

Region:

INFRA or Forest Site ID

Site Name

Forest:

District:

Site Type:



REA Fee Type

Change Summary

Action Requested:

Proposed Fee:

Start Date:

Expected Annual Occupancy (%)

Additional Fee Structure:

Current Situation

Date of Last Fee Increase:

Current Fee

Current Annual Occupancy (%)

Additional Fee Structure:

Financial Information

Annual O&M:

Deferred Maint. 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:

Maintain the site to standard including supplies. Methods of informing the public include: onsite posters and publishing in the annual Forest Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Report.

Reason for Changing Fee

Both the Willamette NF RSFMP process and the Recreation Lodging Feasibility Study found this site to be a potentially viable facility to be included into the recreation lodging program if start-up costs are minimized and occupancy levels are sustained. A fee is necessary to help maintain the structure to it's new condition, and for the public to enjoy for generations to come. A market demand assessment identified a strong demand for this opportunity, particularly for this regional market zone which caters to Lane County. The cabin is expected to contribute to the Forest's positive financial performance and sustainability of the overall lodging program. If, within a three year period, this expectation is disproved, the facility may be withdrawn from the forest program. The public recognizes the labor and effort to build this unique structure and find it worthy of perpetuation as a public use facility through fees generated from the rental program.

- Align fee to local market
- Inflationary Increase
- Outcome of RSFMP Process
- Increase / Improve Service
- Add Amenity

Level of Complexity:

Results of Not Implementing Fee Change

The cabin was built in 2005 through volunteer efforts and with a \$10,000 grant from Lane County and other contributions by individuals and organizations. Since its completion, it has been left unlocked and has been utilized only by some adventurous members of the public who know of its existence. It remains clean and in good condition, and requires only minor improvements to bring it on-line as a rental. If a fee is not charged, the cabin will not be available for the general public and the opportunity to protect the building from vandalism in the future, and to keep it maintained for the long term, will 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

Beginning June 2006, announcements for public comment regarding the proposal to add Timber Butte into the Recreation Fee Program was posted at the site, at the Middle Fork Ranger District visitor information center and on the Willamette National Forest Website. Federal legislators were briefed about Willamette NF recreation fee program proposals on 5/30/06 and 7/14/06. A Federal Register was published on 11/29/06 (Volume 71, Number 229). A news release was sent out on January 8, 2007 to the local media resulting with two articles published; one in the Salem area Statesman Journal on 2/25/07 and another in the Mill City Independent Press on 1/24/07. A legal notice was published in the Eugene Register-Guard Newspaper on 2/6/07.

Public Participation Results

There have been no comments received opposing placing the cabin into the recreation rental program. Individuals frequently request information regarding when the cabin will come online in the reservation system.

Brief Description of Project Area

Timber Butte Cabin is located on the Middle Fork Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest, about 25 miles east of Eugene, Oregon. The cabin was constructed as a replica of the L-4 gabled style lookout, commonly built in Region 6 during the 1930's. It measures 14ft by 14ft and is surrounded by a wooden catwalk on four sides. The cabin is located in the Fall Creek/Winberry Area of the Ranger District. The Fall Creek Special Interest Area offers numerous dispersed and developed recreation activities, including the Fall Creek National Recreation Trail and the historic Clark Creek Organization Camp. The cabin is a relatively "close in" facility to rural and urban population centers, offering an easy to get to "getaway" for local and valley residents alike. This cabin would be available on the National Recreation Reservation System to rent from mid-April through mid-November, depending upon the snow levels.