

July 2021



Bureau of Land Management Northwest Oregon District Office

Northwest Oregon District Recreation Site Business Plan



Whittaker Creek Recreation Site

**Bureau of Land Management
Northwest Oregon District Office
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, Oregon 97306
(503) 375-5646**

Table of Contents

BLM Signatory Page.....	3
1. Executive Summary	4
2. Introduction.....	7
2.1. Fee and Business Plan Requirement.....	7
2.2. Regulatory Background.....	8
3. Background	10
3.1. Area Description.....	10
3.2. Visitor Demographics.....	12
3.3. Recreational Visitation	13
3.4. Season of Use	14
3.5. Operating Costs	14
3.6. Recreation Use and Fee Revenues	18
4. Fee Proposal	20
4.1. Summary	20
4.2. Existing and Proposed Fee Types.....	20
4.3. Fee Calculation.....	24
4.4. Financial Projections	26
4.5. Use of Fees	28
4.6. Impact of Fee Changes	29
5. Outreach	31
5.1. Public and Stakeholder Participation.....	31
5.2. Public Comments	32
5.3. Public Communication and Marketing Plan.....	33
6. Appendices.....	35
6.1. Recreation Site Descriptions	35
6.2. Proposed Fees – Comprehensive Table.....	59
6.3. Fair Market Value Calculations.....	62
6.4. Public Comment Matrix	84
6.5. Letters of Support.....	90

BLM Signatory Page

Business plan developed by:

Northwest Oregon District – Recreation

1717 Fabry Road SE


Salem, OR 97306

BLM_OR_NO_Rec_PublicComments@blm.gov

Signatures for Approving Business Plan

Reviewed By:

AMANDA MOORE


 Digitally signed by AMANDA MOORE
Date: 2021.07.23 10:34:39 -07'00'

Amanda Moore, Supervisory Outdoor Recreation Planner

Date

Recommended By:




 Digitally signed by PAUL TIGAN
Date: 2021.07.30 11:30:39 -07'00'

Paul Tigan, Northwest Oregon District Manager

Date

Approved By:

LENORE HEPPLER

 Digitally signed by LENORE HEPPLER
Date: 2021.08.06 15:27:34 -07'00'

Lenore Heppler, Deputy State Director for Resources, Lands, Minerals, and Fire

Date

1. Executive Summary

This business plan was prepared pursuant to the “Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, 2004” (P.L. 108-447) and BLM recreation fee program policy. It establishes future management goals and priorities for the Northwest Oregon District’s recreation fee program.

This plan covers all existing and proposed recreation fee sites within the Northwest Oregon District. The plan seeks modest fee modifications at existing day-use sites and campgrounds, the establishment of new fees for existing recreation sites that are currently fee-free, and the establishment of new fees for recreation sites that are under development. This plan also seeks to establish an annual pass that would cover day-use fees at almost all sites across the District.

This plan includes fee proposals for Fishermen’s Bend and Elkhorn Valley recreation sites, both located in the North Santiam drainage and impacted by the Beachie Creek Fire. The sites are currently closed as the Northwest Oregon District develops a plan to restore public access and the recreational opportunities lost within the fire. Fee proposals for those sites are representative of opportunities that existed prior to the Beachie Creek Fire.

An overview of the proposed fee schedule is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of Proposed Fee Schedule

Site Type	Recreation Site	Proposed Fee
Day-use		
Car	Alsea Falls, Fall Creek, Sharps Creek, Clay Creek, Whittaker Creek, Yellowbottom, Fishermen’s Bend, Shotgun Creek, Sandy Ridge, Marmot	\$5
Van		\$10
Bus		\$20
Annual Pass	All day-use sites except Yaquina Head	\$30
Campgrounds		
Primitive campsite	Alsea Falls, Cedar Grove, Three Bears, Yellowbottom, Fan Creek, Dovre, Alder Glen	\$15
Basic campsite	Alsea Falls, Elkhorn, Sharps Creek, Clay Creek, Whittaker Creek, Pine Creek, Fishermen’s Bend, Wildwood	\$20-22
Double campsite	Alsea Falls, Cedar Grove, Three Bears, Whittaker Creek	\$30-40
Hook-up campsite	Fishermen’s Bend, Wildwood	\$26-36
Yurt	Wildwood	\$45-55
Cabin	Fishermen’s Bend, Wildwood	\$65-80
Extra vehicle	All campgrounds	\$5
Sanitary dump station	All campgrounds (as available)	\$5
Group sites		
Group camp	Aquila Vista, Elk Bend, Fishermen’s Bend, Old Miner’s Meadow	\$50-125
Group day shelter	Clay Creek, Wildwood, Shotgun, Dovre	\$50-300
Group camp shelter	Fishermen’s Bend, Wildwood	\$180-420

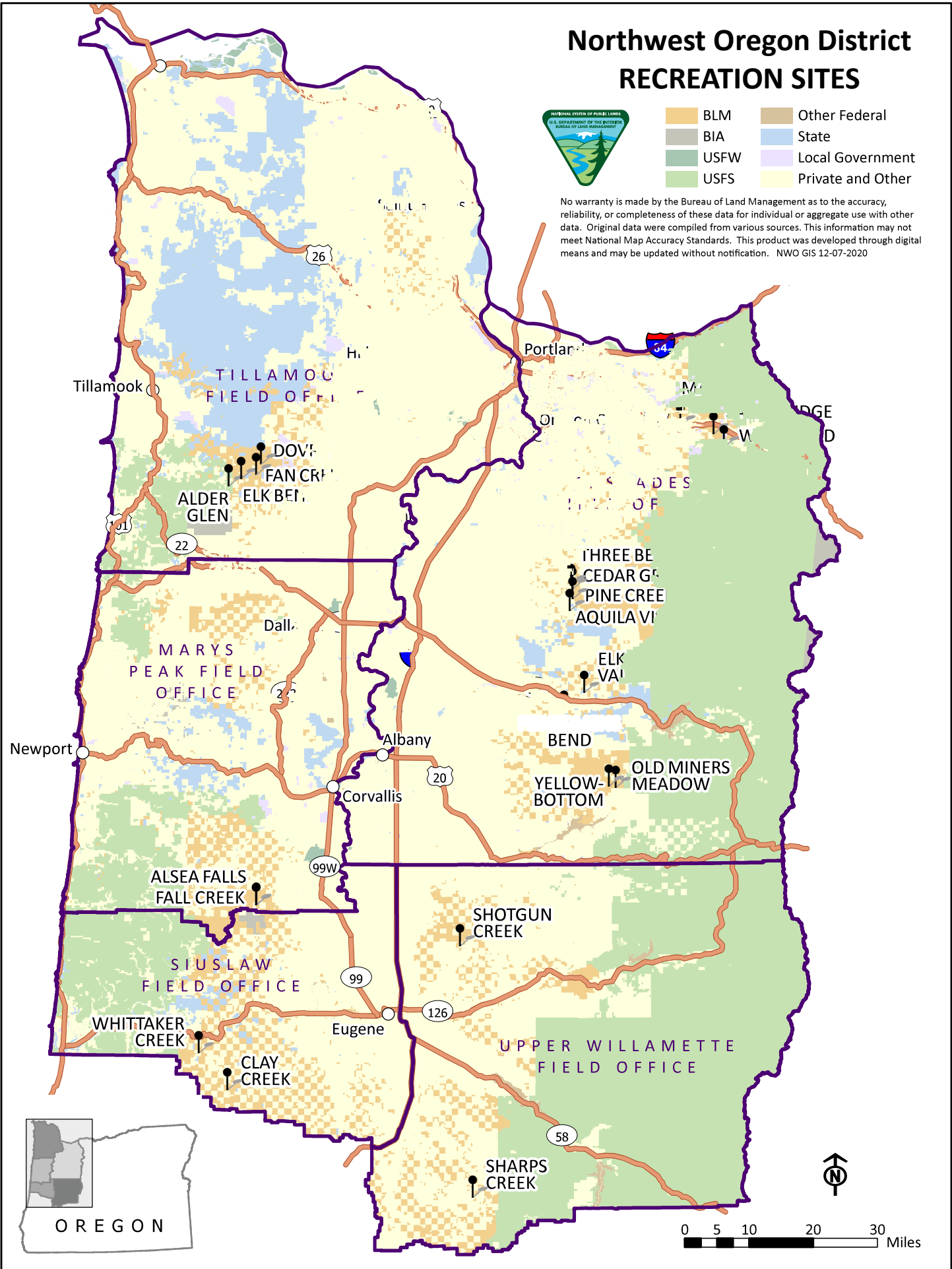
All proposed fees are based on a comparative review of fees charged by other public agencies and private providers for similar services within the respective geographic area of each recreation site. Fee increases are necessary to better meet the expenses of the recreation program, including maintenance and operations to prevent resource damage and provide better visitor services. Fees at most Northwest Oregon District recreation sites have not been modified or increased in more than 20 years.

Northwest Oregon District RECREATION SITES



- | | |
|------|-------------------|
| BLM | Other Federal |
| BIA | State |
| USFW | Local Government |
| USFS | Private and Other |

No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification. NWO GIS 12-07-2020



2. Introduction

2.1. Fee and Business Plan Requirement

This business plan has been prepared to meet the criteria defined in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004 (Public Law 108-447, as amended). FLREA provides the BLM current authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at federal recreational lands and waters. FLREA authorizes BLM to locally retain collected recreation fees and outlines how revenues may be used for such things as facility repair, maintenance and enhancement, interpretation, visitor information, services and needs assessments, signage, law enforcement directly related to public use and recreation, and operating or capital costs associated with the Recreation and Visitor Services program.

BLM Handbook H-2930-1, Recreation Permit and Fee Administration (Rel. 2-300, dated November 17, 2014) requires that each recreation fee program have an approved business plan which thoroughly discusses fees and explains how fees are consistent with the criteria set forth in FLREA. Business plans are to assist management in determining the appropriateness and level of fees, the cost of administering a fee program, the expected benefits to be derived for the public, and to provide a structured communication plan. The primary purpose of the plan is to serve as public notification of the objectives for use of recreation fee revenues and to provide the public an opportunity to comment on these objectives. The business plan guides the expenditure of collected FLREA funds and ensures public accountability.

The business plan will specifically cover a description of the recreation fee sites, proposed changes in fees to these sites, associated operating costs, planned expenditures of fee revenue, a financial analysis utilizing a regional comparative market study of fees charged for other similar recreation facilities, and the impacts of proposed fee changes. The data used to analyze and prepare this business plan was obtained through internal BLM tracking and accounting mechanisms such as the Financial Business Management System (FBMS), Recreation Management Information System (RMIS), Collections and Billing Systems (CBS), and other locally generated recreation and visitor use tracking systems. Some data contained in these systems may be subject to Privacy Act requirements. For more detailed information, contact the BLM Northwest Oregon District.

This business plan is also pursuant to additional authorities, regulations, and applicable recreation fee program policies and guidance, including:

- The Federal Land Policy and Management Act, 1976, (Public Law 94-579)
- Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2930: Permits for Recreation on Public Land
- BLM Manual MS-2930, Recreation Permits and Fees, Rel. 2-296
- BLM Handbook H-2930-1, Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook, Rel. 2-300

2.2. Regulatory Background

Under FLREA, a Standard Amenity or Expanded Amenity fee may be charged for the use of certain recreational facilities or services. These sites must meet the respective criteria defined below:

- **Standard Amenity Recreation Fees** cover recreation areas that provide significant opportunities for outdoor recreation; have substantial federal investments; where fees can be effectively collected; and that have all of the following amenities:
 - (1) designated developed parking,
 - (2) a permanent toilet facility,
 - (3) a permanent trash receptacle,
 - (4) interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk,
 - (5) picnic tables,
 - (6) and security services.
- **Expanded Amenity Recreation Fees** cover specialized recreation sites and services including but not limited to developed campgrounds with at least a majority of the following amenities:
 - (1) tent or trailer spaces,
 - (2) picnic tables,
 - (3) drinking water,
 - (4) access roads,
 - (5) fee collection by an employee or agent of the BLM,
 - (6) reasonable visitor protection,
 - (7) refuse containers,
 - (8) toilet facilities,
 - (9) simple devices for containing a campfire.
- Additional **Expanded Amenity** recreation facilities or services include (shortened list):
 - rental of cabins, group day-use or overnight sites, binoculars, or other equipment,
 - use of hook-ups for electricity, cable, or sewer,
 - use of sanitary dump stations,
 - use of reservation services.

Prohibitions on Charging FLREA Fees

Section 803 of FLREA provides that Standard or Expanded Amenity recreation fees shall not be charged (shortened list):

- solely for parking, undesignated parking or picnicking along roads or trails,
- for general access,
- for dispersed areas with low or no investment,
- for persons moving through without using the facilities or services,
- for camping at undeveloped sites that do not provide a minimum number of facilities or services as described above (Expanded Amenity recreation fee),
- for use of overlooks or scenic pullouts,

- for any person who has right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under specific provision of law or treaty,
- for any person engaged in the conduct of official Federal, State, Tribal, or local government business,
- for special attention or extra services necessary to meet the needs of the disabled,
- for any person under 16 years of age,
- for outings conducted for noncommercial educational purposes by schools or bona fide academic institutions.

Fee Discounts

Section 805 of FLREA provided for the establishment of the single interagency national pass series, known as the “America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass.” This pass series includes the Interagency Annual Pass, Senior Pass, Military Pass, Access Pass, Volunteer Pass, and Every Kid Outdoors Pass. All passes provide the bearer full coverage of Standard Amenity fees. Holders of the Interagency Senior and Access Passes receive a 50 percent discount on some Expanded Amenity fees. The national interagency Senior and Access Passes replaced the Golden Age and Access Passports in 2007; the BLM continues to honor these passes.

FLREA also provides authority to establish site-specific passes that cover Standard Amenity fees for federal lands for a period not to exceed 12 months. The Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook H-2930-1 further explains that although fees cannot be waived in exchange for volunteer work, local managers may reward volunteer work by a group or individual with a local or regional recreation pass.

Public Outreach Requirements

Section 804 of FLREA addresses the minimum public outreach requirements that an agency must consider when developing or changing recreation fees. These outreach efforts shall include the opportunity for public participation in the development of or changing of recreation fees, as well as publication in the Federal Register for the establishment of a new recreation fee area six months before establishment. Outreach requirements also include the involvement of a Resource Advisory Council (RAC), a 15-member advisory panel which provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues. FLREA mandates that the appropriate RAC be consulted and given opportunities to provide recommendations to the BLM on all recreation fee proposals prior to implementation.

3. Background

3.1. Area Description

The BLM's Northwest Oregon District encompasses five Field Offices that collectively manage 800,461 acres of public land. These lands span across 14 counties and four Congressional Districts. Within these lands, the BLM manages its forests for recreation, wildlife, timber production, cultural values, and other resources and resource uses, as directed in the Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Resource Management Plan of 2016.

Approximately 75 percent of Oregon's population live within this area, which covers an expansive swath ranging from the highly developed and urbanized populations of the Portland metropolitan area to the rural logging communities of Alsea. The wide disparity in socioeconomics, cultural values, and population density allows the BLM to serve visitors with distinctly different backgrounds. The District's unique role as the interface between these areas results in a high level of visitation and use to recreation sites.

The Recreation and Visitor Services program is managed at the District administrative level, providing for shared services and consistent recreational conditions throughout all five Field Offices. Common recreational activities include camping, hiking, bicycling, hunting, fishing, and scenic viewing. Across the landscape, such opportunities are emphasized and enhanced within Special Recreation Management Areas, where recreational uses are considered the predominant management focus. These management areas include the 21 existing and proposed recreation fee sites discussed in this business plan. These sites can be categorized into three types: day-use sites, campgrounds, and group facilities.

Day-use sites and trailheads are located and designed to support daytime recreation purposes. Activities offered at these sites include hiking, picnicking, fishing, swimming, boat launches, wildlife viewing, play areas, ball fields, horseback riding, and mountain biking.

Campgrounds are generally the most developed recreation sites and are often co-located with both day-use and group facilities. Campgrounds thus offer a wide range of day-use activities as well as a variety of overnight opportunities such as tent sites, RV hook-ups, and cabins. Overnight sites are generally available for walk-up services and are also often reservable online. These facilities are typically staffed by BLM personnel and volunteer campground hosts.

Group facilities are large-capacity sites that can best accommodate special purposes such as youth organizations, family reunions, weddings, and other events. Distinct features at these sites often include purpose-built shelters, kitchens, heaters, and electrical services. Group facilities are reservable online through Recreation.gov.

The following Table 2 identifies all day-use sites, campgrounds, and group facilities discussed in this business plan, and documents the primary amenities and features available at each site. Appendix 6.1 contains full descriptions, photos, maps for each site. This appendix also contains a glossary of campsite terms.

Table 2: Summary of Recreation Sites, Types, Amenities, and Additional Features

Recreation Corridor	Recreation Site	Existing Fee Site	Campsite Type ¹						FLREA Amenities					Additional Features								
			Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp	Group shelter	All standard amenities ²	All basic expanded amenities ³	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Camp host	River/lake access	Non-motorized trail access	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Amphitheater	Interpretive facility	Showers/changing room	Boat ramp/fishing platform
Alsea Falls	Alsea Falls	■	5	16					■	■	■	■		■	■	■						
	Fall Creek Trailhead								■			■				■						
Clay Creek	Clay Creek	■		21				2	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■				■
Fishermen's Bend	Fishermen's Bend	■		5	50	2	3	3	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Little North Fork	Canyon Creek ⁴	■							■		■	■			■	■						
	Elkhorn	■		23					■	■	■	■		■	■	■						
Molalla River	Aquila Vista						1		■	■		■				■						
	Cedar Grove		11						■	■	■	■		■	■	■						
	Pine Creek			<i>P</i>						<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>		<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>						
	Three Bears		15						■	■	■	■		■	■	■						
Nestucca River	Alder Glen	■	11						■	■	■	■		■	■							■
	Dovre	■	10					1	■	■	■	■			■							
	Elk Bend						1		■	■	■	■			■							
	Fan Creek	■	11						■	■	■	■		■	■							
Quartzville Creek	Old Miner's Meadow	■					1			■		■			■							
	Yellowbottom	■	22						■	■	■	■		■	■	■						
Sandy River Basin	Marmot								■			■			■							■
	Sandy Ridge								■	■		■				■						
	Wildwood	■		<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	<i>P</i>	7	■	<i>P</i>	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Sharps Creek	Sharps Creek	■		11					■	■	■	■			■	■						
Shotgun Creek	Shotgun Creek	■						2	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■			■	
Whittaker Creek	Whittaker Creek	■		31					■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■	■				■

¹ Sites indicated with a *P* are proposed for future development.

² Standard amenities required under FLREA consist of designated developed parking; a permanent toilet facility; a permanent trash receptacle; an interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk; picnic tables; and security services.

³ Basic expanded amenities include tent or trailer spaces; picnic tables; access roads; refuse containers; reasonable visitor protection; and fire rings. Fee collection is currently or will be provided at all sites pending approval of fees.

⁴ Fees at Canyon Creek Recreation Site would not be modified under this business plan.

3.2. Visitor Demographics

The Northwest Oregon District does not collect or maintain comprehensive visitor demographic information for recreational users across the public lands that it administers. The most reliable information on visitor demographics comes from the 2016 and 2017 National Visitor Use Monitoring (NVUM) surveys performed on the Mt. Hood, Siuslaw, and Willamette National Forests.⁵ These National Forests are largely contiguous with the respective BLM public lands and offer similar recreational settings, opportunities, and experiences. For these reasons, the NVUM survey's demographic findings are considered representative summaries of visitor profiles to the BLM sites referenced in this business plan.

