

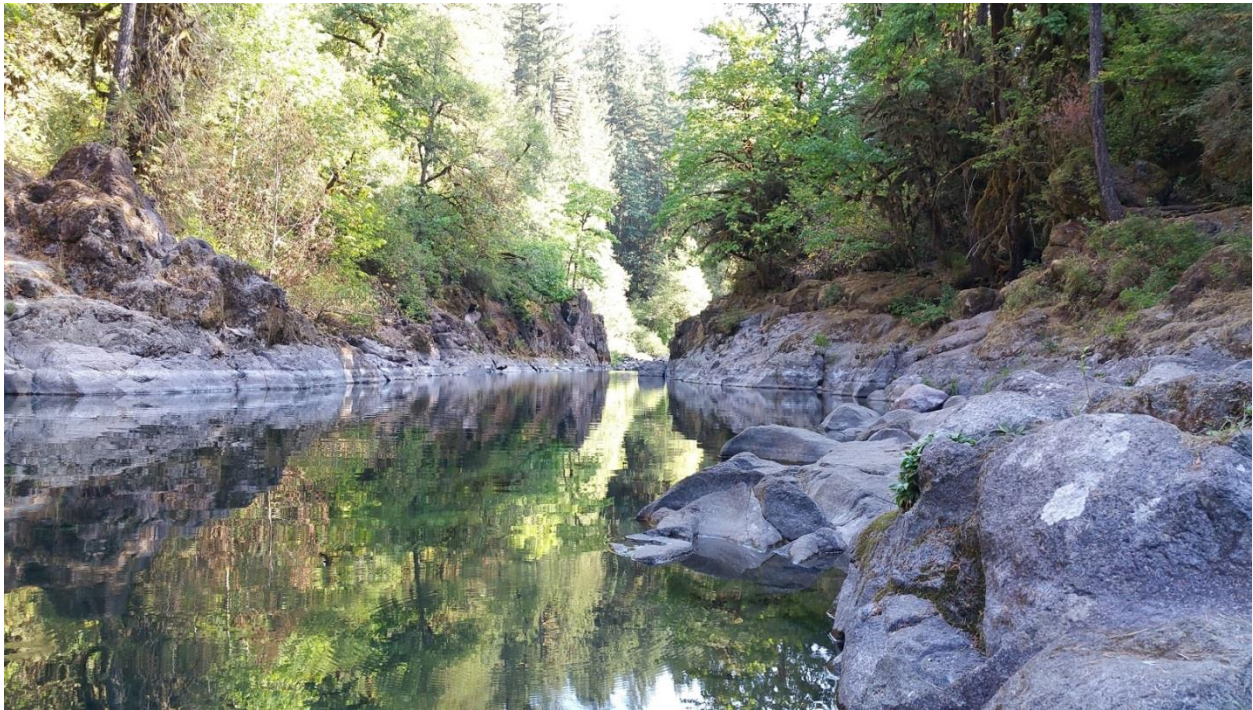
August 2017



**Bureau of Land Management  
Northwest Oregon District Office**

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# **Little North Fork Recreation Sites Business Plan**



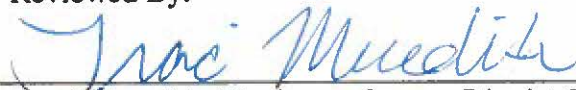
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**Signatures for Approving Business Plan**

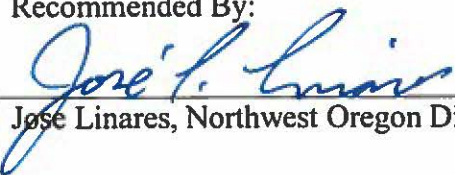
Reviewed By:



Traci Meredith, Northwest Oregon District Supervisory Recreation Planner

8/23/17  
Date

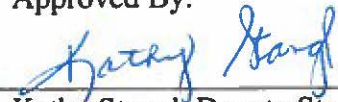
Recommended By:



Jose Linares, Northwest Oregon District Manager

8/23/17  
Date

Approved By:



Kathy Stangl, Deputy State Director for Resources

8/28/17  
Date

## **Executive Summary**

This business plan was prepared pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) of December 2004 (P.L. 108-447, as amended), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreation fee program policy and manual direction. REA provides the BLM current authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreational lands and waters. Section 804 of REA addresses the minimum public outreach requirements that an agency must consider when developing or changing recreation fees. This outreach process includes the involvement of a Resource Advisory Council (RAC). RACs provide recommendations to agency officials on matters including, but not limited to:

- **Implementing or eliminating fees;**
- **Expanding or limiting the recreation fee program; and**
- **Implementing fee level changes.**

The fee analysis portion of this business plan was based on a comparative review of fees charged elsewhere and by other public agencies within the geographic area of the **Little North Fork Recreation Sites** that provide similar services. Based on the comparative fee analysis, this business plan proposes to revise the camping and keep the day-use fee as is for the Little North Fork Recreation Sites.

**The Little North Fork Recreation Sites** are located in Marion County roughly 32 miles east of Salem near Mehama, Oregon. The recreation sites are within Oregon's 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The Little North Fork Recreation Sites are off the North Fork Road on the banks of the Little North Fork of the Santiam River in the forested foothills of the Cascade Mountains west of the Forest Service Opal Creek Wilderness Area. The Little North Fork Recreation Sites include Elkhorn Valley Campground and Canyon Creek Day-use Area. Several agencies including Marion County, US Forest Service, private timber companies, non-profit organizations, and the BLM work cooperatively to manage recreation within the area.

