

# Draft White Mountains National Recreation Area Recreation Fee Site Business Plan



United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management  
Eastern Interior Field Office

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## **Business Plan for BLM Eastern Interior Field Office Recreation Fee Sites**

### **Executive Summary**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eastern Interior Field Office (EIFO)/White Mountains National Recreation Area (WMNRA) prepared this recreation fee business plan pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of December 2004 (P.L. 108-477, as amended) and BLM recreation permit and fee program policy. FLREA provides the BLM the authority to charge and collect recreation fees for benefits and services provided to visitors. FLREA also authorizes the BLM to retain collected fees locally, outlines how revenues may be used, and identifies specific limitations on recreation fees. Collected revenue may be expended for benefits and services such as facility repair, maintenance, enhancement, interpretation, visitor information and services, visitor needs assessments, signs, restoration, law enforcement related to public use and recreation, and operating or capital costs directly associated with the recreation fee program.

BLM Manual 2930 requires field offices to produce a business plan when establishing new fee areas and sites and developing or changing recreation fees. The business plan outlines the fee program for the identified location and thoroughly discusses and explains how fees are consistent with the criteria set forth in FLREA. Business plans assist offices in determining appropriate fee rates, outlining the costs of administering fee programs, and identifying priorities for future fee program expenditures. The plan also serves as the outreach document to provide the public with opportunities to participate in the development of or modification of recreation fees.

The EIFO manages recreational cabin and campground use through issuance of Recreation Use Permits (RUP) for short-term recreation use of specialized sites, facilities, and/or services which meet the fee collection criteria established by FLREA. This business plan describes the recreation fee sites, proposed site fee changes, planned fee revenue expenditures, a financial analysis of fee charges for other similar recreation facilities, and impacts of proposed fee changes.

After careful consideration of the current fee program, the anticipated revenues and expenditures, and comparison with other regional recreation providers, the EIFO proposes the following fee modifications:

- Increase the individual campsite fee at Cripple Creek, Mt. Prindle, and Ophir Campgrounds from \$6.00 to \$12.00 per night at regular sites and increase the walk-in sites at Cripple Creek Campground from \$3.00 to \$6.00.
- Increase the group site fee at Ophir Campground from \$6.00 to \$24.00 per night.
- Increase the fee at the twelve current WMNRA group site cabins from \$25.00 to \$42.00 per night.
- Establish fee of \$42.00 per night for proposed group site cabins #1 and #2 identified in this plan.
- Add an expanded amenity fee for reservation services across the field office.

The proposed fee modifications are necessary to meet the growing expenses of the cabin and campground program, especially deferred maintenance costs stemming from the growing popularity of the EIFO cabins and campgrounds as travel destinations and the associated increase in public use and increasing age of the facilities. Developed fee cabins and campgrounds are management tools used to prevent further resource damage and to provide better visitor services.

## 1. Introduction

### a. Background and Authorities

The authorities and regulations for this business plan are:

- **The Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), as amended**, [Public Law 94-579] contains BLM's general land use management authority over the public lands and establishes outdoor recreation as one principal use of those lands. Section 302 (b) of FLPMA directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate through permits or other instruments the use of the public lands. The BLM originally began collecting recreational fees for the use of public lands under this authority. Section 303 of FLPMA contains the BLM's authority to enforce the regulations and impose penalties.
- **The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) 2004** [Public Law 108-447] repealed applicable portions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and replaced the BLM's authority to collect recreational fees. The FLREA provides the BLM the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at federal recreation lands and waters that meet certain requirements. The FLREA also allows the BLM to keep the fee revenues at the local offices where they are collected and directs how the BLM will manage and utilize these revenues, including for expenses such 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. The FLREA also established the America the Beautiful—The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass program. The FLREA is codified in the U.S. Code in Title 16 (Conservation), Chapter 87 (Sections 6801-6814).
- **43 CFR 2930: Permits for Recreation on Public Land.** The Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) is an annual codification of the general and permanent rules published in the Federal Register by the executive departments and agencies of the federal government. Title 43 covers public lands administered by the Department of the Interior. Sections 1000 – 9999 cover the Bureau of Land Management.

This business plan has also been prepared pursuant to all applicable BLM recreation fee program policies and guidance, including:

- BLM Recreation Permits and Fees Manual 2930
- BLM Recreation Permits and Fees Administration Handbook (2930-1 Handbook)

## b. Fees and Business Plan Requirement

The BLM strives to manage recreation and visitor services to serve diverse outdoor recreation demands while maintaining the sustainable resource conditions needed so recreation opportunities remain available. The BLM's goals for delivering recreation benefits from BLM-administered public lands and waters to the American public and their communities are:

- Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities.
- Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources.
- Provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

This business plan will assist the EIFO in meeting these recreation and visitor service goals.

According to BLM Handbook 2930-1, Recreation Permits and Fees (Rel. 2-300, dated November 17, 2014), each recreation fee program must have an approved business plan which comprehensively explains fees and illustrates how they are consistent with the FLREA fee criteria. Business plans assist management in the determination of the appropriateness and level of fees, the cost of administering a fee program per fiscal year (FY), the expected benefits provided for the public, and to produce a structured communication and marketing plan. This plan primarily serves as public notification of the objectives for the use of the recreation fee revenues and to offer the public an opportunity to comment on the proposed changes. Special recreation permit revenues for the EIFO are deposited in the EIFO recreation fee account (WBS LVRDAK030000, LVRDAK040000, LVRDAK100000, and LVRDAK110000).

This business plan will encompass descriptions of the fee sites, proposed fee changes, associated operating costs, financial analysis, and the impacts of the fee changes. This report utilized data from internal BLM tracking and accounting mechanisms such as the Recreation Management Information System (RMIS), Collections and Billings Systems (CBS), Federal Business Management System (FBMS), and other locally generated recreation and visitor use tracking spreadsheets. Some data contained in these systems may be subject to the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974.

## c. Environmental Justice

Consistent with Department of Interior and BLM priorities, the BLM EIFO seeks to achieve environmental justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility and make a difference in Alaskan communities through expanding recreational access and opportunities and providing for natural resource interpretation. This includes to:

- encourage, facilitate, and improve partnership with and access for youth, tribes, and underserved communities to public lands through recreation partnerships and collaborations;
- improve public health and safety at developed recreation sites and areas by updating and modernizing infrastructure—including meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities;
- invite education, interpretation, and recreational access for all Americans, especially for diverse populations and those near urban areas to encourage enjoyment of BLM-managed public lands and waters;
- collaborate with community members, government organizations, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and other stakeholders to address environmental and health-related challenges for recreation management;







## 2. Background

### a. Area Description

Located just an hour's drive from Fairbanks, Alaska, the one million-acre WMNRA offers stunning scenery, peaceful solitude and outstanding opportunities for year-round recreation including hiking, hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skiing, wildlife, and scenic viewing. There are three campgrounds, twelve log cabins, and two trail shelters throughout the WMNRA offering many opportunities to enjoy the outdoors.

*Image 1. Big Bend on Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River*



Summer visitors to the WMNRA pan for gold, fish, hike, and camp under Alaska's midnight sun. The Nome Creek Road provides access to two campgrounds: Mt. Prindle and Ophir Creek. Also located off Nome Creek Road are trails, a gold-panning area, and a departure point for float trips on Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River (WSR). The Nome Creek valley is one of the primary access points for summer recreation in the WMNRA and is accessed via US Creek Road at milepost (MP) 57 on the Steese Highway.

In winter, visitors travel by ski, snowshoe, fat bike, dog team and snowmobile to enjoy the twelve public-use cabins and two hundred and fifty miles of groomed trails that make the WMNRA one of Interior Alaska's premier winter destinations. There are several sizes of log cabins along the trail system. The smaller cabins are 10 ft by 12 ft and sleep four people in bunk beds. The larger 12 ft by 16 ft cabins can sleep four to six people



comfortably and have a storage loft. The largest and newest cabins, Crowberry and Moose Creek, are 16 ft by 16 ft. Cabins come equipped with bunk beds, a table with benches, cook stove, lantern, fire extinguisher, saw, ax, broom, shovel, wood stove and outhouse. Visitors provide their own propane fuel for the lanterns and cook stoves.

In addition to the remote cabin system, the Fred Blixt Cabin is located at MP 62.5 on the Elliott Highway. This road-accessible cabin, like those on the trail system, is still rustic with no running water and basic amenities such as an outhouse. It is a 12 ft by 16 ft log cabin with a storage loft, bunk beds, lantern and cook stove, table and benches, and a wood stove.

## b. Visitor Demographics

Most visitors to the WMNRA are residents from the Fairbanks North Star Borough and neighboring communities. Some visitors have come back to the area year after year for decades. There has been an increase in visitors from the contiguous United States as well as international visitors.

The following information was compiled from United States Census Bureau data and State of Alaska Labor Department and Workforce Development – Research and Analysis data.

The state of Alaska has a population of 733,391 people with 291,247 living in the Municipality of Anchorage and 107,081 in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Anchorage is the most populous city in Alaska. Fairbanks North Star Borough has an estimated population of 95,655, the third highest in the state and the most populous near WMNRA.

Alaska is the twelfth most diverse state in the United States. Anchorage has a diversity index of 66.7%, meaning it ranks in the top fifteenth percentile for diversity in the nation and has three of the most ethnically diverse neighborhoods in the country, according to 2013-2014 census data.

The median household income for the state of Alaska is \$77,790 (2016-2020) with 10.5% of the population living below the poverty level. The state's median age is thirty-four with 47.6% of the population being female. Alaska is racially composed of 64.5% Whites (non-Hispanic), 15.7% American Indians and Native Alaskans, 7.5% Hispanics or Latinos, 6.6% Asians, 3.6% Black or African Americans, 1.6% Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and 7.9% two or more races.

The median household income for the Municipality of Anchorage is \$84,813 (2016-2020) with 8.8% of the population living below the poverty level. The median age is thirty-five; 24.3% are persons under the age of eighteen and 49.0% of the population is female. Anchorage is racially composed of 61.2% Whites (non-Hispanic), 9.8% Asians, 9.4% Hispanics or Latinos, 7.5% American Indians or Native Alaskans, 5.3% Black or African Americans, 2.9% Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, and 11% of two or more races.

The median household income for Fairbanks North Star Borough is \$76,464 (2016-2020) with 7.2% of the population living below the poverty level. The median age is 31.5; 23.5% are persons under the age of eighteen and 45.9% of the population is female. Fairbanks is racially composed of 75.3% Whites (non-Hispanic), 3.4% Asians, 8.4% Hispanics or Latinos, 8.2% American Indians and Native Alaskans, 5.2% Black or African Americans, .6% Native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, and 7.2% two or more races.

### c. Recreation Site Descriptions

#### i. Cripple Creek Campground

Located at MP 60 of the Steese Highway, Cripple Creek Campground has twelve first come, first served universal design campsites, as well as six walk-in campsites. The campground also has a riverside day-use area with fishing access along the Chatanika River. Winding through tall white spruce trees along the river between the day-use area and the campground is a short interpretive trail. The campground offers a twenty-five-mile-long class I-II float trip to the Upper Chatanika State Recreation Site at MP 39. The overnight fee is currently \$6.00 per night for drive-in sites and \$3.00 per night for walk-in sites.

The campground is maintained during the summer season (June thru mid-September) and has hand pump wells, trash cans, and outhouse-style toilets. Each campsite has a parking area, picnic tables, and fire rings.

*Image 2. Cripple Creek Campground walk-in campsite*



*Map 2. Cripple Creek Campground map*



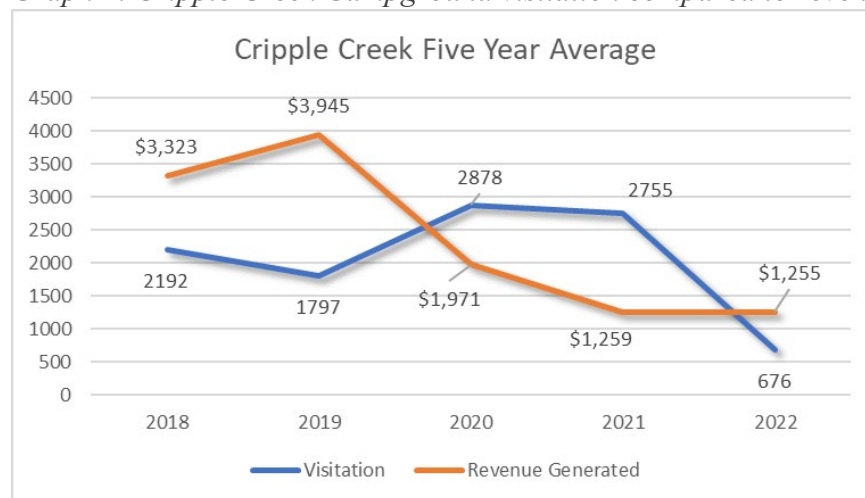
Table 1. Cripple Creek Campground revenue

| FY             | Visits      | Visitor Days | Revenue Generated |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 2018           | 2192        | 2059         | \$3,323.40        |
| 2019           | 1797        | 1432         | \$3,945.00        |
| 2020           | 2878        | 2577         | \$1,971.00        |
| 2021           | 2755        | 2324         | \$1,258.61        |
| *2022          | 676         | 872          | \$1,255.25        |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>2060</b> | <b>1853</b>  | <b>\$2,350.65</b> |

\*Approximately 60% of revenue at Cripple Creek Campground comes from Senior Pass and Access Pass holders who receive a 50% fee discount

\*\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 1. Cripple Creek Campground visitation compared to revenue



## ii. Mount Prindle Campground

Mount Prindle Campground is one of two campgrounds located at either end of the Nome Creek Valley, on the southern edge of the WMNRA. The campground's thirteen first come, first served sites are situated among tall willow shrubs, below expansive alpine tundra meadows and Mount Prindle (5,286 feet), making it the ideal spot to begin a trip into the high country. Nome Creek offers gold panning opportunities, and visitors can explore the nearby Quartz Creek Trail.