The NVUM surveys provide both qualitative and quantitative information regarding topics such as use levels, visitor demographics, distance traveled, household income, satisfaction, and public need. Approximately 53 percent of visitors to the public lands identified as male, and 47 percent identified as female. Additional data regarding visitors' age class, annual household income, distance travelled, and eight most common activity rates are documented in Tables 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Table 3: Visitor age class

Age Class	National Forest Visits (%)
Under 16	17.7
16-19	3.6
20-29	17.8
30-39	17.0
40-49	15.1
50-59	13.5
60-69	11.1
70+	4.1
Total	100%

Table 4: Annual household income

Annual Household Income	National Forest Visits (%)
Under \$25,000	12.0
\$25,000 to \$49,999	13.5
\$50,000 to \$74,999	17.3
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15.7
\$100,000 to \$149,999	21.0
\$150,000 and up	20.5
Total	100%

Table 5: Participation and Activity Rates

Recreation Activity ⁶	% Participation	% Main Activity
Viewing Natural Features	49.6	13.7
Hiking / Walking	47.3	21.2
Viewing Wildlife	25.7	0.8
Driving for Pleasure	19.5	2.7
Picnicking	13.6	1.1
Developed Camping	10.5	4.0
Other Non-motorized	7.8	3.1
Visiting Historic Sites	6.8	0.1

Table 6: Distance travelled

Miles from Respondent's Home to Interview Location	National Forest Visits (%)
0 - 25 miles	12.4
26 - 50 miles	16.6
51 - 75 miles	26.5
76 - 100 miles	15.1
101 - 200 miles	9.5
201 - 500 miles	6.9
Over 500 miles	13.0
Total	100%

⁵ NVUM reports are available for public review at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/about-agency/nvum/>

⁶ Downhill skiing was removed from the table because these opportunities are not available on these BLM lands.

3.3. Recreational Visitation

Recreational visitation is recorded annually in the BLM’s Recreation Management Information System (RMIS) database. The use at each site is captured as “visits,” or the number of individuals per day entering BLM public lands in pursuit of recreational purposes. Visitation in RMIS follows the federal fiscal year (FY) cycle that begins on October 1 and runs through September 30 of the following year.

Visitation at designated fee sites is derived primarily through tabulation of recreation use permits (fee envelopes and passes), but calculation methods for these and other sites may also include advance reservation data, traffic counters, trail counters, or BLM staff estimates. Depending on recreation program needs, visitation data is not collected for each individual recreation site but is instead aggregated with other recreation sites in the immediate vicinity such as a campground or trail system. Accordingly, Table 7 identifies annual visitation data for some but not all day-use sites identified in this business plan. Table 8 identifies annual visitation data for all campgrounds and associated expanded amenities discussed in this business plan.

Table 7: Annual Visitation – Day-use sites

Recreation Site ⁷	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20 ⁸
Shotgun Creek	6,050	6,321	23,032	29,656	33,431
Alsea Falls	7,175	8,595	10,964	10,964	9,644
Fall Creek	13,680	16,317	18,421	19,389	23,672
Sandy Ridge	92,911	98,752	109,532	132,529	84,195
Wildwood	44,776	46,792	55,015	32,856	42,560
Total	164,592	176,777	216,964	225,394	193,502

Table 8: Annual Visitation – Campgrounds

Recreation Site	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20 ⁹
Alsea Falls	2,994	7,117	11,952	10,364	9,209
Clay Creek	1,063	1,309	1,388	1,300	1,450
Fishermen’s Bend	100,714	115,639	116,073	115,122	56,184
Elkhorn	5,811	4,627	14,458	15,009	12,721
Cedar Grove	3,040	1,620	1,620	1,758	1,720
Three Bears	4,594	2,563	2,563	2,563	2,763
Alder Glen	4,636	3,584	4,488	4,551	2,112
Dovre	2,357	2,545	3,295	3,295	496
Fan Creek	3,090	2,493	2,766	3,305	2,334
Elk Bend	622	589	250	250	100
Yellowbottom	7,816	8,254	10,598	10,467	8,530
Old Miner’s Meadow	6,365	6,705	6,095	6,530	4,146

⁷ Visitation data for the following day-use sites is not provided but is instead included in the associated campground totals in Table 8: Sharps Creek, Clay Creek, Whittaker Creek, Yellowbottom, and Fishermen’s Bend.

⁸ Most recreation sites were partially or fully closed throughout 2020 due to health and human safety concerns.

⁹ Ibid.

Sharps Creek	2,030	2,045	1,146	2,200	2,830
Whittaker Creek	2,943	3,356	3,510	4,500	5,300
Total	148,075	162,446	180,202	181,214	109,895

Visitation trends are highly variable and primarily influenced by external factors such as economic conditions, fuel prices, weather, river levels, and wildfires. This was particularly noteworthy in FY20, where recreational visitation was dramatically affected by a coronavirus pandemic that resulted in recreational use and access restrictions, as well as unprecedented wildfires that caused extensive public land closures and destroyed some recreation sites in the Northwest Oregon District. Visitation data may also be affected by internal factors such as installation of new trail counters, the temporary closure of a recreation site, or other administrative actions.

Regardless, over the last five years visitation to the day-use sites referenced in this business plan increased by an average of 6.8 percent per year. Prior to the anomalous FY20 year, the average annual growth rate for the preceding four years was 12.0 percent. Over the same respective durations, visitation to campground facilities increased by an average of 3.7 percent per year (FY16-FY20), and 14.5 percent (FY16-FY19).

3.4. Season of Use

Visitation to recreation sites occurs throughout the year and is largely dependent on seasonal factors such as weather. However, most visitation occurs between May and October. The BLM's campgrounds and facilities typically extend their seasons slightly beyond these months, dependent on user demand, budget, campground host availability, and weather. Campground occupancy rates differ per site, season, and day of week, but generally range between 40 and 65 percent. Day-use sites are typically open year-round, as weather conditions allow. Occupancy data per campground is provided in section 4.4 for financial projections. Appendix 6.1 contains additional season of use information for each recreation site.

3.5. Operating Costs

The Northwest Oregon District expends substantial resources in managing visitor use at developed recreation sites. All sites require considerable levels of visitor contact, signage, interpretive opportunities, trash pick-up, and maintenance. Direct costs for these services include BLM employees, campground hosts, contractors, and interns. Costs also include services such as restroom pumping, garbage collection, hazard tree mitigation, potable water testing, vehicles, law enforcement, signage, maintenance supplies, brochures, and other interpretive materials.

The BLM utilizes several funding sources to develop and maintain its recreation sites. These sources include congressional appropriations, fee revenues, external partnerships and grant opportunities, special approved programs such as recreation pipeline funding, and payments from counties for site maintenance and improvements. These funding sources, including fee revenues collected under FLREA authorities, are dependent on periodic renewal and may not be consistently available. For this reason, a diverse and robust funding strategy is necessary to ensure recreation site sustainability.

On average, the Northwest Oregon District expends approximately \$2,178,553 per year to operate and maintain the recreational facilities identified in this business plan. These costs are estimated per site in Table 9. Sites in close proximity that share common costs are combined.

Table 9: Annual Operating Costs per Recreation Site

Recreation Site	Annual Operating Costs	Percent of Total (%)
Alsea Falls	\$110,350	5
Fall Creek		
Clay Creek	\$103,150	5
e	\$480,133	22
Canyon Creek	\$124,455	6
Elkhorn		
Cedar Grove	\$107,850	5
Three Bears		
Aquila Vista		
Alder Glen	\$202,550	9
Dovre		
Fan Creek		
Elk Bend		
Yellowbottom	\$116,683	5
e		
Wildwood	\$500,100	23
Sandy Ridge		
Marmot		
Sharps Creek	\$92,150	4
Shotgun Creek	\$219,782	10
Whittaker Creek	\$121,350	6
Total	\$2,178,553	100%

The largest operating expense is related to staff labor for visitor services and related maintenance actions. BLM recreation employees, campground hosts, and contractors ensure the cleanliness and safety of the facilities. These staff are responsible for responding to visitor inquiries, resolving disputes, fee collection, cleaning campsites, infrastructure maintenance, construction of campground amenities, and landscaping. The campgrounds are also patrolled by BLM Law Enforcement Rangers to assist with fee compliance, protect resources and facilities, and help maintain the safety of campers.

The largest single operational expense is the bi-weekly cleaning of the campgrounds and toilets. Toilet cleaning, pumping and effluent disposal services are performed by specialized contractors trained to address human waste. The cost of cleaning and maintaining the campgrounds also includes buying toilet paper, garbage bags and cleaning supplies, and trash removal. Maintenance and testing of the drinking water systems is provided by BLM staff.

The program also supports the cost for government vehicles and equipment used to support patrols, maintenance work, resource and visitor use monitoring, and law enforcement. Large projects involving campground design, construction, and road maintenance are supported by the District's engineering staff. Other annual operating costs include site reservation administration, monitoring of visitor use, contract procurement and administration, public affairs, GIS mapping, and support functions such as providing information services to the public. A summary of all annual operational and service expenses by type are documented in Table 10.

Table 10: Annual Operating Costs per Type

Cost Type	Annual Operating Costs	Percent of Total (%)
Park Managers	\$317,310	15
Park Rangers	\$422,692	19
BLM staff labor (recreation planners, engineers, other specialists, etc.)	\$442,200	20
Youth corps labor	\$237,600	11
Vehicles	\$96,082	4
Supplies and equipment	\$192,000	9
Sanitation (water testing, waste pumping, trash pickup)	\$91,000	4
Camp host stipends	\$86,870	4
Law enforcement	\$292,799	13
Total	\$2,178,553	100%

The above annual operating expenses do not include original infrastructure outlays or deferred maintenance projects. In these arenas, the BLM has devoted considerable resources to design, develop, and upgrade its recreational facilities. Over the last decade alone, these commitments include approximately \$4,311,608 in direct capital costs toward the recreational sites referenced in this business plan. A summary of these costs is documented in Table 11.

Table 11: Infrastructure Costs (2010-2020) per Recreation Site

Recreation Site	Infrastructure Costs	Percent of Total (%)
Alsea Falls	\$488,276	11
Fall Creek		
Clay Creek	\$12,000	<1
Fishermen's Bend	\$681,870	16
Canyon Creek		
Elkhorn		
Yellowbottom		
Old Miner's Meadow		
Cedar Grove	\$560,000	13
Three Bears		
Aquila Vista		
Alder Glen	\$230,462	5
Dovre		

Fan Creek		
Elk Bend		
Wildwood	\$1,256,000	29
Sandy Ridge	\$230,000	5
Marmot	\$387,000	9
Sharps Creek	\$6,000	<1
Shotgun Creek	\$338,000	8
Whittaker Creek	\$122,000	3
Total	\$4,311,608	100%

Examples of recently completed recreation infrastructure projects include:

- waterline replacement at Alsea Falls (\$326,000)
- amphitheater at Clay Creek (\$5,000)
- universally accessible trail paving at Fishermen's Bend (\$174,500)
- design and development of Three Bears and Cedar Grove (\$500,000)
- universally accessible fishing platform at Alder Glen (\$28,000)
- day-use shelter at Dovre (\$42,000)
- water line replacement at Wildwood (\$750,000)
- trailhead construction at Sandy Ridge (\$230,000)
- bridge repair at Marmot (\$25,000)
- telephone service at Sharps Creek (\$2,000)
- trail paving at Shotgun Creek (\$85,000)
- pedestrian bridge at Whittaker Creek (\$100,000)

The Northwest Oregon District makes extensive use of volunteers, service programs, and organizations such as the county corrections programs, Student Conservation Association, Americorps, Northwest Youth Corps, local scout groups, county environmental youth programs, and other community service programs to help conduct maintenance and construction projects. These programs allow the BLM to complete numerous needed projects that would otherwise not likely be completed. Volunteers and special programs make efficient use of limited funding but require additional levels of staff supervision.

Over the past four years, at least 800 adults and 340 youth have provided a total 149,827 hours of volunteer service to the District's recreation fee sites. These stewardship practitioners provided labor and services valued at \$3,892,116, as calculated by IndependentSector.org figures.¹⁰ Volunteer hours and economic benefit per fiscal year is provide in Table 12.

¹⁰ Estimated value of Oregon volunteer hour is based on the average hourly earnings of all production and non-supervisory workers on private non-farm payrolls as calculated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

FY20	Nestucca River, Molalla River	22,503	\$627,834
Total		149,827	\$3,892,116

3.6. Recreation Use and Fee Revenues

Fee revenues are managed and maintained within the Northwest Oregon District, and provide for recreation site labor, operations, maintenance, and development of new facilities. Revenues are deposited in separate accounts currently organized by geographic area. These accounts were consolidated in recent years to better align with operational practices, optimize accounting structures, and more accurately reflect the District-wide approach to recreation management. For these reasons, depicted fee revenues often include multiple fee sites per account. Table 13 provides a summary of these fee accounts and associated current fee sites. Annual revenues for the past five years for each fee account is included in Table 14.

Table 13: Fee Accounts and Associated Recreation Fee Sites

Fee Account Code	Fee Account Name	Included Fee Sites
LVRDOR26	NESTUCCA	Alder Glen Dovre Fan Creek
LVRDOR27	ALSEA FALLS	Alsea Falls
LVRDOR18	SIUSLAW RIVER	Clay Creek Whittaker Creek
LVRDOR25	FISH BEND	Fishermen's Bend Canyon Creek Elkhorn Yellowbottom Old Miner's Meadow
LVRDOR19	SHARPS CREEK	Sharps Creek
LVRDOR17	SHOTGUN DAY USE	Shotgun Creek
LVRDOR28	WILDWOOD	Wildwood

Table 14: Annual Fee Revenue per Fiscal Year

Fee Account Code	Fee Account Name	FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20 ¹¹
LVRDOR26	NESTUCCA	\$16,650	\$23,239	\$24,244	\$23,958	\$12,542
LVRDOR27	ALSEA FALLS	\$20,544	\$27,507	\$31,733	\$30,413	\$24,838
LVRDOR18	SIUSLAW RIVER	\$18,885	\$5,192	\$14,437	\$12,262	\$8,677
LVRDOR25	FISH BEND	\$328,784	\$271,141	\$287,985	\$240,749	\$105,362
LVRDOR19	SHARPS CREEK	\$3,917	-	\$2,939	-	\$1,915
LVRDOR17	SHOTGUN DAY USE	\$14,021	\$9,745	\$10,940	\$17,645	\$9,347
LVRDOR28	WILDWOOD	\$68,791	\$63,090	\$78,166	\$67,219	\$46,268
	Total	\$471,591	\$399,914	\$450,444	\$392,246	\$208,949

¹¹ Most recreation sites were partially or fully closed throughout this year due to health and human safety concerns.

Over the last five years, from FY16 through FY20, the average annual fee revenue was \$384,629. This equates to an average annual revenue growth rate of –6.3 percent. Prior to the anomalous FY20 year, the average annual fee revenue was \$428,549, with a corresponding average annual growth rate of 3.9 percent.

Fee revenue is typically highly correlated with visitation patterns, and thus varies per year due to several external factors. However, it is also affected by BLM actions per site, such as the temporary removal of amenities for maintenance. In this scenario, although the site may remain open, the Northwest Oregon District does not assess site fees until the amenities are fully restored. Additionally, visitation estimates often include multiple recreation sites with different fee rates, along with sites that do not currently charge fees, thus prohibiting a direct comparison with fee revenues. Actual visitation and revenues for the past five years are depicted in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Visitation and Revenue FY16-FY20

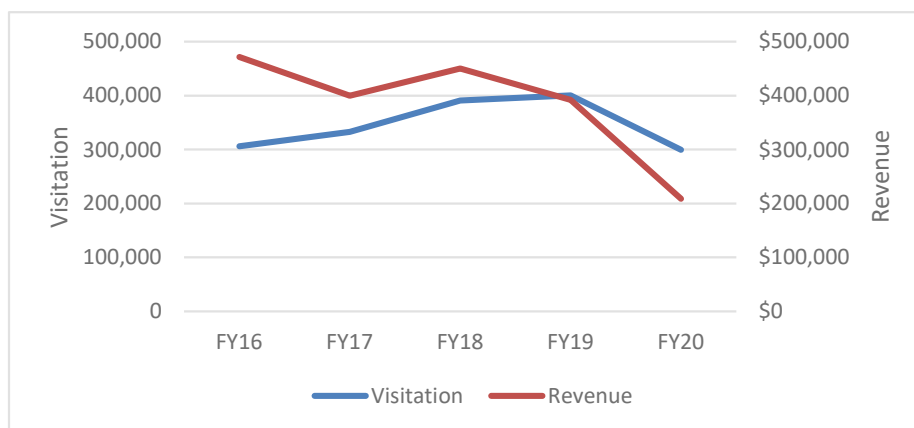


Table 15 documents the five-year average revenue, operating cost, revenue-to-cost difference, and revenue-to-cost ratio for all recreation sites as grouped per fee account. At these current levels, recreation fee revenues cover approximately 18 percent of operating costs, leaving 82 percent of operating costs to be covered by other funding sources.

Table 15: Five-Year Average Revenue, Cost, Difference and Ratio per Fee Account

Fee Account Code	Fee Account Name	Operating Cost	Revenue	Revenue-to-Cost Difference	Revenue-to-Cost Ratio (%)
LVRDOR26	NESTUCCA	\$202,550	\$20,127	(\$182,423)	10%
LVRDOR27	ALSEA FALLS	\$110,350	\$27,007	(\$83,343)	24%
LVRDOR18	SIUSLAW RIVER	\$224,500	\$11,891	(\$212,609)	5%
LVRDOR25	FISH BEND	\$721,271	\$246,804	(\$474,467)	34%
LVRDOR19	SHARPS CREEK	\$92,150	\$1,754	(\$90,396)	2%
LVRDOR17	SHOTGUN DAY USE	\$219,782	\$12,340	(\$207,442)	6%
LVRDOR28	WILDWOOD	\$500,100	\$64,707	(\$435,393)	13%
	MOLALLA ¹²	\$107,850	\$0	(\$107,850)	0%
	Total	\$2,178,553	\$384,630	(\$1,793,923)	18%

¹² A fee account for sites along the Molalla River is not established but is depicted here for fee site comparisons.

4. Fee Proposal

4.1. Summary

This proposal covers six types of recreation fee establishment or modification. A summary of these categories and the number of affected recreation sites is included in Table 16.

Table 16: Fee Proposal Summary

Amenity Type	Proposal Type	Number of Affected Recreation Sites
Standard Amenity	Fee Updates	2
	New Fees	8
	District Pass	13
Expanded Amenity	Fee Updates	13
	New Fees	8
	Future New Fees	2

4.2. Existing and Proposed Fee Types

All visitors utilizing recreation fee site amenities are required to obtain a recreation use permit (RUP). At day-use sites and campgrounds, these permits can be obtained at self-service fee stations located near the site entrance. These permits can also be obtained for most campgrounds and all group facilities through advance reservation on Recreation.gov, the federal government's one-stop center for reservations and trip-planning information.

Recreation staff, law enforcement and volunteer campground hosts all play a role in recreation fee site compliance. These staff directly interface with visitors to ensure they clearly understand payment requirements and procedures. Permit receipts must be displayed either on the campsite post or within view from the vehicle's front window. There is a consistent presence at recreation fee sites by BLM personnel. Compliance issues are addressed through the campground hosts, recreation staff, or law enforcement rangers as appropriate.

The following sections identify the proposed fee structures that would be implemented, as categorized by amenity and fee update type. These proposed fees are also available as one comprehensive table in Appendix 6.2.

4.2.1. Standard Amenity – Fee Updates

The Northwest Oregon District proposes to modify current Standard Amenity fees at existing day-use sites. These sites and proposed fees are identified in Table 17. All identified sites provide significant opportunities for outdoor recreation, have substantial federal investments, and contain the required amenities for Standard Amenity fees as defined in FLREA.