The recreation sites include several picnic units, and 23 Basic Campsites. Amenities include paved or surfaced access and parking, picnic tables, barbecues and fire pits, potable water, interpretive or informational kiosks, garbage cans, and toilet facilities.

Fee revenue for the recreation sites has historically been generated from day-use fees, camping fees, extra vehicle parking, and annual day-use passes. The following fee schedule outlines the existing and proposed changes for recreation fees at the Little North Fork Recreation Sites. Detailed discussion on this fee proposal occurs in the body of this business plan.

**Table 1: Existing Fees and Proposed Fee Changes**

<b>Standard Amenity</b>	<b>Existing Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Day-Use	\$5	\$5
Annual Day-Use Pass <sup>1</sup>	\$25	\$30
<b>Expanded Amenity</b>	<b>Existing Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>
Extra Vehicle Fee	\$5	\$5
Basic Campsite	\$14	\$20

## **Introduction**

### **Regulatory Framework**

This business plan was prepared pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) of December 2004 (P.L. 108-447, as amended), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreation fee program policy and manual (Manual 2930 – Recreation Permits and Fees) and handbook (H-2930-1 Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook). REA provides the BLM current authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreational lands and waters. REA authorizes the BLM to locally retain collected recreation fees and outlines how revenues may be used for such things as facility repair, maintenance, facility enhancement directly related to public use, and operating or capital costs associated with the Recreation and Visitor Services program.

Under REA, a Standard Amenity fee and an Expanded Amenity fee may be charged for the use of certain facilities or services, which include developed day-use sites and campgrounds. The developed recreational sites must meet the criteria that are defined below. These fees are usually implemented through the issuance of a recreation use permit (RUP), or through a specific annual pass. BLM policy requires that revenue from RUPs be deposited into a separate account (pg. 2-3 of H-2930-1). Doing so allows the BLM to more readily track and report collections; and ensures that RUP revenue is spent at or near the site of collection. This business plan and these fee sites are associated with the **Fishermen’s Bend Fee Project Area**.

Definitions of Standard and Expanded Amenities taken from Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) of December 2004 (P.L. 108-447, as amended), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreation fee program policy and manual (Manual 2930 – Recreation Permits and Fees) for the area covered under this business plan:

- **Standard Amenity Recreation Fees** cover outdoor recreation areas that provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation; has substantial Federal investments; where fees can be effectively collected, and that has 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 (Sec. 803.(f)(4)(D) of REA).

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<sup>1</sup> The proposed revision of the annual day-use pass is covered in a separate business plan for the Northwest Oregon BLM Pass which is designed to cover multiple recreation sites, but is shown for informational purposes only as one of the fee types for the Little North Fork Recreation Sites.

- **Expanded Amenity Recreation Fees** cover specialized outdoor 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 (Sec. 803.(g)(2)(A) of REA).
- **Additional Expanded Amenity** recreation facilities or services include rental of cabins, group day-use or overnight sites, binoculars or other equipment (Sec.803.(g)(2)(C) of REA); use of hookups for electricity, cable, or sewer (Sec.803.(g)(2)(D) of REA); use of sanitary dump stations (SEC.803.(g)(2)(E) of REA); and use of reservation services (Sec.803.(g)(2)(G) of REA).

### **Purpose of Document**

The BLM Handbook H-2930-1, Recreation Permits 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 REA. 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 and marketing 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 finalized business plan guides the expenditure of collected REA funds and insures public accountability.

The business plan will specifically cover a description of the fee site, 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 Federal Business Management System (FBMS), Recreation Management Information System (RMIS), Collections and Billing Systems (CBS), and other locally generated recreation and visitor use tracking spreadsheets. For additional detailed information, contact the BLM Northwest Oregon District. Much of the data is open and available, but associated personally identifiable information contained in these systems may be subject to Privacy Act requirements.

### **Prohibitions on Charging REA Fees**

Section 803(d) of the REA provides that standard or expanded amenity recreation fees shall not be charged for (shortened list): solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trailsides, general access, low investment sites or areas, 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), use of overlooks or scenic pullouts, any person engaged in the conduct of official Federal, State, Tribal, or local government business, special attention or extra services necessary to meet the needs of

the disabled, any person under 16 years of age, outings conducted for noncommercial educational purposes by schools or bona fide academic institutions, and others.

## **Fee Discounts**

Section 805 of the REA provided for the establishment of a single interagency national pass known as the “America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass,” which provides the bearer full coverage of standard amenity fees and holders of the Interagency Senior and Access Passes 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. No discount is allowed for expanded amenity group use sites, shelters, yurts or cabins. The Northwest Oregon District Pass provides only provides the bearer full coverage for standard amenity fees, with no discounts for expanded amenity fees. It is not expected that the total use from passes would make a substantial impact on fee revenue for the Little North Fork Recreation Sites in the near future.

