

Site Name

Region:

INFRA or Forest Site ID

Forest:

District:



REA Fee Type

Amenities- Must have all

- Trash Cans
- Designated Parking
- Permanent Toilet Facilities
- Interpretive Sign, Exhibit, or Kiosk
- Picnic Tables
- Reasonable Visitor Protection (Security)

Site Type:

Change Summary

Action requested:

Proposed fee:

Start date:

Expected annual occupancy (%):

Additional fee structure:

All Recreation Passes would be Honored
Self-service \$5 pay station

Current Situation

Date of last fee increase:

Current fee:

Current annual occupancy (%):

Additional fee structure:

Financial Information

Annual operations and maintenance (O&M):

Deferred maintenance backlog:

Start-up costs:

Current revenue:

Predicted revenue:

Difference in revenue associated with fee change:

Planned Accomplishments

- Increase hours of operation
- Improve facilities/services
- Reduce deferred maintenance
- Maintain site to standard

Planned accomplishments and methods for informing the public:

To provide for increased security, fees generated would help cover needed patrols at this site above standard O&M costs. Deferred maintenance would include the replacement of stairs and railings to the pools.

Methods for informing the public about accomplishments include: onsite posters and publishing in the annual Forest Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Report.

Reason for Changing Fee

Chargin a new fee is the outcome of the Recreation Facility Analysis. It would help recoup the cost of operation and maintenance of facilities, as well as provide the necessary level of visitor protection staffing needed for this site that is not reflected in annual O&M costs.

- Align fee to local market
- Inflationary increase
- Outcome of RFA process
- Increase / improve service
- Add amenity

Results of Not Implementing Fee Change

Cost of operation and maintenance of the site would not be recovered. Visitor protection would be significantly reduced and law enforcement issues would affect visitor experiences and safety. Vandalism of new investments would be highly likely. The site's capacity is limited by designated parking spaces. With inadequate enforcement, illegal parking will be an issue and cause congestion, overcrowding and chaos. Management gains would be lost.

- Reduce season or service
- Eliminate season or service
- Decommission site
- Close site

Public Participation

Have the following tasks been accomplished? Yes

New Fee Minimum Tasks

- Six months advance notice in Federal Register
- Announcement in local media
- Announcements near or in site where fee will be implemented
- Briefing with federal legislators (per WO direction)
- Give people an opportunity to review project plans (if completed) (from Interagency Federal Register Notice)

Fee Change Minimum Tasks

- Announcement in local media
- Announcements near or in site where fee will be implemented
- Briefing with federal legislators (per WO direction)

Other public participation tasks:

Public participation tasks occurred in 2007. Announcements were posted onsite and at all unit offices throughout last season. Posted on the Willamette National Forest website including a comment form. Published in the Federal Register in August 2007. Congressional representatives were briefed. Published Legal Notices in the Eugene Register Guard and the Statesman Journal. News releases resulted in a four news articles in local newspapers. Consulted with the Opal Creek Advisory Council. An environmental analysis (EA) was prepared for site improvements in which it disclosed that fees were being proposed.

Public participation results:

Three comments were received. One commenter stated that she supports the fee if it would help deter excess use of the site and manage the alcohol-related problems. Another comment was submitted in response to the EA in which the commenter felt a fee was fair for the improvements being made. The Opal Creek SRA Advisory Council (FACA chartered committee) unanimously supports the proposed fee at Three Pools and recommended to the Secretary of Agriculture that the site be added to the fee program. One commenter said although they are unlikely to use this site he feels fees prices out low income individuals, and privatizes recreation resources that taxes should pay.

Brief description of project area

Three Pools is located in the Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area about 35 miles east of the City of Salem on the Little N. Santiam River, a state scenic waterway. Three Pools is a popular day use and swimming area especially for many young visitors, and has a history of law enforcement issues. The site is undergoing reconstruction to include a new paved road, parking for 100 vehicles and traffic controls to help manage the site more effectively. The intensity of use and inappropriate and illegal behaviors caused concerns about public health and safety, and impacts to resources and visitor experiences. Prior to reconstruction, the site had very few improvements giving it an unmanaged appearance. Lack of formal parking caused traffic congestion, safety problems and inadequate emergency vehicle access. To help manage the situation, improvements have been funded by Secure Rural Schools Act (Payco) funds including, formal designated parking and traffic control, an additional toilet, fencing and visitor information booth. Other improvements will entail reconstructing a trail, constructing a wheel chair accessible overlook, installing picnic tables and more garbage cans, and developing better signage to include safety messages and interpretation about the 3 Pools. The site is open year round when free of incidental snow. Peak use is June through September especially during hot summer days.