The campground is maintained during the summer season (June thru mid-September) and has hand pump wells, trash cans, and outhouse-style toilets. Each campsite has a parking area, picnic tables, and fire rings.

Image 3. Entrance to Mount Prindle Campground



Map 3. Mount Prindle Campground map

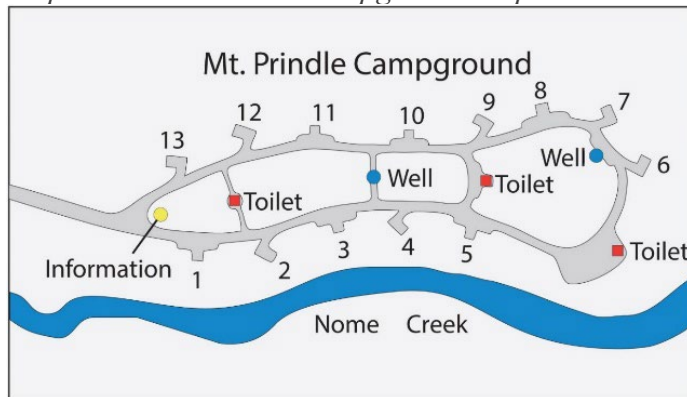


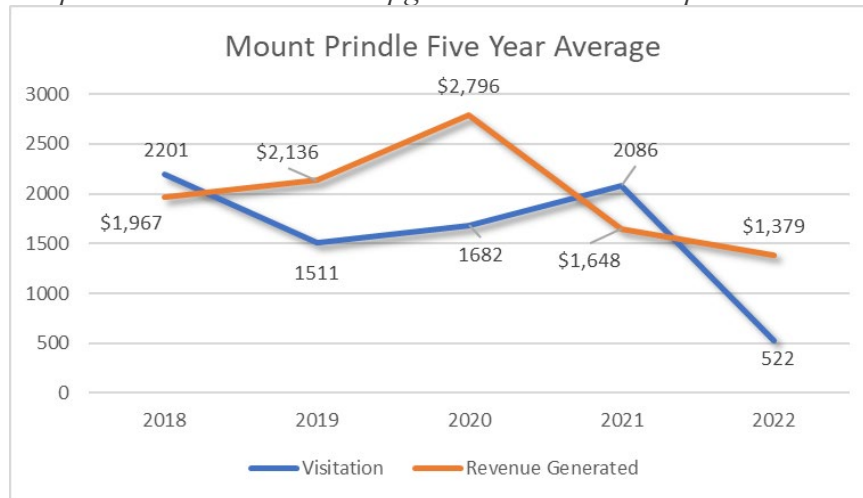
Table 2. Mount Prindle Campground revenue

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 2201          | 2553                | \$1,967.00               |
| 2019           | 1511          | 2518                | \$2,135.85               |
| 2020           | 1682          | 2803                | \$2,796.00               |
| 2021           | 2086          | 3477                | \$1,647.71               |
| *2022          | 522           | 870                 | \$1,378.75               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>2344</b>   | <b>2444</b>         | <b>\$1,985.06</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.



Graph 2. Mount Prindle Campground visitation compared to revenue



### iii. Ophir Creek Campground

Ophir Creek Campground is located at the opposite end of Nome Creek Valley from Mount Prindle Campground, on the southern edge of the WMNRA. At Ophir Creek there are twenty first come, first served campsites, including one group site, nestled in tall white spruce trees on the bank of Nome Creek. The group site was incorporated into the campground in 2015 and currently has the same fee as the rest of the individual sites. The BLM is proposing to increase the fee for the group site to better reflect the type of use and account for the added infrastructure and maintenance duties required for the site. The campground is maintained during the summer season (June thru mid-September) and has hand pump wells, trash cans, and outhouse-style toilets. Each campsite has a parking area, picnic tables, and fire rings.

Visitors can enjoy catch and release fishing in Nome Creek or take a short day-hike over to Beaver Creek WSR. Nearby is the three-mile loop trail to Table Top Mountain, with spectacular views of the higher peaks in the WMNRA. Ophir Creek Campground also provides river access to Nome Creek for paddlers headed to Beaver Creek WSR.

Image 4. Ophir Creek Campground campsite



Map 4. Ophir Creek Campground map

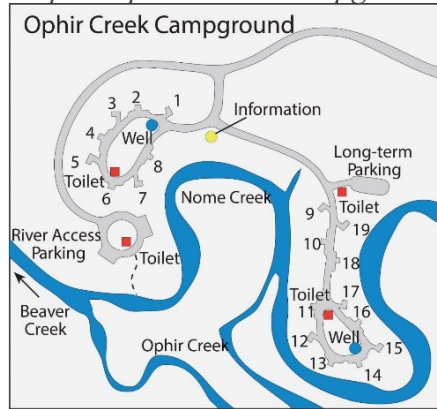
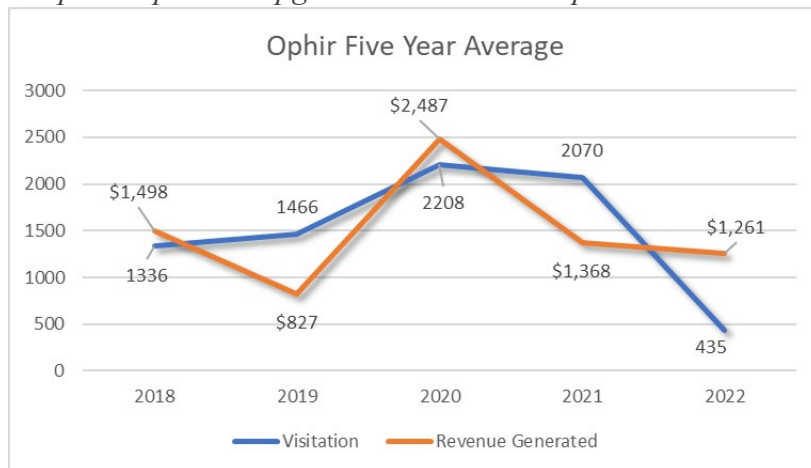


Table 3. Ophir Creek Campground revenue

| FY             | Visits      | Visitor Days | Revenue Generated |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 2018           | 1336        | 2227         | \$1,498.00        |
| 2019           | 1466        | 2443         | \$827.25          |
| 2020           | 2208        | 3680         | \$2,486.66        |
| 2021           | 2070        | 3450         | \$1,367.77        |
| *2022          | 435         | 725          | \$1,261.00        |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>1503</b> | <b>2505</b>  | <b>\$1,488.14</b> |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 3. Ophir Campground visitation compared to revenue



#### iv. Borealis-LeFevre Cabin

The Borealis Cabin is a primitive 12 ft by 16 ft cabin which can sleep up to six adults. Visitors can reach the cabin via the Wickersham Creek Trail (twenty miles of winter trail), the Summit Trail (twenty miles of summer hiking trail), or by floating Beaver Creek WSR near river mile 32 (approximately four miles upstream from "Big Bend"). Beaver Creek WSR can be crossed by foot except during freeze-up before the ice is stable, break-up, and periods of high water. This cabin is not accessible by Off-Highway Vehicle's (OHVs) in the summer (May 1–October 14). The cabin offers various recreation opportunities, from river floating and hiking in the summer to snowmobiling in the winter as well as rustic wilderness lodging, scenery, and relaxation within the WMNRA.

*Image 5. Borealis-LeFevre Cabin*

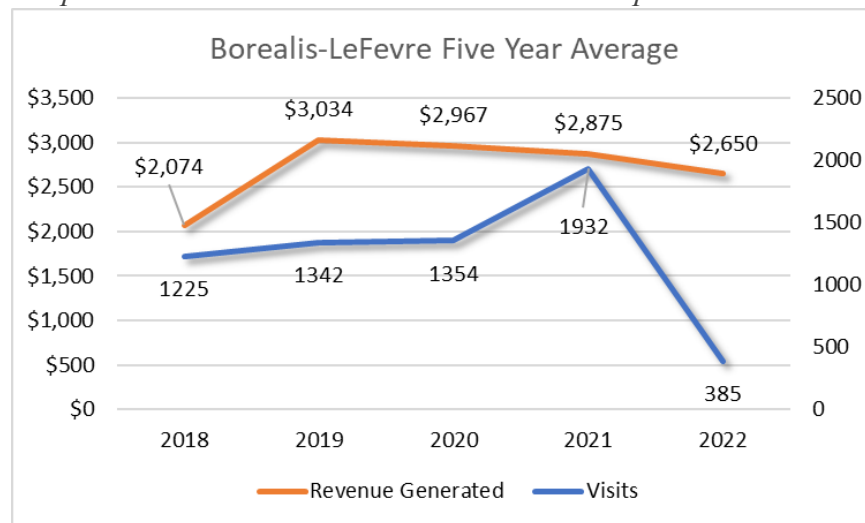


*Table 4. Borealis-LeFevre Cabin revenue*

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 1225          | 773                 | 75                     | \$2,074.00               |
| 2019           | 1342          | 1163                | 82                     | \$3,034.00               |
| 2020           | 1354          | 882                 | 90                     | \$2,967.00               |
| 2021           | 1932          | 1280                | 109                    | \$2,875.00               |
| *2022          | 385           | 574                 | 103                    | \$2,650.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>1248</b>   | <b>934</b>          | <b>92</b>              | <b>\$2,719.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 4. Borealis-LeFevre Cabin visitation compared to revenue



#### v. Cache Mountain Cabin

Cache Mountain Cabin is located along the northern end of the Trail Creek Trail, twenty miles from the McKay Creek Trailhead. The cabin is primarily intended for winter use and offers visitors recreation, rustic wilderness lodging, exceptional scenery, wildlife viewing, and relaxation within the WMNRA. From the cabin, visitors may enjoy skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, snowmobiling, dog mushing and wildlife viewing all within the vicinity of the cabin. This is a primitive 12 ft by 16 ft cabin which can sleep up to six adults. The cabin is not accessible to OHVs in the summer (May 1–October 14) and is difficult to reach on foot.

Image 6. Cache Mountain Cabin



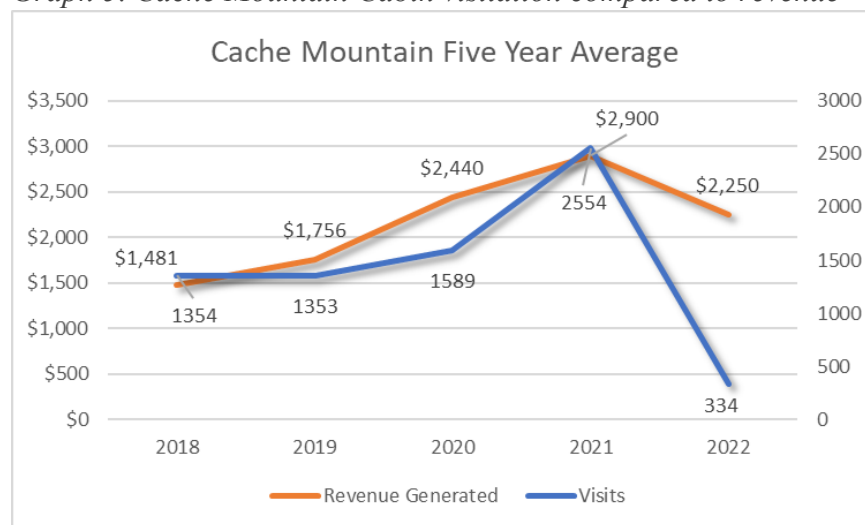


Table 5. Cache Mountain Cabin revenue

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 1354          | 488                 | 55                     | \$1,481.00               |
| 2019           | 1353          | 501                 | 48                     | \$1,756.00               |
| 2020           | 1589          | 643                 | 75                     | \$2,439.00               |
| 2021           | 2554          | 1070                | 104                    | \$2,900.00               |
| *2022          | 334           | 194                 | 83                     | \$2,250.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>1437</b>   | <b>579</b>          | <b>73</b>              | <b>\$2,165.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 5. Cache Mountain Cabin visitation compared to revenue



#### vi. Caribou Bluff Cabin

The Caribou Bluff Cabin is primarily for winter use and is located at the end of Fossil Gap Trail, twenty-nine miles from Wickersham Dome Trailhead and thirty-one miles from Colorado Creek Trailhead. This cabin is not accessible to OHVs in the summer (May 1–October 14) and is difficult to reach by hiking. However, the cabin can be accessed in the summer from a float on Beaver Creek WSR and a four-mile hike from the confluence with Fossil Creek.