## **Background**

### **Fee Site Description**

**The Little North Fork Recreation Area** is located in Marion County roughly 32 miles east of Salem near Mehama, Oregon. The recreation area is within Oregon’s 5<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. The Little North Fork Recreation Area is off the North Fork Road on the banks of the Little North Fork of the Santiam River in the forested foothills of the Cascade Mountains west of the



Forest Service Opal Creek Wilderness Area. Several agencies including Marion County, US Forest Service, private timber companies, non-profit organizations, and the BLM work cooperatively to manage recreation within the area.



**Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site** is a 78-acre developed camping and day-use recreation facility established by the Bureau of Land Management in 1962; the site encompasses undeveloped and developed areas including individual campsites, picnic sites, swimming and wading areas, and a diverse example of Cascade foothill forest structure that provides an

ideal aesthetic setting for people to enjoy. Amenities available include an extensive pump and gravity fed potable water system, individual fire rings and grills, toilets, garbage service, trails, and a camp host. Visitors pay a standard amenity fee of \$5 for day use at the site. This business plan would increase the expanded amenity fees for use of 23 first come-first served Basic Campsites.

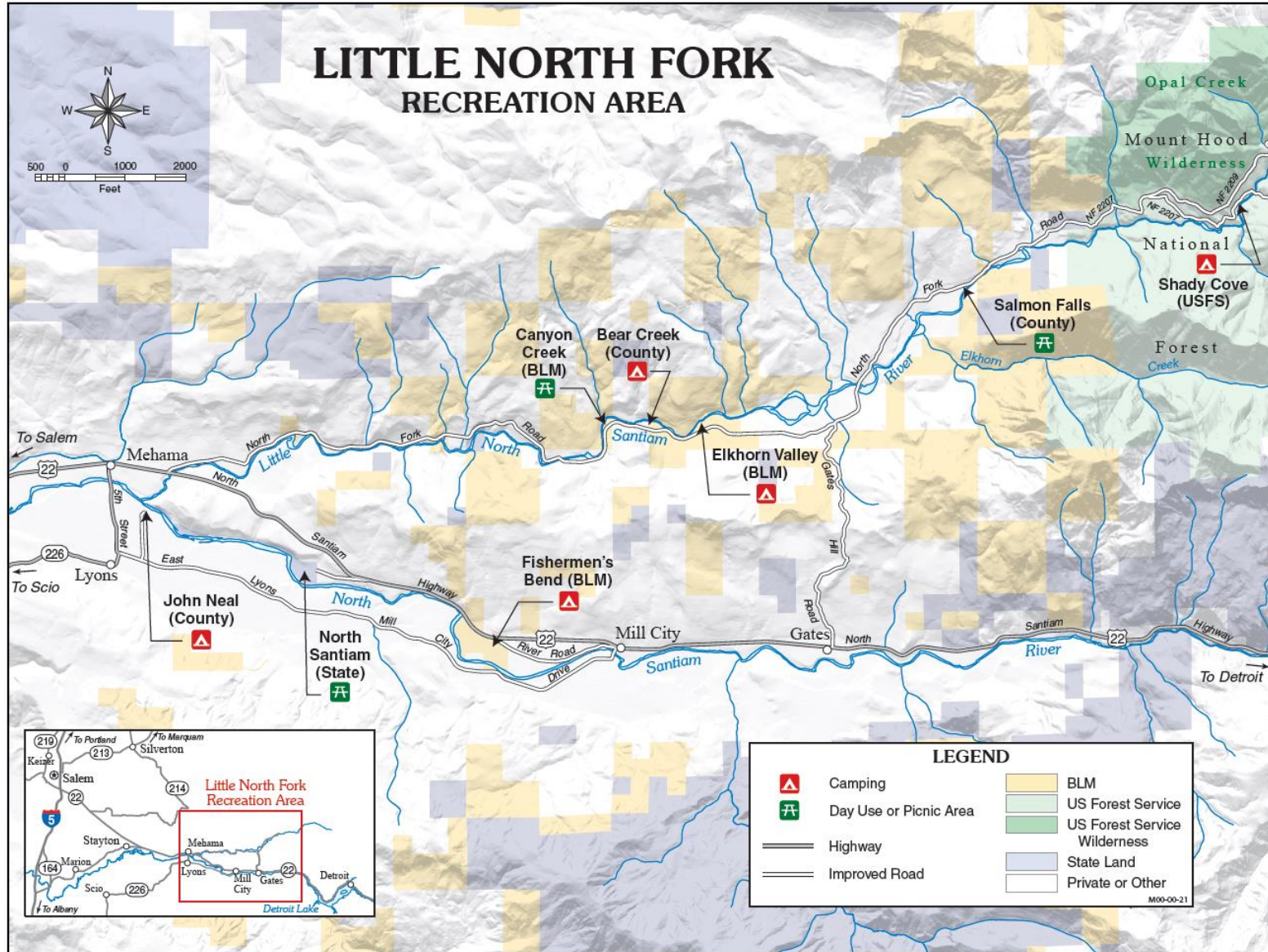
**Canyon Creek Recreation Site** is an approximately 5-acre developed day-use site established by the Bureau of Land Management in 1963. Visitors pay a standard amenity fee of \$5 for day use at the site. The site encompasses undeveloped and developed areas including picnic sites, walking and hiking trails, swimming and wading areas, and a diverse example of Cascade foothill forest structure that provides an ideal aesthetic setting people enjoy. The site provides trash services, picnic tables, barbecue grills, potable water, restroom facilities, designated parking and improved site access.



