

# Three Pools



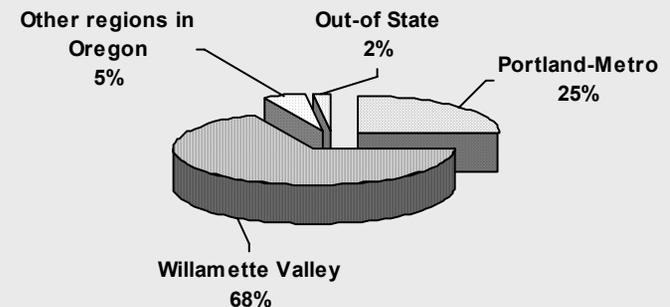
## Visitation:

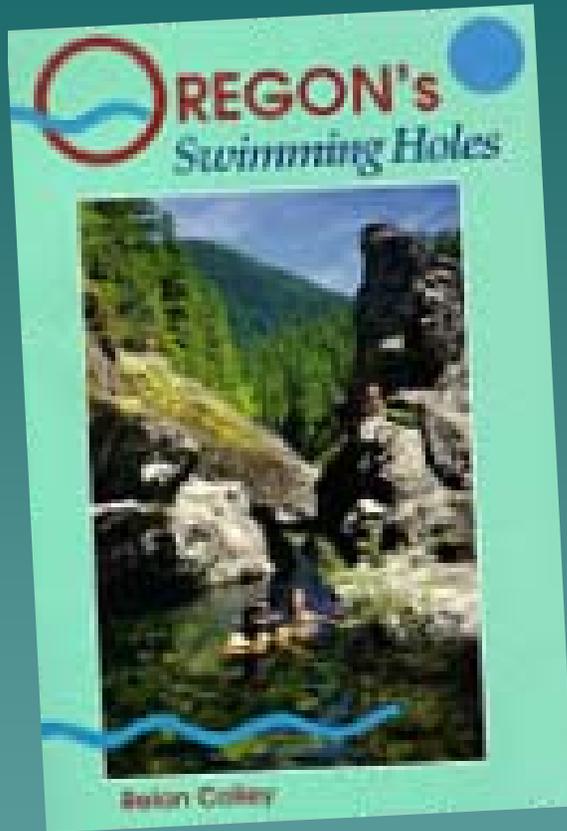
- About 15,000 visitors year.
  - 71% are repeat visitors
  - Nearly 1/2 visit more than 4 times a year.
- Use is weather dependent
- July & August Peak Use
- Peak days: 160-180 vehicles or about 500 people at one time

## Visitor composition:

- 44% families
- 25% combination family/friends
- 29% friends \*
- 2% alone

## 1999 Visitor Origin to Three Pools





A majority heard about 3 Pools through family or friends, and have been coming for decades. “Generational Use”

While many others read about it in a book titled “Oregon’s Swimming Holes.”

New websites are popping up all the time...

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from Away.com

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## DESTINATIONS

# Marion County Swimming Holes

## Great Dips In Oregon's Willamette Valley

With deference to the rest of the country, there is no place like Oregon for recreational outdoor swimming. Swimming holes are abundant and the beauty and variety of the surrounding countryside are unmatched. To the west there is ocean, to the east, desert. There are high mountain lakes in the Cascades, which stretch from California to Washington. Lovely rivers have created beautiful lowland valleys. With the exception of southeast Oregon, there is likely to be a decent swimming hole within half an hour's drive from any place in the state.



**A GORP.com Content Partner**

*Adapted from Oregon's Swimming Holes by Relan Colley*



Marion County: home of cool swimming holes

With few exceptions, Oregon law protects the public's, and

## DESTINATIONS

### Marion County Swimming Holes

## Three Pools

Wow! An eye-popper of a place, Three Pools is really a legion of green-hued pools and streams that shift and chute through volcanic walls and sedimentary layers. This is the grandest swimming hole complex on a superlative swimming stream. Unfortunately, the place is oftentimes hopelessly trashed by mindless users. The Forest Service has tried to spruce up the area, only to see improvements vandalized. It is a pity that such a truly wonderful place is so badly treated. Watch out for slippery rocks, and take care if jumping from the rocks. There have been many accidents here.



