

# SUMMER 2015 AT LOON LAKE RECREATION SITE

## ***When and how much of Loon Lake Campground will be open this summer?***

Loon Lake Campground will be open for camping seven days a week from a Memorial Day weekend to September 30, with approximately 2/3 of the sites available. The other 1/3 of sites will be closed for the summer.

The Day Use Area at Loon Lake will be open seven days a week from Memorial Day Weekend to September 30, from 8 am to 8 pm.

East Shore Campground will be open Memorial Day to November 30 on a first come, first serve basis. This is a dry campground.

## ***Why are fewer campsites open this summer?***

While the water availability at the campground improved over the winter, there is still not enough potable water to operate the site at full capacity. The Bureau of Land Management will temporarily close about one-third of the campsites to provide opportunities for longer camping stays, while staying within the limitations the lack of water brings.

## ***Why isn't there any water?***

Two ground wells supply Loon Lake Recreation Site with water. One well's water level dropped and the water quality decreased to the point that it does not comply with Department of Environmental Quality standards for potable water. The second well continued to produce potable water, but it was not enough to produce the high volume of water needed to maintain the restrooms, showers, water spigots, and other park operations.

The amount of water the wells can produce is closely related to the amount of rain the area receives. With a drought last summer, and very little rain falling so far this winter, the water supply is not being replenished.

## ***Knowing there isn't much water, what should I expect while camping at Loon Lake?***

**Bring Your Own Water!** We need your help to conserve as much water as possible at the site. The flush toilets will remain open in the campground and day-use area, but the showers and sinks will be closed. Please come prepared with enough water to drink, wash hands, clean dishes, cook meals, put out campfires, etc.

## ***Why doesn't the BLM drill another well?***

Several additional wells have been drilled in the past with varying degrees of success. Seismic testing indicates there are not significant areas of new water that can be tapped into at the site.



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### *Will the campground stay open for the whole summer?*

We are making every effort to keep the campground open for the summer. That being said, the amount of rain we get this spring and other environmental factors will ultimately determine how much water is available throughout the summer. Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee the campground will remain open through September. We will give reservation holders as much notice as possible should the campground need to close early again this year.

### *What are the long-term plans for the campground and the water situation?*

The lack of water and decreasing Federal recreation budgets have motivated us to look at operations at the campground to see where we could make changes that reduce operating costs and reduce demand for water in the future. For example, we plan to install vault toilets in the campground before the end of 2015. We recognize this may be a tough transition for visitors who are used to Loon Lake Campground the way it was, and we appreciate your patience. With all of the changes we make, our ultimate goal is to provide a fun and safe place for people to camp and enjoy the lake throughout the summer.