### **Season of Use**

Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site is normally open to day-use and camping from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend, with the option to extend or shorten the season based on demand and budget. During the winter season, vehicular traffic is blocked by a gate but the site is still open to entry by pedestrians and bicyclists for day-use with no fee. Canyon Creek Recreation Site is open to day-use annually from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with the option to expand or retract the season based on user demand and budget. During the winter season, vehicular traffic is restricted by a gate, while the site is open to pedestrians, bicyclists, and hikers for day-use.

**Figure 1: Map of Recreation Sites**





## Recreation Use

Visitation at the **Little North Fork Recreation Sites** is recorded annually in the BLM’s Recreation Management Information Systems (RMIS) data base. The use at a specific site is captured as “visits” which equates to one person entering onto lands or waters, administered by the BLM for pursuit of recreational experiences. The applicable rule is that one entrance per individual per day to public lands is reportable as a visit. Visitation in RMIS also follows the federal fiscal year (FY) cycle that begins on October 1, and runs through September 30 of the following year. Calculating or estimating visitor use is derived through several methods including tallying the information from recreation use permits (fee envelopes and passes), traffic counters, trail counters, and through simple observation. In most cases, the number of visits is a combination of these methods. The following table captures the visits at the sites within the Little North Fork Recreation Sites.

**Table 2: Annual Visitation**

Site	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Elkhorn Valley	6,854	7,297	7,080	7,252	7,264
Canyon Creek	4,476	4,445	4,464	5,892	5,756
Total	11,330	11,742	11,544	13,144	13,020

There was just over 13,000 visitors to the BLM-managed the Little North Fork Santiam Recreation Sites, and visitation rates have historically been steady. Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site had approximately 7,264 visitors in 2016, with the majority of visitors using the site for overnight camping. The highest season of use occurs from July through August with a near equal distribution of visitors using Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site for camping (5,811) and Canyon Creek Recreation Site is exclusively for day-use (5,756), the remaining visitation is day-use (1,453) to Elkhorn Valley Recreation Site.

Primary users of this recreation site include people from nearby areas such as Salem and Stayton, as well as those traveling from the Portland area. Remaining demographic user types are those from the surrounding local towns, and a few from outlying rural areas.

The primary differences between this user group and those using nearby Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site is the age demographic and desired amenity level. Because of the relative impression of remoteness at the site, the users tend to expect less in the way of amenities such as electricity and cell phone service.

## Fee Revenue

Table 3 displays the annual amounts collected at The Little North Fork Recreation Sites since 2014.

**Table 3: Annual Fee Collection and 3-Year Average**

Site	FY14	FY15	FY16	3-Year Average
Elkhorn Valley	\$20,795	\$24,277	\$25,667	\$23,580
Canyon Creek	\$5,805	\$7,537	\$4,293	\$5,878
Total	\$26,600	\$31,814	\$29,960	\$29,248

## Fee Collection and Enforcement

All vehicles entering **Elkhorn Valley Campgrounds and Canyon Creek Day-use Area** are required to pay for a recreation use permit for overnight camping (expanded amenity fee) or day-use (standard amenity fee). Visitors can purchase the recreation use permits at self-service fee stations located near the entrances. All passes must be displayed either on the campsite post or within view from the vehicle's front window. The BLM is considering placing some or all of the campsites on the National Recreation Reservation System.

The Little North Fork Recreation Sites fees are enforceable through the presence of onsite hosts that monitors the sites and a rotation of BLM employees that patrol the sites. If problems arise, the host contacts BLM staff or law enforcement in the Northwest Oregon District, Salem Office. Marion County Law Enforcement Officers patrol the area and are available to assist as well.

School groups and educational organizations can arrange free vehicle access at any time of the year for educational activities by contacting the BLM and providing a curriculum of their planned educational activities (see Prohibitions on Charging REA Fees). Other recreational events must be held under a special recreation use permit issued by the Northwest Oregon District Office.

