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

Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites Business Plan



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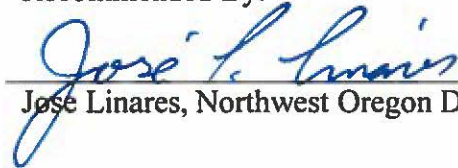


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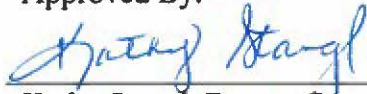


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8/23/17

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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 Quartzville Creek 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 Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites.

The Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites is the BLM-administered segment of the Quartzville Recreation Corridor located in the southeastern portion of Linn County, Oregon. Several agencies, including Linn County, US Army Corps of Engineers, US Forest Service, private companies, and the BLM, cooperatively manage the corridor and associated Quartzville Back Country Byway (Quartzville Road). The byway starts one mile east of Sweet Home and ends 19 miles east of Detroit. The Quartzville Creek Recreation Area is approximately 14 miles northeast of Sweet Home within Oregon's 4th Congressional District.

The recreation sites include day-use areas, a campground, a group campsite and dispersed campsites. There are 22 fee Basic Campsites, two day-use areas, a large group campsite and 56 dispersed campsites that are fee free. 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 camping fees, extra vehicle parking, and group site reservations. The following fee schedule outlines the existing and proposed changes for recreation fees at the Quartzville Creek Corridor Recreation Sites. Detailed discussion on this fee proposal occurs in the body of this business plan.

Table 1: Existing Fees and Proposed Fee Changes

| Standard Amenity | Existing Fees | Proposed Fees |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Day-use Fee | None | \$5 |
| Annual Day-Use Pass ¹ | None | \$30 |
| Extended Amenity | Existing Fees | Proposed Fees |
| Basic Campsite | \$12 | \$15 |
| Group Campsite | \$40-50 | \$100 (up to 50 people) \$2 each additional person |
| Extra Camping Vehicle | \$5 | \$5 |

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 **Quartzville Creek 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

¹ 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 Clay Creek Recreation Site.

receptacle, (4) interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk, (5) picnic tables, (6) and security services (Sec. 803.(f)(4)(D) of REA).

- **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 to 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 trails, 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 annual passes would make a substantial impact on fee revenue for the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites in the near future

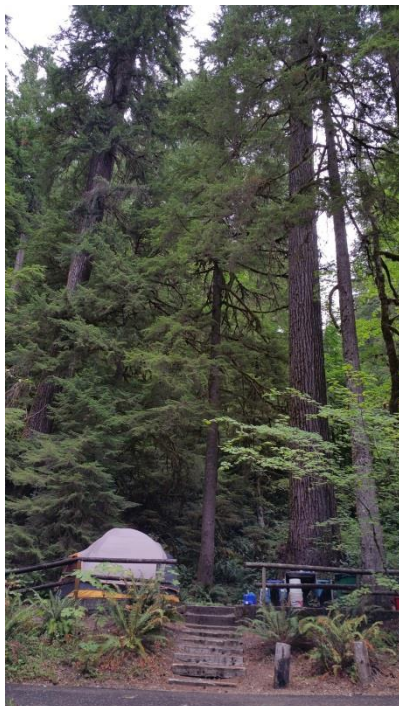


Background

Fee Site Description

The Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites

offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including recreational mining, whitewater boating, fishing, developed and undeveloped camping, and day-use activities such as swimming and picnicking. Recreational mining is one of the most popular activities, allowing visitors a chance to experience a part of the Quartzville mining history first hand. Quartzville Creek’s clarity, whitewater, and the surrounding naturalness of the corridor make the segment a popular run for boaters, primarily kayakers, when the water flows are high. Fishing is also popular on Quartzville Creek, with stocked rainbow trout and native cutthroat trout providing many fishing opportunities. The BLM manages two developed campgrounds and one developed day-use site in the river corridor. Undeveloped camping and day-use makes up the majority of the visitor use. The majority of undeveloped visitor use occurs between the Quartzville byway and the river and is offered free of charge.



Yellowbottom Recreation Site is an approximately 13-acre developed recreation site. The site offers a camp host, 22 non-reservable family campsites, and a day-use area with 5 picnic

sites, river access, hiking trails, vault toilets, garbage service, and a solar water system that provides potable water. The site is open for vehicle traffic from 7:00 am to 10:00 pm during the main camping season of Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend. Heavy use occurs during the weekends from late June through Labor Day. During the winter season, the site is open to pedestrians, bicyclists, and hikers for day-use. Due to the long term ecological conditions of the tree stands in the campground, the BLM is considering closing Yellowbottom to overnight use, but continuing to provide day-use.