Table 17: Standard Amenity – Fee Modifications

Site Type	Recreation Site	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Car (1-9 persons)	Alsea Falls	\$3	\$5
	Shotgun Creek		

Van (10-19 persons)	Same as above		\$10
Bus (20+ persons)	Same as above		\$20

4.2.2. Standard Amenity – New Fees

The Northwest Oregon District also proposes to establish new Standard Amenity fees at existing day-use sites that currently do not charge fees. These sites and proposed fees are identified in Table 18. All identified sites provide significant opportunities for outdoor recreation, have substantial federal investments, and contain the required amenities for Standard Amenity fees as defined in FLREA.

Table 18: Standard Amenity – New Fees

Site Type	Recreation Site	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Car (1-9 persons)	Fall Creek	n/a	\$5
	Sharps Creek		
	Clay Creek		
	Whittaker Creek		
	Yellowbottom		
	Fishermen's Bend		
	Sandy Ridge		
	Marmot		
Van (10-19 persons)	Same as above	n/a	\$10
Bus (20+ persons)	Same as above		\$20

4.2.3. Standard Amenity – BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass

The Northwest Oregon District believes that community stewardship will be a key to maintaining current and future recreation sites; and that those community volunteers who are helping to maintain the facilities should be rewarded for their effort and work. To encourage volunteer service and foster a sense of ownership, the District proposes to honor those volunteering at least 12 hours within a 12-month period with a free BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass as allowed under FLREA and the Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook H-2930-1. Alternately, the pass could be purchased at the cost of \$30 per year.

The pass would provide the bearer full coverage for Standard Amenity fees at all recreation sites within the District except for Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, whose fees and business plan are already established under the multiple-agency Oregon Pacific Coast Passport. The pass would not provide a discount for Expanded Amenity fees; coverage is identical to the Federal Interagency Pass but limited to those recreation sites managed by the Northwest Oregon District.

The BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass would be valid for 12 months from date of issuance and allow the pass holder and vehicle occupants unlimited entries to day-use sites. Upon approval, sales of all other site-specific District annual passes, including the Wildwood, Alsea Falls, Shotgun Creek, and Elkhorn Valley day-use passes, will be discontinued. Any annual pass not yet expired would be accepted until its expiration.

Table 19 identifies all fee sites that would be covered under this pass. This table includes the Standard Amenity sites identified in this business plan, as well as other preexisting Standard Amenity fee sites within the District.

Table 19: Standard Amenity – BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass

Fee Type	Recreation Site ¹³	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass	Fall Creek	n/a	12 volunteer hours or \$30
	Sharps Creek		
	Clay Creek		
	Whittaker Creek		
	Yellowbottom		
	Fishermen’s Bend		
	Sandy Ridge		
	Marmot		
	Alsea Falls	\$15	
	Shotgun Creek		
	<i>Elkhorn</i>	\$25	
	<i>Canyon Creek</i>		
	<i>Wildwood</i>		

4.2.4. Expanded Amenity – Fee Updates

The Northwest Oregon District proposes to modify current Expanded Amenity fees at existing campgrounds and other recreational facilities. These sites and proposed fees are identified in Table 20. All campgrounds contain the required majority of amenities necessary for Expanded Amenity fees as defined in FLREA. All other sites provide the specialized services or facilities identified in FLREA for Expanded Amenity fees.

Table 20: Expanded Amenity – Fee Modifications

Site Type	Recreation Site	Current Fee ¹⁴	Proposed Fee
Primitive campsite	Alder Glen	\$10	\$15
	Dovre		
	Fan Creek		
	Yellowbottom		
Basic campsite	Alsea Falls	\$12	\$20
	Clay Creek	\$10	
	Elkhorn	\$14	
	Fishermen's Bend	\$16	
	Sharps Creek	\$8	
	Whittaker Creek	\$10	
Double basic campsite	Alsea Falls	\$20	\$40

¹³ Italicized sites are preexisting Standard Amenity sites that would not see site-specific fee changes as a result of this business plan but would be included and covered under the proposed District pass.

¹⁴ Current fees at group sites vary depending on day of use. This approach is eliminated in the proposed fee rates.

Partial hook-up	Fishermen's Bend	\$22	\$31
Full hook-up		\$28	\$36
Cabin		\$40	\$65
Outdoor kitchen	Wildwood	\$45-60	\$60
Day-use shelter	Salmon River ¹⁵	\$95-120	\$125
	Wildwood	\$95-240	\$300
	Clay Creek	\$50-100	\$75 (up to 50 people) \$1.50 per additional person
	Shotgun Creek	\$85-300	\$150 (up to 100 people) \$1.50 per additional person
Group camp	Fishermen	\$85-105	\$125 (up to 50 people) \$2.50 per additional person
	Old Miner's Meadow	\$40-50	\$100 (up to 50 people) \$2 per additional person
Extra camping vehicle	All campgrounds	\$5	\$5

4.2.5. Expanded Amenity – New Fees

The Northwest Oregon District also proposes to establish Expanded Amenity fees at existing campgrounds and recreational sites that currently do not charge fees. These include new campgrounds, new site types within campgrounds, and the repurposing of underutilized recreation sites to better address recreational demand. Campgrounds contain the required majority of amenities necessary for Expanded Amenity fees as defined in FLREA. Other sites provide specialized services or facilities identified in FLREA for Expanded Amenity fees. These sites and proposed fees are identified in Table 21.

Table 21: Expanded Amenity – New Fees

Site Type	Recreation Site	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Primitive campsite	Alsea Falls	n/a	\$15
	Cedar Grove		
	Three Bears		
Double primitive campsite	Cedar Grove		\$30
	Three Bears		
Double basic campsite	Whittaker Creek		\$40
Day-use shelter	Dovre		\$50
Group camp	Aquila Vista		\$50 (up to 20 people) \$2.50 for each additional person
	Elk Bend		\$75 (up to 40 people) \$2.50 for each additional person
Group camp shelter	Fishermen's Bend		\$180 (up to 60 people) \$3 for each additional person
	Wildwood		\$420 (up to 70 people) \$6 for each additional person

¹⁵ The Salmon River day-use shelter is within the Wildwood Recreation Site.

4.2.6. Expanded Amenity – New Fees for Proposed Development

Finally, the Northwest Oregon District proposes the establishment of new Expanded Amenity fees for recreational facilities at Wildwood, and Pine Creek (along the Molalla River corridor), that are currently under development. The sites are approved or undergoing approval in Recreation Area Management Plans, including site-specific design, engineering, and contracting for construction. Further information about these planned developments are available in Appendix 6.1. The District also proposes the establishment of fees for sanitary (RV) dump stations, which would be installed at campgrounds as feasible. All fees at these sites would not become applicable until the sites have been completed, contain the required majority of amenities, and are fully operational. These sites are identified in Table 22.

Table 22: Expanded Amenity – New Proposed Development

Site Type	Recreation Site	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Basic campsite	Pine Creek	n/a	\$20
	Wildwood		\$22
Partial hook-up	Wildwood		\$26
Full hook-up			\$35
Yurt			\$45
Yurt with power			\$55
Cabin			\$65
Cabin with SOCK (shared outdoor covered kitchen)			\$80
Sanitary dump station	All campgrounds (as available)		\$5

4.3. Fee Calculation

BLM policy proposes the use of two methods to calculate proposed recreation fee rates: cost recovery, and fair market value. With the cost recovery method, a fee rate is calculated to provide revenue to cover the projected annual operating and maintenance costs. With the fair market value method, a fee rate is calculated to be comparable with fees charged at similar or comparable federal, state, and local recreation sites.

The analysis in this business plan uses the fair market value method. For each respective site, Northwest Oregon District recreation staff conducted an analysis of comparable fees charged by similar state, federal, and local park facilities. Because all existing and proposed new fee sites exceed the amenity requirements defined in FLREA, additional comparable services and provided amenities were the main determining factors for the proposed fees. The following information summarizes the comparative analysis per fee type. Although the BLM's fair market analysis was conducted for each recreation site's geographic market, the following summaries are comprehensive across the District. For site-specific comparisons of fees and amenities, see Appendix 6.3.

The proposed Standard Amenity fees are comparable to other providers in each respective market, particularly sites managed by Oregon State Parks and the U.S. Forest Service. Day-use fees for locations managed by these public agencies range from \$4 to \$6 per vehicle, and provide

similar services, amenities, and recreational opportunities. An average across providers resulted in the proposed fee rate, which is also identical to current Standard Amenity fees at the existing Elkhorn, Canyon Creek, and Wildwood sites managed by the District. To accommodate large groups who utilize additional resources, the BLM proposes proportional surcharges on large-capacity vehicles such as 16-passenger vans and tour buses.

The proposed BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass cost is comparable to other providers, particularly regional passes issued by the U.S. Forest Service, Oregon State Parks, and other existing BLM passes. These passes generally range from \$30 to \$45, though some private facilities and county parks cost up to \$60 per annual pass. The federal interagency pass costs \$80, with discounts available for some demographics. The proposed fee rate was based on the regional scope and comparable Standard Amenity services that are available and would be covered.

The proposed Expanded Amenity fees for campgrounds are also comparable to providers in each respective market. For individual campsites, fees at similar locations typically range from \$17 to \$26. Campsites with partial or full hook-ups, such as electric or sewer, generally range from \$28 to \$41. Private and county campgrounds often offer advanced developments such as wireless internet, stocked fishing ponds, and other customized comforts that command price premiums. The District's proposed fee rates reflect the comparable quality, extent, and aesthetic of each site's features.

This allows slight discounts for primitive campsites that require walking in from the parking lot or are comparably "rustic" to the surrounding market opportunities. This also affords slight premiums at highly developed campgrounds that offer unique experiences, such as Wildwood or Fishermen's Bend. These two campgrounds will also offer individual cabins or yurts. The proposed fees for these services are in line with analogous market providers. These are generally county and state agencies, with fees ranging from \$48 to \$72. Very advanced sites and private providers again dictate price premiums, with costs between \$88 and \$275.

Proposed fees for group campsites, day-use shelters, and camping shelters are highly specific to the individual site, and reflect the potential amenities and opportunities of the recreation site as a whole. For example, the fee for a shelter that provides electrified kitchen facilities alongside a baseball diamond will differ from a simple shelter with fire pit. Moreover, each group facility has an inherent group size limit, beyond which the experience degrades and resource impacts may occur. For these reasons, the proposed fees for each group site are not consistent across the District but correspond to similar surrounding providers. Costs at these facilities range from \$50 to \$800 but are most often between \$70 and \$140.

Fees for extra camping vehicles are common across public and private providers, with costs between \$4 and \$8. Sanitary or RV dump stations also range between \$5 to \$10, though some municipal providers do not charge for this service.

See Appendix 6.3 for additional information on a site-by-site basis. Note that prices and amenities may not be reflective of 2020 developments.

4.4. Financial Projections

For each respective Standard Amenity site, the projected fee revenue was derived by dividing the total number of visitors (5-year average) by the average number of occupants per vehicle, multiplying the result by the estimated permit compliance rate, and then multiplying that by the proposed fee amount. For example: $10,000 \text{ (site visitation)} / 2.25 \text{ (occupants per vehicle)} \times .55 \text{ (permit compliance rate)} \times \$5 \text{ (proposed fee)} = \$12,222 \text{ projected revenue}$.

For each respective Expanded Amenity site, the projected fee revenue was derived by multiplying the number of available sites by the site's calculated occupancy rate, then multiplying that by the site's length of season, and finally multiplying that number by the proposed fee amount. For example: $6 \text{ (number of campsites)} \times .4 \text{ (occupancy rate)} \times 184 \text{ (average length of recreation use season, in days)} \times \$20 \text{ (proposed fee)} = \$8,832 \text{ projected revenue}$.

Financial projections require good-faith assumptions and professional estimates. Permit compliance rates were estimated by District recreation staff based on a comparison of RUPs against trail counter data, and spot checks at sites without trail counters. Campground occupancy rates for existing fee sites are based on prior year RUP calculations. Campground occupancy rates for proposed new sites are based on known rates at surrounding similar facilities. Campground permit compliance is assumed to be 100 percent. Some proposed fee sites are not included in the projections, such as day-use sites that do not have site-specific visitation totals or expanded amenities such as extra camping vehicles that are not readily tracked.

Similarly, financial projections are not provided for the proposed BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass. Based on known conversion rates (daily entrance passes to annual pass holders) elsewhere, it is anticipated that approximately 3.5 percent of users will purchase a pass. The BLM expects that there will be a higher conversion rate and repeat use by mountain bikers recreating at Sandy Ridge and Fall Creek day-use areas. However, there is insufficient data to extrapolate across all sites, determine the proportion of repeat visitors, or forecast how net revenues may be affected.

Additionally, the option to perform 12 hours of volunteer service to obtain the annual pass makes it difficult to reasonably predict the number of passes to be sold or revenue derived. The BLM is hopeful that many people will take up the volunteer opportunity to obtain a BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass. The BLM believes the pass can help better promote the spirit of conservation and protecting natural resources. A person that performs volunteer work on public lands is more likely to take ownership of the resource, resulting in pride and protection of the resource. Volunteering also allows youth and others to gain a better understanding and increases interest in natural resource jobs, while providing training in useful skills that they are unlikely to receive elsewhere. However, these benefits and the number of volunteers who will enjoy them are not calculable.

Under the above methodology and assumptions, projected fee revenue is provided in Table 23.

Table 23: Projected Revenue per Site

Fee Account Name	Recreation Site	Amenity Type	# of Sites	Compliance / Occupancy Rate	Proposed Fee	Projected Revenue
NESTUCCA	Alder Glen	Primitive campsite	11	30%	\$15	\$9,108
	Dovre	Primitive campsite	10	30%	\$15	\$8,280
	Fan Creek	Primitive campsite	11	30%	\$15	\$9,108
	Elk Bend	Group camp	1	35%	\$75	\$4,830
Subtotal						\$31,326
ALSEA FALLS	Fall Creek	Day-use	-	55%	\$5	\$22,362
	Alsea Falls	Day-use	21	55%	\$5	\$11,572
		Primitive campsite	5	40%	\$15	\$5,520
		Basic campsite	16	40%	\$20	\$23,552
Subtotal						\$63,006
SIUSLAW RIVER	Clay Creek	Basic campsite	21	40%	\$20	\$30,912
		Day-use shelter	2	10%	\$75	\$2,760
	Whittaker Creek	Basic campsite	32	40%	\$20	\$35,328
Subtotal						\$69,000
FISH BEND	Fishermen’s Bend	Basic campsite	9	65%	\$20	\$21,528
		Partial hook-up	11	65%	\$31	\$40,784
		Full hook-up	43	65%	\$36	\$185,141
		Cabin	12	80%	\$65	\$114,816
		Group camp	3	55%	\$125	\$37,950
		Camp shelter	3	55%	\$180	\$54,648
	Elkhorn	Basic campsite	23	45%	\$20	\$38,088
	Yellowbottom	Primitive campsite	22	40%	\$15	\$24,288
	Old Miner’s Meadow	Group camp	1	55%	\$100	\$10,120
Subtotal						\$527,362
SHARPS CREEK	Sharps Creek	Basic campsite	11	40%	\$20	\$12,144
Subtotal						\$12,144
SHOTGUN DAY USE	Shotgun Creek	Day-use	-	55%	\$5	\$24,075
		Day-use shelter	2	20%	\$150	\$11,040
Subtotal						\$35,115
WILDWOOD	Sandy Ridge	Day-use	-	55%	\$5	\$126,602
	Wildwood	Partial hook-up	38	55%	\$26	\$99,986
		Full hook-up	23	55%	\$35	\$81,466
		Cabin	15	80%	\$65	\$143,520
		Cabin with SOCK	7	80%	\$80	\$82,432
		Camp shelter	1	40%	\$420	\$30,912
Subtotal						\$564,918
MOLALLA ¹⁶	Cedar Grove	Primitive campsite	10	40%	\$15	\$11,040
	Aquila Vista	Group camp	1	40%	\$50	\$3,680

¹⁶ A fee account for sites along the Molalla River is not established but is depicted here for fee site comparison.

	Three Bears	Primitive campsite	15	40%	\$15	\$16,560
	Pine Creek	Basic campsite	14	40%	\$20	\$20,608
Subtotal						\$51,888
Total Future Projected Revenue						\$1,354,759

Under the proposed fee structure, projected revenues would total \$1,354,759, which is an increase of \$970,129 above current annual revenues. Recreation fees would cover approximately 62 percent of annual operating expenses, an increase of 44 percent above current conditions. Recreation fee sites would reduce their reliance on appropriated monies and other funding sources to \$823,794 per year, compared to \$1,793,923 currently. The annual operating cost, projected revenue, projected revenue-to-cost difference, and projected revenue-to-cost ratio for each fee account is provided in Table 24.

Table 24: Projected Revenue, Cost, Difference and Ratio per Fee Account

Fee Account Code	Fee Account Name	Operating Cost	Projected Revenue	Revenue-to-Cost Difference	Revenue-to-Cost Ratio (%)
LVRDOR26	NESTUCCA	\$202,550	\$31,326	(\$171,224)	15
LVRDOR27	ALSEA FALLS	\$110,350	\$63,006	(\$47,344)	57
LVRDOR18	SIUSLAW RIVER	\$224,500	\$69,000	(\$155,500)	30
LVRDOR25	FISH BEND	\$721,271	\$527,362	(\$193,909)	73
LVRDOR19	SHARPS CREEK	\$92,150	\$12,144	(\$80,006)	13
LVRDOR17	SHOTGUN DAY USE	\$219,782	\$35,115	(\$184,667)	16
LVRDOR28	WILDWOOD	\$500,100	\$564,918	\$64,818	113
	MOLALLA ¹⁷	\$107,850	\$51,888	(\$55,962)	48
	Total	\$2,178,553	\$1,354,759	(\$823,794)	62%

4.5. Use of Fees

The Northwest Oregon District's primary goal for recreation sites is to provide high-quality recreation opportunities and experiences for all visitors. Normal site operation and maintenance funding has come primarily from base appropriated sources, supplemented with fee revenues. The base funding dollars for recreation sites have been flat to decreasing over past years due to inflation and administration priorities. With these continual decreases, additional fee revenues are necessary to sustainably operate, maintain, and enhance the public's recreational opportunities. The following is an initial list of how the proposed revenue would be used:

- Service contracts for site opening procedures, restroom cleaning, garbage collection, septic pumping, and water testing.
- Renewal of county and state drinking and wastewater permits
- Increased patrols for visitor safety, property protection, and permit compliance
- Supplies including but not limited to cleaning supplies, toilet paper, hand soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, fuel for motorized equipment, paint, lumber, rock, and concrete

¹⁷ Ibid.

- Maintain and improve recreation site infrastructure such as trails, signage, barbeque grills, fire rings, picnic tables, fencing, restrooms, kiosks, lighting, roadway striping, water systems, communication devices, and curb stops
- Fee collection equipment and upkeep
- Financial audits and visitor safety evaluations
- Information material such as maps, brochures, and interpretive signage
- Campground host reimbursements for qualifying expenses
- Increased effort to eradicate invasive species from recreation sites

Over the next five years, the recreation program is looking to achieve greater self-sufficiency and resiliency while recognizing that appropriated funds still provide the financial backbone of the program. Tactics to achieve this goal include designing purpose-built recreation sites that fill popular needs, repurposing low visitation recreation sites, and market-rated fee increases where appropriate.

