

**Willamette National Forest  
2008 Fee Proposals  
Executive Summary**

	<b>Site Name</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
<b>Recreation Rental Fee Increases</b>			
1	Indian Ridge Lookout	Road 1980-247 McKenzie River Ranger District	Fee increase from \$40 to \$55/night
2	Warner Mountain Lookout	Road 2139-439 Middle Fork Ranger District	Fee increase from \$40 to \$65/night
3	Timpanogas Shelter	Road 2154 Middle Fork Ranger District	Fee increase from \$40 to \$50/night
4	Fish Lake Remount Depot Commissary Cabin	Highway 126 McKenzie River Ranger District	Fee increase from \$40 to \$75/night
5	Fish Lake Remount Depot Hall House	Highway 126 McKenzie River Ranger District	Fee increase from \$60 to \$80/night
6	Box Canyon Guard Station	Road 19 McKenzie River Ranger District	Fee increase from \$40 to \$60/night
<b>New Fee Sites</b>			
1	Three Pools Day Use	Little North Santiam River Opal Creek Scenic Recreation Area Detroit Ranger District	New fee: \$5/vehicle daily use fee (standard amenity) or Recreation Pass honored
2	Piety Island Campground	Detroit Lake Detroit Ranger District	New fee: \$10 single campsite/night \$20 multiple unit/night
3	Lost Lake Campground	Lost Lake along Highway 20 near Santiam Pass McKenzie River Ranger District	New fee: \$8 campsite/night \$4 extra vehicle fee

**Recreation Rental Fee Increases**

The Willamette National Forest completed a Recreation Lodging Feasibility Study in 2007 that took a comprehensive look at current and proposed facilities. It determined which facilities should be included in the program and conducted a financial analysis to help set fees. The six proposed fee increases are a result of the study to help cover the cost of operation and maintenance. Several cabins have existing partnerships or volunteers. These contributions are factored into the overall cost of managing facilities and help to keep fees as low as possible.

**New Fee Sites**

New fees are proposed for three very popular recreation sites that are either undergoing reconstruction or amenities have been/are being added to deal with impacts due to “unmanaged” recreation. The two campgrounds had improvements many years ago but were reverted to undeveloped sites because funding was not sufficient to maintain. New improvements were needed at these sites to address resource and law enforcement issues, improve recreation experiences and protect riparian resources. Significant new investments are being made. Adding these sites is the outcome of the Recreation Facility Analysis process to help cover costs of operating and maintain these sites. Implementation of fees would occur after implementation activities are complete. Partnerships such as corrections crews and youth crews, and Secure Rural Schools Act (Payco) and Corps of Engineers funds, were used to help implement projects.

## Public Involvement

Public involvement was completed for all sites and included:

- Announcements were posted at each site, and at District offices during the last use season
- Willamette National Forest website including an online comment form
- Federal Register Notice published on August 24, 2007 for new fee sites.
- Published Legal Notices in the Eugene Register-Guard and Statesman Journal.
- News Releases resulted in a half a dozen articles published the Register-Guard, Statesman's Journal, Mill City Independent Press and McKenzie River Reflections.
- Congressional briefing.

Three Pools:

- Notice in the Environmental Assessment for the Three Pools fee proposal.
- Opal Creek SRA Advisory Council meeting with recommendation to approve fees.

Piety Island

- Announcement at Detroit Lake Federal Lakes Committee Meeting

Fish Lake and Timpanogas Recreation Rentals

- Discussed with partners and volunteers.

## Public Involvement Comment Summary

*Three Pools:*

- ♦ Two comments support fees at Three Pools
- ♦ 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.

*Piety Island:*

- ♦ Detroit Lake Federal Lakes Recreation Committee supports improvements and proposed fees at Piety Island.

*Lost Lake Campground:*

- ♦ One comment supports fees at Lost Lake Campground
- ♦ A concessionaire operator felt that fees are artificially low- less than market would say is reasonable (eg Lost Lake would be \$15/site). It causes contention as the public then expects concessionaire fees should be as low as FS operated sites.

*Recreation Rentals:*

- ♦ Two comments from one frequent renter of both Warner and Indian Ridge Lookouts stated increasing fees should be last resort and use volunteers for upkeep. Disappointed that market value is a factor, eg. prices out low income, and is on public land, not a private facility. State park yurts are less expensive and provide additional amenities.
- ♦ Fish Lake partners are supportive of restoration efforts and fees that help maintain these historic sites.

*Comments about fees in general:*

- ♦ One commenter stated he does not support fees at Three Pools, Lost lake or Piety Island although he is unlikely to use these facilities. It prices out low income individuals, user fees privatize recreation resources and taxes should pay.
- ♦ Two general comments were not tied to any site: Taxes should support public land and not rely on fees.