas</li> <li>➤ Construct up to one mile of connector trails</li> <li>➤ Develop a site specific self-guided interpretation</li> <li>➤ Develop a site specific comprehensive noxious/non-native plant management plan</li> </ul>
Within five-to-ten years (Phase 2 development)	
<b>Priority #1</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Construct 6 cabins and access road in Group Loop</li> <li>➤ Expand restroom facilities to include showers</li> <li>➤ Construct a one acre off-leash dog park</li> </ul>
<b>Priority #2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ As demand dictates, construct 4 additional cabins that have access to electricity and water in Group Loop</li> <li>➤ As demand dictates, construct up to 8 single-family campsites in River Loop</li> </ul>

<sup>2</sup> Project implementation and timeframes are dependent on funding and partner opportunities.

## 4.0 Compliance with Direction

Management actions identified in this plan conform to the following documents, which direct and provide the legal framework for management of BLM lands within the Salem District:

- ***Salem District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, May 1995 (RMP)*** which states that BLM-administered lands contribute to local, state, national and international economies through sustainable use of lands and resources; provide amenities (recreation facilities) that enhance communities as places to live, work, and visit; provide a wide range of developed and dispersed recreation opportunities that contribute to meeting projected demand for recreation within the planning area; manage scenic, natural and cultural resources to enhance visitor recreation and satisfy public land users; and manage recreation use in a manner that prevents resource degradation.
- ***Revised Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services (R&VS) Manual 8320, March 2011***, which provides general policy, direction, and guidance for planning for recreation and visitor services on the public lands and associated waters under the administration of the Bureau of Land Management.
- This Plan follows the BLM Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services Handbook H-8320-1 (8/22/2014).
- Record of Decision for Amendments to Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management Planning Documents within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl and ***Standards and Guidelines for Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl, April 1994 (the Northwest Forest Plan, or NWFP)***.
- Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendments to the Survey and Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines, January 2001, as amended by July 2011 Settlement Agreement.
- The ***2014 BLM Recreation Strategy for Connecting with Communities*** provides direction to help communities produce greater socioeconomic health and deliver outstanding recreation experiences to visitors while sustaining the distinctive character of public recreation settings through collaboration with community networks of service providers.
- The ***North Santiam Watershed Analysis (1999)*** presents a watershed-level perspective on the physical, social, and environmental conditions and trends within the watershed.
- The Oregon/Washington BLM is in the process of creating a new Resource Management Plan, which will conform to new BLM guidance. The revisions of the RMP for Western Oregon will conform to the new Planning for Recreation and Visitor Services Manual and Handbook.

The above documents are available, or will be available once completed, for review in the Salem District Office.

### **Compliance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy (ACS)**

Cascades Resource Area Staff have reviewed this project against the ACS objectives at the project or site scale (EA pp. 78-81). The No Action Alternative does not move toward the attainment of ACS objectives, because it would maintain numerous river access points and the current unstable bank conditions near accessible fishing platform and along the river trail, which are located in the floodplain of the North Santiam River. Overall, the Selected Action does not retard or prevent the attainment of any of the nine ACS objectives. Some of the proposed actions, such as bank stabilization, native vegetation planting, and unstable site decommissioning, will aid in meeting ACS objectives.

## **5.0 Public Involvement, Consultation, and Coordination**

### ***Public Scoping***

The BLM conducted external scoping (seeking input from outside the BLM) for the Fishermen's Bend planning process by pre-scoping the public, asking about their stay, and taking part in a National Visitor Satisfaction Survey, and press release of the future planning process during the summer of 2013. The planning effort has relied extensively on feedback from site users and stakeholders. The BLM received 284 surveys with 62 written comments and 23 comments from the press release.

The BLM posted online and sent a scoping letter to 97 federal, state, local, and interested public. The comment period was open April 3 to May 1, 2014. The BLM received five comments during the scoping period. The Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan has also been included in the Salem District's quarterly Project Update publication since 2013. The publication provides information regarding BLM's current project work and provides contact information for public involvement.

### ***Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact Comment Period***

The BLM made the EA and unsigned FONSI available for public review from January 20 to February 20, 2015.