4.6. Impact of Fee Changes

Implementation of new fees: Although some of the Northwest Oregon District's recreation fees were updated in 2009, the majority of site fees have not been updated or increased for over two decades. Over these years, the cost of goods, labor, and services have steadily increased. One gauge of this inflation is the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Consumer Price Index (CPI), which measures the prices that consumers pay for goods and services. Since 2000, this CPI has increased 51 percent; since 2009, it has increased 21 percent. As the cost of goods, labor, and services has increased, the purchasing power from recreation fees has decreased proportionally.

If the proposed new fee and fee increases were adopted, the Northwest Oregon District would begin to recoup revenues consistent with economic inflation, and with other public and private recreation providers. Current operating services could continue to be offered and new services would be available. Some of the revenue would be used to gradually reduce the maintenance backlog. Also benefiting would be site infrastructure, cleanliness, and visitor services and information. The overall recreational experience would be improved.

Benefits to the local economy would also be realized. An Outdoor Industry Association study found that in 2019, outdoor recreation directly supported 172,000 jobs and generated \$16.4 billion in Oregon alone. It also brought in \$749 million in state and local tax revenue. The Northwest Oregon District, home to over 75 percent of Oregon's population, is also home to much of this recreational spending. It is imperative to local economies throughout the District to keep recreation site infrastructure in good condition, cleaned, and serviced to high standards. Maintaining these services and creating new opportunities improves the overall recreational experience for current and new visitors alike.

New and increased fees are also a benefit to the environment. By providing such recreation sites for visitors, the District consolidates resource impacts to a much smaller area. Human waste and garbage are dealt with in an appropriate manner in areas where infrastructure is provided. Increased and new fees would also allow for more purchasing power to acquire items that help reduce negative impacts to the environment. For example, native trees and shrubs could be

purchased to prevent social trailing through sensitive areas, new interpretive panels could be installed to educate visitors on the importance of not dumping trash in the woods, and an increased effort to eradicate invasive species from recreation sites could occur.

Finally, the Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass may be a gateway to increase volunteerism, helping to reduce labor costs and providing a unique way for the BLM to connect with surrounding citizens and communities.

No fee change: Recreation facilities represent a substantial public investment. If proposed fees are not adopted, and the flat to declining trend for appropriated funding sources continue, visitors could expect to see an erosion of services and loss of functionality. Site maintenance may not happen as quickly or as often as needed, resulting in site decay and deterioration. Maintenance costs would increase as facilities age and some facilities may not be reopened due to a lack of funds. Maintenance which is deferred because of insufficient funding may result in increased safety hazards, reduced service to the public, higher future costs, and inefficient operations. Facilities that do not generate revenue may be decommissioned.

Although the Northwest Oregon District is seeing some of the highest population growth in the nation, and recreation demands are increasing accordingly, a reduction in recreation staff may be necessary if fee revenues are not available to support these sites. If the recreation program remains wholly dependent on fluctuating appropriated funding, the opportunities for future recreation developments would be constrained and likely set aside. The District may have challenges in fulfilling the BLM's recreation strategy. Sites that are not appealing to visitors may cause them to recreate in other places thereby affecting the local economy.

Negative impacts to the environment could also occur. Fewer trash pickups and pumping of toilets could occur thus creating human waste and garbage impacts. Less-frequent patrols from recreation staff to maintain trails, signage and education materials may allow some visitors to act inappropriately by cutting new trails and vandalizing facilities.

5. Outreach

5.1. Public and Stakeholder Participation

The BLM’s “Connecting with Communities” recreation strategy¹⁸ provides a vision to increase and improve collaboration with local community service providers to help communities produce greater well-being and socioeconomic health to deliver outstanding recreation experiences to visitors while sustaining the distinctive character of public land recreation settings. As part of this strategy, the Northwest Oregon District seeks engagement and partnerships with local stakeholders to accomplish mutual objectives for public access and recreation. The District also seeks relationships with local schools and youth groups in helping to promote a positive experience for youth and to inspire them to take a greater interest in public land issues.

The Northwest Oregon District has multiple partnerships fulfilling these roles. Team Dirt and the Northwest Trail Alliance are two very active partner groups who have provided thousands of hours of volunteer assistance in support of recreation sites and trail networks. This teamwork has been recognized through consistent awarding of grants to develop and promote these improved sites. These efforts have also shown that the BLM is a positive force in the community.

The BLM also works with the North Santiam Watershed Council, Molalla River Watch, and Molalla River Alliance for managing recreation projects along popular river corridors. The North Santiam Watershed Council worked with Oregon State University Extension Service with respect to the BLM’s acquisition of 17 acres to the east of Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site. The council reimbursed the BLM for items purchased during initial site preparation, while OSU’s Extension Service provided much of the work.

The BLM works with Molalla River Watch and the Molalla River Alliance to recruit volunteers, identify project work, and perform public outreach. Molalla River Watch is an all-volunteer group established in 1992 “for the purpose of protecting, preserving, and restoring the flora, fauna and water quality of the Molalla River and its tributaries.” Molalla River Alliance is an umbrella group of government, user groups, businesses, and conservation organizations that are “dedicated to preserving the water quality of the Molalla and sustaining the wildlife, fish, and plants that inhabit its watershed.”

The District continues its partnerships with county youth groups, scouting organizations, sheriff departments, and individuals. Accomplished work with these partners often includes trail maintenance, trash clean-up, and recreation site rehabilitation. For example, the Santiam Canyon Senior Center recycles cans and plastic bottles at recreation sites, receiving money in return to improve their facilities. Cascades, Stayton, and Sprague high schools perform work mostly at Fishermen’s Bend, with an occasional work party at Canyon Creek and Elkhorn Valley Recreation Sites. Sprague has an alternative school that has also assisted in past years.

The Northwest Oregon District is a partner with Willamette National Forest, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,

¹⁸ <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/our-strategy>

Oregon State Parks, and several counties for information sharing relative to the region's recreation. This has enabled all parties to benefit in important ways, such as technology sharing, issue identification, and lowered operational costs. For example, an agreement is in place with Marion County to share a camp host. This host maintains two BLM and six Marion County sites along Little North Fork and the north Santiam River. The BLM provides the host site while Marion County provides a truck. Ultimately, the public and partners receive benefits as improvements, savings and operational changes are realized.

The BLM will continue nurturing existing partnerships and pursuing new ones that complement the agency's mission. In a fiscal environment that cannot sustain wasteful spending and program inefficiency the agency continues to act on opportunities that will support a healthy, robust, relevant, and accountable recreation program for the public. Future priorities include increasing the number and scope of such partnerships and agreements associated with the Northwest Oregon District recreation program.

5.2. Public Comments

In August 2016, information about the Northwest Oregon District's proposed fee changes were posted in all recreation sites under consideration for fee modification. News releases were provided to local news outlets, with publication in the Stateman Journal and Tillamook County Pioneer. These news releases, as well as the draft business plans, were also posted on the Northwest Oregon District public website. All documents provided physical and email addresses where public comments related to the business plans could be submitted.

As of March 2017, the Northwest Oregon District had received seven letters on the draft business plans and proposed fees changes, containing 12 unique comments, clarifications, and general inquiries. Comments expressed general support for the proposed fee increases and the opportunity of an annual pass for volunteer service. These public comments and BLM responses are documented in Appendix 6.4.

Throughout this time, the Northwest Oregon District's partner organizations, volunteer groups, civic associations, and other non-governmental entities have also recognized that recreation site fees are a necessary component of sustainable recreation facilities. They have expressed understanding that fee revenue allows for ongoing recreation sites and site operations, and that additional revenues would open opportunities for partner leveraging of grant and external funding opportunities. Indeed, many partners have continually inquired when the proposed fee changes would be implemented. However, due to the dissolution of its RAC in late 2017, the Northwest Oregon District was not able to finalize or implement these draft business plans.

In July 2020, the Northwest Oregon District again posted the proposed fee changes in all recreation sites under consideration. In September 2020, two public comments were submitted, both expressing concern about potential fees at off-highway vehicle areas. These comments highlighted some conflicting language within the business plans about the potentially affected recreation sites. As a result, the Northwest Oregon District decided to reorganize the business plans, clarifying the recreation fee sites that would be affected and otherwise updating the

reference data. These revisions did not propose modifying the recreation site fee rates beyond those proposed in the earlier draft plans.

In January 2021, the Northwest Oregon District published the revised draft business plan on its public website and social media, inviting another round of public review and feedback. News releases were provided to local news outlets, with publication in the Oregonian, Statesman Journal, Tillamook Headlight Herald, Salem Reporter, Eugene Register Guard, and Bend Bulletin. Notification of plan availability was also provided to commissioners for Tillamook, Marion, Linn, Lane, Clackamas, and Benton Counties.

As of March 2021, the BLM has received 21 letters regarding the revised proposal. These include three formal letters of support from the Northwest Trail Alliance; Team Dirt; and Disciples of Dirt. All three are community-supported partner groups who work with the BLM to maintain the recreation sites discussed in this business plan. The remaining letters expressed both general support and opposition for the proposed fee changes; suggested new fee sites and fee structures; raised concerns about fee timing and economic impacts; and expressed appreciation for volunteer opportunities. These public comments and BLM responses are documented in Appendix 6.4, while letters of support are included in Appendix 6.5.

In June 2021, the Northwest Oregon District presented its revised business plan and fee proposal to the Western Oregon RAC. The RAC unanimously approved the fee proposal with no requested modifications.

5.3. Public Communication and Marketing Plan

As part of the proposal to modify recreation site fees, the Northwest Oregon District has been and will continue to conduct the following outreach to notify the public of its opportunity to review and provide comments:

- Public notice of proposed fee changes will continue to be posted onsite until implemented.
- News releases will be provided to local news outlets, informing the public of the proposed fee changes, and requesting public comment.
- Both the public notice and news releases will contain contact information for public comments on the proposed fee changes.
- Website information will inform the public of the proposed fee changes.
- Fee signs and paper materials will reflect the proposed fee changes, including notice of the fee rate(s), the passes that are accepted, and where the fees are charged.
- A Notice of Intent to Collect Recreation Fees will be published in the *Federal Register* six months before establishing any new recreation fee sites.

The BLM monitors visitor use to detect changes in site utilization, and documents written and oral communication from the public. Business plan review occurs on a biennial schedule from the date of the last signature. Future adjustments to approved fee schedules will reflect public comment and program implementation needs.

Fee expenditure information is collected on an annual basis and presented in the Public Land Statistics available online at https://www.blm.gov/public_land_statistics/. More specifically, each recreation site will post fee expenditure information on site and online to inform the public where and on what services, maintenance, and operations their fees are spent.

6. Appendices

6.1. Recreation Site Descriptions

The following 11 descriptions include all recreation sites discussed in this business plan for new or updated fees. Multiple sites within the same immediate area or riparian corridor are consolidated in these descriptions to eliminate redundancies and provide area context.

Note: Some site maps may be slightly out of date or otherwise inconsistent with the description provided in this business plan. Recreation site maps are developed intermittently as necessary and may not be fully reflective of recent or proposed developments.

Each of the described day-use sites provide significant opportunities for outdoor recreation, have substantial federal investments, allow for efficient fee collection, and contain all of the required amenities for Standard Amenity fee sites. These amenities include designated developed parking; permanent toilet facilities; permanent trash receptacles; interpretive signs, exhibits, or kiosks; picnic tables; and security services.

Each of the existing campgrounds possess the required majority (at least 5 out of 9) of amenities to qualify for the use of an Expanded Amenity fee. These include tent or trailer spaces; picnic tables; drinking water; access roads; the collection of the fee by an employee or agent of the federal land management agency; reasonable visitor protection; refuse containers; toilet facilities; and simple devices for containing a campfire

Individual sites within campgrounds may include primitive campsites, basic campsites, double campsites, partial hook-ups, full hook-ups, cabins, and yurts.

- **Basic** campsites allow up to two vehicles and eight people. An additional tent is allowed at each site in addition to the primary camping type. For example, each site allows up to two tents, or an RV and a tent, or a camper trailer and a tent.
- **Primitive** campsites are comparatively rustic to basic campsites, with a lower level of development and often only shared parking lot availability. Only tents are allowed.
- **Double** campsites allow twice the amount of people, vehicles, and tents as a normal site.
- **Full hook-up** campsites provide access to water, electric, and sewer services.
- **Partial hook-up** campsites provide at least one but not all three hook-up services.
- **Cabins and Yurts** offer a variety of customized amenities. These may include electricity, water, space heaters, beds, a covered deck, and all other amenities available at campsites. Six people would be allowed per cabin or yurt.

Campgrounds and facilities proposed for development will possess the required majority of these amenities. Proposed fees would not be applicable for any site under development, unless and until the requisite amenities are present and fully operational.

Group facilities also contain the specialized features and services to qualify for an Expanded Amenity fee. These can include the rental of cabins, group day-use or overnight shelters; use of hook-ups for electricity or sewer; use of sanitary dump stations; or use of reservation services.

6.1.1. Alsea Falls

The **Alsea Falls Recreation Site** includes a campground, a day-use area, and the Fall Creek Mountain Bike Trailhead and Day-Use Site. An extensive non-motorized trail network surrounds the site. The facilities are along the South Fork Alsea Back Country Byway, approximately 27 miles southwest of Corvallis, Oregon, near the small town of Alsea. The site lies within Benton County in Oregon's 4th Congressional District. Primary recreation activities include camping, waterfall viewing, hiking, and mountain biking.



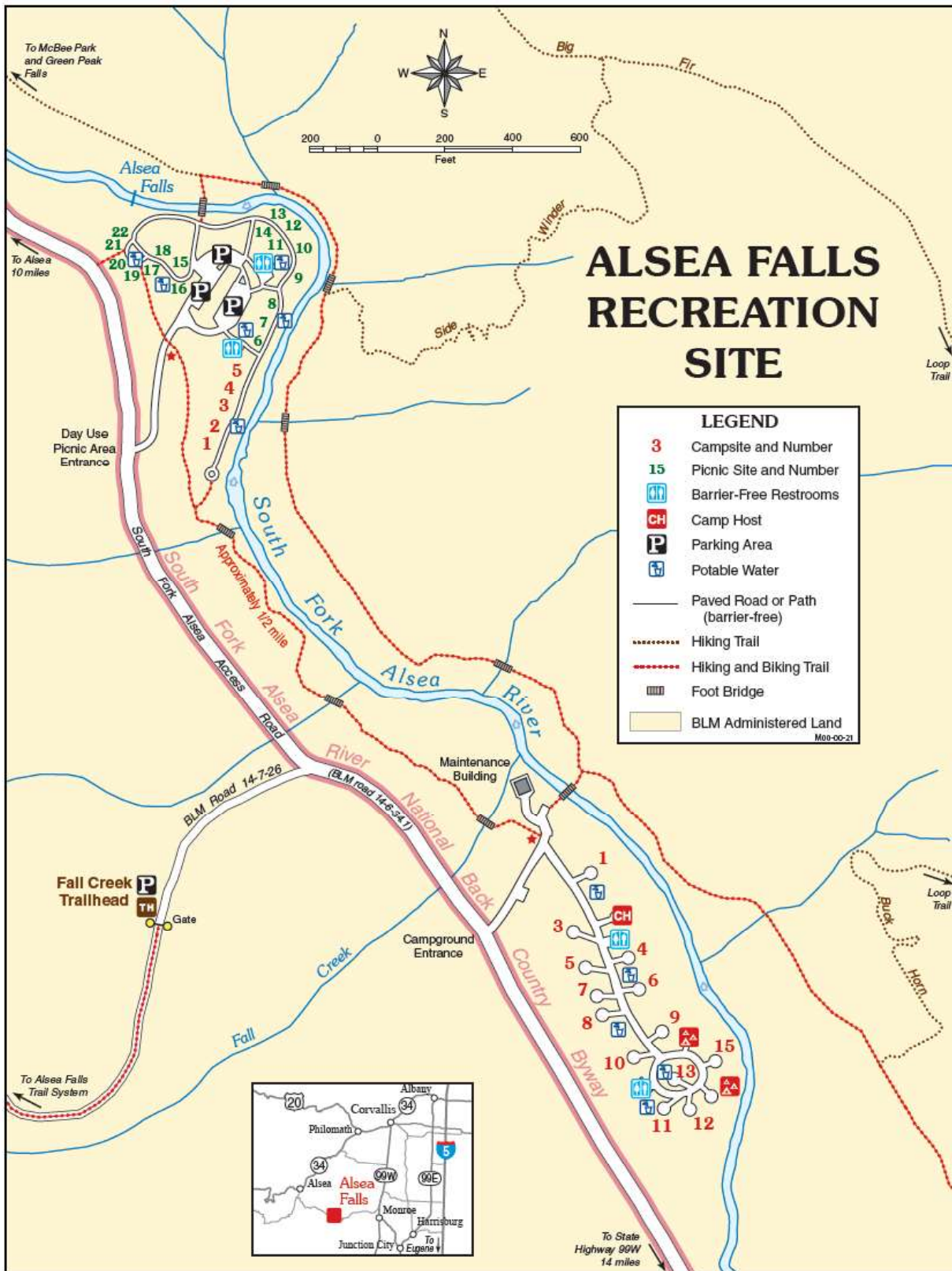
The campground contains 16 basic campsites. Additional campground amenities include drinking water, kiosks, refuse containers, and vault toilets. A developed trail links the campground to the day-use area. The day-use area provides all standard amenities, as well as 15 picnic sites with picnic tables, fire rings, and grills. Trails extend from the parking area, including the popular Alsea Falls trail to the nearby waterfall. To better meet demand for tent camping opportunities, the BLM plans to convert five under-utilized picnic sites into primitive (walk-in) campsites.

The Fall Creek Mountain Bike Trailhead and Day-Use Site includes all standard amenities and a bike hub with tools for small repairs. It has been developed and maintained in partnership with the Team Dirt mountain bike club.



The campground is generally open from May through October, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand.