Caribou Bluff Cabin is a 10 ft by 12 ft log cabin, sleeps up to four people and offers visitors rustic wilderness lodging, spectacular views of the WMNRA, the jagged cliffs and peaks of Limestone Gulch, and a relaxing experience within the WMNRA. It offers skiing, snowshoeing, hiking, snowmobiling, dog mushing, and wildlife viewing all within the vicinity of the cabin.

Image 7. Caribou Bluff Cabin

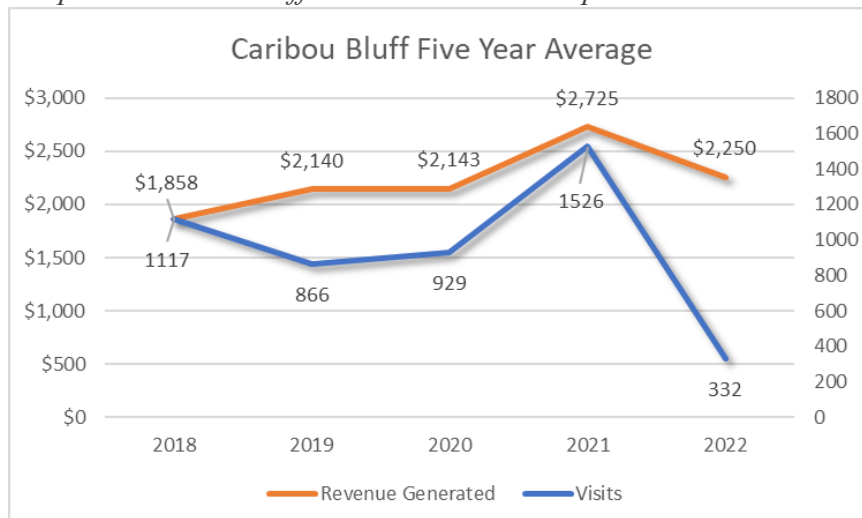


Table 6. Caribou Bluff Cabin revenue

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 1117          | 488                 | 68                     | \$1,858.00               |
| 2019           | 866           | 450                 | 56                     | \$2,140.00               |
| 2020           | 929           | 475                 | 66                     | \$2,143.00               |
| 2021           | 1526          | 810                 | 101                    | \$2,725.00               |
| *2022          | 332           | 195                 | 88                     | \$2,250.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>954</b>    | <b>484</b>          | <b>76</b>              | <b>\$2,223.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 6. Caribou Bluff Cabin visitation compared to revenue



vii. Colorado Creek Cabin

Colorado Creek Cabin is a multi-season cabin located along Colorado Creek Trail, fourteen miles from the Colorado Creek Trailhead. This is a 12 ft by 16 ft primitive cabin which sleeps four adults. The cabin remains popular today for its location adjacent to a small lake, attractive scenery, and allows for relaxing experiences within the WMNRA.

*Image 8. Colorado Creek Cabin*

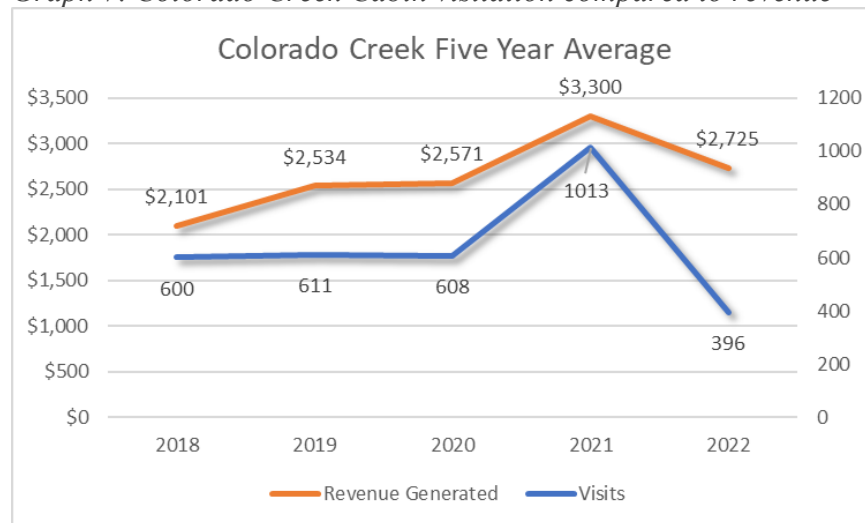


*Table 7. Colorado Creek Cabin revenue*

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 600           | 450                 | 77                     | \$2,100.00               |
| 2019           | 611           | 461                 | 68                     | \$2,534.00               |
| 2020           | 608           | 451                 | 80                     | \$2,571.00               |
| 2021           | 1013          | 761                 | 118                    | \$3,300.00               |
| *2022          | 396           | 244                 | 100                    | \$2,725.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>646</b>    | <b>473</b>          | <b>89</b>              | <b>\$2,646.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 7. Colorado Creek Cabin visitation compared to revenue



#### viii. Crowberry Cabin

Crowberry Cabin is located along Trail Creek Trail and is twenty-seven miles from the Wickersham Dome Trailhead. This is a primitive 16ft by 16 ft cabin which sleeps up to six adults. The cabin is primarily for winter use but is accessible by OHVs in the summer (May 1–October 14). However, muddy conditions can make the trip extremely difficult.

The original Crowberry Cabin was constructed in 1991 and burned in a wildfire in 2005. The new Crowberry Cabin was constructed in 2007 within the same clearing as the original, but at the top of the hill for a better view of the WMNRA. The new cabin construction was partially funded from fees generated from the recreation fee program.

Crowberry Cabin offers visitors recreation, rustic wilderness lodging, scenic/wildlife viewing, and a relaxing experience within the WMNRA. During the winter, visitors to the cabin may enjoy popular activities like snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing.

Image 9. Crowberry Cabin



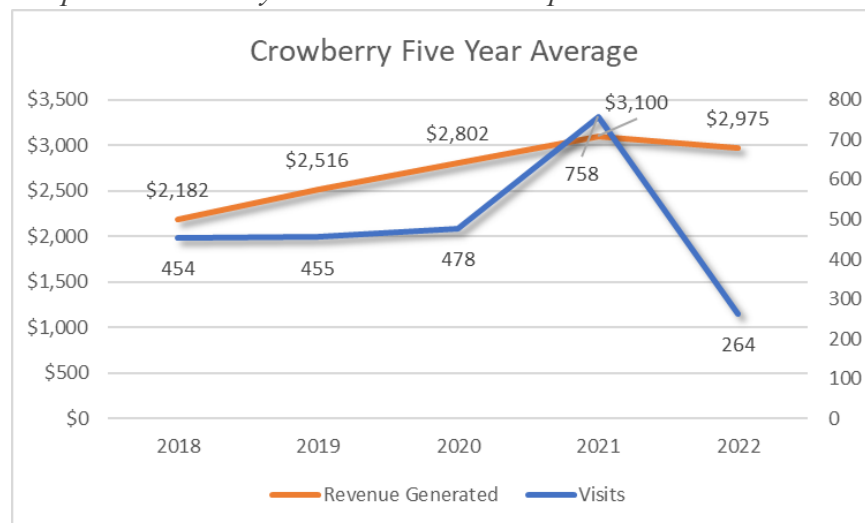


Table 8. Crowberry Cabin revenue

| FY             | Visits     | Visitor Days | Nights Reserved | Revenue Generated |
|----------------|------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2018           | 454        | 401          | 78              | \$2,182.00        |
| 2019           | 455        | 402          | 69              | \$2,516.00        |
| 2020           | 478        | 422          | 85              | \$2,802.00        |
| 2021           | 758        | 670          | 116             | \$3,100.00        |
| *2022          | 264        | 233          | 106             | \$2,975.00        |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>482</b> | <b>426</b>   | <b>91</b>       | <b>\$2,715.00</b> |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 8. Crowberry Cabin visitation compared to revenue



#### ix. Eleazar's Cabin

Eleazar's Cabin is located down the Wickersham Creek Trail, twelve miles from the Wickersham Dome Trailhead. It is a primitive 12 ft by 16 ft cabin which can sleep six adults. The cabin sits high above the Wickersham and Moose Creek drainages. Eleazar's Cabin was primarily designed for winter use, but can be accessed in the summer, although this requires hiking several miles off-trail through brushy terrain from the Summit Trail. Summer access from the Wickersham Trail is not recommended due to mucky and wet terrain. Eleazar's Cabin is not accessible to OHVs in the summer (May 1–October 14). Eleazar's Cabin offers visitors rustic wilderness lodging, winter recreation, beautiful scenery, wildlife viewing, and relaxation within the WMNRA.

Image 10. Eleazar's Cabin

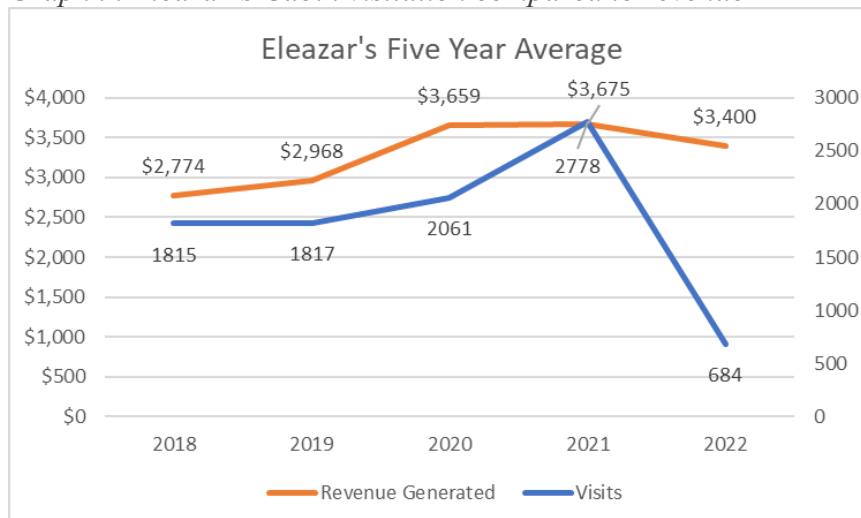


Table 9. Eleazar's Cabin revenue

| FY             | Visits      | Visitor Days | Nights Reserved | Revenue Generated |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2018           | 1815        | 770          | 99              | \$2,774.00        |
| 2019           | 1817        | 799          | 81              | \$2,968.00        |
| 2020           | 2061        | 957          | 111             | \$3,659.00        |
| 2021           | 2778        | 995          | 135             | \$3,675.00        |
| *2022          | 684         | 401          | 132             | \$3,400.00        |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>1831</b> | <b>784</b>   | <b>112</b>      | <b>\$3,295.00</b> |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 9. Eleazar's Cabin visitation compared to revenue



x. Fred Blixt Cabin

The Fred Blixt Cabin was originally built in the 1930's and was the home of Swedish miner, Fred Blixt. The cabin burned in 1991 and was reconstructed similar to its original style and size in 1992. The cabin offers visitors a year-round, road-accessible getaway that is perfect for a relaxing family outing or a leisurely trip near the WMNRA. It offers visitors winter and summer recreation opportunities including hiking, skiing, and wildlife viewing. This is a primitive cabin without electricity or running water. The cabin is 12 ft by 16 ft and sleeps up to four people.

*Image 11. Fred Blixt Cabin*

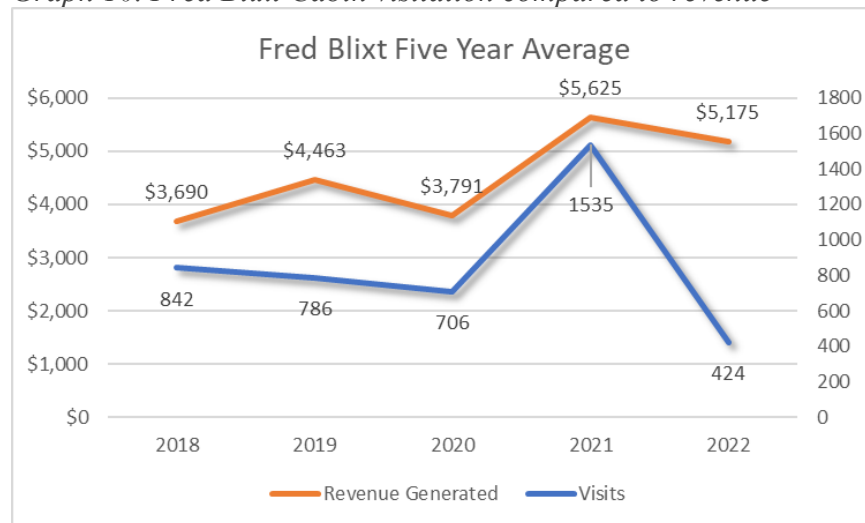


*Table 10. Fred Blixt Cabin revenue*

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 842           | 1298                | 126                    | \$3,690.00               |
| 2019           | 786           | 1212                | 107                    | \$4,463.00               |
| 2020           | 706           | 1088                | 122                    | \$3,791.00               |
| 2021           | 1535          | 2366                | 184                    | \$5,625.00               |
| *2022          | 424           | 654                 | 161                    | \$5,175.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>859</b>    | <b>1324</b>         | <b>140</b>             | <b>\$4,549.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 10. Fred Blixt Cabin visitation compared to revenue



#### xi. Lee's Cabin

Lee's Cabin is a multi-season cabin located along Trail Creek Trail just past the junction with Wickersham Creek Trail, seven miles from the trailhead. The cabin can be accessed by foot, mountain bike, OHV, snowmobile, dogsled, and skis. This is a 12 ft by 16 ft primitive log cabin which sleeps six adults.