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*Adapted from Oregon's Swimming Holes by Relan Colley*

### Three Pools

- **Rating:** 10
- **Location:** [Willamette National Forest](#)
- **Water quality:** Excellent; transparent to bottom
- **Vital statistics:** 60' wide; at least 11' deep; moderate current; 64' F (July); light algae; sand and gravel on bedrock bottom; heavy use
- **Setting:** Forested valley at 1360'; heavy litter
- **Swim skill:** Moderate

di/gorp/activity/byway/topten.htm

Search Favorites Media

ss http://www.swimmingholes.org/related.html

**SWIMMINGHOLES.INFO**

**RELATED LINKS**

**(All links last verified 1/2006)**

# Issues & Illegal Activities

- ◆ Under-aged drinking
- ◆ Drug use and possession (mostly marijuana)
- ◆ Fighting, assaults, boisterous or unruly behavior (exacerbated with alcohol use)
- ◆ Littering and breaking bottles
- ◆ Illegal campfires
- ◆ Unleashed or 'nuisance' dogs
- ◆ Vandalism (gang graffiti, toilet burned down once)
- ◆ Domestic squabbles and abuse
- ◆ Vehicle break-ins
- ◆ People at site violating probation or have warrants out for their arrest for previous violations.
- ◆ Injuries and deaths (jumping from rocks, drowning, bottle cuts)
- ◆ Sex offenses including rape
- ◆ Suspicious (possible pipe bomb) device found once

When temperatures soar into the 90's...





As parking lot fills and becomes congested -  
Vehicles are blocked-in & have difficulty  
maneuvering within the site.

- Creates traffic safety problems
- Provides inadequate emergency vehicle access
- Results in resource damage to vegetation

**CHAOS!!!**

**Over 80 vehicles have been counted  
in the site with another...**



...80-100 vehicles  
parked along the  
2207 Road.



# Payco Project...on a Fast Track

PAYCO funds need to be obligated before the end of the fiscal year (Sept 07).

Timeline:

- ◆ NEPA (Environmental Analysis) process began in November
- ◆ Design work begins in January and finalized once the decision has been made.
- ◆ Decision signed by the end of March.
- ◆ Project goes into contracting in June.
- ◆ Contract awarded before end of fiscal year.
- ◆ Begin construction as soon as Fall 2007

# Developing the Proposed Action

- ◆ Need to have the proposed action developed and ready for public scoping by mid-November.
  - ◆ Need to work within the amount we are funded to do and fulfill our Payco obligations.
  - ◆ Don't want to add complexity to the project.
- 
- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner of the slide, consisting of a stylized mountain range silhouette in shades of teal and blue.

# Overall Goals

- ◆ To provide a safer, family-friendly, healthful and aesthetic environment for visitors to have enjoyable and satisfying experiences.
- ◆ To reduce impacts to resources caused by indiscriminate use.