Figure 2: Alsea Falls Recreation Site Map



6.1.2. Clay Creek

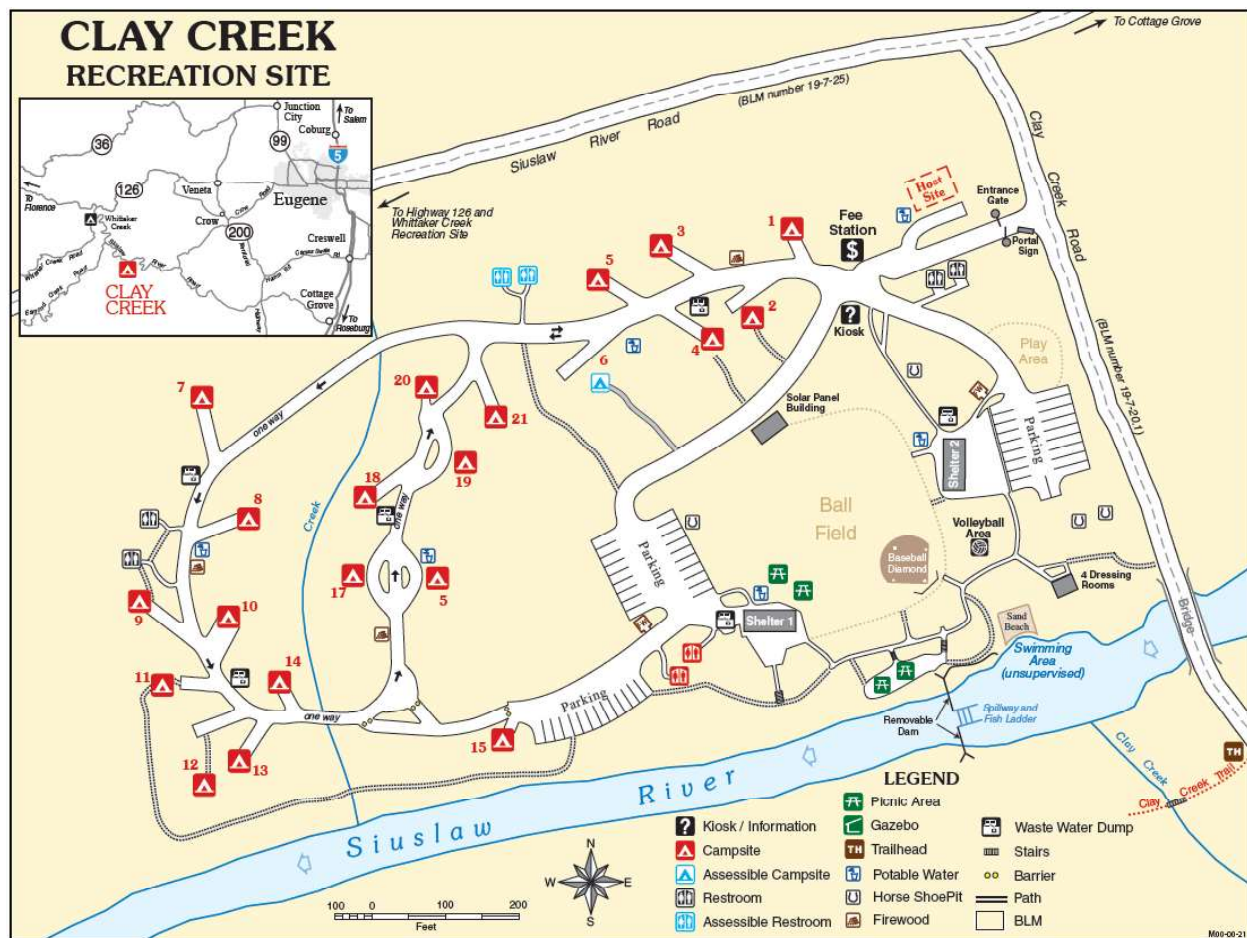
The **Clay Creek Recreation Site** is a 10-acre camping and day-use recreation facility located on the banks of the Siuslaw River in the foothills of the Coast Range, about 40 miles west of Eugene. The site lies within Lane County in Oregon's 4th Congressional District. The site's extensive offerings make it popular with families, while easy river access draws visitors interested in fishing and water play.

The campground at the Clay Creek Recreation Site has 21 basic campsites. The day-use site provides all standard amenities and features two group picnic shelters with fireplaces, picnic tables, and grills for up to 100 people. Additional amenities include drinking water, a changing room, a two-mile hiking trail, natural play areas, manufactured climbing boulders, four horseshoe pits, a ball field, an amphitheater, and a camp host.

The campground is generally open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand. Clay Creek Road, the main road to the campground, is open to vehicles year-round. Day-use facilities, such as restrooms, remain open into the fall and winter to accommodate fishermen and hunters.



Figure 3: Clay Creek Recreation Site Map



6.1.3. Fishermen's Bend

The **Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site** was a 184-acre highly developed camping and day-use recreation facility located alongside the North Santiam River at the base of the Cascade Mountains. Fishermen's Bend is approximately 30 miles from Salem, Oregon and two miles from Mill City, Oregon. The recreation site has long been popular for its quality facilities and range of available recreation opportunities, including a boat ramp and river access. However, the area was heavily damaged by the Beachie Creek Fire in 2020 and most of the site and its facilities were destroyed.



Before the fire, the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site provided a variety of campsite types, with five basic campsites, three group campsites, 31 partial hook-up sites, 19 full hook-up sites, and two cabins. Additional amenities included flush toilets, showers, camp hosts, an RV dump station, and an electronic fee kiosk. The site also offered an array of day-use facilities, meeting Standard Amenity requirements and additionally offering three group picnic shelters, individual picnic sites, a nature center, a paved boat ramp, an amphitheater, two baseball diamonds, horseshoe pits, two playgrounds, natural play areas, a volleyball court, basketball courts, and interpretive and hiking trails.

Prior to the 2020 wildfire, the Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site was open to day use year-round, although vehicle access was limited to only a few roads from November through April. The campground and group picnic shelters were generally open from May through October, with the highest visitation from June through September. The campground was highly utilized and experienced nearly full occupancy throughout the entire season. As such, in 2015 the BLM decided to expand the overnight camping options, increase capacity, and offer new alternatives such as group camp shelters. These developments are ongoing.

FISHERMEN'S BEND RECREATION SITE

To Salem 30 miles

22

Swamp

Pond

Camp Loop

River Loop

North Santiam River

Boat Ramp

Amphitheater

Nature Center

Group Loop

Steelhead

Trout

Cedars

Cottonwoods

Baseball Diamond

Baseball Diamond

Trailer Dump Station

Park Headquarters

Park Entrance

To Mill City 1.5 miles

To Roseberg

To Portland

Stayton

Mehama

Scio

Mill City

Fishermen's Bend

Accessible fishing and river viewing area

500 0 1000 2000 Feet

W N E S

LEGEND

Fee Station	Picnic Area	Recycle Bin	Self-Guided Nature Trail (Hiking Only)
Campground Host	Group Picnic Area (Reservable)	Playground	Hiking Trail
Campsite (Reservable)	Accessible Restroom	Horseshoe Pit	Bicycle and Hiking Trail Path
Group Campsite (Reservable)	Accessible Shower	Basketball Court	BLM Administered Land
Cabin (Reservable)	Volleyball Court	Private or Other	

M00-00-21

6.1.4. Little North Fork

The **Little North Fork Recreation Sites** include the Elkhorn Valley Campground and the Canyon Creek Day-Use Site on the banks of the Little North Fork of the Santiam River in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The sites are roughly 32 miles east of Salem, Oregon, near the town of Mehama in Marion County and Oregon's 5th Congressional District. Both sites have been in use since the 1960s; however, they were heavily damaged in the 2020 Beachie Creek Fire.

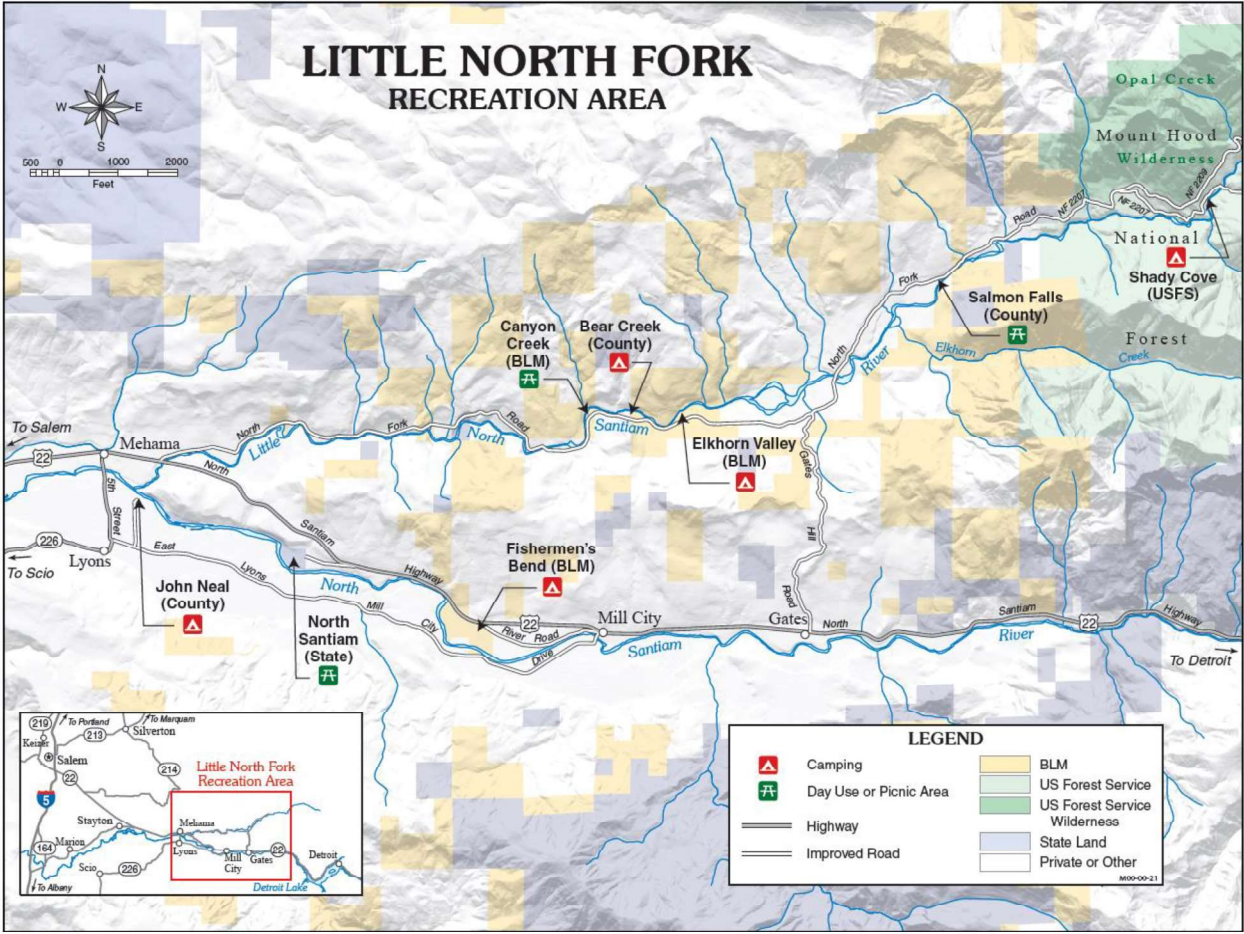


The Elkhorn Valley Campground formerly offered 23 basic campsites and five day-use picnic sites. Additional amenities included drinking water, refuse containers, vault toilets, a kiosk, hiking trails, and a camp host. The Canyon Creek Day-Use Site included picnic sites and opportunities for swimming and wading. All standard amenities were offered, as well as drinking water and grills.

Before the 2020 fire, the Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site and the Canyon Creek Day-Use Site were open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, with the option to extend or shorten the season based on user demand and budget.



Figure 5: Little North Fork Recreation Sites Map



6.1.5. Molalla River Corridor

The **Molalla River Corridor Recreation Sites** spans 13.7 miles of the Molalla River within Clackamas County, Oregon. This area is roughly nine miles southeast of Molalla, Oregon and is part of Oregon's 5th Congressional District. The area includes two campgrounds, an environmental education center proposed for use as a group campsite, three developed day-use sites, and the 25-mile non-motorized Molalla River Shared Use Trail System. All existing and proposed facilities discussed in this business plan are within the Molalla Wild and Scenic River corridor.

The Three Bears and Cedar Grove Campgrounds have 15 and 11 primitive (walk-in) campsites, respectively. Both campgrounds feature vault toilets, drinking water, refuse containers, kiosks, and short trails to access the Molalla river. A camp host is stationed at Three Bears Campground. In addition to use by campers, day users account for much of the campgrounds' visitation.

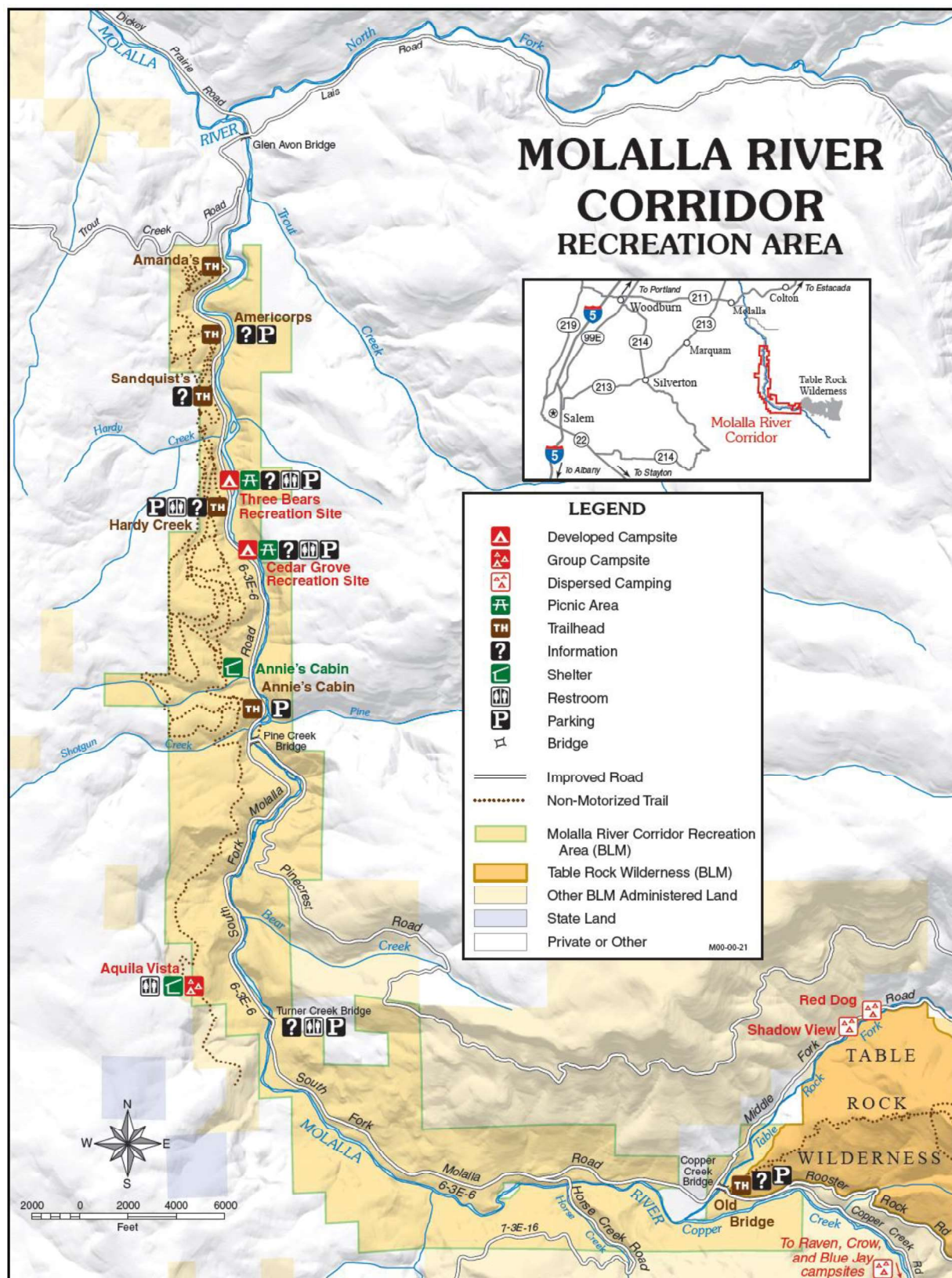


To expand the range of camping opportunities in the recreation area, a new campground has been proposed near the Pine Creek/Molalla River confluence. The Pine Creek Campground would consist of 14 basic campsites designed to accommodate RVs and camp trailers. When constructed, the facility would meet requirements for an Expanded Amenity fee site.

Aquila Vista is an environmental education facility that has experienced a very low rate of use in recent years, even while overall visitation to the recreation area has increased. The BLM plans to convert Aquila Vista into a group campsite to increase site utilization and to help meet the need for such facilities in the area. Aquila Vista currently meets the requirements of an Expanded Amenity campground, with amenities including picnic tables, fire rings, a vault toilet, refuse containers, two covered shelters, and a parking lot and access road.

Three Bears and Cedar Grove Campgrounds are generally open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand. Aquila Vista is open on demand year-round. Trailheads and day-use sites are generally open year-round, subject to weather-related closures during the wet season. Most visitation occurs during the warm weather months of June through September.

Figure 6: Molalla River Recreation Sites Map



6.1.6. Nestucca River Corridor

The **Nestucca River Corridor Recreation Sites** consist of four developed campgrounds along the Nestucca River Back Country Byway. Dovre Campground, the easternmost site, is roughly 19 miles from Carlton, Oregon, while Alder Glen Campground at the corridor's western end is approximately 17 miles from the town of Beaver. The Nestucca River corridor recreation sites are in Tillamook County and in Oregon's 5th Congressional District. Outstanding fisheries, recreation, scenery, wildlife, and ecology have led the Nestucca River Corridor to be designated a Wild and Scenic River and an Area of Critical Environmental Concern. The corridor is a popular place for camping, fishing, hunting, wildlife watching. The nearby Upper Nestucca Off-Highway Vehicle trail system also draws visitors to the corridor.

Alder Glen and Fan Creek Campgrounds each contain 11 primitive campsites, while Dovre Campground has 10 primitive campsites and a shelter with a fireplace. A camp host provides service at Fan Creek. Elk Bend Campground consists of a walk-in group campsite. All four campgrounds feature vault toilets, drinking water, and kiosks, as well as river access, with a developed natural surface trail to the river at Elk Bend and a paved walkway and dock at Alder Glen.

Alder Glen, Fan Creek, and Dovre Campgrounds are generally open from Memorial Day through mid-November, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand. Elk Bend Campground is open by reservation only from Memorial Day through mid-November, although it has been closed for several years due to a road paving and improvement project that was completed in October 2020. The Nestucca River Back Country Byway is open year-round. Most visitation occurs during the warm weather months of June through September.