Lee's Cabin offers visitors rustic lodging, summer and winter recreation, scenery, wildlife viewing, and a relaxing getaway. Popular summer activities include hiking, OHV riding, berry picking, and mountain biking. During the winter the cabin is a very popular stop for visitors exploring the WMNRA, and by far the most popular cabin in the NRA due to its proximity to the road system.

Image 12. Lee's Cabin



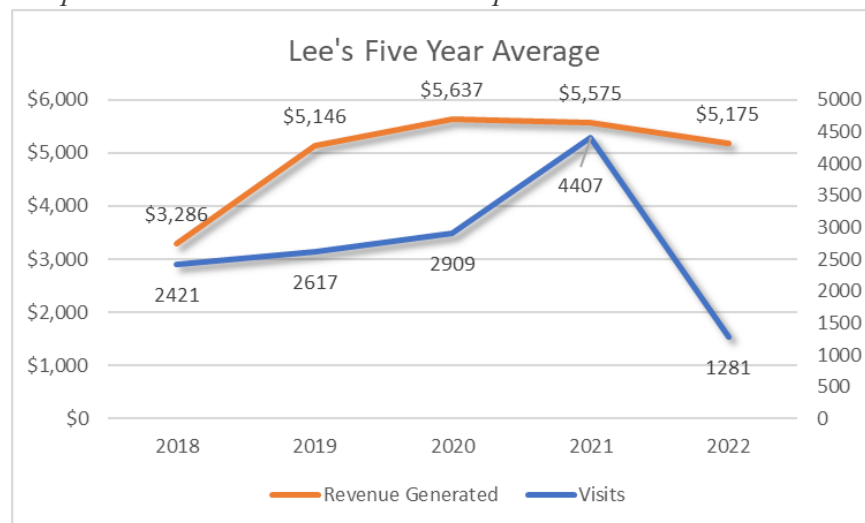


Table 11. Lee's Cabin revenue

| FY             | Visits      | Visitor Days | Nights Reserved | Revenue Generated |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2018           | 2421        | 1344         | 123             | \$3,286.00        |
| 2019           | 2617        | 1536         | 136             | \$5,146.00        |
| 2020           | 2909        | 1722         | 185             | \$5,637.00        |
| 2021           | 4407        | 2568         | 203             | \$5,575.00        |
| *2022          | 1281        | 756          | 196             | \$5175.00         |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>2727</b> | <b>1585</b>  | <b>169</b>      | <b>\$4,964.00</b> |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 11. Lee's Cabin visitation compared to revenue



## xii. Moose Creek Cabin

Moose Creek Cabin is primarily a winter cabin that is located along Trail Creek Trail, sixteen miles from the Wickersham Dome Trailhead. This is a primitive 16 ft by 16 ft cabin and sleeps six adults. The Moose Creek Cabin is accessible by OHVs in the summer (May 1–October 14) but can be extremely difficult to access due to muddy trail conditions.

The original Moose Creek Cabin was constructed in 1986 in a tussock meadow about  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile west of the current cabin. The new cabin was constructed during the summer of 2014 farther up the ridge on more suitable soils to support the structure. The new cabin was constructed with the assistance of funds generated from the fee program.

Moose Creek Cabin offers visitors rustic lodging, winter recreation opportunities, scenery, wildlife viewing, and a relaxing experience within the WMNRA. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are popular activities. During clear days, views of the Alaska Range and Denali can be seen from the cabin.

Image 13. Moose Creek Cabin

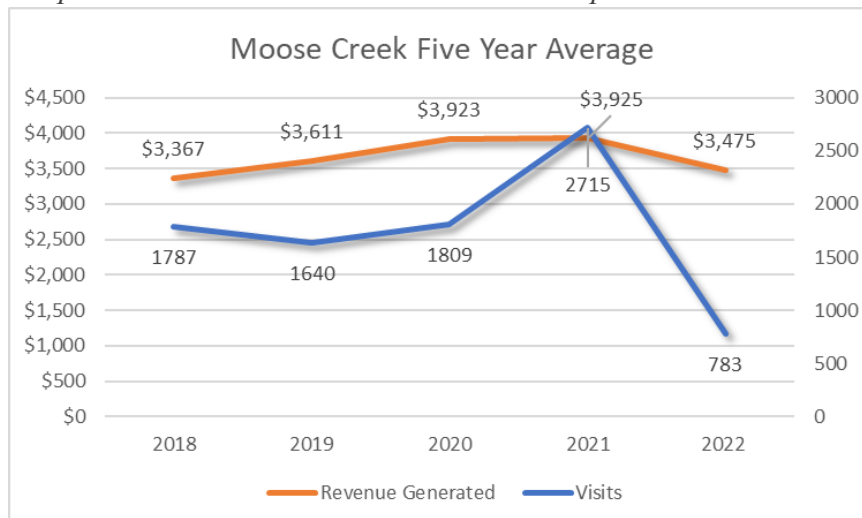


Table 12. Moose Creek Cabin revenue

| FY             | Visits      | Visitor Days | Nights Reserved | Revenue Generated |
|----------------|-------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 2018           | 1787        | 1092         | 121             | \$3,367.00        |
| 2019           | 1640        | 972          | 106             | \$3,611.00        |
| 2020           | 1809        | 1076         | 120             | \$3,923.00        |
| 2021           | 2715        | 1584         | 145             | \$3,925.00        |
| *2022          | 783         | 461          | 134             | \$3,475.00        |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>1747</b> | <b>1037</b>  | <b>125</b>      | <b>\$3,660.00</b> |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

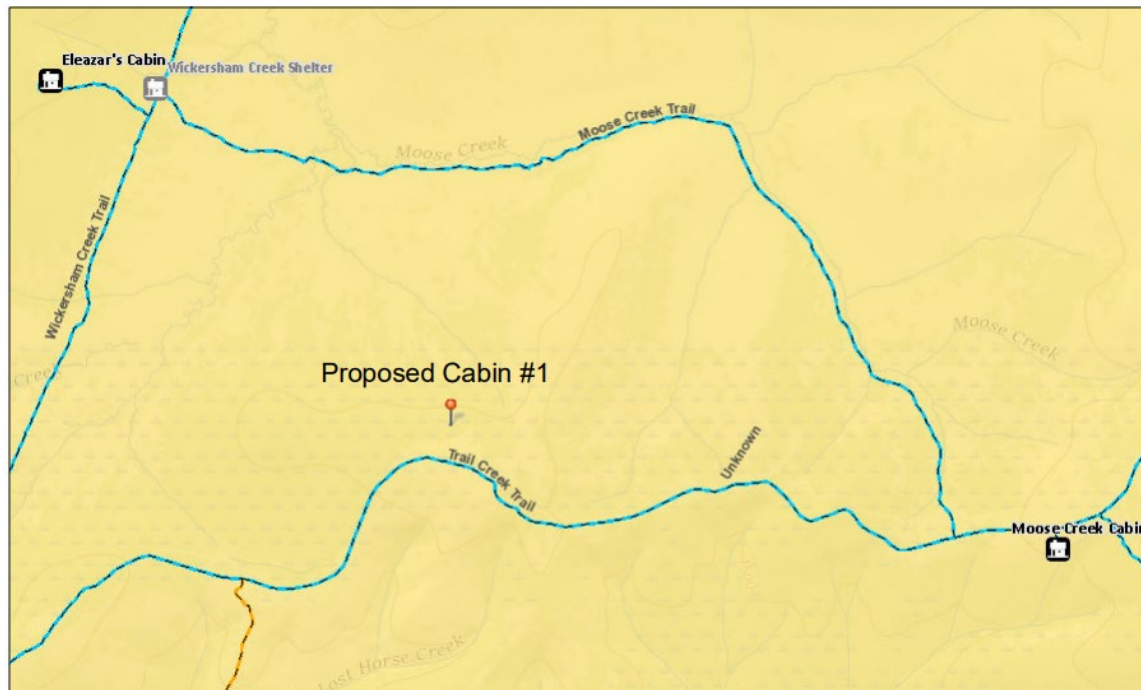
Graph 12. Moose Creek Cabin visitation compared to revenue



xiii. Proposed Cabin #1

Proposed Cabin #1 would be a scribed log, 16 ft by 16 ft primitive cabin, similar to Moose Creek and Crowberry Cabins. The cabin would sleep six adults and would be equipped with cook stove, lantern, wood stove, cooking counter, bunks, and an outhouse. The cabin would be accessible by OHV in summer (May 1–October 14) via the Trail Creek Trail, though summer access will be difficult due to challenging and boggy trail conditions. The cabin would be approximately eleven miles from the Wickersham Dome Trailhead. This cabin would offer users outstanding opportunities for recreation closer to an established trailhead.

Map 5. Proposed cabin #1 location



It is estimated that this cabin could generate similar revenue to Crowberry and Moose Creek Cabins, based on proximity, accessibility, and cabin type. Based on figures from the FY2018 – FY2022, this cabin could generate a yearly average of \$5,280. This estimation is generated from data in Table 13 below.

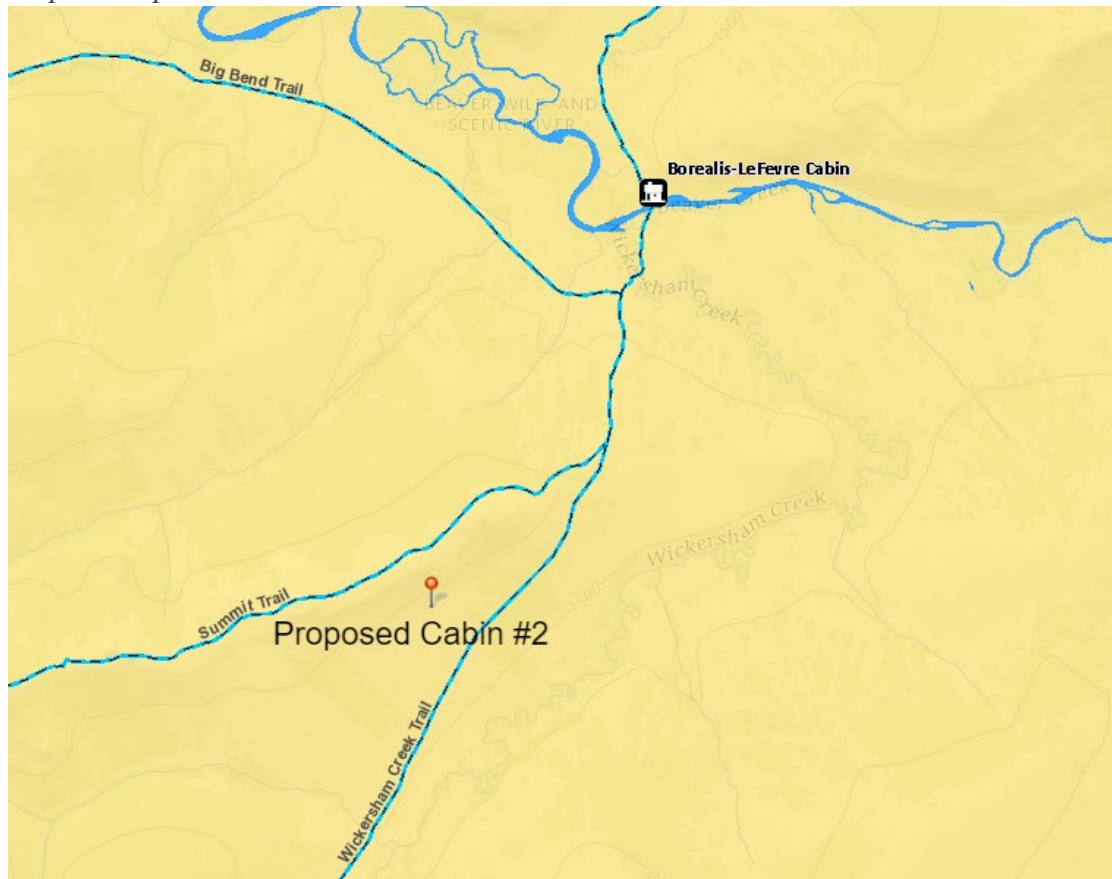
Table 13. Potential revenue from Proposed Cabin #1 using data from Crowberry and Moose Creek.

|                               | Visitation | RUP | Site Occupancy | Length of Stay | 5-year Average Revenue | Potential Revenue from Proposed Fees |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Proposed Cabin #1 Projections | 1,114      | 114 | 108            | 1.11           | \$3,188                | <b>\$5,280</b>                       |

xiv. Proposed Cabin #2

Proposed Cabin #2 would be a 16 ft by 16 ft primitive, D-log style log cabin, similar to Moose Creek and Crowberry Cabins. The cabin would sleep six adults and would be equipped with cook stove, lantern, wood stove, cooking counter, bunks, and an outhouse. The cabin would be accessible in winter only via winter routes and situated approximately one mile from the Summit Trail which will eventually provide good summer access by foot. The cabin would be approximately fourteen miles from the Wickersham Dome Trailhead along the winter route and similar distance along the Summit Trail in summer.