Old Miner's Meadow Recreation Site is approximately a 3-acre fenced campsite available for group use by reservation. Old Miner's Meadow is open from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day by reservation only. Reservations are made through the Recreation.gov or calling Fishermen's Bend Recreation Site. During the winter season, the site receives occasional use from walk-in day-users. Site



amenities include one large group campsite, picnic tables, individual fire pits, a group fire ring and grill, garbage service, vault toilets, and horseshoe pits. The toilets for the site are available to campers on private land just outside the site fence boundary.

The BLM is considering providing developed camping with sites available on a first come-first served basis at Old Miner's Meadow. One concept would be to turn half of the current site area into a camping loop. The camp loop would offer the same amenities as Yellowbottom.

Season of Use

The Yellowbottom 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. Old Miner's Meadow Recreation Site is available for camping reservation from Memorial Day to Labor Day, with the option to expand or retract the season based on user demand and budget. The site is blocked by a fence and gate, with access available by reservation. Visitors may access the site for day-use on foot, and only if the site is not being occupied by a reservation.

Figure 1: Map of Recreation Sites



Recreation Use

Visitation at **The Quartzville Creek 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 Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites, including the day-use sites and dispersed camping.

Table 2: Annual Visitation

| Site | FY12 | FY13 | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Yellowbottom Campground | 2,688 | 11,033 | 10,481 | 10,596 | 7,816 |
| Old Miner’s Meadow | 2,255 | 970 | 1,200 | 1,215 | 6,365 |
| Other Day-use & Camping | 56,490 | 54,750 | 55,847 | 56,786 | 32,001 |
| Total | 61,433 | 66,753 | 67,528 | 68,597 | 46,182 |

The primary difference between the Yellowbottom Campground user group and those using nearby dispersed campsites along the corridor is their desired amenity level and the extra security that is provided by an onsite camp host. Yellowbottom Campground users tend to prefer a higher level of amenities such as water, firewood, restrooms, trails, and value the relative security at the site, due to the presence of a campground host, regular visits from law enforcement and park staff. Recreational use of this site includes camping, hiking, relaxing in the campground, along with fishing and other activities in the day-use area. Primary users of Old Miner’s Meadow include much the same as those from Yellowbottom, with the addition of several out-of-state and regional recreational mining organizations. The ability to reserve the site allows many non-local groups to make use of this site.

Fee Revenue

Table 3 displays the annual amounts collected at The Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites since 2014.

Table 3: Annual Fee Collection and 3-Year Average

| Site | FY14 | FY15 | FY16 | 3-Year Average |
|-------------------------|----------|----------|----------|----------------|
| Yellowbottom Campground | \$10,280 | \$9,711 | \$12,567 | \$10,853 |
| Old Miner’s Meadow | \$5,805 | \$7,537 | \$7,801 | \$7,048 |
| Total | \$16,085 | \$17,248 | \$20,368 | \$17,901 |

Fee Collection and Enforcement

All vehicles entering **Yellowbottom Campground** 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.

Old Miner's Meadow Campground is only available by reservation, which requires payment before guests can access the campground. Guests receive a specific lock combination to the site a few days in advance of their reservation date. The combination is changed periodically and the site is frequented by hosts, BLM staff and law enforcement to ensure the safety of visitors and the resources are being protected.

The Quartzville Creek 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. Linn 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.