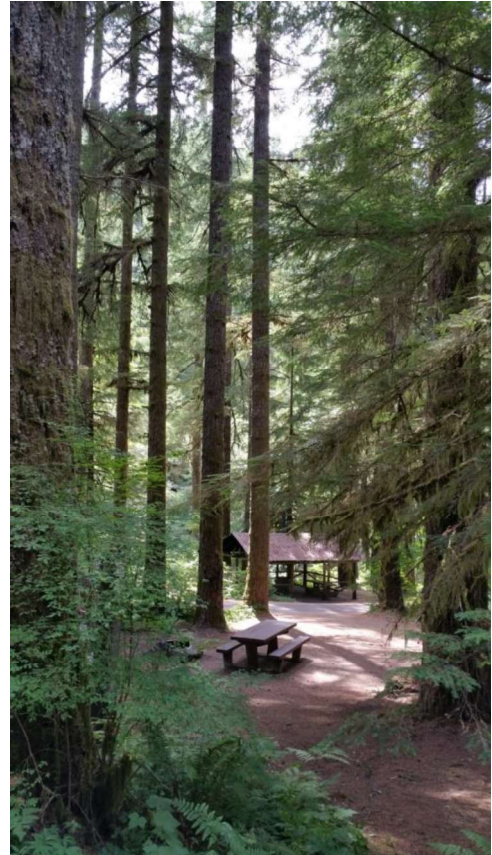
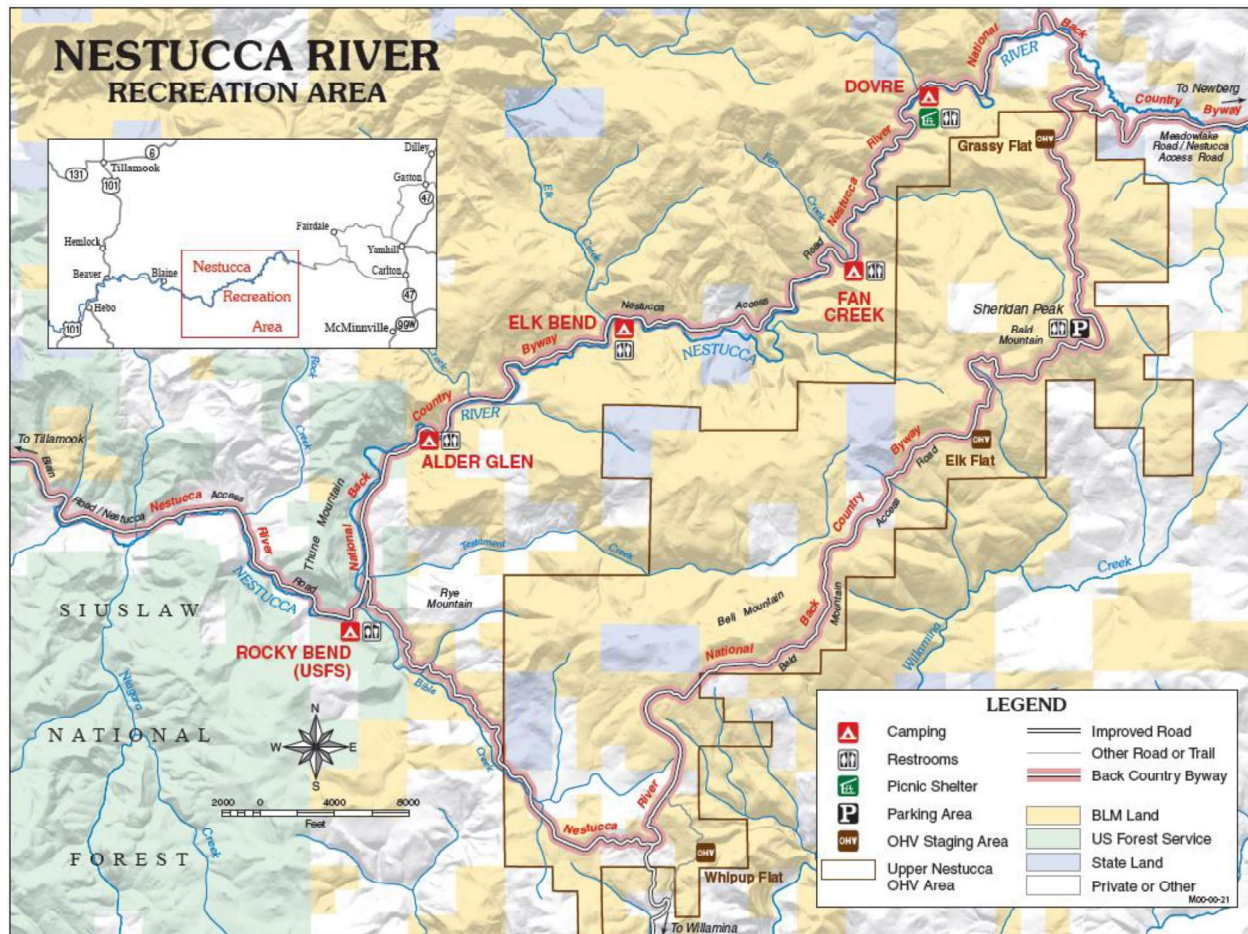


Figure 7: Nestucca River Recreation Sites Map



6.1.7. Quartzville Creek

The **Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites** include the Yellowbottom Recreation Site and the Old Miner's Meadow Group Site in the Quartzville recreation corridor. The sites are in southeastern Linn County, approximately 31 miles from Sweet Home, Oregon, and lie within Oregon's 4th Congressional District. The Quartzville recreation corridor is cooperatively managed by the BLM, Linn County, the US Army Corps of Engineers, the US Forest Service, and private entities and follows the 50-mile Quartzville Back Country Byway. The Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites are within the Quartzville Creek Wild and Scenic River corridor, designated for its outstanding recreational opportunities and scenery.

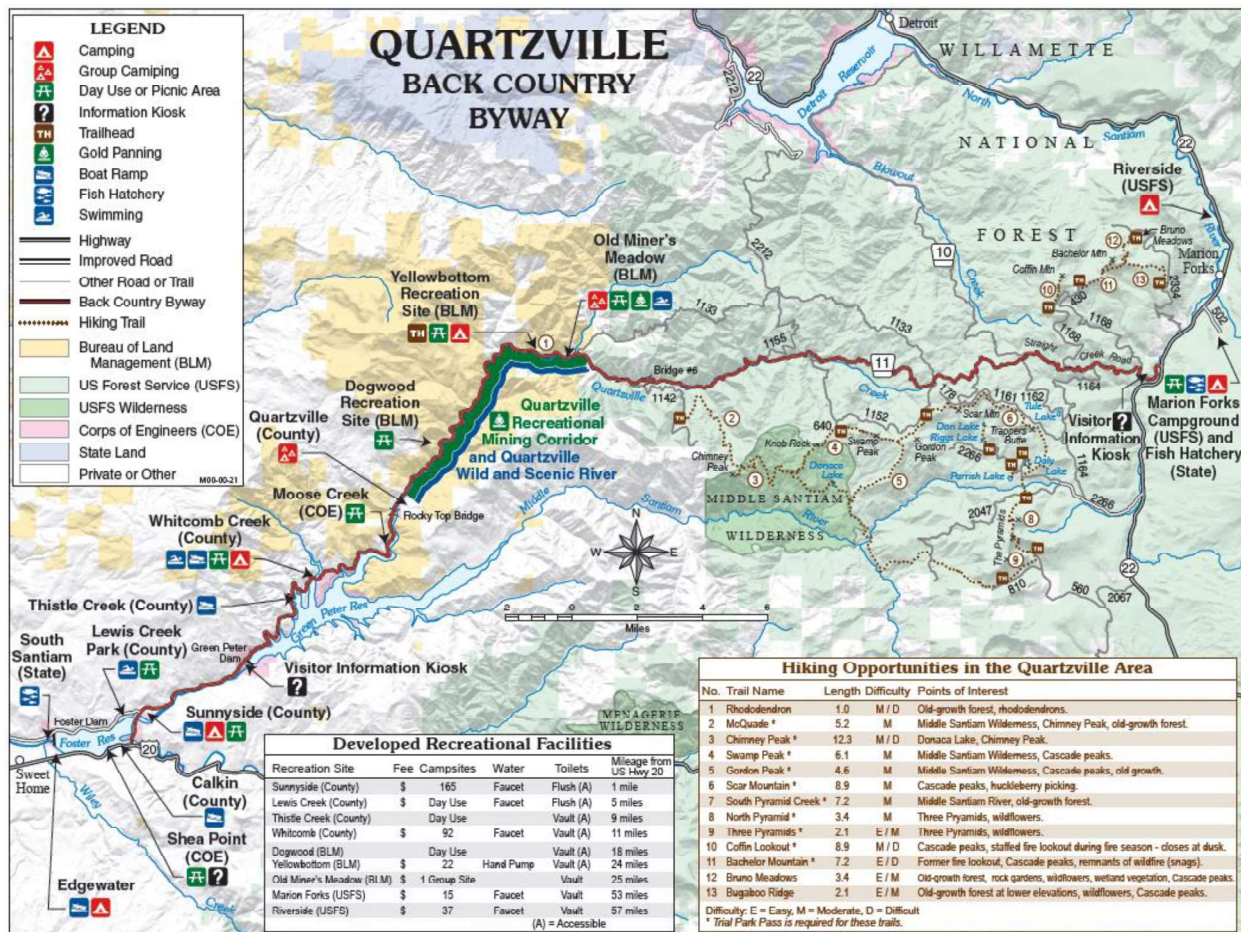
The approximately 13-acre Yellowbottom Recreation Site consists of a campground with 22 basic campsites and a day-use area with all standard amenities and five picnic sites. Amenities shared between the campground and day-use area include drinking water, refuse containers, kiosks, vault toilets, and a camp host. Additionally, the recreation site includes access a network of hiking trails and the river.

The Old Miner's Meadow Group Site is a 2-acre group campground with capacity for up to 50 people. The site offers tent/trailer space, picnic tables, vault toilets, refuse containers, individual fire rings, a large group fire ring and grill, horseshoe pits, and refuse collection. Drinking water is not available.



Camping facilities at Yellowbottom and Old Miner's Meadow are generally open from Memorial Day through mid-November, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand.

Figure 8: Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites Map



6.1.8. Sandy River Basin

The **Sandy River Basin Recreation Sites** consist of the Wildwood Recreation Site, the Sandy Ridge Trailhead, and the Marmot Recreation Site in northeastern Clackamas County and within Oregon's 3rd Congressional District. The Wildwood Recreation Site is roughly 16 miles east of Sandy, Oregon, while the Sandy Ridge Trailhead and the Marmot Recreation Site are 13 and 9 miles from Sandy. All three sites are within an hour's drive of Portland. Because of their high resource values, the sites are included in the Sandy River Outstanding Natural Area of Critical Environmental Concern. In addition, the Wildwood Recreation Site is within the Salmon River Wild and Scenic River corridor.

The Wildwood Recreation Site is a highly developed 553-acre day-use site encompassing two miles of scenic Salmon River frontage, an extensive wetland complex, and upland conifer forests typical of the lower Cascades. The site currently offers all standard amenities, as well as seven full-service restrooms, two ball fields, natural play areas, a playground, four horseshoe pits, two volleyball courts, two basketball courts, site hosts, an extensive hiking trail network, and interpretive facilities that include several miles of interpretive trails and the Cascade Streamwatch, an underwater fish viewing area.



The Wildwood Recreation Site additionally offers five group shelters and two group picnic areas. The group shelters include fireplaces, group cooking facilities, grills, picnic tables, electricity, drinking water, hot water, and paved parking areas, with maximum occupancies ranging from 50 to 200 people. The group picnic sites offer grills, picnic tables, and paved parking areas, as well as outdoor kitchens consisting of small shelters containing electric stove tops, utility sinks, electricity, drinking water, and lights. Each picnic site has a maximum occupancy of 65 people.



The BLM is in the process of completing a new management plan for the Wildwood Recreation Site, which includes a proposal to expand opportunities and increase site utilization by offering overnight camping facilities. To serve a wide range of visitors, a variety of overnight options are proposed, including walk-in campsites, group campsites, RV/trailer sites with partial and full hook-ups, yurts with and without electricity, and cabins with electricity and water. An anticipated three to four cabins would be built around the shared outdoor covered kitchens at the existing picnic sites. Additionally, some of the group shelters would be converted to accommodate overnight use. All proposed facilities would exceed Expanded Amenity requirements.

The Sandy Ridge Trailhead serves as the primary access point for the Sandy Ridge trail system, which ranks among the premier mountain biking venues in the Pacific Northwest. The Sandy Ridge Trailhead features all standard amenities and provides access to over 15 miles of mountain bike-specific flow trails. Future plans call for development of a formal events area, security improvements, additional parking, tailgating bump-outs, drinking water, changing rooms, a bicycle wash station, and a bike hub with tools for small repairs.

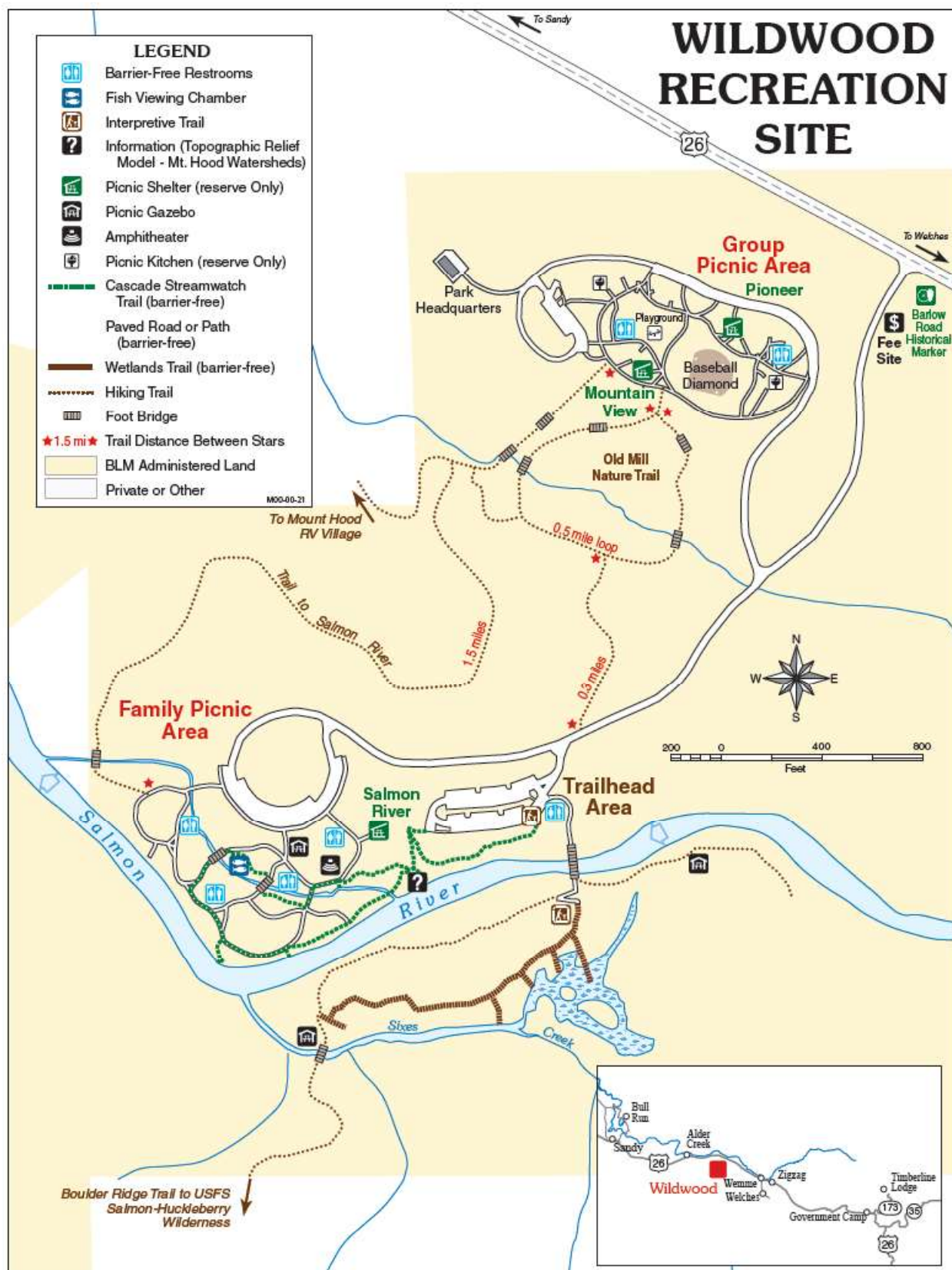


The Marmot Recreation Site is a developed day-use site with both developed and undeveloped areas. All standard amenities are provided, as well as grills. Plans for the site include the installation of interpretive displays related to the 2008 decommissioning of the historic Marmot Dam and restoration of natural processes in the area.



The Wildwood Recreation Site and Sandy Ridge Trailhead are open year-round except for temporary closures related to weather, maintenance, and public safety or resource damage concerns. The Marmot Recreation Site is generally open to vehicles from May through October, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand. The site can be accessed on foot year-round.

Figure 9: Wildwood Recreation Site Map



6.1.9. Sharps Creek

The **Sharps Creek Recreation Site** is a 20-acre campground and day-use recreation facility beside a naturally formed swimming and gold panning area ringed by large rock outcroppings in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains. The site is in Lane County, approximately 18 miles southeast of Cottage Grove, Oregon. It lies within Oregon's 4th Congressional District.

The campground at the Sharps Creek Recreation Site has 11 basic campsites. The day-use facility offers all standard amenities. Additional amenities shared between the campground and day-use area include drinking water, refuse containers and vault toilets.

The campground is generally open from Memorial Day through Labor Day, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand. The day-use site is open year-round, although shared amenities may only be accessed on foot.



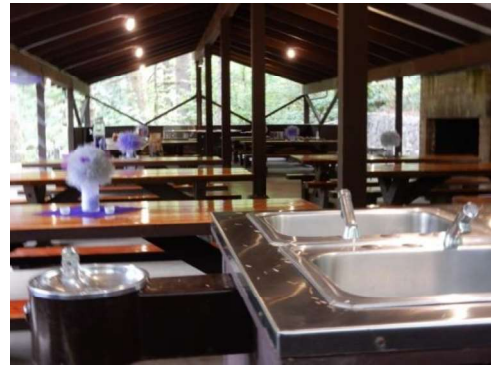
Figure 10: Sharps Creek Recreation Site Map



6.1.10. Shotgun Creek

The **Shotgun Creek Recreation Site** is a day-use area consisting of 17 developed acres along with 260 acres of undeveloped land retaining natural characteristics of typical of the region. The site is located in Lane County, approximately 16 miles northeast of Springfield, Oregon, within Oregon's 4th Congressional District. The site's quality facilities and engaging mix of recreation opportunities make it especially popular with visitors from the Eugene-Springfield area.

The Shotgun Creek Recreation Site includes all standard amenities, as well as two group picnic shelters and 23 individual picnic sites. Both of the group picnic shelters can accommodate up to 300 people and are equipped with a fireplace, electricity, lights, sinks, and picnic tables. The individual picnic sites have picnic tables, fire rings, and grills. Additional amenities at the site include drinking water, drinking fountains, heated bathrooms with flush toilets, a changing room, a ball field, a sand volleyball court, four horseshoe pits, a year-round site host. The site includes access to a hiking trail system, a seasonal swimming area, and open grassy areas with a meandering stream.



The Shotgun Creek Recreation Site is generally open year-round, with varying gate times depending on the season and user demand. Most visitation occurs during the warm weather months of June through September.

Figure 21: Shogun Creek Recreation Site Map

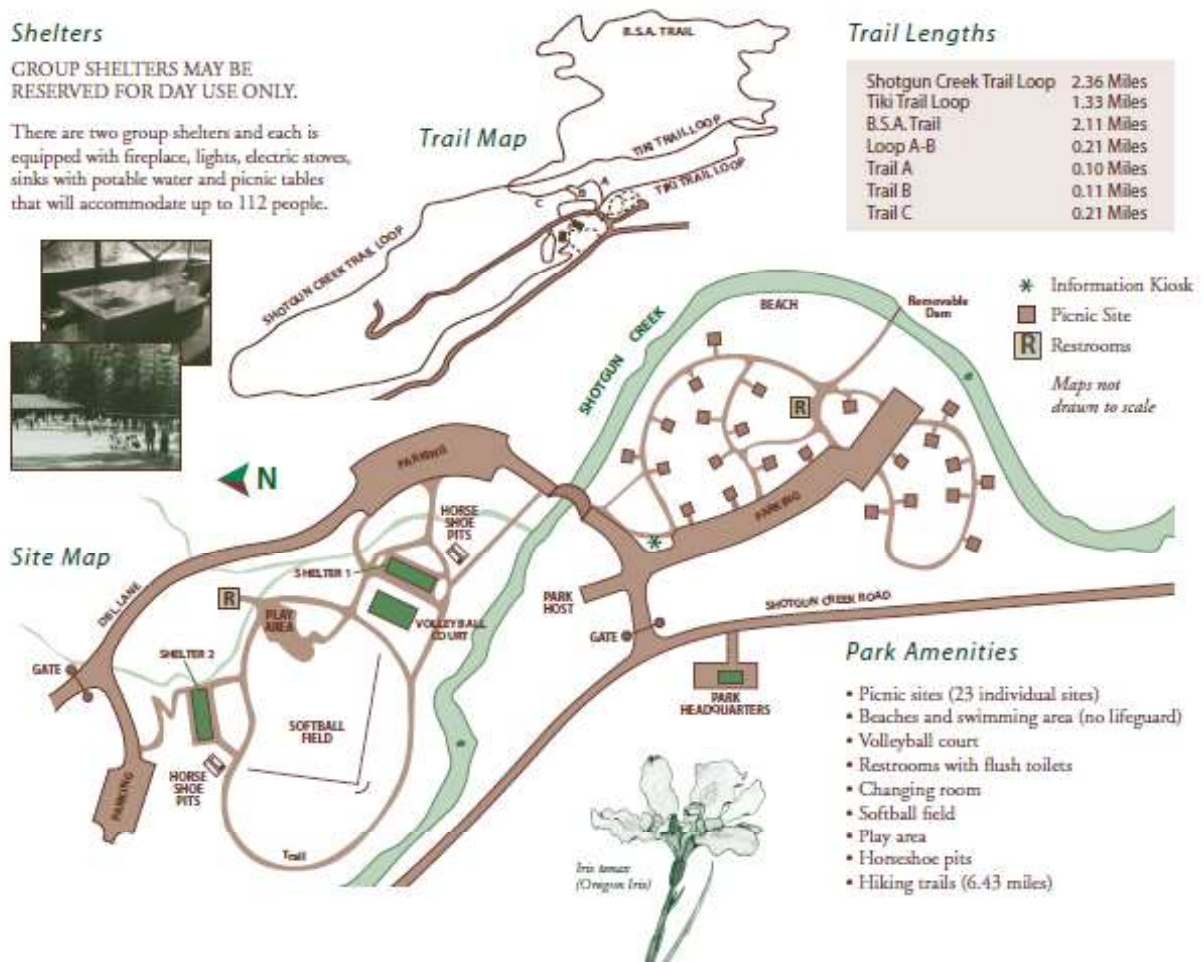
Shelters

GROUP SHELTERS MAY BE RESERVED FOR DAY USE ONLY.