Map 6. Proposed cabin #2 location



It is estimated that this cabin could generate similar revenue to Crowberry and Borealis-LeFevre Cabins, based on proximity, accessibility, and cabin type. Based on figures from the FY2018 – FY2022, this cabin could generate a yearly average of \$4,504. This estimation is generated from data in Table 14 below.

Table 14. Potential revenue from Proposed Cabin #2 using data from Crowberry and Borealis-LeFevre.

|                               | Visitation | RUP | Site Occupancy | Length of Stay | 5-year Average Revenue | Potential Revenue from Proposed Fees |
|-------------------------------|------------|-----|----------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Proposed Cabin #2 Projections | 865        | 98  | 92             | 1.1            | \$2,717                | <b>\$4,504</b>                       |



xv. Richard's Cabin

Richard's Cabin is primarily a winter use cabin that is located at the end of Bear Creek Trail, twenty-one miles from the McKay Creek Trailhead and twenty-five miles from the U.S. Creek Trailhead. This is a primitive 16 ft by 25 ft cabin that sleeps six or more adults. The trail is very muddy in the summer and access is difficult.

Richard's Cabin was constructed in the early 1970's on Richard Platz's mining claim by his son Michael and nephew Billy Jr. along with other family members. The cabin was constructed to support his mining, hunting, and trapping interests. The BLM remodeled the cabin and opened it to the public March 1, 1998. Richard's Cabin offers visitors winter recreation opportunities, rustic lodging, scenery, and wildlife viewing. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are popular activities.

*Image 14. Richard's Cabin*

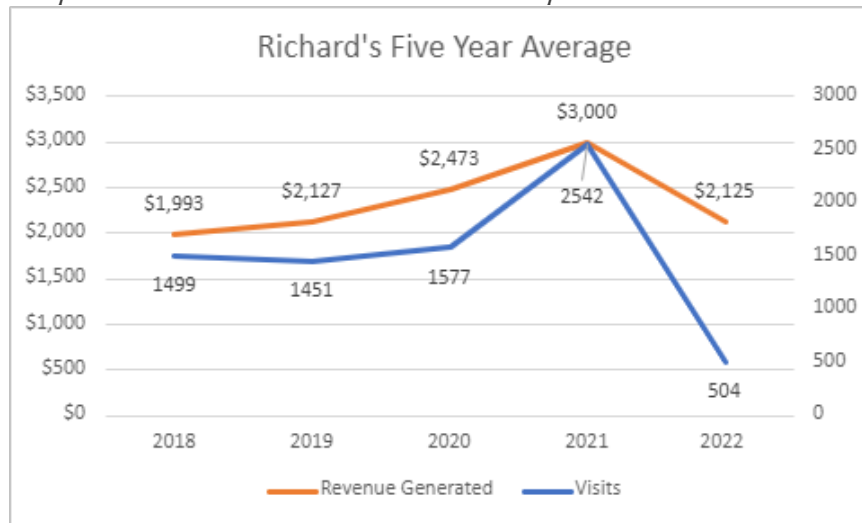


*Table 15. Richard's Cabin revenue*

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 1499          | 546                 | 65                     | \$1,993.00               |
| 2019           | 1451          | 519                 | 51                     | \$2,127.00               |
| 2020           | 1577          | 558                 | 75                     | \$2,473.00               |
| 2021           | 2542          | 944                 | 97                     | \$3,000.00               |
| *2022          | 504           | 212                 | 74                     | \$2,125.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>1515</b>   | <b>556</b>          | <b>72</b>              | <b>\$2,344.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 13. Richard's Cabin visitation compared to revenue



#### xvi. Windy Gap Cabin

The Windy Gap Cabin is the most remote cabin in the WMNRA's cabin and trail system. The cabin is located along the Fossil Creek Trail, thirty-two miles from the Colorado Creek Trailhead or forty miles from the Wickersham Dome Trailhead. This primitive 12 ft by 16 ft cabin sleeps four adults. This remote cabin is very difficult to reach on foot in the summer due to boggy terrain. It is not accessible to OHVs in the summer (May 1–October 14).

Windy Gap Cabin offers visitors winter recreation, rustic lodging, spectacular scenery, and wildlife viewing. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are popular activities.

Image 15. Windy Gap Cabin

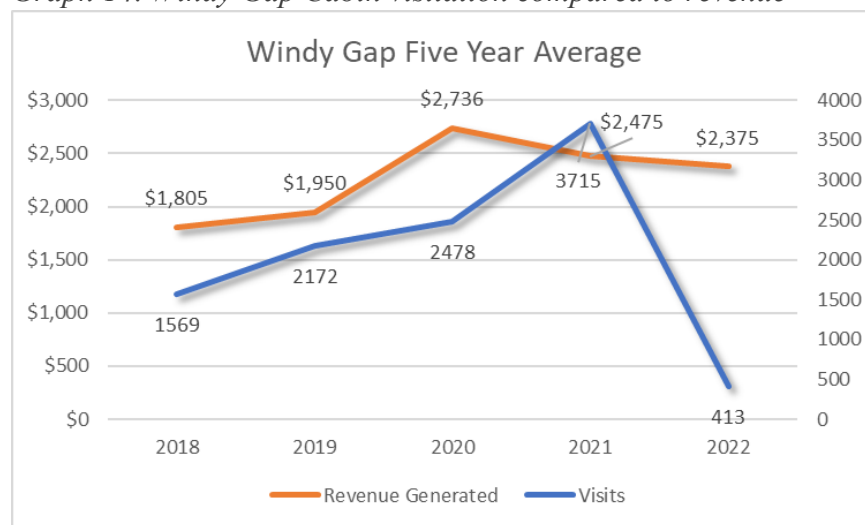


Table 16. Windy Gap Cabin revenue

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Visitor Days</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 1569          | 1116                | 67                     | \$1,805.00               |
| 2019           | 2172          | 1199                | 56                     | \$1,950.00               |
| 2020           | 2478          | 1401                | 83                     | \$2,736.00               |
| 2021           | 3715          | 2053                | 96                     | \$2,475.00               |
| *2022          | 413           | 283                 | 86                     | \$2,375.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>2069</b>   | <b>1210</b>         | <b>78</b>              | <b>\$2,268.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 14. Windy Gap Cabin visitation compared to revenue



#### xvii. Wolf Run Cabin

The Wolf Run Cabin is primarily a winter use cabin that is located along Windy Creek Trail, twenty-three miles from the Colorado Creek Trailhead. This primitive, 12 ft by 16 ft cabin sleeps six adults. It is not accessible by OHVs in the summer (May 1–October 14). The first Wolf Run Cabin burned in the wildfires of 2005, along with the bridge crossing Windy Creek. Both structures were replaced with larger versions in 2006 from funds generated through the recreation fee program. This cabin offers visitors winter recreation, scenery, wildlife viewing, rustic lodging, and an excellent getaway. Snowmobiling, snowshoeing, and cross-country skiing are popular activities at this site.

Image 16. Wolf Run Cabin

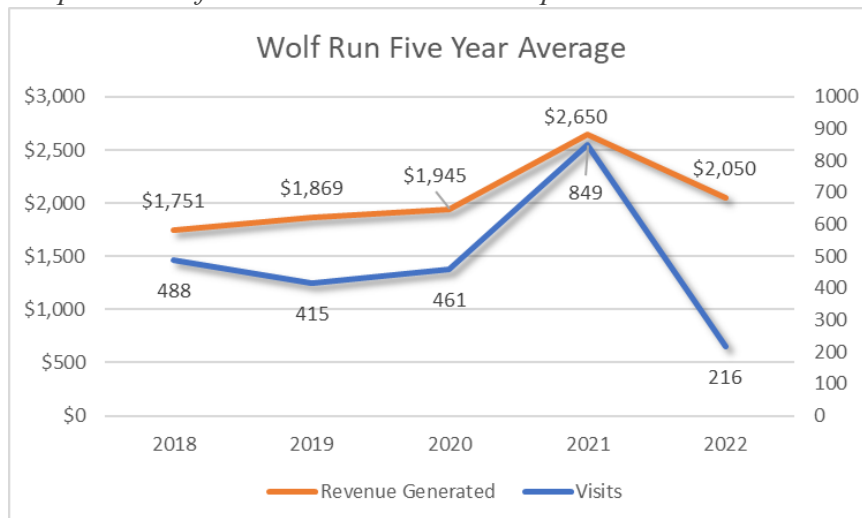


Table 17. Wolf Run Cabin revenue

| <b>FY</b>      | <b>Visits</b> | <b>Total Visits</b> | <b>Nights Reserved</b> | <b>Revenue Generated</b> |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2018           | 488           | 419                 | 62                     | \$1,751.00               |
| 2019           | 415           | 355                 | 45                     | \$1,869.00               |
| 2020           | 461           | 393                 | 60                     | \$1,945.00               |
| 2021           | 849           | 729                 | 97                     | \$2,650.00               |
| *2022          | 216           | 189                 | 78                     | \$2,050.00               |
| <b>Average</b> | <b>486</b>    | <b>417</b>          | <b>70</b>              | <b>\$2,053.00</b>        |

\* Visit data was recalculated beginning FY2022 which resulted in lower visit data comparable to previous years. Visit data from FY2022 moving forward only captures the number of permits issued and does not incorporate visitation.

Graph 15. Wolf Run Cabin visitation compared to revenue





#### d. Operating Costs

EIFO expends considerable resources in managing the WMNRA. The current system of trails and backcountry remote cabins, along with three campgrounds, requires substantial levels of trail maintenance, facility maintenance, staff and seasonal interns, and law enforcement staff to maintain a presentable and safe experience for visitors to the WMNRA.

Direct cost for recreation management of the WMNRA includes BLM and intern labor, services such as restroom pumping, garbage collection, firewood, hazard tree mitigation, potable water testing, vehicles and vehicle maintenance, law enforcement, signage, maintenance materials and supplies, brochures, and other interpretive materials. The field office operates a small fleet of vehicles to include three passenger trucks, three OHV's, one UTV, four snowmobiles, one small dump truck, one backhoe/loader, and one mini excavator. In addition to these, the field office also shares a grader with the BLM Anchorage Field Office to maintain the Nome Creek Road. The dump truck, backhoe, and the grader are crucial for maintaining the 18 miles of gravel road along Nome Creek, which is the primary summer gateway to the WMNRA.

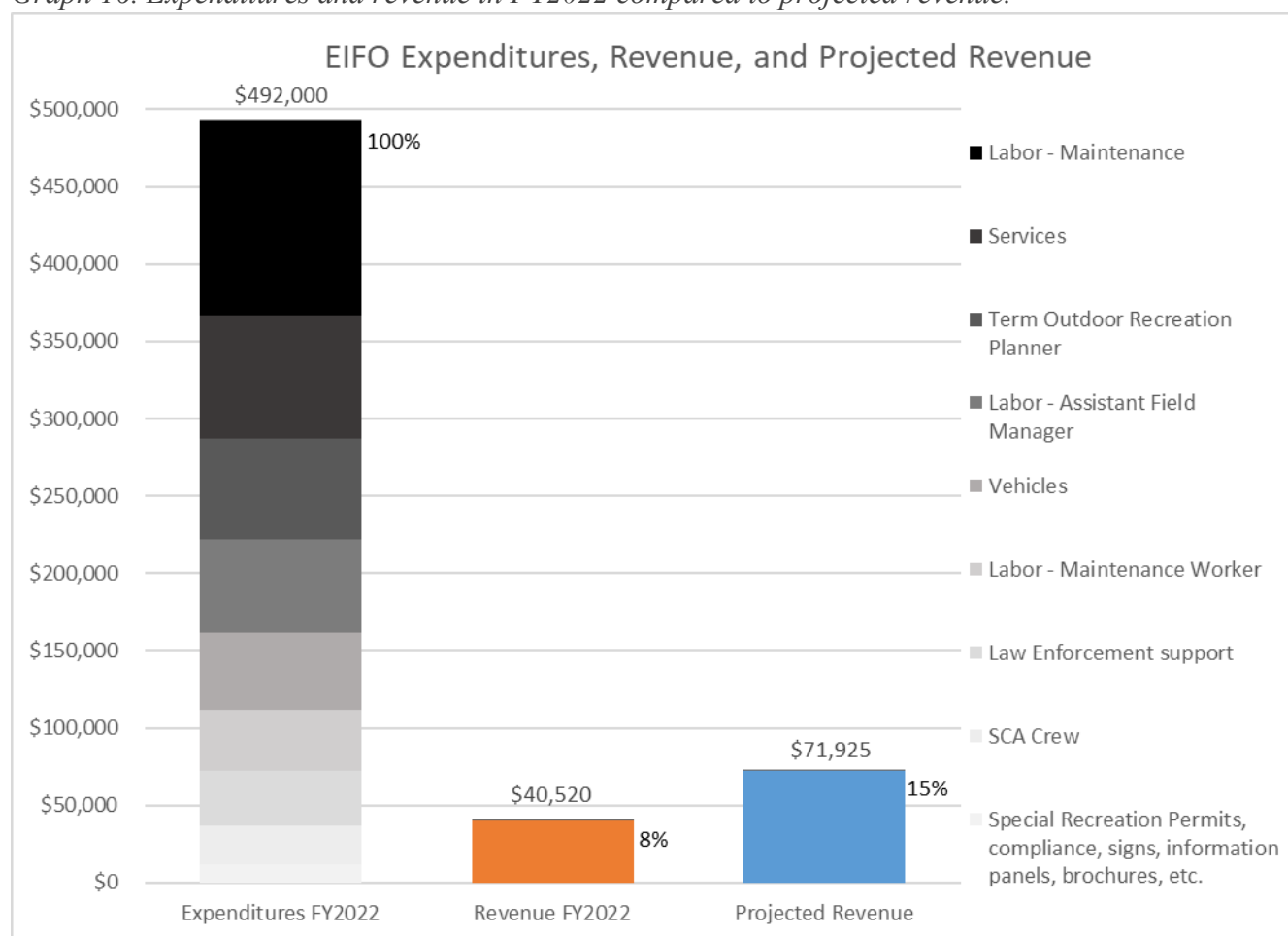
Table 18 (below) is a breakdown of all approximated costs associated with operating EIFO recreation fee sites in FY2022. These expenditures represent expenses of a typical year, although some years may be higher due to unforeseen circumstances.