### ***Comments Received and Responses to Comments***

The BLM received five comments on the EA during the comment period. Comments were received from members of the public and state agencies (Oregon State Marine Board and Oregon Department of State Lands). In general, comments were favorable to one alternative or the other with no clear consensus. State agencies responded with reminders of the requirement for the BLM to coordinate actions with them. Responses to comments as well as the scoping and EA comment letters/emails are available for review at the Salem District BLM Office, 1717 Fabry Rd SE, Salem, Oregon.

## *Consultation and Coordination*

### **Wildlife: United States Fish and Wildlife Service**

There will be no effects to Threatened or Bureau Sensitive Species as a result of any of these alternatives. The park is not within the home range of any spotted owl sites and is not located in critical habitat for the spotted owl. Negative cumulative effects to wildlife species or habitats will be minimal under all of the alternatives because the proposed activities will not appreciably alter the existing habitat value in the project area.

### **Fish: National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)**

The proposed actions of removing the rip-rap and restoring the eroding riverbank, and installing a new boat ramp are likely to adversely affect winter steelhead and spring Chinook salmon due to disturbance of fish and generating turbidity during the rip-rap removal, bank restoration, and boat ramp installation work. The BLM will complete consultation with NMFS regarding project effects to Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed fish and habitats prior to initiating the restoration and boat ramp projects. Depending on the scope of the restoration work, the consultation for the bank stabilization project would likely be covered under BLM's programmatic biological opinion for river restoration work (see EA pp. 81-82).

Protection of Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) as described by the Magnuson/Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act and consultation with NOAA NMFS is required for all projects, which may adversely affect EFH of Chinook and Coho Salmon. The proposed action addressed in the EA is likely to adversely affect EFH due to proximity of projects to occupied habitat. The BLM will complete consultation with NMFS regarding project effects to ESA listed fish and habitats prior to initiating the restoration project.

### **Cultural Resources - Section 106 Consultation with State Historical Preservation Office**

Consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office will be conducted on individual projects according to the procedures in the Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon.

## **6.0 Conclusion**

### *Review of Finding of No Significant Impact*

I have determined that the Finding of No Significance for the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Area Management Plan Environmental Assessment is accurate and valid for this project. I reviewed the comments on the EA and no information was provided in the comments that lead me to believe the analysis, data, or conclusions are in error or that the selected action needs to be altered. There are no significant new circumstances or facts relevant to the selected action or associated environmental effects that were not addressed in the EA.

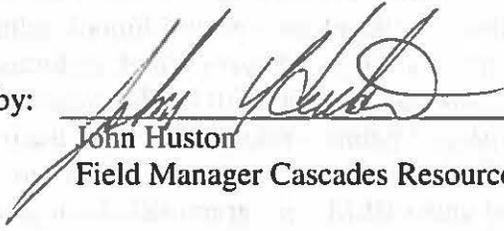
**Administrative Review Opportunities**

Notice of this decision will be posted on the Salem District internet website. The action is subject to appeal to the Interior Board of Land Appeals under 43 CFR Part 4. For additional appeal information, please contact David Simons, Cascades Environmental Coordinator, at 503-375-5612.

**Implementation Date**

If no appeals are filed, this decision will become effective immediately following the 30-day appeal period from date signed. For additional information, contact Traci Meredith, Team Lead, 1717 Fabry Road SE, Salem, Oregon, 97306, or at (503) 315-5991.

Approved by:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John Huston  
Field Manager Cascades Resource Area

6/3/2015  
Date

## Appendix 1: Project Design Features

These project design features (PDFs), sometimes called best management practices (BMPs), help reduce the effects to the environment and resource damage.

### **To prevent the introduction or spread of invasive/non-native plant species (i.e. noxious weeds) on BLM-administered lands**

- All soil disturbing equipment used in the project area will be required to be clean and free of soil, seeds, vegetative matter, or other debris that could contain noxious weed seeds before entering BLM-administered land as directed by the contract administrator. If possible, the BLM will utilize work crews to pull weeds from project area prior to project implementation.
- All soil disturbing equipment will also be cleaned before leaving BLM property to reduce likelihood of spreading known invasive species outside of the project area as designated by the contract administrator.
- Where necessary (e.g., new trails, campsites, cabins, etc.), areas of disturbed and exposed mineral soil that are a result of the proposed project, as determined by the recreation specialist, will be seeded to abate the establishment of invasive/non-native species that are known from the project area(s). Oregon Certified blue wild rye (*Elymus glaucus*) or other approved native seed will be used where seeding takes place.