There are two group shelters and each is equipped with fireplace, lights, electric stoves, sinks with potable water and picnic tables that will accommodate up to 112 people.



Site Map



Trail Lengths

Shotgun Creek Trail Loop	2.36 Miles
Tiki Trail Loop	1.33 Miles
B.S.A. Trail	2.11 Miles
Loop A-B	0.21 Miles
Trail A	0.10 Miles
Trail B	0.11 Miles
Trail C	0.21 Miles

- * Information Kiosk
- Picnic Site
- [R] Restrooms

Maps not drawn to scale

Park Amenities

- Picnic sites (23 individual sites)
- Beaches and swimming area (no lifeguard)
- Volleyball court
- Restrooms with flush toilets
- Changing room
- Softball field
- Play area
- Horseshoe pits
- Hiking trails (6.43 miles)

Iris demissa
(Oregon Iris)

6.1.11. Whittaker Creek

The **Whittaker Creek Recreation Site** is a developed camping and day-use recreation facility on the banks of the Siuslaw River in the forested foothills of the Coast Range. The site is about 30 miles west of Eugene in Lane County and is within Oregon's 4th Congressional District. Site amenities and river-based recreation opportunities serve as a draw for visitors wishing to fish and engage in water play.

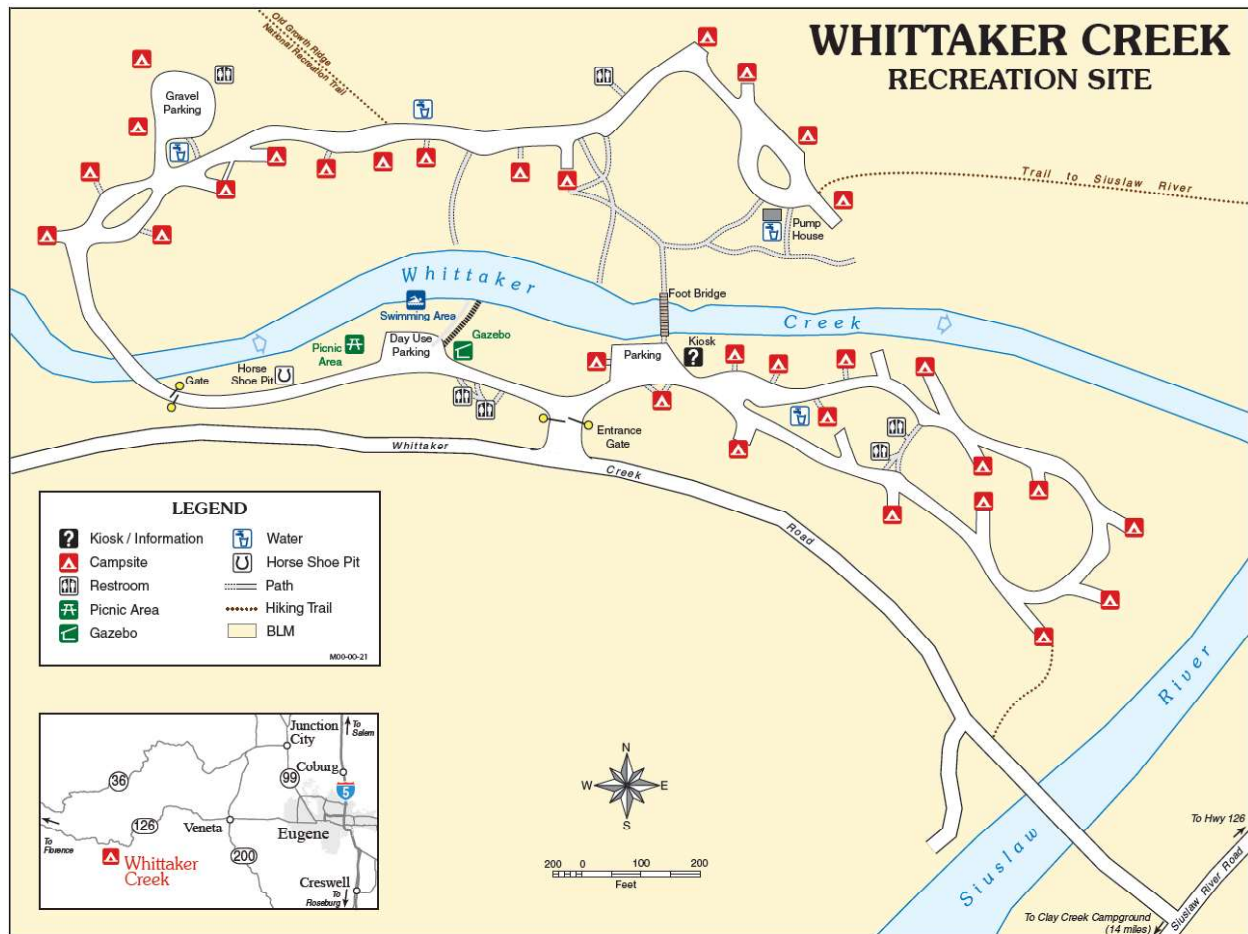


Campground amenities include 31 basic campsites. The day-use facility includes all standard amenities. Additional amenities shared between the campground and day-use area include drinking water, refuse containers, eight vault toilets, a gazebo, horseshoe pits, a footbridge, and a paved boat ramp. The site also provides access to a seasonal swimming area, hiking trails, including the Old Growth Ridge National Recreation Trail, and the Whittaker Creek Watchable Wildlife Site, where spawning salmon and trout can be observed.

The Whittaker Creek Recreation Site is generally open for vehicular travel from Memorial Day through Labor Day, dependent on weather, budget, and user demand. The site remains open year-round to walk-in visitors, and day use by fishermen is common in the fall and winter.



Figure 32: Whittaker Creek Recreation Site Map



6.2. Proposed Fees – Comprehensive Table

Northwest Oregon District Proposed Fee Rates		
Day-Use Sites	Existing Fees	Proposed Fees
Alsea Falls	\$3	\$5 per passenger vehicle (up to 9 persons)
Shotgun Creek		
Fall Creek	New	
Sharps Creek		
Clay Creek		
Whittaker Creek		
Yellowbottom		
Fishermen’s Bend		
Sandy Ridge		
Marmot		
Elkhorn	\$5	
Canyon Creek		
Wildwood		
All aforementioned day-use sites	New	\$10 per van (10-19 persons)
		\$20 per bus (20+ persons)
Annual Pass		
All Northwest Oregon District day-use sites except Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area	New	\$30 or 12 hours volunteer service per year
Campgrounds and Group Facilities		
Alsea Falls		
Primitive campsite	New	\$15
Basic campsite	\$12	\$20
Double basic campsite	New	\$40
Clay Creek		
Basic campsite	\$10	\$20
Day-use shelter	\$50-100	\$75 (up to 50 people)
Fishermen’s Bend		
Basic campsite	\$16	\$20
Partial hook-up campsite	\$22	\$31
Full hook-up campsite	\$28	\$36
Cabin	\$40	\$65
Group camp	\$85-105	\$125 (up to 50 people)

Group camp shelter	New	\$180 (up to 60 people)
Elkhorn		
Basic campsite	\$14	\$20
Cedar Grove		
Primitive campsite	New	\$15
Double primitive campsite		\$30
Three Bears		
Primitive campsite	New	\$15
Double primitive campsite		\$30
Pine Creek		
Basic campsite	New	\$20
Aquila Vista		
Group camp	New	\$50 (up to 20 people)
Alder Glen		
Primitive campsite	\$10	\$15
Dovre		
Primitive campsite	\$10	\$15
Day-use shelter	New	\$50
Elk Bend		
Group camp	New	\$75 (up to 75 people)
Fan Creek		
Primitive campsite	\$10	\$15
Old Miner’s Meadow		
Group camp	\$40-50	\$100 (up to 50 people)
Yellowbottom		
Primitive campsite	\$10	\$15
Wildwood		
Basic campsite	New	\$20
Partial hook-up		\$26
Full hook-up		\$35
Yurt		\$45
Yurt with power		\$55
Cabin		\$65
Cabin with shared outdoor covered kitchen		\$80
Outdoor kitchen		\$45-60
Day-use shelter	\$95-240	\$300
Day-use shelter (Salmon River)	\$95-120	\$125
Group camp shelter	New	\$420 (up to 70 people)

Sharps Creek		
Basic campsite	\$8	\$20
Shotgun Creek		
Group shelter	\$85-300	\$150 (up to 100 people)
Whittaker Creek		
Basic campsite	\$10	\$20
Double basic campsite	New	\$40
All campgrounds		
Extra camping vehicle	\$5	\$5
Sanitary dump station	New	\$5

6.3. Fair Market Value Calculations

The following sections provide fair market value evaluations of each recreation site discussed in this business plan, as compared to similar public and private providers in the respective geographic and regional markets. This evaluation compares proposed fees and amenities provided at each site, including those required under FLREA as well as additional site features. Each site's information was collected through official websites and other publicly available resources. Data is current as of November 2020.

6.3.1. Alsea Falls

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities									
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments
Proposed fees for the Alsea Falls Recreation Sites																									
Alsea Falls	5	30	15	20							5														
Fall Creek Trailhead	5	30																							
USFS																									
Alder Dune	5	30		24							7														
Blackberry	6	30		24							7														
Canal Creek							125	140-200																	
Cape Perpetua	6	30		26				140			7														
Mary's Peak	5	30		12																					
River Edge	5	30																							
Rock Creek	6	30		16-18							55	7													
Sutton Lake	6	30		24	29		95-200	145			7														

6.3.2. Clay Creek

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities										
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Proposed fees for the Clay Creek Recreation Site																										
Clay Creek	5	30		20							75+	5		■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Amphitheater
BLM																										
Cavitt Creek Falls	5	30		20				75+				5	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■			Amphitheater, educational programs
Susan Creek				14									■	■				■	■	■			■			
Tyce				20									■				■	■	■	■			■			
USFS																										
Rock Creek	6	30		16-18								55	7	■	■			■	■	■				■		
Slide Creek	8			18									8	■	■			■					■			
Southshore	8	30		22									8	■	■			■					■			
Terwilliger Hot Springs	7/ person	66												■	■			■								
State																										
Jasper												50		■				■	■	■		■	■			
County																										
Armitage	5	40			45-49		X									■	■	■	■	■			■			Cable, Wi-Fi, laundry
Baker Bay	5	40		20-22									X		■	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	Marina
John Neal Memorial Park				26	26								125	7		■			■	■						

6.3.3. Fishermen's Bend

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities										
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Fishermen's Bend	5	30		20	31-36	65	125+	180+		110	5	RV dump: 5	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		Amphitheater, interpretive facility
USFS																										
Breitenbush	8	30		18							8		■	■				■								
Cove Creek	8	30		24				220			8		■				■	■	■	■			■			
Hoover	8	30		20			220				8		■	■			■	■	■	■			■			
Humbug	8	30		18							8		■	■				■	■							
Riverside	5	30		19							8		■	■					■							
Santiam Flats	8	30		18							8		■	■				■	■				■			
Southshore	8	30		22							8		■	■			■	■			■		■			
State																										
Cascadia	5			17			71+			50	7	Hiker/biker: 7	■					■	■		■		■			
Detroit Lake	5	30		19-22	28-41								■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■			Amphitheater, interpretive programs
Silver Falls	5	30		19-22	31-39	48-72	58-91	800		50-200			■		■		■		■				■	■		Youth camp facility
County																										
John Neal Memorial Park				26	26		250			125	7		■		■			■	■	■	■					

[illegible]

6.3.4. Little North Fork

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees									Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities											
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Proposed fees for the Little North Fork Recreation Sites																										
Canyon Creek	5	30												■				■	■	■						
Elkhorn	5	30		20							5		■	■				■	■	■				■		
USFS																										
Breitenbush	8	30		18							8		■	■				■								
Cove Creek	8	30		24				220			8		■		■			■	■	■				■		
Hoover	8	30		20			220				8		■	■	■			■	■	■				■		
Humbug	8	30		18							8		■	■	■			■	■	■				■		
Riverside	5	30		19							8		■	■												
Santiam Flats	8	30		18							8		■	■				■	■	■				■		
Southshore	8	30		22							8		■	■				■						■		
Whispering Falls	8	30		18							8		■	■					■							
State																										
Cascadia	5			17			71+				50		■		■			■	■	■				■		
Detroit Lake	5	30		19-22	28-41								■		■			■	■	■	■			■		Amphitheater, interpretive programs
Silver Falls	5	30		19-22	31-39	48-72	58-91	800			50-200		■		■			■		■				■	■	Youth camp facility
County																										

6.3.5. Molalla River

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities										
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Proposed fees for the Molalla River Corridor Recreation Sites																										
Aquila Vista							50+								■											
Cedar Grove			15								5			■	■			■	■				■			
Pine Creek				20							5			■	■			■					■			
Three Bears			15								5			■	■			■	■				■			
USFS																										
Armstrong	5	30		20-22							8		■	■				■					■			
Carter Bridge	5	30		17							8			■	■			■								
Lazy Bend	5	30		22-24							8			■	■			■					■			
State/ODF																										
Champoeg State Heritage Area	5	30		19-22	28-41	43-72	71-91	102-122		50-200			■		■		■	■	■				■	■	■	Amphitheater, visitor center, living history exhibit
Milo McIver	5	30	18-24		26-34		75-95			50		Hiker/ biker site: 8-10	■		■		■	■	■			■			Solar charging station, amphitheater, fish hatchery tours	
Silver Falls	5	30		19-22	31-39	48-72	58-91	800		50-200			■		■		■		■				■		Youth camp facility	
Butte Creek				20							5				■				■							
Shellburg Falls			15	20						50	5		■		■		■	■								
County																										

6.3.6. Nestucca River

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)		Additional amenities											
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Proposed fees for the Nestucca River Corridor Recreation Sites																										
Alder Glen			15								5															
Dovre			15							50+	5															
Elk Bend							75+																			
Fan Creek			15								5															
USFS																										
Castle Rock							75																			
Hebo Lake	5	30		18						50																
Rocky Bend							75																			
ODF																										
Browns Camp				20			50																			OHV staging area, OHV trail access
Gales Creek			15	20							5															
Jones Creek			15	20			50				5															
Nehalem Falls			15	20			50				5															
Reehers Camp			15	20							5															
County																										
Kilchis River	4	45	16-27				101		55		4-6	Hiker/ biker: 9; extra tent: 8-9; pet fee: 6; RV dump: 10														

[illegible]

6.3.7. Quartzville Creek

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities									
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments
Proposed fees for the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites																									
Old Miner's Meadow							100+							■											
Yellowbottom	5	30	15								5		■	■				■	■				■		
USFS																									
Fernview				18			150				5		■	■											
House Rock				18							5		■	■				■	■				■		
Lost Prairie				18			150				7		■	■				■							
Trout Creek				18							7		■	■					■	■					
Yukwah				18							7		■	■			■	■	■	■					
State																									
Cascadia	5			17			71+				50	7	Hiker/ biker: 7	■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■		
Detroit Lake	5	30		19- 22	28- 41								■		■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		Amphitheater, interpretive programs
Silver Falls	5	30		19- 22	31- 39	48- 72	58- 91	800						■	■		■		■				■		Youth camp facility
County																									
John Neal Memorial Park				26	26		250				125	7		■	■			■	■	■	■	■			
River Bend				26	32	70					7	RV dump: 5	■	■	■			■	■				■		

6.3.8. Sandy River Basin

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities										
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Proposed fees for the Sandy River Basin Recreation Sites																										
Marmot	5	30												■						■						
Sandy Ridge Trailhead	5	30												■					■							
Wildwood	5	30		22	26-35	45-80		420+		60-300	5	RV dump: 5	■		■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	Interpretive facility
USFS																										
Camp Creek	5	30		20-23							8		■	■				■	■				■			
Fish Creek	5	30		21							8		■	■				■	■				■			
Lost Creek	5	30	21-23	21-23		42					8		■	■				■		■			■			
Pine Point	5	30		22			66-120				8		■	■				■	■				■			
Spring Drive					31-33																					
Tollgate	5	30		22-24					41		8		■	■				■	■				■			Amphitheater, educational programs
Trillium Lake	10	30		22-45			65-90				8		■	■				■	■				■			
State																										
Ainsworth	5	30		17-22	26-34						7		■		■			■		■			■	■	■	Amphitheater

6.3.9. Sharps Creek

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities										
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Proposed fees for the Sharps Creek Recreation Site																										
Sharps Creek	5	30	20								5															
BLM																										
Cavitt Creek Falls	5	30	20					75+			5															
Millpond			14								130															
Susan Creek			14																							Amphitheater, educational programs
Tyee			20																							
USFS/USACE																										
Alder Dune	5	30	24								7															
Blackberry	6	30	24								7															
Cape Perpetua	6	30	26					140			7															
Mary's Peak	5	30	12																							
Rock Creek	6	30	16-18								55															
Tillicum	6	30	26	33							7															
Schwartz Park			20			150																				Educational programs
State																										
Cascadia	5		17			71+					50															

6.3.10. Shotgun Creek

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities										
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments	
Proposed fees for the Shotgun Creek Recreation Site																										
Shotgun Creek	5/15/25	30																								
BLM																										
Millpond				14																						
Tyce				20																						
USFS																										
Echo East Fork	5																									
Slide Creek	8			18			33																			
Terwilliger Hot Springs	7/ person	66																								
County																										
Armitage	5	40			45-49		X		X																	Cable, Wi-Fi, laundry
Baker Bay	5	40		20-22						X																Marina
Hendricks Bridge	5	40								X																
Richardson Park	5	40	20	30-33																						Marina, Wi-Fi, amphitheater