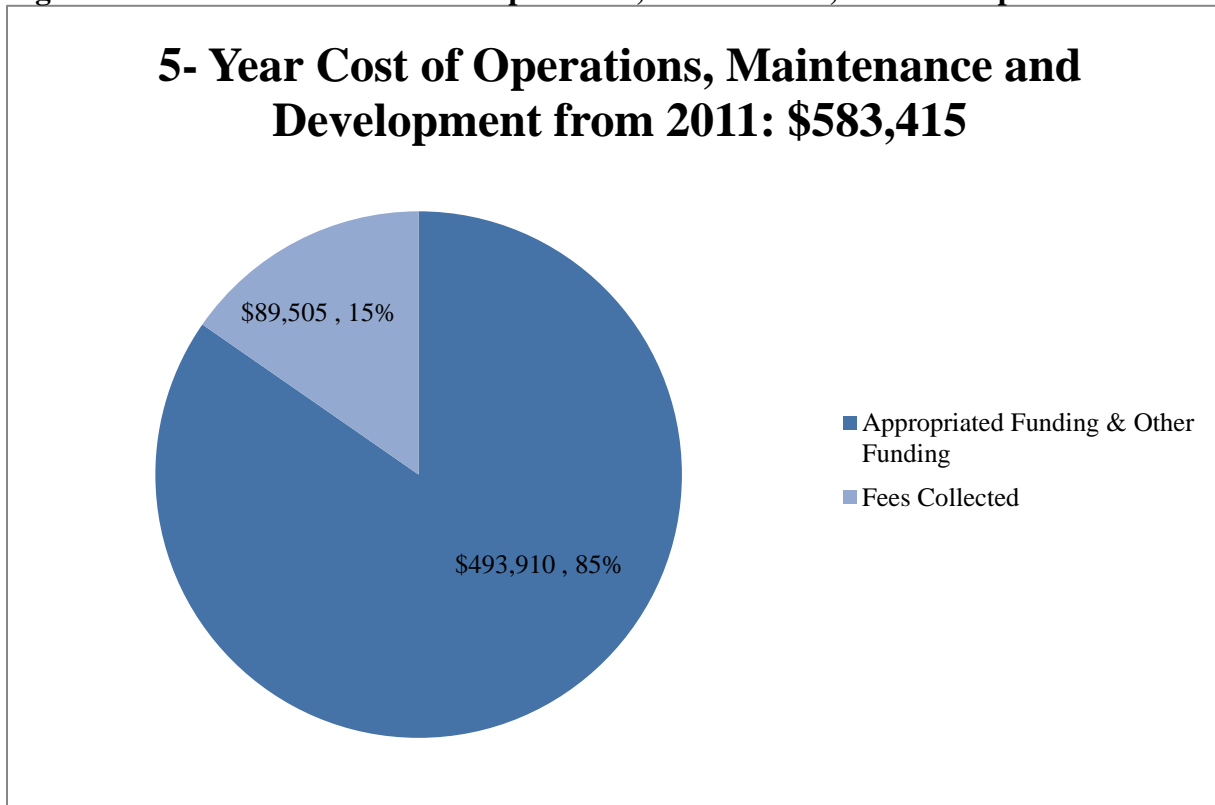
Operations and Maintenance Costs

The BLM spends about \$116,683 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

| Cost Type (These costs are the averages and include benefits.) | Current | Projected Year 2021 |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 | \$2,900 (1 host) | \$3,362 (1 host) |
| Law Enforcement | \$23,533 (10% present) | \$27,300 (10% present) |
| Total | \$116,683 | \$142,231 |

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



Projected Costs for Development and Maintenance Projects

The facilities at the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites represent well over \$1,500,000 in capitalized infrastructure investment over the last 50 years. In addition, alternative program funds, including recreation pipeline funding, have been invested in improving and maintaining the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites facilities and infrastructure over the last 10 years, and Old Miner’s Meadow’s facilities and infrastructure over the last 9 years. With continual decreases or stagnation in annual recreation budgets, the fee collection program is necessary to continue, maintain, and enhance the site’s high quality recreational opportunities for the public

The Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites are already developed recreation sites. There are no new development plans that are currently being addressed. Expected future costs consist of solar power replacement, facilities repairs and upgrades, Old Miner’s Meadow Campground expansion and visitor information improvements.

Fee Proposal

Summary

The fee analysis portion of this business plan was based on a comparative review of fees at other existing public facilities that provide similar services within the geographic area of the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites. Based on the comparative fee analysis, this business plan

proposes adding a 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 Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites.

Table 5: Existing Fees and Proposed Fee Changes

| Standard Amenity | Existing Fees | Proposed Fees |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---|
| Day-use | None | \$5 |
| Annual Day-Use Pass ² | None | \$30 |
| Extended Amenity | Existing Fees | Proposed Fees |
| Basic Campsite | \$12 | \$15 |
| Group Campsite | \$40-50 | \$100 (up to 50 people) \$2 each additional person |
| Extra Camping Vehicle | \$5 | \$5 |

Financial Analysis of Existing Private and Public Facilities

The BLM charges expanded amenity fees for camping at Yellowbottom and Old Miner’s Meadow Recreation Sites. Yellowbottom Recreation Site fees were initiated when the park was created and have increased periodically since. Old Miner’s Meadow began charging fees in 2002. Current fees have not changed since 2009.

The BLM conducted a comparative market study of similar public park facilities in the region (Appendix 1). State, federal, and local parks were surveyed near the mid-Willamette Valley urban areas and foothills within the geographic region of the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites. Proposed fees are based on what the public sector currently charges for similar visitor facilities, number of campsites, amenities, and service. The primary benefit for comparison is the environmental setting and other amenities that the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites offer, in which it easily rivals many of the other agency parks. Fees would increase in 2017 based on this comparative market analysis (see Appendix 1).

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. Additionally, some parks may charge a day-use fee, if visiting other areas of the park. Fees average \$15 to \$24 per basic campsite and \$71 to \$200 per group campsite.

