

News Release



Fremont-Winema National Forests
www.fs.fed.us/r6/frewin

Contact: Erica Hupp 541-883-6715
Lisa Swinney 541-947-6261

May 9, 2007

FREMONT-WINEMA NATIONAL FORESTS SEEK PUBLIC COMMENT ON RECREATION SITE MANAGEMENT

Klamath Falls, Ore. – The Fremont-Winema National Forests are hosting a series of public meetings in May to seek public feedback on the future management of 85 developed recreation sites. Through the Recreation Facilities Analysis (RFA) process, the Forest drafted a “program of work” outlining the proposed management of these sites over the next five years.

“The Forest is committed to responsibly serving the public by efficiently operating and, when necessary, modifying the services to ensure developed recreation sites are managed to health and safety standards and provide the right opportunities in the right places,” said Rich Kehr, Forest Staff Officer for the Fremont-Winema National Forests. “As demographics change and new challenges are presented, it is the Forest’s responsibility to respond and ensure that appropriate recreation services and facilities are available to the public.”

The RFA guided the Forest through the evaluation of all developed recreation sites, including campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, Sno-Parks, horse camps, cabin/lookouts, boat/swim/fish areas and interpretative and observation sites. The study considered alignment with the recreation niche, financial efficiency and environmental and community stability.

The RFA helped the Forest create a sustainable program that aligns recreation sites with visitors' desires, expectations and use. This local process reflects a national effort to better manage and improve the quality of developed recreation sites across the entire National Forest system.

“Most of the developed sites on the forest were built 30-60 years ago,” said Kehr. “And we’re finding that a few of these sites just fall short in meeting today’s visitors’ needs, either in design, amenities or location. In some cases, improvements are called for; in others it makes sense to focus efforts elsewhere.”

A complete copy of the proposed five-year program of work, as well as additional information about the RFA, can be found on the Forest web site at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/frewin/>

-more-

The scheduled public workshops are the beginning of the public involvement phase of the RFA planning process. Involvement by local publics, surrounding communities and recreation visitors is a critical and essential component. With the help of these constituents, this analysis will result in a higher quality, more efficiently managed recreation program.

“We know that many sites have special importance or memories for people, so we encourage public input to ensure our developed recreation sites take into consideration Forest users’ desires and the forest’s special characteristics,” said Kehr. “I believe our proposed program of work is a great starting point. The ideas and information we receive from the public will help us fine tune and prioritize the proposed program of work.”

The following is a schedule of dates, times and locations for the public workshops:

Summer Lake, OR
Tuesday, May 13 at 6 p.m.
Summer Lake Lodge
53460 Highway 31

Lakeview, OR
Monday, May 19 at 6 p.m.
Lakeview Interagency Office
1301 South G Street

Chiloquin, OR
Tuesday, May 20 at 6 p.m.
Chiloquin Community Center
140 South First Street

Klamath Falls, OR
Wednesday, May 21 at 6 p.m.
Klamath Ranger District
2819 Dahlia St.

Chemult, OR
Thursday, May 22 at 6 p.m.
Chemult Ranger District
110500 Highway 97 North

Those who are unable to attend the meetings, but would like to provide their feedback on the proposed program of work should mail their comments by June 9 to: Recreation Facility Analysis, Fremont-Winema National Forests, 2819 Dahlia St., Klamath Falls, OR 97601. Comments may also be submitted by e-mail to: fwnf-rfa@fs.fed.us.

For more information on the Fremont-Winema National Forests’ Recreation Facility Analysis Public Workshops, please contact Rich Kehr, Forest Staff Officer, at 541-883-6722 or rkehr@fs.fed.us or Erica Hupp, Public Affairs Staff Officer, at 541-883-6715 or ehupp@fs.fed.us.