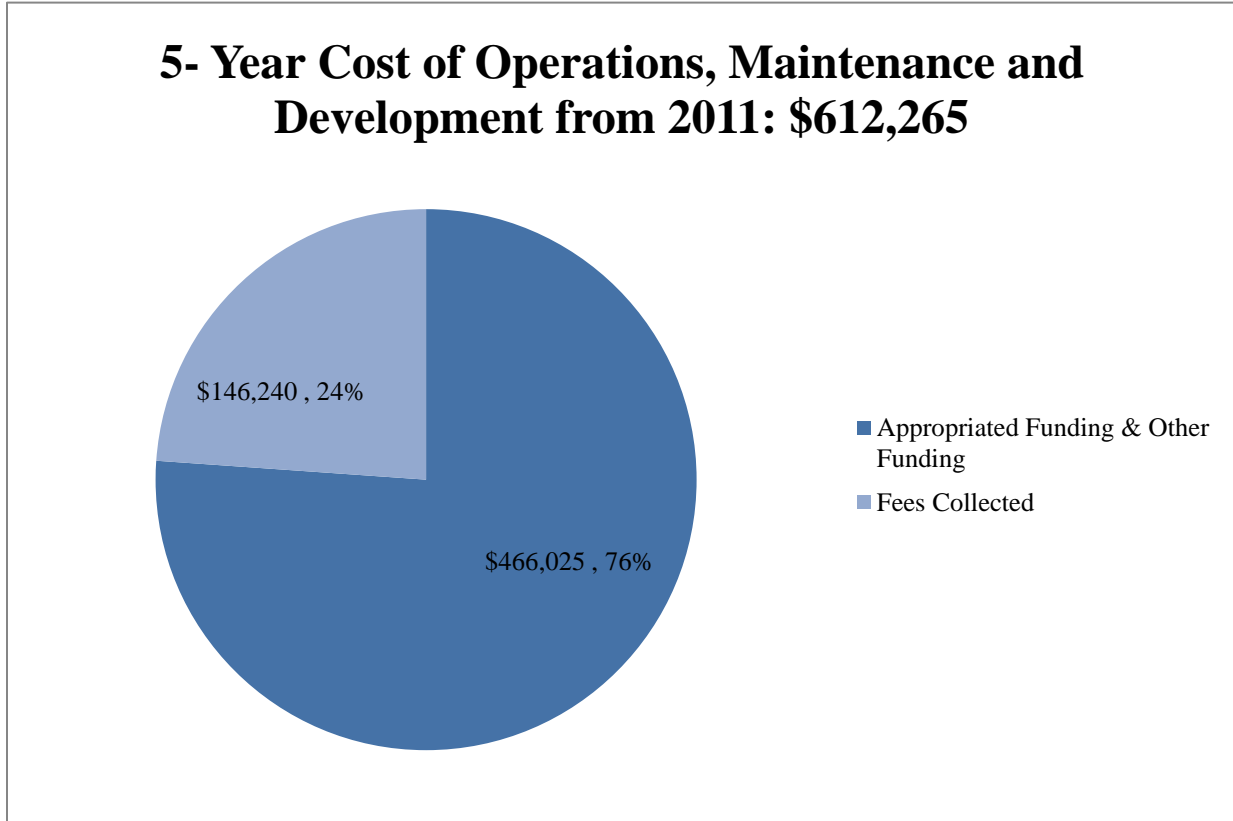
## Operations and Maintenance Costs

The BLM spends about \$122,453 each year to operate and maintain the sites, which includes staff salary, vehicles, supplies, law enforcement, and operations. The estimation for fee collections is approximately \$3,000 annually, which includes collection, maintenance of self-service fee stations, and costs associated with the sale of the new district annual pass. Any future facility development is unlikely to significantly impact the operation and maintenance expenses, beyond upkeep and replacement of the facilities as they become unserviceable. The largest rise in operations and maintenance costs would be for additional staff time, services, and supplies.

**Table 4: Annual Expenditures by Expense Cost Category**

<b>Cost Type</b> (These costs are the averages and include benefits.)	<b>Current</b>	<b>Projected Year 2021</b>
Park Manager	\$9,912 (10% present)	\$11,491 (10% present)
Assistant Park Manager	\$7,917 (15% present)	\$9,178 (15% present)
Park Rangers (6 months)	\$16,380 (5 rangers, 15% present)	\$18,989 (5 rangers, 15% present)
Other Staff Labor (outdoor recreation planners, specialists, other rangers...etc)	\$16,000	\$18,548
Youth Corps Labor	\$14,400 (2 weeks)	\$16,694 (2 weeks)
Vehicles	\$4,641 (15% present)	\$5,380 (15% present)
Equipment/Supplies	\$15,000	\$17,389
Services (water testing, waste pumping, trash pickup...etc)	\$6,000	\$13,900
Camp host stipend	\$8,670 (3 hosts)	\$10,051 (3 hosts)
Law Enforcement	\$23,533 (10% present)	\$27,300 (10% present)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$122,453</b>	<b>\$148,920</b>

**Figure 2: Five-Year Total Costs of Operations, Maintenance, Development and Fees Collected**



**Projected Costs for Development and Maintenance Projects**

The facilities at the Little North Fork Recreation Sites represent nearly \$1,500,000 in capitalized infrastructure investments over the last 53 years. In addition, alternative program funds, including recreation pipeline funding, have been invested in improving and maintaining the Little North Fork Recreation Site’s facilities and infrastructure over the last 17 years. With continual stagnation or decreases in annual recreation budgets, the fee collection program is necessary to continue maintenance, improvements and development of new user demanded experiences.

The Little North Fork Recreation Sites are already developed recreation sites. There are no new development plans that are currently being addressed. Expected future costs include water system replacement, road repairs, building replacements and maintenance.

**Fee Proposal**

**Summary**

The fee analysis portion of this business plan was based on a comparative review of fees at other existing private and public facilities that provide similar services within the geographic area of

the Little North Fork Recreation Sites. Based on the comparative fee analysis, this business plan proposes to no changes to the day-use fee and changes to the camping fee structure.

The following fee schedule outlines the existing and proposed changes for recreation fees at the Little North Fork Recreation Sites.