Day-Use Fee: A \$5 day-use fee will be charged at the BLM managed campgrounds within the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites to help prevent day-use visitors from displacing visitors that are there for overnight camping. The BLM provides a developed day-use recreation site at Dogwood, but the site sees low volumes of visitor use and a day-use fee may push visitors from the site and into non-developed areas, which may cause resource damage.

² 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 Clay Creek Recreation Site.

Basic Campsite Fee: The fee range for basic campsites range from \$15 to \$24, the average fee charged for a basic campsite was \$18. A fee reduction will be done due to the discrepancy in amenity levels when compared to a few of the State Parks, the resulting fee after reduction and rounding to the nearest whole dollar amount is \$15.

Group Campsite Fee: The group campsites have a wide range of fees, group site size and maximum amount of people allowed per group site. The BLM determined that the best method to analyze the fee prices for group sites is a per person method. The average per person fee is \$2.17 per person per night, after rounding to the nearest \$.50 cents per person the fee is \$2. The rate for the group sites would be set at \$100 per-night with an added \$2 fee per-person per-night past the first 50, with an additional \$5 fee per extra vehicle past the initial 12.

Projected Fee Revenue

The regional average occupancy rate for basic campsites is 40 percent over the camping season. Applying this occupancy rate to the 22 basic campsites that are in the Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites and multiplying by the proposed fee gives the projected revenue of \$24,288 for basic campsites.

Example: 22 (Basic Sites) X .40 (Occupancy Rate) X 184 (Season) X \$15 (Fee) = \$24,288.

Old Miner’s Meadow has been successful as a group campsite enjoying a 55 percent occupancy rate over the past three years. Using the same formula with the proposed fee for group campsites the projected fee revenue is \$10,120.

The total projected fee revenue collected for Quartzville Creek Recreation Site is \$36,027, this does not take into account any day-use or extra vehicle fees collected. There is inadequate information available to make a reasonable projection for these two fee sources.

Data collected at the developed fee sites for visitation has not separated day-use visitation from overnight camping, making day-use fee projections not practical.

Table 6: Estimated Fee Revenue by Site

| Type | Amount | Occupancy Rate | Days Available | Cost Per Night | Revenue |
|-------------------------|--------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------|
| Yellowbottom Campground | 22 | 40% | 184 | \$15 | \$24,288 |
| Old Miner’s Meadow | 1 | 55% | 184 | \$100 | \$10,120 |
| Combined | | | | Total | \$36,027 |

Based on both the current and projected fees, operation and maintenance costs for the Quartzville Creek 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 |
|------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Fees Collected | \$17,901 | \$36,027 |
| Operation & Maintenance | \$116,683 | \$116,683 |
| Difference | -\$98,782 | -\$80,656 |

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 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 Quartzville Creek Recreation Sites 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. The BLM works jointly with the Army Corpse of Engineers, United States Forest Services and Linn County Parks Services to maintain and improve visitor experiences throughout the Quartzville Creek Recreation Corridor.

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 Quartzville Creek 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); the email is monitored daily during the workweek. As of November 3, 2016, the Northwest Oregon District has received seven comments, nothing specific to the Quartzville Creek 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 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 Quartzville Creek 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 or online to inform the public where and on what services, maintenance, operations their fees are spent.

Appendix 1: Analysis of Existing Campgrounds

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

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

| Campground | Fee |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Sunnyside (Linn County) | Basic site \$24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Double site \$48 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Triple site \$72 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Partial hookup \$31 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Waterloo (Linn County) | Basic site \$24 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Partial hookup \$29 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Group day-use shelter \$125-\$175 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ |
| Whitcomb Creek (Linn County) | Basic site \$22 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$7 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Group campsite \$200 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Cascadia (State Parks) | Tent site \$17 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Day-use \$5 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Picnic area \$50 | | | | | | | | | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Group campsite \$71 (\$3 each over 25 people) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Detroit Lake (State Parks) | Partial hookup \$28 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Electric only \$26 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Tent site \$19 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$7 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Day-use \$5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Silver Falls (State Parks) | 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 after 10) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| Campground | Fee |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Fernview (USFS Willamette) | Basic site \$15 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Group Campsite \$125 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| House Rock (USFS Willamette) | Tent site \$15 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Lost Prairie (USFS Willamette) | Basic site \$15 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | | | ✓ | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Group Campsite \$125 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trout Creek (USFS Willamette) | Basic site \$15 | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | ✓ | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Yukwah (USFS Willamette) | Basic site \$15 | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | | | | | | | |
| | Extra vehicle \$5 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | Double site \$30 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |