



Forest
Service

Okanogan –Wenatchee
National Forest

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File Code: 2350

Date: October 10, 2008

Route To:

Subject: FY09 Recreation Fee Proposals for PNW Recreation Resource Advisory
Committee

To: Regional Forester, R-6

I am pleased to submit our proposals for fee increases as authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act for consideration by the Pacific Northwest Recreation Resource Advisory Committee. The required proposal template for fee increases has previously been provided to Jocelyn Biro as requested by the Regional Fee Board. Transmitted with this letter is an Executive Summary describing the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest's fee proposals and need for fee increases at some developed recreation sites on the Tonasket Ranger District. Please contact Mary Bean, Recreation Program Manager, if there are any questions about these submissions.

Thank you for the opportunity to address our critical need for additional fee revenues for these programs.

/s/ Maureen Hanson (for)
REBECCA LOCKETT HEATH
Forest Supervisor

cc: Jocelyn Biro



Executive Summary
2009 Recreation Fee Proposals
Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest

The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is proposing fee increases for 9 campgrounds on the Tonasket Ranger District.

The Forest comprises seven Ranger Districts: Naches, Cle Elum, Wenatchee River, Entiat, Chelan, Methow Valley and Tonasket and is located primarily in Yakima, Chelan and Okanogan counties in eastern Washington. The Naches, Cle Elum, Wenatchee River, Entiat, Chelan and Methow Valley Districts received favorable recommendations for campground fee increases from the PNW Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) in July 2008. The enclosed proposed fee increases would bring developed camping fees on the Tonasket Ranger District in line with campground fees at the other Forest Service operated sites with similar amenities.

Campground Fee Proposals

The Forest charges fees at 67 campgrounds, 12 group campgrounds, 4 horse camps, and 5 recreation rental cabins under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. Ninety-five percent of the fees collected at these sites are retained on the Forest to cover operations, maintenance and site improvements (80%) and fee collections costs (15%). These fees are a critical contribution to financial stability of the Forest's developed recreation program.

The Tonasket Ranger District's developed campgrounds were built prior to or in the early 1960's. These facilities are in need of heavy maintenance and some degree of reconstruction, resource protection, or restoration. Historically, maintenance and operation funds have only covered minimal maintenance while the facilities have continued to deteriorate.

The Forest proposes to raise fees by \$2-4/night at nine campgrounds on the Tonasket Ranger District. Nightly camping fees would range from \$8 to \$12 at more developed sites. These nine sites receive approximately 18,000 visitors per year. The Tonasket District currently operates 3 free rustic campgrounds (Crawfish Lake, Lyman Lake, and Tiffany Spring), although Lyman campground may need to be closed due to continued vandalism. The district also has many opportunities for free camping outside of developed campgrounds.

The enclosed fee proposals were posted at each site during the open season in 2008, publicized in local newspapers, and posted on the Forest website. One written comment and one verbal comment were received.

Written comment: "I don't support fee increases." Written on the back of a blank fee envelope and placed in the fee tube.

Verbal comment: An elderly woman leaving Bonaparte Lake and told a recreation manager "I love the campground. It's very nice, but I don't want to see fees increased."

Fees retained would be used for the following:

- Bring operation and maintenance closer to the full service standard of the Forest Service.
- Reduce backlog of deferred maintenance.
- Make improvements to come closer to full universal accessibility.
- Resolve health and safety issues, particularly with water systems.
- Provide increased visitor information, security, and customer service.
- Leverage grants and partnerships for maintenance, operations and improvements of recreation sites.

The proposed fee increases will increase developed recreation site revenue on the District by approximately \$13,300/year. Eighty percent, roughly \$10,640, will be available for maintenance, operations, and site improvements.

Fee proposals:

District	Site	Site Type	Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Tonasket	Beaver Lake Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$6.00	\$8.00
Tonasket	Beth Lake Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$6.00	\$8.00
Tonasket	Bonaparte Lake Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$8.00	\$12.00
Tonasket	Cottonwood Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$5.00	\$8.00
Tonasket	Kerr Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$5.00	\$8.00
Tonasket	Lost Lake Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$8.00	\$12.00
Tonasket	Oriole Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$5.00	\$8.00
Tonasket	Salmon Meadows Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$5.00	\$8.00
Tonasket	Sugarloaf Campground	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$5.00	\$8.00