**Table 5: Existing Fees and Proposed Fee Changes**

Standard Amenity	Existing Fee	Proposed fee
Day-Use	\$5	\$5
Annual Day-Use Pass <sup>2</sup>	\$25	\$30
Expanded Amenity	Existing Fee	Proposed Fee
Extra Vehicle Fee	\$5	\$5
Basic Campsite	\$14	\$20

### Financial Analysis of Existing Private and Public Facilities

An analysis conducted by the BLM Northwest Oregon District recreation staff in 2016, reviewed comparable fees charged elsewhere by similar state, federal, and local park facilities near the mid-Willamette Valley urban areas and foothills. The analysis resulted in the proposed fee changes, which are based on what other public agencies are currently charging for similar sites, facilities, equipment or services. No comparable sites in the private sector currently exist; RV parks are available but do not provide the same amenities and were not included in the fee comparisons charts. Appendix 1 displays in a table format the comparative analysis by the type of services and amenities each recreation site offers. The following information summarizes the comparative analysis by fee type.

The proposed fees were determined through the analysis of comparable sites and their current fee rates. After a comparability chart was made, each type of site (tent, cabin, full hookups, etc.) had all their corresponding fees averaged and rounded to the nearest whole dollar or nearest fifty cents. The aforementioned proposed fee table shows the results of averaging for each type of site and amenity.

**Basic Campsite** fees average \$16 to \$30 per individual campsite. The quality and extent of the Little North Fork facilities and structures are comparable to other parks, especially in the aesthetic appeal of the area as well as the existence of volunteer hosts, barbeque grates, restrooms, potable water and other amenities. The proposed fee for individual basic sites is \$20.

**Day-use fees** range from \$3 to \$7 per vehicle. The proposed day-use fee would remain at \$5 based on the comparative market analysis.

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<sup>2</sup> The proposed revision of the annual day-use pass is covered in a separate business plan for the Northwest Oregon BLM Pass which is designed to cover multiple recreation sites, but is shown for informational purposes only as one of the fee types for the Little North Fork Recreation Sites.

## Projected Fee Revenue

The projected revenue for Elkhorn Valley for basic campsites would be around \$38,088 at the current occupancy rate of 45 percent over the 184-day camping season. The day-use fee revenue collected would be \$2,422.

With no proposed increase in day-use fees in the Canyon Creek it is expected that the revenue collected will be within 10 percent of the 3-year average for fee revenue collected, this being \$5,878.

The total projected fee revenue for the Little North Fork Area with the proposed fee increases would be about \$46,388.

Example formula for 23 (basic campsites) x .45 (occupancy) x 184 (days available) x \$20 (fee) = \$38,088

**Table 6: Estimated Fee Revenue by Site**

Type	Amount	Occupancy Rate	Days Available	Cost Per Night	Revenue
Elkhorn Basic Campsite	23	45%	184	\$20	\$38,088
Elkhorn Valley Day-Use	Total				\$2,422
Canyon Creek Day-Use	Total				\$5,878
Combined	Total				\$46,388

Based on both the current and projected fees, operation and maintenance costs for the Little North Fork Recreation Sites (See Table 7), the site will become more self-sufficient and will allow for improved maintenance and services, as well as other enhancements in the recreation area.

**Table 7: Difference Between Revenue Collected and Expenditure Costs**

	Current	Projected After Fee Increases
<b>Fees Collected</b>	\$29,248	\$46,388
<b>Operation &amp; Maintenance</b>	\$122,453	\$122,453
<b>Difference</b>	<b>-\$93,205</b>	<b>-\$76,065</b>

## Proposed Use of Additional Fee Revenue

The Northwest Oregon District's primary goal for recreation sites is to provide high-quality recreation opportunities and experiences for all visitors. Labor will continue to be the highest operating cost for the recreation sites. BLM staff provides visitor information and interpretive programming; conducts field patrols; maintains facilities; collects and reconciles fees; and rehabilitates natural resource damage. Recreation fee revenue is needed to help support the

operation and maintenance of these developed recreation sites. The following is an initial list of how the proposed recreation fee revenue would be used:

- Service contracts for garbage collection, septic pumping, water testing, and firewood.
- Increased patrols for visitor safety, property protection and compliance.
- Renewal of county and state drinking and wastewater permits.
- Supplies including but not limited to cleaning supplies, toilet paper, hand soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, fuel for motorized equipment, paint, lumber, rock, concrete...etc.
- Maintain, improve and replace recreation site infrastructure such as trails, signage, barbeque grills, fire rings, picnic tables, cement and wood fencing, restroom buildings, kiosks, lighting, roadway striping, maintenance building, communication devices, curb stops, non-motorized...etc.
- Maintain and replace equipment such as lawn mowers, leaf blowers, weed trimmers, hand tools, golf carts, ATVs, pressure washers, chain saws, drills...etc.
- Operating or capital costs associated with government vehicles, trailers, tractors, and bobcats.
- Information material such as maps, brochures, and interpretive signage.
- Fee collection equipment and upkeep.
- Audits and evaluations.
- Construction of recreation facilities, such as additional camp sites, trailheads and trails.
- Campground Host stipend payments.
- Purchase native trees and shrubs to prevent social trailing through sensitive areas,
- new interpretive panels could be installed to educate visitors on the importance of the natural resources and how a healthy forest system works
- increased effort to eradicate invasive species from recreation sites could occur

Due to continued stagnation or decreases in the BLM budget there is a growing need for the recreation program to become more self-sufficient, while recognizing that appropriated funds still provide the majority of the recreation program funding. Over the next five years, the recreation program is looking to achieve greater self-sufficiency and resiliency through market rated fee increases, repurposing low visitation recreation sites and designing purpose built recreation sites that fill popular recreation needs. The Bureau of Land Management's Recreation Strategy "Connecting with Communities", provides a vision to increase and improve collaboration with the local community network of 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. The Northwest Oregon District is also striving to continue relationships with local youth groups in helping to promote a positive experience for youth on public lands and to inspire them to take a greater interest in public land issues.