*Table 18. FY2022 recreation fee site expenditures*

| <b>FY2022 Expenditures</b>  | <b>Amount</b>    | <b>*Amount of FY2022 Fee Revenue Spent Toward Expenditures</b> |
|---|------------------|--|
| Labor - Assistant Field Manager (6 work months)   | \$60,000         | \$4,941  |
| Labor - Maintenance (10 work months)  | \$125,000        | \$10,295   |
| Labor - Maintenance Worker (6 work months)  | \$40,000         | \$3,294  |
| Law Enforcement support   | \$35,000         | \$2,883  |
| Term Outdoor Recreation Planner   | \$65,000         | \$5,353  |
| Services - Road, trails, cabin maintenance, garbage, restroom pumping, maintenance of equipment, winter and summer trails, waysides, etc. | \$80,000         | \$6,589  |
| Special Recreation Permits, compliance, signs, information panels, brochures, etc.  | \$12,000         | \$988  |
| SCA Crew  | \$25,000         | \$2,059  |
| Vehicles  | \$50,000         | \$4,118  |
| <b>Total FY2022 Expenditures</b>  | <b>\$492,000</b> |  |

\*Amount of revenue toward expenditures is estimated on the percentage of each category from total.

Graph 16. Expenditures and revenue in FY2022 compared to projected revenue.



#### e. Recreation Use Fees and Revenues

The twelve current public use cabins and three campgrounds currently collect fees in a manner consistent with the criteria listed in section 803 (b) of FLREA. From 2018–2022, an estimated yearly average of 21,162 people visited WMNRA campgrounds and cabins and generated an average of \$41,426 in revenue.

Table 19. WMNRA 5-year visitation and revenue

| FY                    | Visitation    | Revenue         |
|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| 2018                  | 20,900        | \$35,149        |
| 2019                  | 20,299        | \$41,022        |
| 2020                  | 23,727        | \$44,341        |
| 2021                  | 33,235        | \$46,099        |
| 2022                  | 7,649         | \$40,520        |
| <b>5 Year Average</b> | <b>21,162</b> | <b>\$41,426</b> |

### 3. Fee Proposal

#### a. Summary of Fee Proposal

This fee proposal includes increasing camping fees at three campgrounds and twelve public use cabins within the EIFO. In addition, the fee proposal includes establishing fees at two proposed public use cabins within the WMNRA. Table 20 below shows the proposed changes to the fee structure.

*Table 20. Existing and proposed fee structure*

| <b>Recreation Site</b>                          | <b>Existing Fee</b> | <b>Proposed Fee</b> | <b>Percent Increase</b> |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Ophir, Cripple Creek, & Mt. Prindle Campgrounds | \$6.00              | \$12.00             | 100%                    |
| Cripple Creek walk-in campsites                 | \$3.00              | \$6.00              | 100%                    |
| Ophir Campground group site                     | \$6.00              | \$24.00             | 300%                    |
| Current recreation cabins in WMNRA              | \$25.00             | \$42.00             | 68%                     |
| Proposed Cabins #1 and #2                       | \$0                 | \$42.00             | N/A                     |

#### b. Expanded Amenity-Reservation Services

EIFO will use various e-commerce technologies, as directed in BLM Instruction Memorandum 2022-019, to provide recreation visitors opportunities to find, reserve, and pay for a campsites and day use within the field office. Most of these options are provided through the interagency reservation service Recreation.gov.

If the EIFO decides to make reservation services or other types of e-commerce options available in the future, an expanded amenity fee for reservation services would be charged in addition to any other standard or expanded amenity fees in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2)(G). Reservation services fees could range from \$0.50 to \$10.00 depending on the type of service provided. The reservation service fee is subject to contracting requirements and will be adjusted with contract changes or with future updates to the business plan. For visitors who wish not to pay the expanded amenity fee of reservation services, the traditional iron ranger with RUP envelopes will exist at campgrounds until the field office moves the fee area completely to e-commerce options and/or the RUP envelope is no longer available for payment.

#### c. Financial Analysis

In FY2022, EIFO collected \$36,625 from the twelve cabins and \$3,895 from the three campgrounds. The proposed fees will increase the annual revenue from the twelve cabins by approximately \$20,348, an increase of 49%, and the three campgrounds by approximately \$2,759, an increase of 39%.

Tables 21 and 22 below illustrate the projected revenue if the fee increases are implemented. Revenue projections are based on the implementation of the proposed fee increases and investigation of two factors used to determine revenue for cabins: 1) total number of Recreation Use Permits (RUPs), 2) average length of stay; and three factors for campground revenue: 1) total number of RUPs, 2) average length of stay, and 3) percentage of discounted RUPs.

Table 21. Cabin fee projected revenue.

| Recreation Fee Site          | *RUPS Issued | *Site Occupancy (Nights) | *Length of Stay | Proposed Fee | Estimated Revenue from Proposed Fees | **Percent Increase in Revenue |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Borealis-LeFevre Cabin       | 98           | 106                      | 1.08            | \$42.00      | \$4,445                              | 51%                           |
| Cache Mt Cabin               | 78           | 87                       | 1.11            | \$42.00      | \$3,636                              | 51%                           |
| Caribou Bluff Cabin          | 79           | 85                       | 1.07            | \$42.00      | \$3,550                              | 49%                           |
| Colorado Creek Cabin         | 93           | 106                      | 1.14            | \$42.00      | \$4,453                              | 48%                           |
| Crowberry Cabin              | 97           | 109                      | 1.12            | \$42.00      | \$4,563                              | 50%                           |
| Eleazer's Cabin              | 119          | 130                      | 1.09            | \$42.00      | \$5,448                              | 52%                           |
| Fred Blixt Cabin             | 156          | 214                      | 1.37            | \$42.00      | \$8,976                              | 44%                           |
| Lee's Cabin                  | 179          | 236                      | 1.32            | \$42.00      | \$9,924                              | 51%                           |
| Moose Creek Cabin            | 131          | 143                      | 1.09            | \$42.00      | \$5,997                              | 50%                           |
| Richards Cabin               | 84           | 102                      | 1.22            | \$42.00      | \$4,304                              | 51%                           |
| Windy Gap Cabin              | 80           | 84                       | 1.05            | \$42.00      | \$3,528                              | 48%                           |
| Wolf Run Cabin               | 74           | 77                       | 1.13            | \$42.00      | \$3,227                              | 39%                           |
| <b>Total annual revenue:</b> |              |                          |                 |              | <b>\$62,052</b>                      | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Average increase:</b>     |              |                          |                 |              | <b>-</b>                             | <b>49%</b>                    |

\*Figures based on a five-year average (FY2018 – FY2022)

\*\* Percent increase calculated from actual 5-year average adjusted for average length of stay

Table 22. Campground fee projected revenue

| Recreation Fee Site          | *RUPS Issued | *Site Occupancy (Nights) | *Length of Stay | Proposed Fee | Estimated Revenue from Proposed Fees | **Percent Increase in Revenue |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cripple Creek                | 240          | 240                      | 1               | \$12.00      | \$2,372                              | 1%                            |
| Ophir                        | 237          | 379                      | 1.6             | \$12.00      | \$3,748                              | 57%                           |
| Mt. Prindle                  | 316          | 379                      | 1.2             | \$12.00      | \$3,753                              | 58%                           |
| <b>Total annual revenue:</b> |              |                          |                 |              | <b>\$9,873</b>                       | <b>-</b>                      |
| <b>Average increase:</b>     |              |                          |                 |              | <b>-</b>                             | <b>39%</b>                    |

\*Figures based on a five-year average from RMIS (FY2018 – FY2022)

\*\* Percent increase calculated from actual 5-year average adjusted for average length of stay

Figures for cabin revenue (Table 21) are derived by multiplying the total numbers of RUPs by the average length of stay from 2018–2022 and then by the proposed fee of \$42 to determine projected revenue. WMNRA cabins are group sites and are not eligible for discounted fees. Using Borealis Cabin as an example, 98 RUPs x 1.08 days avg. stay = 105.8 days. 105.8 days x \$42 per day = **\$4,445 projected revenue.**

Figures for campground revenue (Table 22) are derived by multiplying the total number of RUPs by 65%, the estimated percentage of full-priced RUPs purchased. The remaining RUPs (35% of the total) involve Senior or Access passes that reduce fees by half. The EIFO multiplied the number of full-priced and discounted RUPs by the average length of stay and then by the appropriate proposed fees (full-priced or discounted) to determine projected revenue.



Using Mt. Prindle Campground as an example,  $316 \text{ RUPs} \times .65 = 205 \text{ full-priced RUPs}$ .  $205 \text{ full-price RUPs} \times 1.2 \text{ days avg. stay/RUP} = 246 \text{ days}$ .  $246 \text{ days} \times \$12/\text{day} = \$2,954$ .  $316 \text{ RUPs} - 205 \text{ full-price RUPs} = 111 \text{ half-priced RUPs}$ .  $111 \text{ half-priced RUPs} \times 1.2 \text{ days avg. stay/RUP} = 133 \text{ days}$ .  $133 \text{ days} \times \$6 \text{ per day} = \$799$ .  $\$2,954 + \$799 = \mathbf{\$3,753 \text{ projected revenue}}$ . The projected revenue figures assume all visitors to the first-come, first-served campground pay the full or correct amount. Unfortunately, collections demonstrate that this is not always the case, so actual revenue will likely be lower than the estimates.

#### d. Fee Calculation

The EIFO determined the new expanded amenity fees for existing and proposed recreation fee sites by comparing its facilities to park facilities offering similar recreation activities, access, services, and amenities in Alaska. These include facilities managed by adjacent BLM field offices as well as those managed by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), and United States Forest Service (USFS). The WMNRA is remote and there are few campgrounds or recreational cabins geographically nearby to compare fees with. The closest cabins comparable to WMNRA are managed by the DNR in the Northern region which are included separately in the fee analysis. WMNRA cabins offer cooking stoves and lanterns, which DNR, USFS, and USFWS cabins do not provide.

All developed campgrounds and cabins within the market comparison area charge an overnight fee. Fees at campgrounds range from \$6 per walk-in and \$10 per night at more rustic and remote BLM campgrounds to \$23 (individual) and \$33 (double occupancy) per night at highly developed, urban interfaced USFS campgrounds. Fees at cabins range from \$35 per night at remote fly-in or boat-in USFWS cabins to \$100 per night at more urban USFS cabins. The highest priced public use cabin is \$165 per night in the DNR cabin system, though it is also reserved per bed for a lower price.

The average price per night in other federal and state public use cabins in Alaska is:

- \$70 per night/\$10.23 per occupant in the DNR statewide,
- \$60 per night/\$9.31 per occupant in the Northern Region of the DNR,
- \$56 per night/\$8.28 per occupant in USFS,
- \$40 per night/\$12.17 per occupant in the USFWS,
- \$25 per night/\$4.54 per occupant for the WMNRA current cabin fee, and
- \$42 per night/\$7.63 per occupant for the WMNRA proposed cabin fee.

Fees were calculated based on information provided on Recreation.gov for federal agency cabins and ReserveAmerica.com for state cabins. Average price per night figures included all cabins available to reserve. To estimate the average cost per occupant, maximum sleeping capacity numbers from the online reservation systems were averaged and divided from the average cost of cabins per agency. The USFS charges an additional \$25 weekend fee at ten cabins and a higher fee during the peak summer months at twenty-three cabins. Those added fees were not used to derive average costs.