### **To protect ESA listed, special status, or Survey and Manage terrestrial animals**

- Standards outlined in the applicable letters of concurrence or biological opinions in place at the time of implementation will be followed to prevent or minimize adverse effects to ESA listed terrestrial wildlife species.
- A wildlife biologist shall participate in the planning and design of all implementation activities that may affect any ESA listed, special status, or Survey and Manage species and will include surveys to protocol if required. Appropriate management recommendations will be followed or protection measures undertaken to prevent or minimize adverse effects.
- Required pre-disturbance surveys and known-site management for any special status or Survey and Manage animal species will be accomplished in accordance with BLM Manual 6840 – *Special Status Species Management*, and the *2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines as modified by the 2011 settlement agreement in Conservation Northwest v. Sherman (Case No.08-CV-1067-JCC)* or successive guidance.
- The resource area biologist will be immediately notified if any federally-listed, special status, or Survey and Manage animal species were encountered while implementing proposed project activities so timely protection measures can be incorporated, as deemed feasible.
- *Snag Retention:* Any trees or snags that are felled or otherwise knocked down will be retained on site as coarse woody debris if possible. All old-growth trees will be left standing and larger snags (above 15-inch diameter breast height) of all decay classes will be left standing to the greatest extent possible. Avoid cutting snags during the nesting

season (March 1 to July 31). Avoid habitat modification activities during the breeding season for birds from April 1 to July 15, especially snag and hazard tree removal.

### **To protect ESA listed, special status, or Survey and Manage plants/fungi**

- Prior to any ground disturbing activity, all proposed project sites will be surveyed to determine presence or absence of any SSS/S&M species. If any species that requires protection is identified, appropriate measures will be taken to assure the protection of the site.
- Required pre-disturbance surveys and known-site management for any special status or Survey and Manage plant/fungal species will be accomplished in accordance with BLM Manual 6840 – *Special Status Species Management*, and the *2001 Record of Decision and Standards and Guidelines for Amendment to the Survey & Manage, Protection Buffer, and other Mitigation Measures Standards and Guidelines as modified by the 2011 settlement agreement in Conservation Northwest v. Sherman* (Case No.08-CV-1067-JCC) or successive guidance.
- Pre-disturbance surveys will generally be accomplished through intuitive controlled methods, field clearances, field reconnaissance, inventories, database searches, known site maps and records and/or habitat examinations and in accordance with species survey protocols. Clearances for fungi are considered “not practical” and surveys are not required.
- The resource area botanist will be immediately notified if any federally-listed, special status, or Survey and Manage plant/fungal species were encountered while implementing proposed project activities so timely protection measures can be incorporated, as deemed feasible.
- Any wasting of soil or any large areas of exposed mineral soil will be planted with native plant species if available or otherwise sown with a seed mixture approved by the resource area botanist.

### **To protect Cultural Resources**

- *Archeological survey:* Prior to any ground disturbing activity (including trail construction, facility development, and site restoration) the District Archaeologist will evaluate the activity and location to determine if a Class III archeological field survey will need to be conducted to locate any cultural resources within the project area. If cultural resources are discovered, apply appropriate mitigation measures such as relocating proposed projects to avoid disturbing the site. According to Appendix A of the *Protocol for Managing Cultural Resources on Lands Administered by the Bureau of Land Management in Oregon*, post-project archeological survey will be conducted after all ground disturbing activities.
- If during project implementation any archeological, paleontological, or historical resources are discovered all project activities will cease until an archaeologist can be present to determine the significance of the discovery.

### **Fire and Fuels Management**

- Hazardous fuels surveys will be conducted and site specific plans for hazard fuels reduction treatments will be implemented by the Authorized Officer.