### **Impacts of Implementing or Not Implementing Fee Changes**

**Positive Impacts** – Fees at the Little North Fork Recreation Site have not been changed since 2009, yet the costs of goods, labor, and services have steadily increased. As the costs of goods, labor, and services increase, the purchasing power from recreation fees decreases proportionately. If the proposed fees were adopted, current services would continue to be

offered and additional services (additional trails, new types of amenities) would be available. Some of the revenue would be used to gradually reduce the maintenance backlog. Also benefiting would be additional law enforcement, employee oversight of the sites that would reduce vandalism, negative behavior and increased visitor safety. Site infrastructure, cleanliness, and visitor services and information would be benefited as well. All of these combine to improve the overall visitor experience.

Benefits to the local economy could also be realized. It is imperative to the local economy to keep recreation site infrastructure in good condition, clean and serviced to high standards. Maintaining these high standards and creating new opportunities improves the overall recreational experience for current and new visitors alike.

Increased fees also add benefits to the environment. It would allow the Northwest Oregon District to improve, manage, and operate recreational facilities to the fullest. By providing day-use trailheads, campgrounds, and day-use areas for visitors, it allows the District to consolidate resource impacts to a much smaller area. Human waste and garbage are dealt with in an appropriate manner in areas where infrastructure is provided. If these services were not available, the impacts would be felt across a wide area, as illegal dumping would increase. Increased 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 the natural resources and how a healthy forest system works and an increased effort to eradicate invasive species from recreation sites could occur.

**Negative Impacts** – If proposed fees are not adopted, the existing facilities could see a loss of functionality as operation and maintenance efforts may not be able to keep pace with the high use of the site. As costs continue to increase, maintenance may not happen as quickly or as often as needed and some services may be reduced. Deferred maintenance costs would increase as facilities age and deteriorate without proper annual maintenance. Maintenance which is deferred because of insufficient funding may result in increased safety hazards, reduced service to the public, higher costs in the future and inefficient operations.

A reduction in recreation and maintenance staff could occur as those positions may not be filled if vacated due to lack of funds. Law enforcement patrols are not expected to be affected. Recreation demands will continue to increase as the Northwest Oregon District is seeing some of the highest population growth in the nation, which in turn increases visitation, thus the costs to operate the fee sites would become more dependent on the fluctuating appropriated funding. The opportunities for future planned developments would be constrained and likely dropped from implementation.

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.



## **Outreach**

### **Stakeholders and Partnerships**

The BLM strongly believes that in order to have a successful recreation program, community partners must be engaged and utilized. The BLM not only gains great volunteers, but also gains the essential community attachment to a place. A community that is attached to a campground or trail system is more likely to promote these places and take pride in their stewardship. The community benefits from tourism dollars associated with these sites, the skills that the BLM staff teaches area youth, and the extra finances directly tied to the assistance agreements, all of which are empowering for rural communities.

As part of its Connecting with Communities Recreation Strategy, BLM seeks engagement and partnerships with local stakeholders to accomplish mutual objectives for public access and recreation.

BLM is a Partner with Willamette National Forest, Marion and Linn Counties, and State Parks, for information sharing relative to the region's recreation areas, along with Marion County, Linn County Parks, and Detroit Ranger District.

An agreement is in place with Marion County to share a host. That host maintains two BLM and six Marion County sites along little north fork and the north Santiam. The BLM provides the host site at Elkhorn Valley while Marion County provides a truck.

The BLM will continue partnerships with Linn County, local schools, and the senior center. Work such as firewood preparation, trail maintenance, recycling, and other service projects completed throughout the year will continue, as agreed upon by both parties. We will continue to develop and maintain partnerships and agreements associated with the South Cascades Recreation Zone as a whole.

### **Public Comments**

Partners realize that fees are a part of using developed facilities and continually ask when fee changes will be implemented. Partners understand that fee collection provides available funds for the completion, operation and maintenance of developed sites. Fees also act as a tool for resource protection by helping prevent miss-use and individuals using locations as housing.

On August 11, 2016, information about the Northwest Oregon District's Proposed Fee Changes was posted onsite at the Little North Fork Recreation Sites; simultaneous news releases were pushed to local newspapers. The news release was also published in the Statesman Journal, which prints for the upper Willamette Valley area on August 14, 2016. The Northwest Oregon District also posted news releases online for viewing. All documents provided an email address where public comments related to any recreation project may be submitted ([blm\\_or\\_no\\_rec\\_publiccomments@blm.gov](mailto:blm_or_no_rec_publiccomments@blm.gov)); the email is monitored daily during the workweek. As of March 22, 2017, the Northwest Oregon District has received seven comments, nothing

specific to the Little North Fork Recreation Sites. Commenters generally were confused about the America the Beautiful-Interagency Pass and in general support of the proposed fees.

