



Recreation Facility Analysis

Stanislaus National Forest
August, 2007



The Stanislaus National Forest wishes to inform you of a planning process that may affect developed recreation sites during the next 5 years.

The Forest has 89 developed sites including campgrounds, boat launches, day use areas, major trailheads, and overlooks. We are evaluating these sites using a 7 step process. The purpose is to improve efficiency and customer satisfaction at developed facilities. The Forest is now at step 5. We are seeking feedback on possible management options for all developed recreation sites. We have completed the following steps and are ready to share our findings with you and accept your comments.

1. **Prepare a site inventory and compile financial data:** Examples of financial data would be operation and maintenance costs of facilities and deferred maintenance for each recreational facility.
2. **Identify unit Recreation Program Niche:** Recreation visitor use, market data, and public input from past efforts were used to determine the focus of the Forest's recreation program. A "niche" statement for the entire recreation program was developed in a series of meetings including about 30 employees. The outcome was a niche statement and recreation setting map. These were later used to help rank developed recreation sites, identify cost saving actions, and make changes that will lead to a more efficient and sustainable recreation program on the Forest.
3. **Identify Operational Efficiencies:** Recreation sites have been examined to determine if efficiencies can be undertaken to further reduce site expenditures while maintaining recreational opportunities. A proposed set of management options has been developed for each site to reduce costs or provide services in other ways.
4. **Rank Recreation Sites:** We have ranked the sites, using criteria developed from the recreation niche, their financial and operational efficiency, their effects on environmental sustainability, and their effects on community stability.
5. **Propose a 5 year program of work to stakeholders:** We have finalized a proposal which is now available for review by the public. We are looking for alternative ways to operate sites and are open to suggestions.

Preliminary Results: No change is proposed at 27% of the sites. A variety of changes are proposed for the remaining sites, such as; increase or improve services (19%), new or increase fees (15%), reduced operating season (12%), change operator (10%), and decommission/closure (7%). Other actions such as changing capacity, removing a cost source, or site conversion are also used at a few locations. You can learn more about specific plans by contacting us as listed below or looking on the web in September.

Following feedback from the public and our stakeholders, we will proceed with the final 2 steps of the process.

6. **Finalize 5 year program of work** based on public input and involvement.
7. **Implement the program of work.** Some minor changes, such as reduced season of operation, are implemented without additional discussion or public involvement. Major changes will require a site specific environmental analysis prior to implementation of the program of work.

Questions? You can learn more by visiting the Forest Website at:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/stanislaus/rfa>. You can also stop by your local Ranger Station or contact Brian Kermeen in the Forest Supervisor's Office at 209-532-3671x316.

Comments? Please send your comments to the following addresses:

Email-comments-pacificsouthwest-stanislaus@fs.fed.us (with Subject: RFA)

Mailing address-

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