# Project Objectives

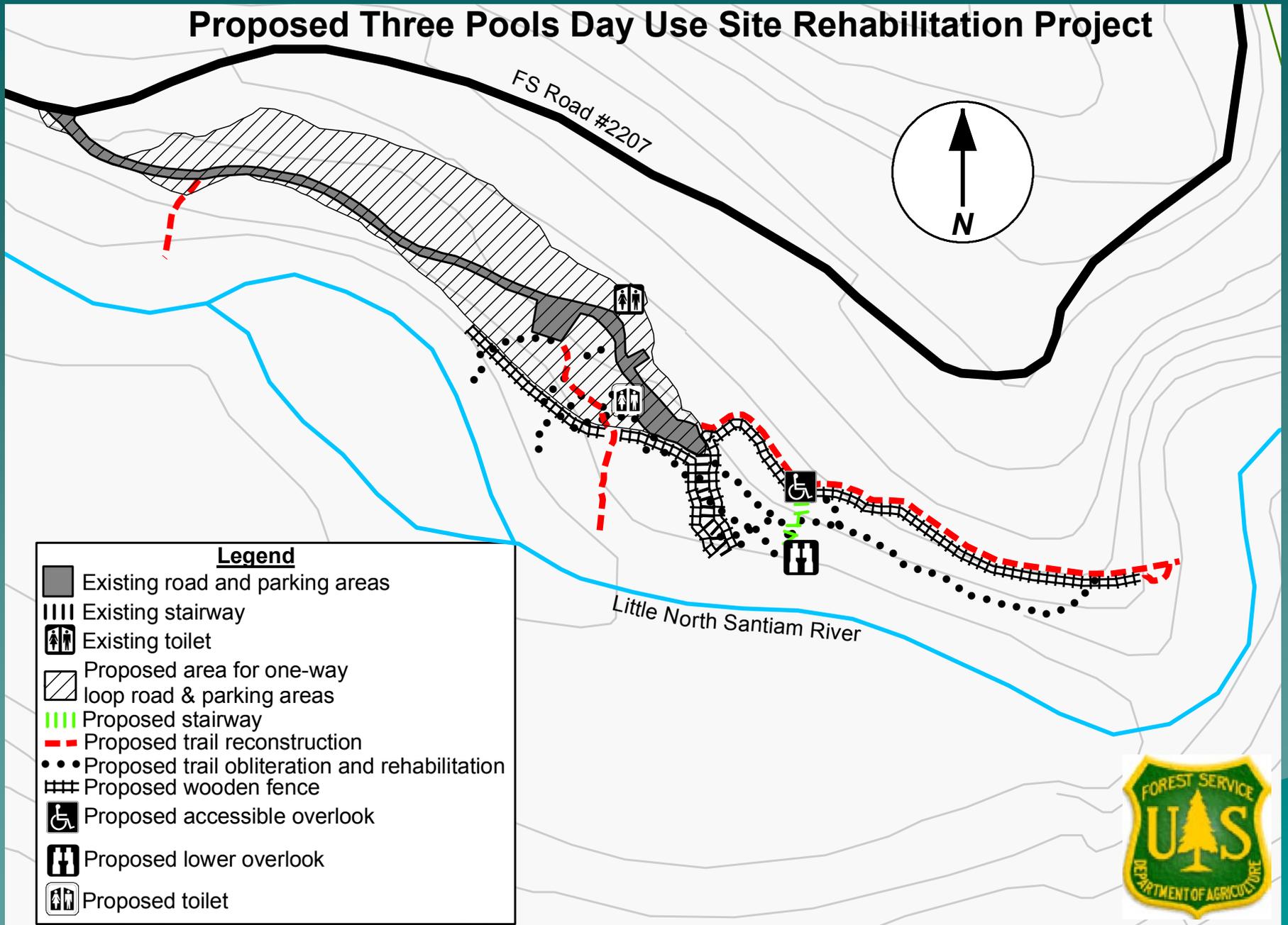
- ◆ Provide the basic infrastructure to
  1. manage the existing use and improve safety at the site,
  2. set a vehicle capacity and provide an orderly arrangement for parking and reduce congestion,
  3. restore some of the impacts and provide 'traffic' control to prevent future impacts.
- ◆ Minimize tree removal and maintain a forested setting while providing the basic infrastructure needs.
  - Eg. Use existing roads, parking areas and user trails to the greatest extent possible.
- ◆ Will meet Forest Plan and Opal Creek Management Plan standards & Best Management Practices (for design and construction) for water quality.
- ◆ Align the area to attain the Desired Condition prescribed for the area (high intensity zone).

# What is being proposed?

## Road and Parking Improvements:

- ◆ Construct gravel parking lot to set capacity at 100 vehicles. Considers future paving.
- ◆ One-way loop road with clusters of parking spaces.
- ◆ Parking spaces would be delineated and traffic control measures installed
  - (curb stops, boulders and/or log barriers, signing).
- ◆ Allow for emergency parking and unloading/loading near stairs to pools.
- ◆ Improve site entrance ingress/egress and allow for 2-way traffic.
- ◆ Designate a 'no parking zone' along the 2207 within ¼ mile from the site.

# Proposed Three Pools Day Use Site Rehabilitation Project



# Example of Day Use Site Paved Parking



# What's being proposed...

## Access Trails:

- ◆ One existing trail would be reconstructed to access the east end of the site.
- ◆ Develop accessible scenic overlook of the pools.
- ◆ A wooden fence would be installed for resource protection and visitor safety.
- ◆ Rehab user trails and unsafe river access points.



# What's being proposed...

## Other Improvements:

- ◆ Provide information kiosk (visitor info, regulations, safety messages - inherent dangers rocks/river environment), interpretation).
- ◆ Install picnic tables and benches around the site.
- ◆ Provide an additional toilet in the future.



# Other Considerations....

Outside the scope of this project

- ◆ Fee site – Potential disclosed in EA but not analyzed. Will go through a different public involvement and decision process
- ◆ Adjacent site displacement will be addressed in indirect effects. No specific projects in adjacent areas will be analyzed in this EA.
- ◆ Bottle ban – Administratively address.
- ◆ Alcohol bans – Administratively address.

# Council's Input

- ◆ Questions about the proposed action?
- ◆ Discussion
- ◆ Council recommendation for the proposed action or changes to the proposed action