- A Prescribed Fire Burn Plan will be initiated and signed by the Authorized Officer prior to any prescribed burning activity.
- Burning will be conducted in accordance with the Salem District RMP, *Oregon State Implementation Plan and Oregon Smoke Management Plan* as administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry and will comply with the provisions of the Clean Air Act. It will be conducted under good atmospheric mixing conditions to lessen the impact on air quality in Smoke Sensitive Receptor Areas.
- Swamper burning, or hand/machine pile construction and burning may be used individually or in combination in areas where fuel loading is heavy, the fire risk is determined to be high, or site preparation is required to help facilitate tree planting in recreation management areas.
- When hand or machine piles are identified by the Authorized Officer as the specified fuels treatment the following requirements will apply:
  - Piles will be located as far as possible from large snags, green trees, or other reserved trees to minimize damage.
  - Large woody debris greater than six inches in diameter will be retained on site and not piled.
  - Piles will not be constructed within 25 feet of property lines, recreation site facilities, on roadbeds, on top of stumps or existing coarse woody debris (CWD).
  - Piles will be covered with .004 millimeter thick black polyethylene plastic. The plastic shall adequately cover the pile to ensure ignition, and will be placed and anchored to help facilitate the consumption of fuels during the high moisture fall/winter burning periods.
- Lopping and scattering of slash will be incorporated in areas where fuel loading is relatively heavy, but not heavy enough to warrant burning.
- Pullback of fuels will be incorporated in areas where fuel loading is relatively light (especially along roads, property lines and hiking trails) instead of piling and burning.
- Utilization of small diameter slash for firewood or energy production from biomass will be incorporated where appropriate.
- Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the BLM will require the placement of signs, the temporary blocking roads with vehicles or moveable barricades, and/or the use of flaggers to ensure public safety during active fuel treatment operations.

**Project Design Features derived from Western Oregon Programmatic covering ESA listed Fish**

- Brushing – Leave a ten foot buffer on intermittent and ephemeral channels and leave a 20 foot buffer on perennial streams where brushing is limited to the trail tread width.
- Locate mobile infrastructure away from hazard trees. Rather than felling, consider limbing or topping hazard trees to alleviate hazard.
- Control user activities to alleviate compaction and vegetation loss in recreation areas and facilities.
- Coarse Woody Debris – Protect and retain coarse woody debris on the ground wherever possible. If suitable woody debris must be moved, the section of log within the trail’s path will be cut and removed instead of moving the entire log.
- Do not remove downed wood (natural recruitment and as a result of hazard tree treatment) within 100 feet of listed fish streams and 50 feet of all other streams within

one mile of listed fish (exception - clearing existing trails and where debris poses a safety risk). Outside these widths within the Riparian Reserve, consider using hazard trees for instream restoration projects.

- Within one site potential tree (SPT) of listed fish, retain the maximum length of down logs possible. Consider relocating trails or provide safe passage over logs in lieu of cutting down logs.
- Existing trail construction – design and maintain proper drainage, especially near stream crossings.
- Provide erosion control (grass seed/silt fences/hay bales/etc.) to minimize sediment delivery to water bodies. Implement controls prior to wet season.
- Implement soil disturbing activities during the dry season.
- Maintain, operate, and store vehicles and gas-powered equipment to minimize risk of contaminants. 1) Inspect equipment daily if within 150 feet of streams. Repair prior to resuming operations. 2) Refuel, store, conduct maintenance, and repair gas-powered equipment at least 150 feet from streams.
- Pressure treated wood is not to be used below the ordinary high water mark.
- Pressure treated wood must be stored out of contact with water and precipitation.
- Construction with pressure treated wood should be prefabricated away from water to the maximum extent possible. Construction with pressure treated wood over water will include containment (tarps, plastic sheeting, and tubs) to prevent waste material from reaching water surfaces.
- Prevent abrasion by users and place water proofing over pressure treated wood surfaces to prevent chips and dust contaminated with preservative from reaching water surfaces.
- Install drainage features to stable vegetated slopes with low probability of gullyng.
- Do not apply dust abatement within 24 hours of predicted rain. Do not apply dust abatement over stream crossings or road segments immediately adjacent to streams.
- Retain all functional woody debris at stream crossings. Maintenance will move upstream debris and replace debris downstream of crossings.
- Riverbank stabilization activities will be limited to bioengineered solutions (root wads, log toes, coir logs, woody and shrubby plantings). A minimum amount of rock may be used in conjunction with bioengineered materials.
- Stream crossing sites will likely be at least 0.5 mile apart, unless environmental conditions are favorable to accommodating a shorter distance.