6.3.11. Whittaker Creek

Recreation site	Standard Amenity fees		Expanded Amenity fees										Expanded amenities (FLREA)			Additional amenities									
	Fee per vehicle	Annual day-use pass	Primitive	Basic	Partial/full hook-up	Cabin/yurt	Group camp - no shelter	Group camp - shelter	Group day-use - no shelter	Group day-use - shelter	Extra vehicle	Other fees	Drinking water	Vault toilets	Flush toilets	Boat ramp/fishing platform	Showers/changing room	Water access	Non-motorized trail access	Picnic sites	Playgrounds/play areas	Sports facilities	Camp/site host	RV dump station	Other developments
Whittaker Creek	5	30		20							5		■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		Educational programs
Proposed fees for the Whittaker Creek Recreation Site																									
BLM																									
Cavitt Creek Falls	5	30		20				75+			5		■	■			■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
Millpond				14						130			■	■				■	■	■	■	■	■		
Susan Creek				14									■	■				■	■	■			■		Amphitheater, educational programs
Tyee				20									■	■	■		■	■	■	■			■		
USFS/USACE																									
Alder Dune	5	30		24							7		■	■				■	■	■	■		■		
Blackberry	6	30		24							7		■	■		■		■			■		■		
Cape Perpetua	6	30		26				140			7		■	■	■			■	■	■			■		
Mary's Peak	5	30		12										■											
Rock Creek	6	30		16-18						55	7		■	■				■	■				■		
Tillicum	6	30		26	33						7		■	■				■	■				■		
Schwartz Park				20			150						■	■			■	■	■	■	■		■	■	Educational programs
State																									
Cascadia	5			17			71+			50	7	Hiker/biker: 7	■		■			■	■		■		■		

[illegible]

6.3.12. Annual Recreation Passes

Pass	Agency	Fee	Pass Duration (Months)	Pass Description
BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass	BLM	\$30 or 12 hours of volunteer service	12	Would be honored at all Standard Amenity fee sites within the Northwest Oregon District with the following exception: Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area
America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass	Federal land management agencies	Free/\$20/\$80 (depending on pass)	12 months to lifetime (depending on pass)	Honored at all federal lands across the United States Includes Volunteer, Access, Senior, Military, and Every Kid Outdoors pass types
Northwest Forest Pass	USFS	\$30	12	Honored at Oregon and Washington USFS fee sites Does not cover “sno-parks” or concessionaire fees
Oregon Sno-Park	USFS, OR	\$25	6	Honored at Oregon “sno-park” locations from November 1 through April 30
Oregon State Annual Parking Permit	OR	\$30	12	Honored at Oregon State Parks Does not cover “sno-park” locations
Oregon Pacific Coast Passport	USFS, NPS, BLM, OR	\$35	12	Honored at all listed agency day-use areas along the Oregon Coast

6.4. Public Comment Matrix

Comment ID	Public Comment (2017)	BLM Response
1.1	“Public facilities of all kinds need appropriate maintenance and occasional upgrading to provide a safe and enjoyable experience for those citizens who use them. Tax revenues may provide a base of funding for BLM properties from the federal level, but demand increases at a faster rate than those resources ever will, given the gridlock in our Congress. I believe that user fees are a perfectly appropriate source of funding for maintenance and improvement of public facilities.”	Comment noted.
1.2	“RE: the provision for people to provide volunteer service in exchange for an annual pass. a. This assures that people who are financially challenged have an alternate way of obtaining the pass. b. It also provides the opportunity for greater public awareness of the challenges faced by public employees and budgets in maintaining these facilities.”	
1.3	“I think the proposed fee structure is fair.”	
1.4	“RE: enforcement of the fees: a. Since there are already fees for use of many of these facilities, I assume there is already a structure for enforcement of any new fees. b. I assume that the current proposal would not result in any increased enforcement costs assuring that the increases would go wholly to maintenance and upgrading of facilities.”	Existing facilities and staff would be sufficient and applied at existing fee sites. Fee tubes would be installed at new fee locations, serviced by current staff already maintaining these sites.
1.5	“I live in a resort community at the coast near the Nestucca River Corridor and have spent several years enjoying access to many public lands... USFS, BLM, State and County. I find that many people who visit our area are appreciative of the beauty of the coastal environment and use it appropriately, leaving virtually no trace of their time spent in a natural environment. However, an increasing number of people using our public lands show an incredible disrespect for the very environment they came to enjoy. The vandalism and trash left in their wake costs all taxpayers more money each year to remedy. This is very sad, but it is a reality that public stewards of the land must contend with so I support the proposals you have outlined, at least as far as I understand them from the article in the Tillamook County Pioneer.”	Comment noted.

2.1	<p>“I feel the campsite fee increase is unreasonable, camping needs to remain affordable for all Oregonians, \$70 per night increases adds up to too much for too many families.”</p>	<p>A fair market analysis was used to set the proposed fee structure, which ranges between \$15-31 per night for most camping services.</p>
3.1	<p>“I have a simple but very important suggestion. I know I’m not the only one in this situation. I lost 30 years of retirement in an illegal company-claimed bankruptcy. I claimed Social Security on the earliest qualifying date because the government told me it was going dry. I’m now retiring at 72 years of age and I just cannot physically work any more (maybe mentally as well). I have some savings and a small pension I acquired in the last few years. All of my wife’s and my dreams are going down the drain if the trend is “jack the prices” for seniors. We are trading our home for a ½ ton pick-up and a 26’ RV trailer that will be our home to the end. We hoped to travel in our beautiful country. Can you just consider not raising the cost to the senior/retired population?”</p>	<p>The BLM accepts federal interagency Senior Passes, which are available for \$20 for individuals over the age of 62. This pass provides free entrance into Standard Amenity fee sites, and a 50 percent discount on individual campsite fees.</p>
4.1	<p>“I will never understand why this country cannot use the work from its campers. Since we use those facilities to camp, it should be our responsibility to have a job to do to maintain these BLM campgrounds. Each and every one of us should be handed out a small chore to do like pick up trash, cleaning bathrooms, helping with any chore that is needed. Surely there are those who even have tools to help with maintenance. The National Parks should do the same. Everyone should help out. We can offer our services to help out with what is needed to maintain our campgrounds since there is so little money that is given to our precious land.”</p>	<p>Comment noted. Formal volunteer services would be rewarded with the proposed BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass.</p>
5.1	<p>“BLM sites ought to be included on the Northwest Forest Pass. I strongly urge the BLM and Forest Service (and other agencies, such as the Bureau of Reclamation) to collaborate on combining all federal sites on one pass.”</p>	<p>The America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass series covers entrance, Standard Amenity, and day-use fees at sites managed by the BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.</p>
5.2	<p>“Provide kiosks that accept credit/debit card payments for fees.”</p>	<p>Two of our sites, Wildwood and Fishermen’s Bend, have electronic fee stations that accept credit/debit cards. Similar kiosks may be installed at other sites as available. Additionally, many sites may be reserved and paid for online at Recreation.gov.</p>

6.1	“I think the fee increase is okay and I really like the annual pass = \$30.00.”	Comment noted.
7.1	“I’m most interested in the access upgrade to some of the day use and camping areas because I have traveled quite a distance only to be turned away due to parking and ratio to fire hazard situations. I also witnessed a major injury at three pools and due to no phone service someone had to drive for miles out to the entrance to get service to call 911.”	Most of our recreation sites are far from services. Fee revenues may be used for installing safety systems such as phone booster antennas that can help in emergency situations.
Comment ID	Public Comment (2021)	BLM Response
8.1	“I am disappointed that Horton Pond/Camping (Hult Lake) and the Rockslides (Lower Lake Creek Falls), which are both in the Siuslaw District, were omitted from the list. Both of these locations are very popular destinations in the hot summer months. The Rockslides parking lot is too small and people park on the side of Hwy 36 or have to walk a long distance. Horton Pond is a nice quiet lake to fish and camp along, but there is no power. Neither recreation spot has a camp host to help keep the place clean and trash is constantly strewn around the area. Having fees implemented at both locations could help pay for improvements to both locations and fund staffing. Please consider including these two destinations to your list of improved recreation areas.”	Comment noted. Additional recreation sites may be proposed and developed as new fee sites through future planning processes.
9.1	“We don't want improvements at our natural sites. We want them natural. That's why we go there. Leave the primitive sites alone. We don't need fancy campsites. That defeats the whole purpose of going to the wilderness. The land is ours. We shouldn't have to pay to go there and visit. And I won't. We need less government in our wilderness, not more.”	The overwhelming majority of public lands within the Northwest Oregon District are undeveloped and free for dispersed camping and other recreation opportunities. No recreation fee sites are proposed in designated wilderness.
10.1	“As per the topic of increasing the Day Use and Campground fees, I do not have any significant objection to doing so. I do fully understand the need to increase fee's considering the significant influx of population and the use of said facilities. I am not fond of the cost increases for such area sites, but there is the reality of the cost of operation considering the level of services provided and the activity of users (both good and bad activities...) that impacts all of us. What I would object to is such a significant cost increase to campgrounds in the remote areas that I occupy/patronize throughout eastern Oregon.”	Comment noted.

10.2	<p>“PLEASE, DO NOT EVER contract out to any concessionaire ANY operation of any of the BLM Day Use or Campground facilities! If you have to make additional rate increases for the BLM to maintain control and operation of said properties then do so. If there is ever any consideration of contracting out, I will put forth the biggest, most outspoken, and fact-filled objection and protest displaying to the public the “extortion” of taxpayer owned public land by a private company/Corp making money off of it.”</p>	<p>The Northwest Oregon District does utilize contractors for some recreation site services, such as bathroom cleaning. However, this business plan does not propose the use of concessionaires for primary recreation site operations or administration.</p>
11.1	<p>“I support all of the proposed increases as I believe they are reasonable and necessary. I think fees should definitely be even higher for OHV-use areas given the additional disturbances to the environment, wildlife and air quality caused by OHV use (in comparison to simply hiking or typical day use).”</p>	<p>This business plan does not include OHV-use areas as proposed fee sites. New recreation fee sites may be proposed and developed through future planning processes.</p>
11.2	<p>“I wish the BLM would consider an on-demand fee structure for day-use. This is similar to movie theaters, which charge more for movies during some prime times (Fridays and weekends) and lower prices at others (midweek). I think it would behoove the BLM to have higher fees on weekends than during the week, and higher fees during the warmer weather and lower fees during less desirable times. I think the price of annual passes would need to be adjusted up as some might use annual passes only during peak times.”</p>	<p>Comment noted. The existing fee structure does incorporate variable pricing based on the day of the week at some recreation sites. This approach is not included into the proposed fee structure.</p>
12.1	<p>“Beautiful timing!! Homes were destroyed...jobs lost...many are living homeless...have little food...can't afford rent or house payment let alone a car payment and you want to increase the one and only thing available to them.....this is sad.. Maybe do it on an ability to pay scale...”</p>	<p>This business plan only discusses existing and proposed recreation fee sites, but the Northwest Oregon District also provides and maintains a variety of non-fee recreation sites. Free dispersed camping and recreation opportunities are also widely available on these public lands.</p> <p>Additionally, the proposed annual pass could be obtained through volunteer services with no financial expense.</p>
13.1	<p>“For people who are poor, being able to go onto public lands is sometimes the only place they can go. My family and I are very poor, and when we grew up here in Oregon we went to the places that didn't have fees. When areas become fee areas, we stopped going there. I think you are really discriminating against the poor. Even now, at this point, I can't go to any place that charges a fee. You're just limiting those experiences for the poor.”</p>	
14.1	<p>“I get having to use the money for a well-directed purpose of keeping everything up and neat and protected but is this really the time to increase things when the only thing that people can do is go to places like this isolated so that they can still feel freedom and not have to be some people can't afford this”</p>	

15.1	<p>“I’m wondering if a portion of the new fees will go towards monitoring campers who leave mounds of trash at campgrounds and illegal campsites? I’m dismayed at the amount of trash including everything from dirty diapers liquor bottles that people just dump when they leave. Is there a way to monitor these people and fine them or prevent them from camping in the future?”</p>	<p>As referenced in sections 4.5 and 4.6, additional recreation fee revenues may be used for increased patrols for visitor safety, property protection, and permit compliance.</p>
16.1	<p>“Absolutely not. Leave it as it is. The taxpayers already own the land. Once the bureaucrats start increasing the fees it will not end until the common man is priced out of the market. Look no further than Oregon fishing licenses and salmon steelhead tags. It used to be something everybody could afford to do, but no more.”</p>	<p>In accordance with FLREA, the Northwest Oregon District is proposing a fee structure that is commensurate with the benefits and services provided; comparable to fees charged by similar providers; and balanced and affordable for all members of the public.</p>
17.1	<p>“I am against camp site fee hikes. It takes a lot of gas to get my trailer to the destination. 36 bucks a night is terrible. And it’s even higher in other places. I’m ready to sell my Airstream and just pay a night at a motel.”</p>	<p>A fair market analysis was used to set the proposed fee structure, which ranges between \$15-31 per night for most camping services. Free dispersed camping and other recreation opportunities are also widely available on these public lands.</p>
18.1	<p>“I think these proposed fees that are going in are way too high. If a family wants to just go walk, I don’t think you should raise them any more. They’re plenty high already for a family. Way too expensive, it’s a travesty. People pay taxes, they shouldn’t have to pay at all.”</p>	<p>The campgrounds and recreation sites discussed in this business plan are operated by the Bureau of Land Management, which is entirely separate from those operated by the state of Oregon and other service providers.</p>
19.1	<p>“So you are basically making camping for the rich only.”</p>	
20.1	<p>“We were forced out of our state campground west of Medford in March with 16 hours’ notice. We didn’t need water, sewer or electric. I explained to the ranger that we only needed a spot to park. He graciously explained that this was by the governor’s order. And later I heard that she raised the camping price rate for those from out of state.”</p>	
21.1	<p>“I sincerely hope BLM intends to recognize the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass already purchased by so many Americans, especially used by retirees and seniors. Other Federal land management agencies properly allow use of this pass. BLM managed public lands should too!”</p>	<p>The BLM has and will continue to honor the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass series, including the Golden Age Passport and other subsets. This business plan would not modify that pass series or its applicability.</p>
22.1	<p>“Will this eliminate the Golden Age Passport admission as it currently operates?”</p>	
22.2	<p>“Will you be competing with the adjacent Mt. Hood village?”</p>	<p>BLM recreation sites are developed and maintained to enhance opportunities for the visiting public and surrounding communities.</p>

23.1	“I am in support of the proposed fee changes and increases for BLM recreation sites. I am very happy with the annual pass option, including the ability to complete volunteer hours in lieu of paying the fee.”	Comment noted.
24.1	“I am absolutely totally in favor of the fee increases. Just wanted to let you know.”	
25.1	“I am in favor of the fee increase. Especially if it means a longer season.”	
26.1	“I have been camping, hiking and volunteering in parks and campgrounds in Oregon for fifty years. I was active in Boy Scouts for 30 years camping in the area, I have been active as a Leave No Trace master educator for 20 years and have volunteered for 9 years with Oregon State Parks in the area. In the Northwest Oregon district, I have camped many times at Fishermen’s Bend. My wife and I began camping on vacations because that was the only vacation we could afford when we were first married.	
	<p>My comments:</p> <p>In section 4.2.3. Standard Amenity – BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass, I am pleased to see that the plan is to offer the annual pass at no charge in exchange for 12 hours of volunteering. This gives users a way to keep their own costs down as well as encourages volunteering in BLM sites.</p> <p>In section 4.2.4 Expanded Amenity – Fee Updates, the fees seem reasonable for the most part. I think the day use group sites are priced too high, but I see in section 6.3 that you have done a price analysis that looks reasonable and well thought out.</p> <p>In section 6.4. Public Comment Matrix, I am in particular agreement with public comment 1.2 and the BLM response to comment 3.1.</p> <p>In summary, I support your proposal.”</p>	

6.5. Letters of Support



teamdirt

January 29, 2020

Bureau of Land Management, Northwest Oregon District
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem, OR 97306

Dear David Moore,

Team Dirt, a Chapter of the International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA), is writing in support of the draft fee proposal for the Northwest Oregon District described in the Northwest Oregon District Recreation Site Business Plan. This plan includes a proposed new fee structure for several sites, including the Alsea Falls mountain bike trailhead. Fall Creek is the primary access point for this a regionally and nationally popular trail system that was partially constructed and is maintained exclusively by Team Dirt. Currently, Fall Creek is a fee-free site.

The Team Dirt Board has reviewed the plan which proposes fees of \$5 (car), \$10 (van), \$20 (bus), or an annual pass for \$30. While we ultimately hope for a fee-free structure in the future - ensuring access and equity for all who are able to get to the trailhead - we understand and appreciate the current need for financial support. We also strongly support the BLM's commitment to follow the Recreation Enhancement Act's requirement that fees collected at a particular site must be used at that site.

As an organization that facilitates stewardship through regularly scheduled volunteer trail build days, we commend the District's proposal to "honor those volunteering at least 12 hours within a 12-month period with a free BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass." We look forward to communicating this to our Fall Creek volunteers and working with the BLM to establish this volunteer tracking process.

Thank you for your outreach and on-going partnership.

Jenna Berman
Board Chair
Team Dirt, a Chapter of IMBA

Team Dirt, a Chapter of IMBA • 922 NW Circle Blvd., Ste. 160, Corvallis OR 97330

WEBSITE: teamdirt.org

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this letter as the president of the Disciples of Dirt Mountain Bike Club (DOD) regarding the BLM Northwest Oregon District's proposed Recreation Site Business Plan.

DOD has been involved with building, renovating and maintaining trails at Carpenter Bypass Trail System for many years. In the past few years, we have noticed the increasing trend in recreation use at this site and on public lands in general. We recognize and support user fees as a reasonable approach to funding the increasing need for visitor services.

We note that Carpenter Bypass is not listed for user fees in the Business Plan. It is our understanding that visitor services at Carpenter Bypass do not currently meet criteria for Standard Amenity Rec Fees and that extensive opportunities for parking in undesignated roadside areas make equitable fee administration difficult. Nevertheless, we request that BLM continue to fund visitor services at Carpenter Bypass in order to maintain sanitary public facilities.

We are pleased that BLM intends to promote public service and recognize volunteers with a free BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass. DOD maintains records of volunteer efforts and is willing to provide BLM with a list of eligible participants.

Sincerely,



Lee Wilkinson, President

Disciples of Dirt Mountain Bike Club



January 24, 2021

Bureau Of Land Management, Northwest Oregon District
1717 Fabry Road SE
Salem OR 97306

Dear David Moore,

On behalf of the Northwest Trail Alliance's (NWTa) Board of Directors and its members, I would like to express our support of the draft fee proposal for the Northwest Oregon District described in the Northwest Oregon District Recreation Site Business Plan. This plan includes a proposed new fee structure for several sites, including the recreation site at Sandy Ridge's trailhead. The trailhead at Sandy Ridge is the primary access point for a popular trail system that was constructed in our partnership with the BLM & International Mountain Bike Association (IMBA) and is maintained largely by Northwest Trail Alliance. Currently, Sandy Ridge is a fee-free site.

The leadership team at NWTa has reviewed the plan which proposes fees of \$5 (car), \$10 (van), \$20 (bus), or an annual pass for \$30. While we ultimately hope for a fee-free structure in the future - ensuring access for all who are able to get to the trailhead - we understand and appreciate the current need for financial support. We also strongly support the BLM's commitment to follow the Recreation Enhancement Act's requirement that fees collected at a particular site must be used at that site.

As the Portland Metro area grows, so does the popularity of the sport of mountain biking in our area. While there are many great places to ride our bikes in this region, the trails at Sandy Ridge stand out due to its unique technical challenges and location close to Portland. Very few mountain bike trails provide such a challenge to advanced and expert riders in the greater metro region.

However, we understand that popular trails take work to guarantee the preservation and continued access to these riding opportunities. NWTa recognizes that maintaining trail assets on public land where user demand can far outpace agency resources is particularly difficult. As an organization that facilitates stewardship through regularly scheduled volunteer trail build days, we commend the District's proposal to "honor those volunteering at least 12 hours within a 12-month period with a free BLM Northwest Oregon Recreation Pass." We look forward to communicating this to our Sandy Ridge volunteers and working with the BLM to establish this volunteer tracking process. Thank you for the outreach and opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Juntu Oberg". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Juntu Oberg
President

Northwest Trail Alliance, P.O. Box 1846, Portland, OR 97207-1846
www.nw-trail.org | info@nw-trail.org