The EIFO determined the proposed fee increase directly from this analysis. The proposed fees lie within the range of other service providers' and are based on what these agencies currently charge for similar visitor facilities, access, and amenities. Although comparison to facilities with similar services and amenities was the main determining factor, the EIFO also took into consideration the length of time since the EIFO last raised

fees, the length of time since other agencies last raised fees at their sites, the number of discounted RUPs sold, and the increased cost of maintaining and operating the recreation sites.

Appendix A on page 43 shows the Alaska campground amenity and fee list, while appendices B through E on pages 44–48 show the Alaska public use cabins amenity and fee list, separated by land management agency.

#### e. Use of Fees

The EIFO's primary goal for recreation fee sites is to provide high-quality recreation opportunities and experiences for all visitors. BLM labor will continue to be the highest operating cost, but currently minimal recreation site fee revenue is used for labor. However, this may change in the future. BLM staff, among many other things, provides visitor information, conducts field patrols, maintains facilities, collects and reconciles fees, and rehabilitates natural resource damage.

Recreation fee revenue will continue to heavily support operations of the sites. The following is an initial list of priority expenditures that recreation fee site revenue will continue to be used for:

- Service contracts for garbage collection, septic pumping, water testing, and hazard tree mitigation.
- Supplies including but not limited to cleaning supplies, toilet paper, hand soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, fuel for motorized equipment, paint, lumber, etc.
- Maintain, improve, and replace recreation site infrastructure such as trails, public use cabins, signage, fire rings, picnic tables, restroom buildings, etc.
- Government vehicles and trailers.
- Maps, brochure reprints, and interpretive materials.
- Construction of recreational facilities.
- 250 miles of trail maintenance and grooming in the winter.

**Recreation.gov** – Recreation.gov is a federal government service that serves as a one-stop visitor resource for recreation facilities and activities offered by a multitude of federal agencies, including the BLM. In the WMNRA, all cabin reservations are made through the Recreation.gov website or by calling 1-877-444-6777.

#### f. Impacts of Fee Changes

##### i. Effects of the Fees

EIFO has not changed or updated its cabin fees within the WMNRA since January 1, 2009 or campground fees since 1998. Since 2009, the cost of goods, labor and services have steadily increased and the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has increased by 88 points, or 44%; and since 1998 the CPI has increased by 136 points, or 68%, respectively (US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics). As the costs of goods, labor, and services increase, the purchasing power from recreation fees decreases proportionately. As an example, \$25.00 (the current fee at WMNRA public use cabins) in January of 2009 has the same purchasing power as \$35.29 in October of 2022; and \$6.00 (the current fee at EIFO campgrounds) in January of 1998 has the same purchasing power as \$11.06 in October of 2022.

If the proposed fee increases were adopted, current services would continue. Some of the revenue would be used to incrementally reduce the maintenance backlog.

New projects identified in the priorities for future expenditures section would be implemented. Site infrastructure, cleanliness, and visitor services and information would also benefit. All these combined would improve the overall visitor experience.

## ii. Effects to the Environment

Increased fees also benefit the natural environment. By providing trailheads, waysides, campgrounds, and day-use areas for visitors, the field office can consolidate resource impacts to a much smaller area. Human waste and garbage can be dealt with in an appropriate manner in areas where sufficient infrastructure is provided. If these services were not available, illegal dumping could proliferate. If these services were not available, the impacts could be felt across a wide area.

Increased fee revenue could allow more purchasing power to acquire items that help reduce resource damage. For example, new and updated signs and interpretive materials could be installed to educate visitors about responsible recreation.

A lack of fee revenue could eventually lead to a reduction in services. Negative resource impacts could also be realized as services decline. Human waste, garbage, and vandalism issues could be intensified. Reduced recreational staff presence and public contact could further negative behaviors and reduce public trust.

## iii. Effects to Low-Income Populations and Environmental Justice Communities

A recent study<sup>1</sup> concluded that user fees did not play an important role in how low-income individuals chose outdoor recreation settings. However, low-income outdoor recreationists tended to visit non-fee settings when they were available and provided similar opportunities. The WMNRA provides a variety of overnight camping opportunities. Free dispersed camping is allowed on BLM lands. There are also developed recreation areas and trails offering free dispersed sites.

Another study<sup>2</sup> compared acceptance of recreation fees of very low-income individuals (less than \$10,000 a year) to those of other individuals. Most people at every income level accepted fees, preferring them to reduced services or closed recreation areas.

The BLM typically does not have fees for use of dispersed recreation opportunities, which remain free to all users. Dispersed camping is free and permitted anywhere on BLM administered lands unless otherwise posted at any one site for up to 10 days in any one calendar year. Fees are only charged at sites where they are needed to help manage use, maintain visitor safety, where standard amenities are provided, and conserve the recreation setting.

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<sup>1</sup> Lamborn et al., “User Fees Displace Low-Income Outdoor Recreationists.”

<sup>2</sup> Burns and Graefe, “Toward Understanding Recreation Fees: Impacts on People with Extremely Low Income Levels.”

#### iv. Effects to Recreational Users

Because of the remote nature of the WMNRA, high-quality campgrounds and lodging facilities are a limited resource. With increases in visitation and recreation demand, it is vitally important for the EIFO to continue providing and improving recreational offerings for the public.

It is worth noting that rises in fuel-prices and the remote nature of these fee sites means travel to those sites already represents significant cost, especially when many visitors are traveling from outside the local commuting area (and in some cases, from other states). A \$6-\$17 fee increase would not represent significant financial burden or change visitors' ability to patronize these fee sites.

Increased fee revenue would allow the EIFO to continue to provide safe, well-maintained, high-quality recreation experiences. Additional resources could also provide opportunities to expand recreational offerings and modernize current offerings. Some examples already being explored include non-cash payment options, additional campground hosts, new picnic tables and fire rings, improved information kiosks, and public firewood offerings, among other things.

The cabin and campground facilities represent a substantial public investment, and visitors could expect to see a loss of functionality and use of these facilities as maintenance efforts may be reduced. 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 some facilities may not be reopened due to a lack of funds. Maintenance that 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 worst-case scenario may be a reduction in recreation and maintenance staff as those positions may not be filled if vacated. Recreation demands will continue to increase as visitation increases. Already constrained resources will be allocated to simply keeping up with increased demand rather than improving recreation assets. The opportunities for future planned developments would be limited and likely set aside.

The EIFO may have challenges fulfilling the BLM's Recreation Strategy, instead focusing only on basic sanitation and health and safety needs.

#### v. Effects to the Local Economy

Benefits to the local economy could also be realized. Providing high-quality recreation sites helps ensure continued visitation, reduces vandalism and maintenance costs. Recreation and tourism contribute significantly to the local economy. Visitors to the WMNRA spend locally on lodging, fuel, food, supplies, etc. Visitors coming from outside the local area typically stay longer and spend more.

An Outdoor Industry Association <sup>3</sup>study found that in 2017, outdoor recreation generated \$887 billion in consumer spending in the United States and generated \$7.3 billion in Alaska alone. It also brought in \$337 million in Alaska state and local tax revenue. 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 improve the overall recreational experience for current and future visitors alike.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://outdoorindustry.org/state/alaska/>



#### vi. Negative Impacts of Not Adopting the Proposed Fees

New and existing facilities represent a substantial public investment. Without a fee increase, visitors could expect to see a loss of functionality and use of these facilities as maintenance capacity will be reduced due to insufficient funding or staffing.

As costs are anticipated to increase, maintenance might not happen as quickly or as often as needed, and some services might be reduced. Deferred maintenance costs would increase as facilities age, and some facilities might not be operated at full capacity. Maintenance that is deferred because of insufficient funding might result in increased safety hazards, reduced service to the public, higher costs in the future, and inefficient operations.

Recreation demands would continue to increase if visitation increased, thus the costs to operate the fee sites and those proposed in this analysis would become more dependent on fluctuating appropriated funding. The opportunities for future planned developments would be constrained and likely set aside. The field office might have challenges implementing the BLM's recreation strategy. As mentioned earlier, not raising or establishing these proposed sites could lead to the erosion of services such as cleaning and maintaining the sites. If sites are not appealing to visitors, they might stop recreating in this region, thereby affecting the local economy.

Negative impacts to the environment could also occur. Fewer trash pickups and pumping of toilets could occur, creating human waste and garbage impacts. These garbage impacts could also attract wildlife such as bears, leading to negative impacts on visitors and the environment. Less frequent patrols from recreation staff to maintain trails, signage, and education materials might allow some visitors to act inappropriately by creating new trails and vandalizing facilities. If visitors began to view these sites as non-maintained, it could lead to a belief that these sites are not frequented at all and could exacerbate problems with dumping and vandalism.

#### vii. Fee Discounts

Section 5 of FLREA provided for the establishment of a single interagency national pass known as the America the Beautiful Pass—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass. This pass provides the bearer full coverage of standard amenity fees. No sites within the EIFO charge a standard amenity fee (these are typically day use fee areas, high visitation picnic areas, etc.); the one current fee charged is for an expanded amenity. Holders of the Interagency Senior and Access passes may receive half-off of expanded amenity fees at individual sites only. This includes overnight camping at EIFO campgrounds, but not the WMNRA cabins as they are group recreation sites. No other fee discounts, passes or waivers are allowed.

## 4. Outreach

### a. Public and Stakeholder Participation

The BLM's "Connecting with Communities" recreation strategy 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 EIFO seeks engagement and partnerships with local stakeholders to accomplish mutual public access and recreation objectives. The EIFO also seeks relationships with youth groups, like the Student Conservation Association and Fairbanks Folk School to help promote a positive experience for youth and to inspire them to take a greater interest in public land issues.

The BLM will continue building 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 EIFO recreation program.

Draft business plans must be made available for public review and comment for a minimum of 30 days. Prior to implementing new fees, the EIFO will conduct outreach efforts to notify the public of its opportunity to review and comment on the draft business plan.

The BLM will issue a press release and undertake other outreach efforts regarding the increased fees at EIFO campgrounds and cabins. This will include release to media outlets when the 30-day public comment period is announced.

#### b. Visitor Feedback Mechanisms

The BLM will provide a 30-day public review period during which the public will have the opportunity to learn about the proposal and to submit comments for consideration.

The public may submit comments on the proposed recreation use fee changes utilizing the following methods:

- Website: <https://www.blm.gov/office/eastern-interior-field-office>
- [blm\\_ak\\_fdo\\_eifo\\_generaldelivery@blm.gov](mailto:blm_ak_fdo_eifo_generaldelivery@blm.gov)
- Mail: BLM Eastern Interior Field Office, 222 University Ave, Fairbanks, AK 99709

## 5. Appendices

### Appendix A – Alaska Campground Fee Comparison

| Agency  | *Use | Campgrounds           | Sites | RV Pull-through | Host | Picnic Area | Boat Launch | Existing Fees | Other Fees     | Proposed Fees                      |
|---------|------|-----------------------|-------|-----------------|------|-------------|-------------|---------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
| DNR     | 3    | Big Delta             | 25    | X               | X    | X           |             | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 3    | Birch Lake            | 25    | X               | X    | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 3    | Harding Lake          | 90    | X               |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 2    | Red Squirrel          | 5     |                 |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 2    | Rosehip               | 37    | X               | X    | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 2    | Granite Tors Trail    | 24    |                 | X    | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 2    | Salcha River          | 6     |                 | X    | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 2    | Upper Chatanika River | 24    |                 |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 2    | Whitefish             | 25    | X               |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 2    | Olmes Pond            | 15    |                 |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 1    | Lost Lake             | 12    |                 |      | X           |             | \$15          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 1    | Upper Chatanika River | 24    |                 |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 1    | Donnelly Creek        | 12    |                 |      |             |             | \$15          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 1    | Clearwater            | 17    | X               |      | X           | X           | \$15          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 1    | Eagle Trail           | 35    |                 |      | X           |             | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 1    | Moon Lake             | 15    | X               |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| DNR     | 1    | Tok River             | 27    | X               |      | X           | X           | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| BLM     | 2    | Marion Creek          | 27    | X               | X    | X           |             | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| BLM     | 2    | Brushkana             | 21    |                 | X    |             |             | \$15          | \$6 walk-in    | -                                  |
| BLM     | 2    | Tangle Lakes          | 45    | X               | X    |             | X           | \$15          | \$6 walk-in    | -                                  |
| BLM     | 2    | Paxson Lake           | 50    | X               | X    | X           | X           | \$15          | \$6 walk-in    | -                                  |
| BLM     | 2    | Sourdough Creek       | 42    | X               |      | X           | X           | \$15          | \$6 walk-in    | -                                  |
| BLM     | 2    | Cripple Creek         | 18    |                 |      |             |             | \$6           | \$3 walk-in    | \$6 walk-in<br>\$12 individual     |
| BLM     | 2    | Mount Prindle         | 13    |                 |      | X           |             | \$6           |                | \$12                               |
| BLM     | 2    | Ophir Creek           | 20    |                 |      |             | X           | \$6           |                | \$12 individual<br>\$24 group site |
| BLM     | 2    | Eagle                 | 18    | X               | X    |             |             | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| BLM     | 2    | Walker Fork           | 18    | X               | X    |             |             | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| BLM     | 1    | Galbraith             | 30    |                 |      | X           |             | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| BLM     | 1    | Arctic Circle         | 19    |                 |      | X           |             | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| BLM     | 1    | Five Mile             | 8     |                 | X    | X           |             | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| BLM     | 1    | West Fork             | 25    | X               |      |             |             | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| Private | 3    | Nenana RV Park        | 45    | X               | X    |             |             | \$20          |                | -                                  |
| Private | 3    | Tok Sourdough         | 75    | X               | X    |             |             | \$29          | \$58 RV hookup | -                                  |
| Private | 3    | Chicken Gold Camp     | 71    | X               | X    | X           |             | \$36          |                | -                                  |
| USFS    | 3    | Trail River           | 91    | X               | X    | X           |             | \$23          | \$200 group    | -                                  |
| USFS    | 3    | Williwaw              | 60    | X               | X    | X           |             | \$23          | \$33 double    | -                                  |
| USFS    | 3    | Russian River         | 83    | X               | X    | X           |             | \$23          | \$33 double    | -                                  |
| USFS    | 2    | Tenderfoot            | 35    | X               | X    |             | X           | \$23          |                | -                                  |
| USFS    | 2    | Quartz Creek          | 45    | X               | X    |             | X           | \$23          | \$33 double    | -                                  |
| USFWS   | 1    | Upper Skilak Lake     | 25    |                 |      | X           | X           | \$10          |                | -                                  |
| USFWS   | 1    | Hidden Lake           | 44    | X               |      | X           | X           | \$10          |                | -                                  |

\*Use: Rating based on a combination of popularity, amenities offered, number of sites, accessibility, proximity to urban areas, and general description. 3=high use, 2=medium use, 1=low use

All campgrounds excluding Galbraith and Arctic Circle offer drinking water. Only the private campgrounds offer shower facilities. All campgrounds offer toilet facilities.