### **Trail Construction**

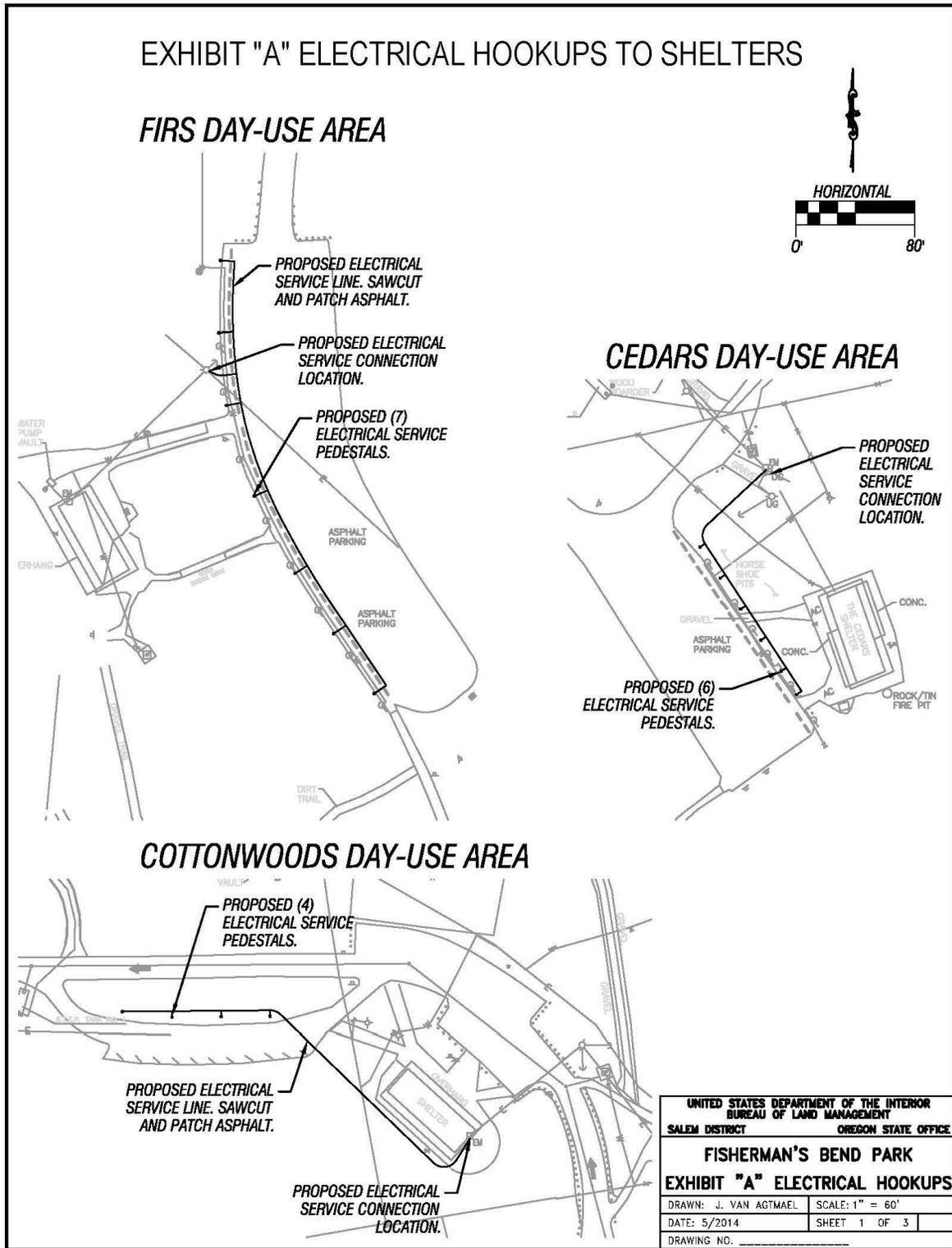
- *Trail tread width:* Allowable width will range from three to six feet down to bare mineral soil. Additional feet of tread will be needed to provide vista, resting, and passing locations.
- Suspend construction or maintenance of trails where erosion and runoff will likely be delivered to water bodies.
- *Average trail grade guideline:* Average trail grade will not exceed ten percent with a maximum grade of 15 percent.
- *Half rule guideline:* Trail grade or steepness will not exceed half the grade or steepness of the hillside.

