



Forest
Service

Olympic
National
Forest

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Route To:

Subject: Recreation Fee Proposal for the PNW Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

To: Regional Forester

It is with great pleasure that we 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 fee proposals and need for fee increases at some developed recreation sites on the Olympic National Forest. Please contact Brad Paul, 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/ Dale Hom

DALE HOM

Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: Jocelyn Biro

Dean Yoshina

Lance J Koch

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Executive Summary
2008 Recreation Fee Proposals
Olympic National Forest

The Olympic National Forest is proposing fee increases for ten campgrounds and three recreation rental cabins on the Hood Canal and Pacific ranger districts.

The Olympic has two ranger districts and is located primarily in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson and Mason counties in northwestern Washington. The Forest spans a dramatic geographic diversity – from alpine meadows, to temperate rainforests, and saltwater beaches. It is surrounded by saltwater on three sides, almost completely encircles the Olympic National Park, and has U.S. Highway 101 woven throughout. Much of the forest lies within a two-hour drive of the seven million residents of the Seattle/Tacoma metropolitan area, to whom it provides a remote and solitary retreat from urban life.

Campground and Cabin Rental Fee Proposals

The campgrounds and cabins of the Olympic National Forest provide a rustic getaway for locals and tourists alike. Citizens of the Olympic Peninsula return to these facilities each year for memorable family excursions. Visitors from Seattle and beyond use them to experience the rugged forest firsthand, or as staging grounds to access the Olympic National Park wilderness. Each of the ten campgrounds in this proposal are tied to water features – whether freshwater lake, cascading river or saltwater canal. The three cabins each lie near major rivers – the Hamma Hamma, Duckabush, and Dungeness.

Many facilities on the Olympic are in dire need of maintenance and reconstruction, resource protection, or restoration. Historically, maintenance and operation funds have covered, at most, routine annual maintenance. Unfortunately, this leaves little money to address accumulating deferred maintenance needs. The Forest charges fees at 15 campgrounds and three recreation rental cabins under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. These fees are a critical contribution to financial stability of the Forest's developed recreation program. The Forest routinely supplements its funding through Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) grants. Field work accomplished with fee revenue is used as leverage to attain these grants.

Campground fees would increase between \$4 and \$8 at the Coho, Klahowya and Seal Rock camp sites from the current \$12 rate. The Big Creek, Brown Creek, Collins, Dungeness Forks, Hamma Hamma, and Lena Creek campground fees would increase from \$10 to a range between \$12 and \$14. The fees at Klahanie would increase between \$3 and \$5, from its rate of \$5. The proposal also seeks an increase of \$20 to \$40 at each of the cabins on the forest. The Hamma Hamma and Louella cabins are currently \$40 per night and the Interrorem is \$30.

Fee increase notices were posted near each site beginning in February of this year, publicized in local newspapers, announced on local radio, and posted at all Olympic visitor information centers. So far, only two written comments have been received. Both concerned the Klahowya campground and stated the fee increase would make routine camping at the site infeasible. Comments are still being accepted.

Fees retained would be used for the following:

- Maintain sites to Forest Service standards
- Reduce deferred maintenance
- Enhance interpretive opportunities
- Comply with the Recreation Facility Analysis
- Address health and safety issues, particularly with water systems

The proposed fees will increase developed recreation site revenue by nearly \$59,000 annually. This money will be used to address the items above, as well as for matching funds for developed recreation site partnerships and grants.

This proposal contains three distinct site types: rustic campgrounds, higher-developed cornerstone campgrounds, and recreation rental cabins.

Rustic Campgrounds – These sites have a proposed fee \$10 or \$14 per night (plus a \$5 extra vehicle fee). The sites are modest and have rustic facilities (e.g. tent pads, picnic table, fire ring). All sites provide on-site fee stations. Almost all sites are pack-in/pack-out, although one does offer trash service.

Fee proposals for these types of sites are:

District	Site	Site Type	Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Hood Canal	Big Creek	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$10.00	\$14.00
Hood Canal	Brown Creek	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$10.00	\$14.00
Hood Canal	Hamma Hamma	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$10.00	\$14.00
Hood Canal	Lena Creek	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$10.00	\$14.00
Hood Canal	Collins	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$10.00	\$14.00
Hood Canal	Dungeness Forks	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$10.00	\$14.00
Pacific	Klahanie	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$5.00	\$10.00

Higher-Development Cornerstone Campgrounds – These sites have a proposed fee of \$18 per night (plus a \$5 extra vehicle fee). These sites are the highest developed and have the highest capacity on the Olympic. All provide water and garbage service and most sites have campground hosts. All sites have picnic tables, fire rings, toilets, and on-site fee stations. Each site is tied to a major water feature: Coho lies on Lake Wynoochee, Klahanie sits on the Sol Duc River, and Seal Rock abuts the Hood Canal.

Fee proposals for these types of sites are:

District	Site	Site Type	Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Hood Canal	Coho	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$12.00	\$18.00
Hood Canal	Seal Rock	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$12.00	\$18.00
Pacific	Klahowya	Campground	Expanded Amenity	\$12.00	\$18.00

Recreation Rental Cabins – The cabins have a proposed fee of \$50 to \$60 per night. The cabins may be reserved online via www.recreation.gov, or at Olympic visitor information centers.

Rental cabins are all historic buildings, some from the CCC era. They offer kitchens, living rooms, bedrooms, propane heating and lights, and a high degree of solitude. One cabin has flush toilets, while the other two have outhouses on site. None have potable water. Occupancy at each of the cabins is high year-round.

Fee proposals for these types of sites are:

District	Site	Site Type	Fee Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Hood Canal	Hamma Hamma	Rental Cabin	Expanded Amenity	\$40.00	\$60.00
Hood Canal	Interrorem	Rental Cabin	Expanded Amenity	\$30.00	\$50.00
Hood Canal	Louella	Rental Cabin	Expanded Amenity	\$40.00	\$60.00