

Notes from Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest campground prospectus site visit
Kachess, Red Mountain, and Salmon La Sac campgrounds - Cle Elum Ranger District
July 26, 2019

Q: How will GT funds be distributed across the sites included in the concession permit?

A: Our plan is to consider GT funds as one large pool of funds that will be allocated for use across the sites administered under the concession permit. We anticipate that through the annual GT plan, there will be combination of funds allocated for use for infrastructure improvements at the site where the funds are earned as well as potentially at targeted sites with needs that may be greater than the funds generated at the specific site.

Q: How will the permit be administered?

A: Our plan is to have one permit administrator for the entire permit. The permit administrator will likely be located at the Forest Supervisor's office in Wenatchee. We expect to have one local operational point of contact for sites located at each Ranger District. The contact person will likely be the District's Recreation Program manager. We think that this approach will be the most efficient and cost effective approach to permit administration and operational support.

Q: What do you think are the largest challenges facing the campground program?

A: We do not anticipate any large challenges, however the following on-going issues will likely be a factor in continuing to offer high quality recreation opportunities to the public at campgrounds on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest:

1. Wildland fire: This forest usually has a busy wildland fire season each year and depending upon where and when we are managing wildland fires across the forest, there may be impacts to providing recreation opportunities to the public. Impacts could include smoke and closures of some areas or facilities in some locations across the forest or shifts in use from one part of the forest to another.
2. Hazard trees: the Okanogan-Wenatchee NF has an active hazard tree management program at our developed recreation sites included campgrounds. We expect to continue to annually actively manage hazard trees and will continue to be compliant with the USFS Region 6 Hazard Tree policy and all Endangered Species Act consultation requirements. We will work actively with the selected campground concessionaire to ensure a successful hazard tree management program. The Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest is currently working on an Environmental Assessment and programmatic agreement for the management of hazard trees and ESA consultation requirements. When completed, the process we follow for managing hazard trees should be streamlined and efficient. We expect the analysis to be completed before the 2020 summer operating season.
3. Increasing demand for use at our campgrounds from the greater Puget Sound area: the campgrounds included in this prospectus all receive high visitation from the residents in the Puget Sound region. It can be challenging to meet this demand with our existing capacity at our campgrounds, especially on weekends.

Q: We have observed felled trees on the ground at some campgrounds. Why is that?

A: Those trees have been felled as part of our hazard tree management program. Depending upon the size of the tree and its location, some tree trunks are left on the ground to comply with our endangered species act compliance requirements. This typically occurs when felled trees are in riparian areas.

Q: Who will make the decision on the selected applicant? Do you have an acting Forest Supervisor?

A: Our current Acting Forest Supervisor is Scott Tangenberg. Kristin Bail will be our new Forest Supervisor beginning September 1, 2019. Ms. Bail will be making the decision.

Q: What will be the configuration of the evaluation panel for this prospectus?

A: We expect to have a four person panel that will include both on- and off-forest participants.

Q: Do the speed bumps in the campground roads stay in over the winter.

A: Yes.

Q: Do the recreation residences located adjacent to the Kachess campground use the campground infrastructure and services.

A: No. Recreation residence owners access their cabins via the campground roads, but do not use the water, sewer, or garbage infrastructure in the campground.

Q: What is the current day use fee for Kachess campground and what are the operating hours for the entrance station?

A: The day use fee is currently \$5.00. The entrance station is staffed from approximately 8:00am to 4:30pm on week days and 7:00am to 9:00pm on weekends. Law enforcement officers often patrol the campground on Friday and Saturday evening. On weekends, the entrance gate, parking areas, and boat launches are staffed due to the high day use demand. There are usually 4 hosts in the campground. There is current Verizon internet service provided at the entrance booth and is used for processing credit cards for payment of fees.

Q: Does Kachess campground have any history of bad water samples.

A: No. The water system consists of a generator (GT paid for and available for concessionaire use) and an associated electrical pump which feeds a cistern. The water to the site is then gravity fed.

Q: Appendix 25 of the prospectus says that a water system trained person operates the water system. Can other people do the sampling under the supervision of the trained person?

A: We will follow the direction provided in Appendix 25. It states that primary and back up water operators shall operate the water and wastewater systems. The Forest Service provides annual training to water system operators in Washington State and we invite concessionaire employees to participate in that training.

Q: How much does the water level fluctuate in Kachess reservoir?

A: We do not have an accurate estimate of how many feet the water level may rise or fall during the summer season, however, there is a late season draw down that may result in the motorized boat ramp being unusable late in the season. The Yakima Basin Integrated Plan project is underway and is nearing

completion of an Environmental Impact Statement for water management. It will likely include a drought relief water pumping station at the end of Kachess reservoir. This will allow a lower level of water draw down in future years when there is a severe drought. More information about the YBIP can be found here: <http://www.yakimariver.org/>

Q: What are the hours of day use at the Kachess campground beach?

A: 6 am until 10 pm.

Q: Does the water line at the maintenance area at the Kachess campground work?

A: It is not currently in use, but could be repaired or replaced to be used again in the future.

Q: What has the A-frame been used for in the past?

A: The A-frame administrative building at the Kachess campground has been used in the past (but not in the last 3 years) as housing for campground employees (up to 3 people) and as a base of business operations for the campground. Propane service to the cabin has been capped due to aging fixtures.

There is also an RV pad available and propane tank that supplies the RV pad and cabin.

Q: Are the host sites in Kachess campground designated?

A: No, the location is negotiated with the concessionaire.

Q: Is there a problem with bear activity at Kachess and other campgrounds?

A: No, there has been little bear activity in the campground in past years. Salmon La Sac has had minor bear issues in years following the Jolly Mountain Fire in 2017. We are not aware of any other noteworthy bear problems in campgrounds on the forest.

Q: Have there been problems with the operation of the solar water systems on the Wenatchee River Ranger District campgrounds?

A: No.

Q: What is the plan for providing ADA compliant facilities?

A: Some ADA compliant facilities are currently available. Our intention is to continue to increase the amount of compliant facilities as the opportunity arises when old non-compliant equipment is replaced.

Q: When did the CXT toilets go in at Kachess campground and how often are they pumped?

A: 2017. The pumping schedule depends upon the site. The higher use toilets are typically pumped twice per season. Flush toilet comfort stations have not been pumped in the last three years. There are 6 flush toilet buildings.

Q: How often is the manure at the Cayuse Horse Camp campground removed and spread?

A: Usually once per season.

Q: What is the status of the historic shelter at the Salmon La Sac campground?

A: The shelter has been closed for the last several years. A grant has recently been awarded to a local organization that is a partner with the Cle Elum Ranger District to repair the shelter. It should be open for public use in 1 to 1.5 years. The entire campground was rehabbed in the mid-2000s. Some of the roads in the campground become groomed cross country ski trails in the winter.