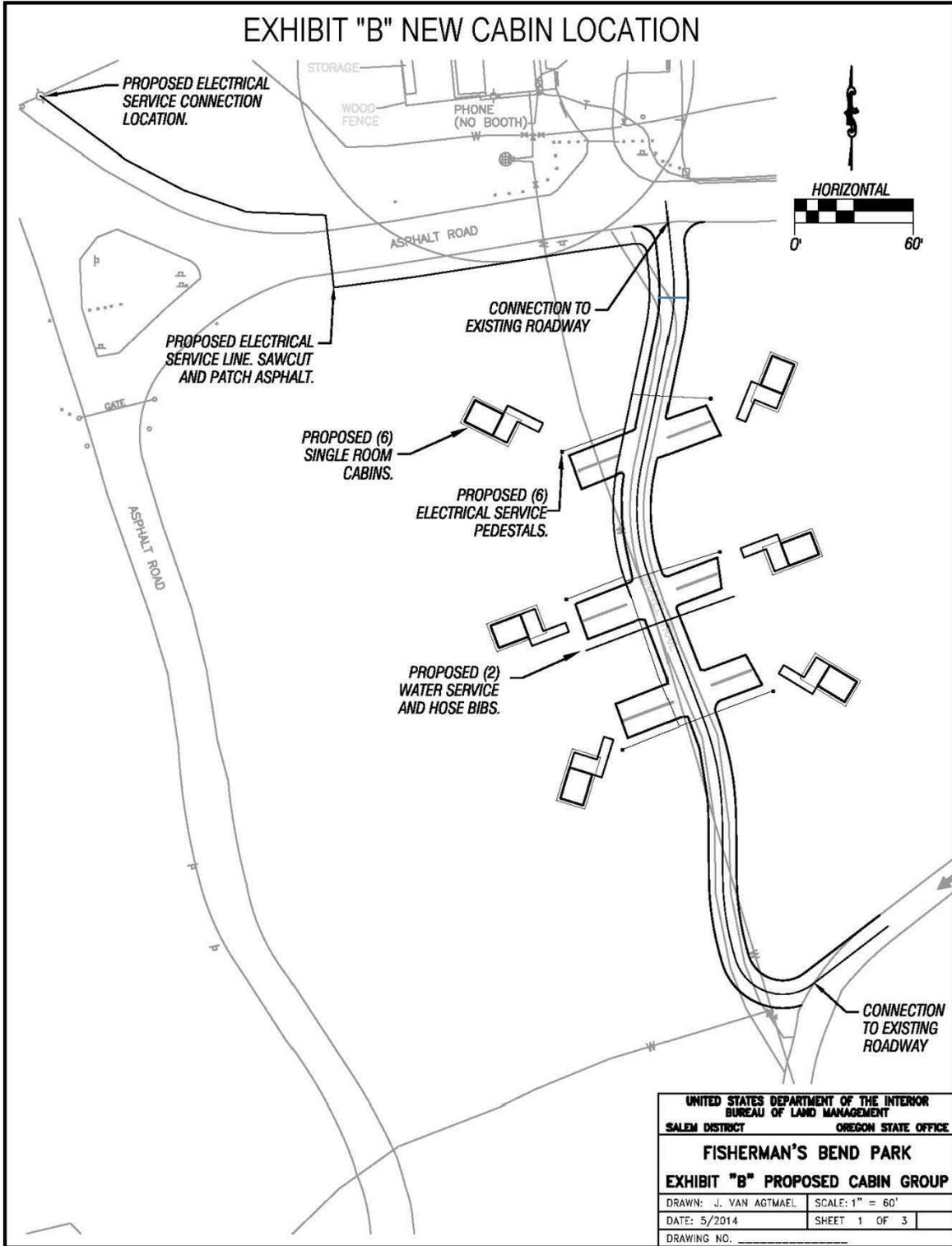
- *Water crossing structures (culverts, bridges, or fords):* Any new construction of these structures will be designed to accommodate the 100-year flood event, allow unobstructed fish passage, and meet bankfull width.
- *Minimum Vegetation Removal:* Design trails with minimal vegetation removal through route location. Cutting live trees over seven inches in diameter will be avoided wherever possible, except where they present a safety hazard or constriction. Vegetation and stumps will be cut flush to the ground for approximately six feet wide to eight feet high depending on sight distance and trail users. Avoid habitat modification activities during the breeding season for birds from April 1 to July 15, especially snag and hazard tree removal.
- All crossings will have to be hardened with a bridge or other structure to prevent sedimentation into the creek.
- Where feasible, stay at least 100 feet from water and minimize stream crossings, except where necessary to stabilize riverbanks and minimize erosion.