## Appendix B – BLM Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison Table

| Cabin                | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee | Proposed Fee |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Borealis-LeFevre     | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 20                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Cache Mountain       | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 20                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Caribou Bluff        | 4                 | X          | X          | X         | 29                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Crowberry            | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 27                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Moose Creek          | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 16                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Richard's            | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 21                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Windy Gap            | 4                 | X          | X          | X         | 32                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Wolf Run             | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 23                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Colorado Creek       | 4                 | X          | X          | X         | 14                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Eleazer's            | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 12                      | \$25        | \$42         |
| Fed Blixt            | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | Road                    | \$25        | \$42         |
| Lee's                | 6                 | X          | X          | X         | 7                       | \$25        | \$42         |
| <b>Average Cost:</b> |                   |            |            |           |                         | <b>\$25</b> | <b>\$42</b>  |

## Appendix C – USFWS Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison Table

| Cabin                | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (Miles) | Current Fee |
|----------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Big Indian Creek     | 2                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$35        |
| Kelly Lake           | 4                 |            | X          | X         | Road                    | \$45        |
| Snag Lake            | 4                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$45        |
| Upper Ohmer Lake     | 4                 |            | X          | X         | Road                    | \$45        |
| Dolly Varden Lake    | 4                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$45        |
| Big Bay              | 2                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$35        |
| Caribou Island       | 4                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$35        |
| Doroshin Bay         | 2                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$35        |
| Engineer Lake        | 4                 |            | X          | X         | 1                       | \$45        |
| Mclain Lake          | 4                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$45        |
| Nurses               | 2                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$35        |
| Pincher Creek        | 4                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$45        |
| Pipe Creek           | 2                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$35        |
| Vogel Lake           | 4                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$35        |
| <b>Average Cost:</b> |                   |            |            |           |                         | <b>\$40</b> |

- Indicates the cabin is remote fly-in or boat-in only

## Appendix D – USFS Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison

| Cabin               | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee    | *\$25 Weekend Charge | Peak Season Fee |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Barber              | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 4.2                     | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Aspen Flats         | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 12                      | \$50           |                      | \$60            |
| Crow Pass           | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | 3                       | \$75           |                      |                 |
| San Juan Bay        | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Nellie Martin River | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$100           |
| Port Chalmers       | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75           |                      |                 |
| Power Creek         | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | 4.2                     | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Shelter Bay         | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75           |                      |                 |
| Softuk Bar          | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Green Island        | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75           |                      |                 |
| Martin Lake         | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$100           |
| Crescent Saddle     | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 7                       | \$50           |                      | \$60            |
| Goose Bay           | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$75           |                      |                 |
| McKinley Trail      | 6                 |            | X          | X         | Road                    | \$75           |                      |                 |
| Tiedeman Slough     | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Double Bay          | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Jack Bay            | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Coghill Lake        | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$60            |
| McKinley Lake       | 6                 |            | X          | X         | 2.3                     | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Hook Point          | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Dale Clemens        | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | 4.5                     | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Crescent Lake       | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 6.5                     | \$50           |                      |                 |
| Upper Paradise      | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$60            |
| Spencer Bench       | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | Railroad                | \$85           |                      |                 |
| Fox Creek           | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 11.5                    | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Lower Paradise Lake | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$60            |
| Juneau Lake         | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 9.5                     | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Swan Lake           | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 12.8                    | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| West Swan Lake      | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$60            |
| Devil's Pass        | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | 10                      | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Trout Lake          | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 7.5                     | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Romig               | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 9                       | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| East Creek          | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 14.5                    | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Caribou Creek       | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 7                       | \$50           | X                    | \$75            |
| Log Jam Bay         | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Paulson Bay         | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$75            |
| Beach River         | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |                      |                 |
| Pigot Bay           | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$75            |
| Upper Russian Lake  | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 9                       | \$50           |                      | \$75            |
| Harrison Lagoon     | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$75            |
| Shrode Lake         | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$50           |                      | \$60            |
| <b>Average Cost</b> |                   |            |            |           |                         | <b>\$56.95</b> |                      | <b>\$69.63</b>  |

^ indicates kerosene heater

\*\$25 weekend charge is applied to non-peak weekends

- Indicates the cabin is remote fly-in or boat-in only



## Appendix E – Alaska DNR Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison Tables

*Table E.1. Chugach/Southwest Region Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison*

| Cabin                  | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Beluga                 | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$100       |
| Boretide               | 12                |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$100       |
| Dolly Varden           | 12                |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$100       |
| Chulyin/Delgga         | 4                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$100       |
| Kokanee                | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$100       |
| Rainbow Trout          | 8                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$100       |
| Yuditna                | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 3                       | \$100       |
| ^^Serenity Falls (Hut) | 13                |            | X          | X         | 12                      | \$165       |

^ Serenity falls is a multiple party public use cabin. Fee to reserve the whole hut and not individual beds.

^^Requires an additional \$100 permit to access gate key

- Indicates the cabin is remote fly-in or boat-in only

*Table E.2. Kenai/Prince William Sound Region Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison*

| Cabin                          | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Callisto Canyon                | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 3.5                     | \$80        |
| Derby Cove                     | 8                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$80        |
| Tonsina                        | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | 2                       | \$100       |
| Squirrel Cove                  | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| China Poot Lake                | 6                 |            | X          | U         | -                       | \$75        |
| Halibut Cove Lagoon East Cabin | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| Halibut Cove Lagoon Overlook   | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| Halibut Cove Lagoon West       | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| Moose Valley                   | 2                 |            | X          | X         | 2.8                     | \$45        |
| Sea Star Cove                  | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| *Kittiwake                     | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| *McAllister                    | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| *Moraine                       | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| Porcupine Glacier              | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| Spruce Glacier                 | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| Midtimber Lake                 | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| **Vitus Lake                   |                   |            |            | U         |                         | \$75        |

\* Operated by third party

\*\*Currently closed due to foundation damage

^ Indicates kerosene heater

U = Unknown or not specified online

- Indicates the cabin is remote fly-in or boat-in only

Table E.3. Northern Region Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison

| Cabin             | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| *Ferryman's       | 4                 |            | Electric   | X         | 0                       | \$85        |
| Birch Lake        | 6                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$55        |
| Chena River       | 9                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$60        |
| Colorado Creek    | 4                 |            | X          | U         | 5.8                     | \$45        |
| Compeau           | 6                 |            | X          | X         | 2                       | \$45        |
| Hunt Memorial     | 6                 |            | X          | U         | 0                       | \$60        |
| Granite Tors      | 4                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$45        |
| Lower Angel Creek | 9                 |            | X          | X         | 5                       | \$55        |
| Mastadon          | 6                 |            | X          | U         | 13                      | \$55        |
| Nugget Creek      | 3                 |            | X          | U         | 13.5                    | \$45        |
| North Fork        | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$60        |
| Stiles Creek      | 6                 |            | X          | U         | 8                       | \$45        |
| Upper Angel Creek | 5                 |            | X          | U         | 5.1                     | \$45        |
| Delta             | 4                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$45        |
| Donnelly Creek    | 4                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$45        |
| Fielding Lake     | 6                 |            | X          | U         | 1.5                     | \$45        |
| Olmes Pond        | 4                 |            | X          | U         | 0                       | \$45        |
| Glatfelder        | 6                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$35        |
| Quartz Lake       | 6                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$55        |
| Salcha River      | 3                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$45        |

\* Operated by third party

U = Unknown or not specified online

Table E.4. Mat-Su/Copper Basin Region Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison

| Cabin             | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Byers Lake #1     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$80        |
| Byers Lake #2     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$80        |
| Byers Lake #3     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$80        |
| Denali            | 10                |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$100       |
| Hunter            | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$90        |
| Tokosha           | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$90        |
| Bald Lake         | 6                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$75        |
| James Lake        | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$75        |
| Lynx Lake #1      | 4                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$45        |
| ^^Lynx Lake #2    | 6                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$75        |
| ^^Lynx Lake #3    | 6                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$75        |
| Nancy Lake #1     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$75        |
| Nancy Lake #2     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$75        |
| Nancy Lake #3     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$65        |
| Nancy Lake #4     | 8                 |            | X          | X         | <1                      | \$65        |
| Red Shirt Lake #1 | 7                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60        |
| Red Shirt Lake #2 | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60        |
| Red Shirt Lake #3 | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60        |
| Red Shirt Lake #4 | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60        |
| Rhein Lake        | 8                 |            | X          | X         | 0                       | \$100       |

^^Requires an additional \$100 permit to access gate key

- Indicates the cabin is remote fly-in or boat-in only

*Table E.5. Kodiak Region Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison*

| Cabin          | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee |
|----------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Discoverer Bay | 10                | X          | X          | X         | -                       | \$80        |
| Laura Lake     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$55        |
| Pillar Lake    | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$55        |
| Deer Haven     | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$80        |
| Eagles Nest    | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$80        |
| Mulcahy View   | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$80        |
| Salmon Cove    | 8                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$80        |

- Indicates the cabin is remote fly-in or boat-in only

*Table E.6. Southeast Region Public Use Cabin Amenity and Fee Comparison*

| Cabin               | Sleeping Capacity | Cook Stove | Wood Stove | Out-house | Access Distance (miles) | Current Fee    |
|---------------------|-------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Berry Patch         | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | 0                       | \$80           |
| Marten              | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | 0                       | \$60           |
| Saturday Creek      | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | 0                       | \$80           |
| Lincoln             | 8                 |            | ^          | U         | -                       | \$60           |
| Rupe Andrews        | 8                 |            | ^          | U         | -                       | \$60           |
| Salamander          | 8                 |            | ^          | U         | -                       | \$60           |
| Clover Beach        | 6                 |            | X          | U         | -                       | \$60           |
| Grindall Island     | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |
| Seymour Canal       | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | -                       | \$60           |
| Blue Mussel         | 8                 |            | ^          | U         | 3.4                     | \$60           |
| Camping Cove        | 6                 |            | ^          | U         | 3.75                    | \$60           |
| Cowee Meadow        | 8                 |            | ^          | X         | 2.5                     | \$60           |
| Bob Hinman Memorial | 6                 |            | X          | U         | -                       | \$60           |
| Settler's Cove      | 6                 |            | ^          | X         | 0                       | \$60           |
| Tiger Olson         | 6                 |            | X          | X         | -                       | \$60           |
| <b>Average Cost</b> |                   |            |            |           |                         | <b>\$70.06</b> |

^ Indicates kerosene heater

U = Unknown or not specified online

- Indicates the cabin is remote fly-in or boat-in only

## Appendix F - Acronyms, Abbreviations, and Symbols

BLM – Bureau of Land Management

CBS – Collection and Billing System

DNR – Alaska Department of Natural Resources

EIFO – Eastern Interior Field Office

FBMS – Federal Business Management System

FLREA – Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

FY – Fiscal Year

MP – Milepost

NPS – National Park Service

OHV – Off-Highway Vehicle

RMIS – Recreation Management Information System

RUP – Recreation Use Pass

RV – Recreational Vehicle

SO – State Office

USFS – United States Forest Service

USFWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service

WBS – Work Breakdown Structure

WMNRA – White Mountains National Recreation Area

WSR – Wild and Scenic River