



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Fremont-Winema National Forests

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**File Code:** 2300

**Date:** October 10, 2008

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Pacific Northwest Recreation Resource Advisory Committee 2009 Recreation Fee Proposal Submittals

**To:** Regional Forester, R6/PNW

The Fremont-Winema National Forests are submitting nine proposals for camping fees at existing fee-free expanded amenity campgrounds and eight proposals for fee increases at existing fee sites. These proposals are being submitted under the guidelines of the Federal Recreation Enhancement Act. The campgrounds proposed for implementation of camping fees are Campbell Lake, Chemult Recreation Site, Cottonwood, Deadhorse Lake, Dog Lake, Lofton Reservoir, Marster Springs, Silver Creek Marsh and Tralhead, and Thompson. Recreation sites proposed for fee increase include Aspen, Bald Butte, Currier Guard Station, Drake Peak and Hager Mountain Recreation Rentals, and Digit Point, Eastbay and Williamson River Campgrounds.

The Forests utilized a variety of public outreach methods which included press releases, television news stories, five public meetings, posting at ranger district offices, Federal Register notice of intent, posting at recreation sites during the 2008 summer season, and personal contacts through emails and phone calls.

Generally, there was understanding and support for the need to implement new or increased fees for these campgrounds and recreation rentals. We received a few comments from local residents in opposition to implementing camping fees at full service sites that are currently free. Our policy of reinvesting fee collections in sites where fees are collected helped with fee acceptance.

Thank you for considering our fee proposals. If you have questions regarding the fee proposal submissions please contact Rich Kehr at 541-883-6722 or [rkehr@fs.fed.us](mailto:rkehr@fs.fed.us).

*/s/ Richard H. Kehr Jr. (for)*  
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Barbara Machado  
Rick Newton

Enclosures:

Executive Summary  
Analysis Tool  
Pricing Analysis

**Executive Summary for the Pacific Northwest  
Recreation Resource Advisory Committee**

**Fremont-Winema National Forests  
Developed Recreation Site Fee Proposals**

**October 10, 2008**



**Sites: Recreation Rentals** – Aspen Cabin, Bald Butte Lookout, Currier Guard Station, Drake Peak Lookout and Hager Mountain Lookout  
**Campgrounds (CG)** – Campbell Lake, Chemult Recreation Site/Walt Haring Snow Park, Cottonwood, Deadhorse Lake, Digit Point, Dog Lake, Eastbay, Lofton Reservoir, Marster Springs, Silver Creek Marsh (including trailhead camping), Thompson Reservoir, Williamson River

**Site Type:** Expanded Amenity (Recreation Rentals and Campgrounds)

**Proposed Action:** New Fees at nine sites and Fee increase at eight sites

**Recommended Fees:**

<b>Proposed Fee Increase Sites</b>	<b>Existing Fee Per night</b>	<b>Proposed Fee Per Night</b>
Aspen Cabin	\$25	\$40
Bald Butte Lookout	\$30	\$40
Currier Guard Station	\$30	\$40
Drake Peak Lookout	\$25	\$40
Hager Mountain Lookout	\$25	\$40
Digit Point CG	\$10, extra vehicle \$5	\$12, extra vehicle \$5
When water is shut off	None	\$5
East Bay CG	\$ 8, extra vehicle \$2	\$10, extra vehicle \$4
Williamson River CG	\$ 6, extra vehicle \$2	\$10, extra vehicle \$4

<b>Proposed New Fee Sites</b>	<b>Existing Fee Per Night</b>	<b>Proposed Fee Per Night</b>
Campbell Lake CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle
Chemult Recreation Site CG	None	\$6
RV Dump Station	None	\$5 per RV
Cottonwood CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle
Deadhorse Lake CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle
Dog Lake CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle
Lofton Reservoir CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle
Marster Springs CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle
Silver Creek Marsh CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle
Thompson Reservoir CG	None	\$6 and \$2 for extra vehicle

**Area and Site Description:** The sites listed above proposed for fee increase or implementation of new fee are all located on the Fremont-Winema National Forests. Three of the sites, Williamson River, Digit Point and Chemult Recreation Site, are located on the Winema National Forest. The remaining sites are all located on the Fremont National Forest, mostly in Lake County. Most of the sites are a two to three hour drive from Klamath Falls, the Rogue Valley and the Bend areas. All of the campgrounds except the Chemult Recreation Site, are located at lakes, rivers or marsh lands. Campground settings are generally ponderosa or lodge pole pine forest. These sites are popular for local recreationists as well as those who travel from population centers to find a less crowded quality recreation experience.

**Fee Assessment:** The recommended fees are based on 1) a Market Value analysis, 2) the Regional Campground Pricing rating, and 3) the Recreation Facility Analysis process. The pricing analysis recommends a campground fee which is higher than the Forest recommended fee. With these fee recommendations, the Forest is changing its developed recreation site management in Lake County from providing free full service campgrounds to fee campgrounds. Because this is a significant shift in recreation management, the Forest decided to initially be on the low end of the scale with its campground fees. Therefore, the proposed camping fee is less than the fee range recommended in the pricing analysis.

Fee collection will be efficiently accomplished with self-service pay stations and compliance checks. The fees charged will cover most of the cost of annual operation and maintenance. By leveraging appropriated recreation program dollars with fee receipts the Forest will be able to better maintain these sites to standard and reduce the deferred maintenance backlog of work. Fees will allow the Forest to provide campground hosts at some of these sites where it was not financially feasible to do so in the past. If fees are not charged, it is likely that the backlog of deferred maintenance work will increase making it difficult to maintain these sites to standard in the future.

**Public Involvement:** Public involvement regarding increasing fees occurred over the last year and included: on-site postings during summer of 2008 in the campgrounds or

recreation rentals listed above, five public meetings, press releases and television interview. The notice of proposed fees was published in the Federal Register on September 3, 2008

Opinions expressed at public meetings were primarily focused on the Forest proposal to implement new fees at existing full service campgrounds that are currently free use. We received comments both in favor and opposition to these new fees. The number of comments was small. Those in opposition were primarily local residents who feel that camping at these developed sites should remain free. The Forest intent to reinvest collected fees in these sites seemed to mitigate this local concern. To date three letters of opposition have been received.