### **New Facility Development Including Roads, Campsites, and Parking Areas**

- *Facility locations:* Locate facilities, where possible, in previously disturbed areas. Avoid stream channels, floodplains, fish spawning sites, and areas that require a high level of vegetation removal.
- *Season of construction:* Facility construction will take place during the dry season (generally May through September) to avoid excess erosion and sediment inputs.
- *Preventing loss of stream shading:* Minimize or eliminate removal of streamside vegetation that provides shading and reduction of stream temperature through carefully locating facilities and trails in areas with lower density of vegetation.
- *Appropriate drainage:* Facility and parking area design will mitigate interference with hydrologic patterns.
- *New roads added to the existing network of roads and trails within the developed campgrounds will include the following mitigation measures:*
  - Design roads to no more than the minimum width necessary for the intended purpose.
  - Outslope permanent low volume roads to provide for surface drainage on slopes up to six percent gradient.
- Limit road construction, reconstruction, or renovation activities to the dry season. Keep erosion control structures current to allow for immediate storm proofing of the road way if necessary.

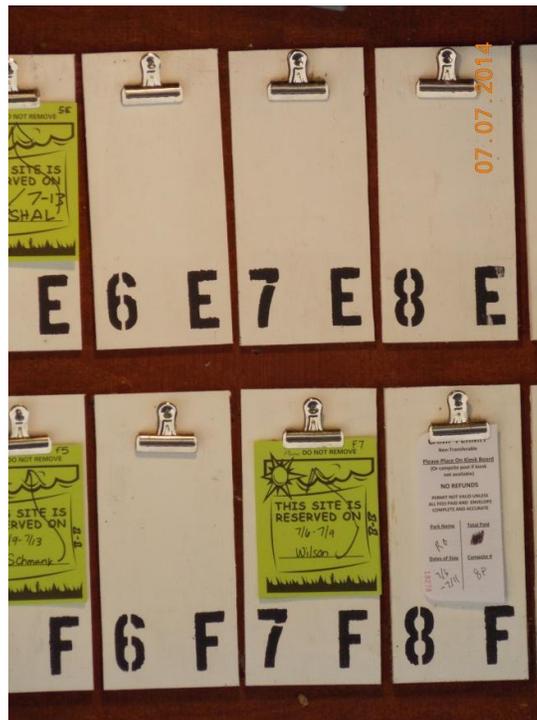
## Appendix 2: Site Designs







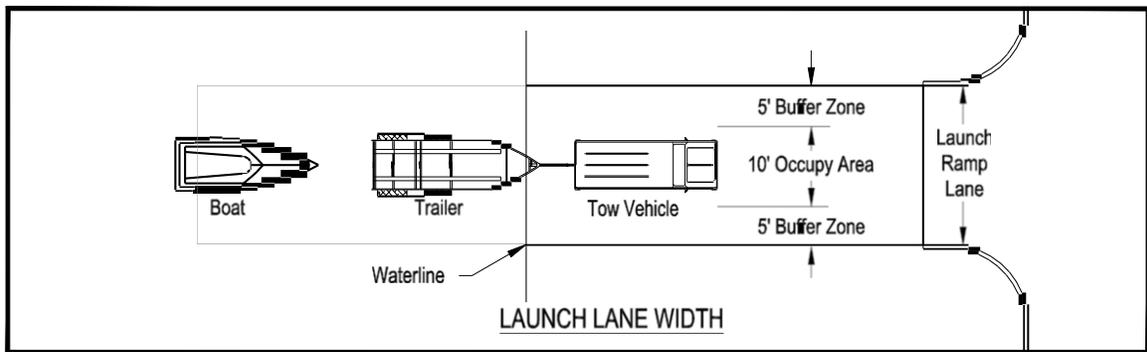
**River Bend Registration Kiosk**



**Close up of Reservable (green) versus First Come-First Serve Sites (white)**



**Condition of existing boat ramp**



**Boat launch ramp showing vehicle/trailer width occupy area with buffer zones**