### **Public Communication and Marketing Plan**

1. Public notice of the proposed fee changes will continue to be posted onsite until implemented.
2. News releases will appear in local newspapers informing the public of fee changes the Northwest Oregon District BLM is planning.
3. Both the public notice and news release will contain contact information for public comments on the proposed fee changes.
4. Website information will inform the public of the proposed fee changes.
5. 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.
6. A Notice of Intent to Collect Recreation Fees will be published in the *Federal Register* six months before establishing any new recreation fees sites.

In addition, the Northwest Oregon District will be presenting the campground fee proposals to the Coastal Oregon and Northwest Oregon Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for its formal review. The RAC is a 15-member advisory panel which provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues for approximately 720,000 acres of public lands in Oregon. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act mandates that the appropriate Recreation RAC will be consulted and given opportunities to provide recommendations to the BLM on all recreation fee proposals prior to implementation. Comments from both the public at large and the BLM RAC will be considered prior to the implementation of the proposed recreation fees.















The BLM monitors visitor use to detect changes in site utilization and document 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 Little North Fork Recreation Sites' fee schedule will reflect public comment and program implementation needs.














### **Ways to Inform Public of Fee Expenditures**















Fee expenditure information is collected on an annual basis and presented in the Federal Statistics document available online. More specifically, each area will post fee expenditure information on site and online to inform the public where and on what services, maintenance, operations their fees are spent.

### Appendix 1: Analysis of Existing Private and Public Campgrounds

Campgrounds below have all 9 expanded amenities listed above. \*Full hookup is water, electric, and sewer. \*Basic is no hookups

Campground	Fee															
<b>Little North Fork Recreation Area (BLM)</b>	<i>Proposed Fees</i>															
	Basic site	\$20	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								
	Extra vehicle	\$5														
	Day-use	\$5														
<b>Fishermen's Bend (BLM)</b>	<i>Proposed Fees</i>															
	Full hookup	\$36														
	Electric only	\$31														
	Tent site	\$20														
	Cabin	\$65														
	Extra vehicle	\$5														
	Day-use	\$5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Group day-use shelter	\$110														
Group camp shelter	\$180															
	(\$3 per person past 60)															
Group campsite	\$125															
	(\$2.50 per person past 50)															
<b>Quartzville Recreation Area (BLM)</b>	<i>Proposed Fees</i>															
	Basic site	\$15														
	Extra vehicle	\$5	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓								
	Day-use	\$5														
	Group campsite	\$100														
	(\$2 /person past 50)															
<b>John Neal Memorial Park (Linn County)</b>	Basic site	\$24														
	Water hookup	\$24														
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓
	Group campsite	\$200														
	Group shelter	\$125														
<b>River Bend (Linn County)</b>	Basic site	\$24														
	Partial hookup	\$31														
	Cabin	\$65														
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
	Group shelter	\$125														
	Group gazebo	\$175														

Campground	Fee													
<b>Sunnyside (Linn County)</b>	Basic site \$24													
	Double site \$48													
	Triple site \$72	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓					
	Partial hookup \$31													
	Extra vehicle \$7													
<b>Waterloo (Linn County)</b>	Basic site \$24													
	Partial hookup \$29	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Extra vehicle \$7													
	Group shelter \$125-\$175													
<b>Whitcomb Creek (Linn County)</b>	Basic site \$22													
	Extra vehicle \$7	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓			
	Group campsite \$200													
<b>Cascadia (State Parks)</b>	Tent site \$17													
	Extra vehicle \$7													
	Day-use \$5													
	Picnic area \$50	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
	Group campsite \$71 (\$3 each over 25 people)													
<b>Detroit Lake (State Parks)</b>	Full hookup \$28													
	Electric only \$26													
	Tent site \$19	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓
	Extra vehicle \$7													
	Day-use \$5													
<b>Silver Falls (State Parks)</b>	Horse site \$19/\$58													
	Electric only \$26													
	Tent site \$19													
	Extra vehicle \$7													
	Cabin \$40/\$50													
	Day-use \$5	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
	Group shelter \$50/\$100													
	Group campsite \$71 (\$3 each over 25 people)													
Group RV \$101 (\$10 per past 10)														
<b>Breitenbush (USFS Willamette)</b>	Basic site \$16													
	Double site \$30													
	Extra vehicle \$7	✓	✓		✓	✓								
	Day-use \$7													

Campground	Fee														
<b>Cove Creek (USFS Willamette)</b>	Basic site	\$22													
	Double site	\$40													
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓					✓
	Day-use	\$7													
	Group campsite (max 70 people)	\$200													
<b>Hoover (USFS Willamette)</b>	Basic site	\$22													
	Double site	\$40													
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓								✓
	Day-use	\$7													
	Group campsite (max 70 people)	\$200													
<b>Humbug (USFS Willamette)</b>	Basic site	\$16													
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓								
	Day-use	\$7													
<b>Riverside (USFS Willamette)</b>	Basic site	\$16													
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓								
	Day-use	\$7													
<b>Santiam Flats (USFS Willamette)</b>	Basic site	\$16													
	Double site	\$30													
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓								
	Day-use	\$7													
<b>Southshore (USFS Willamette)</b>	Basic site	\$20													
	Double site	\$38													
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓					
	Day-use	\$7													
<b>Whispering Falls (USFS)</b>	Basic site	\$16													
	Extra vehicle	\$7	✓	✓		✓	✓								
	Day-use	\$7													