

# Lewis River Recreation Area Reservation System

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **What is the Lewis River Recreation Area?**

The Lewis River Recreation Area is a 10-mile corridor, situated alongside the Lewis River and Forest Road 90 within the Gifford Pinchot National Forest. It is located 26 miles east of Cougar, and 29 miles west of Trout Lake, WA. This area provides access to the popular Lewis River Trail, and associated waterfall viewing. The Lewis River Recreation Area includes Lower Falls Campground and Day Use area, Lewis River Horse Camp, and parking areas associated with Crab Creek, Middle Falls, Upper Falls (Quartz Creek), Platinum Creek, and Wright Meadows. View map: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/LRAA/map>

### **What is different about accessing Lower Falls Day Use Site and the surrounding area?**

Those wishing to park within the Lewis River Recreation Area will be required to obtain a reserved parking ticket that must be obtained in-advance of their visit during the busy summer season. Reserved tickets will allow ticket holders to park their vehicle at one of six different recreational sites along a 10-mile stretch of Forest Road 90. In previous years there were no limits on the number of visitors to this heavily used recreation area.

### **Why was this change implemented?**

Visitation to this area has grown significantly in recent years leading to an increase in traffic, trash, and human waste, creating public health and safety concerns. This seasonal reserved parking ticket system was implemented to reduce visitor congestion, to provide for the protection of public health and safety, and to protect fish and wildlife habitat within the Lewis River watershed.

### **When do I need a reservation to visit the Lewis River Recreation Area?**

Advanced reservations are required daily during the busy visitor season from June 15 through September 6. Reservations are available on Recreation.gov for arrivals beginning June 15.

### **How can I obtain my reserved parking ticket?**

Reserved parking tickets must be purchased through Recreation.gov in advance of your visit. Eighty percent of all the tickets are available now. The remaining reservations will be made available on a rolling basis, two days in advance of each calendar day. This will provide visitors more flexibility with short-term trip planning.

### **Will reserved tickets be available onsite?**

Reserved tickets will not be sold on-site but may be purchased through Recreation.gov on the day of your visit as-long-as there are remaining reservations available. Due to the need to print your ticket, visitors must obtain their reserved parking ticket in advance of their arrival.

### **How much does a reservation cost?**

When making your reservation there is a \$2, non-refundable transaction fee charged by Recreation.gov.

### **Do I need to print my reserved parking ticket?**

Reserved tickets must be purchased on-line and printed before you travel. To avoid a fine, the reserved ticket must be displayed on your dashboard while parked at one of the six designated parking areas.

### **Is a reserved ticket required for each person visiting the Lewis River Recreation Area?**

No, reserved tickets are not required for each person sharing a vehicle. Only one ticket is required for each vehicle parking within the Lewis River Recreation Area. All persons inside the vehicle must have a legal seat belt.

### **What if my group is arriving in more than one vehicle?**

A reserved parking ticket is required for each vehicle (or motorcycle) that parks in one of the six designated parking areas. The person whose name is on the reservation must be in the vehicle with a valid photo ID.

### **Does the ticket guarantee me a parking spot?**

The ticket guarantees a parking space within one of the six designated parking areas, but specific parking space assignments are not made. Parking spaces within each designated parking area are occupied on a first-come, first-served basis.

**I have a reserved parking ticket, what other passes are required to visit this area?**

In addition to a reserved parking ticket, a Northwest Forest Pass, Interagency Pass, or Day Pass are required to visit Lower Falls Day Use area but are not required at the other five parking areas within the Lewis River Recreation Area. Passes are sold [online](#) or through [local vendors](#). Day Passes are also available at Lower Falls Day Use area for \$5, cash or check.

**Can I park along Forest Road 90 within the Lewis River Recreation Area if I do not have a reservation?**

You cannot park along the road within the Lewis River Recreation Area during the busy visitor season from June 15 through September 6. During this time parking within the Lewis River Recreation Area will only be allowed at six designated parking areas: Lower Falls Day Use area, Crab Creek, Middle Falls, Upper Falls (Quartz Creek), Wright Meadows, and Platinum Creek parking. You are only permitted to park in the parking lot where you made a reservation. You must have a reserved parking ticket to park at any of these designated parking areas. Parking outside of the designated parking areas is prohibited.

**Can I drive through the Lewis River Recreation Area if I do not have a reservation?**

Yes, reservations are only needed to park at the designated parking areas within the Lewis River Recreation Area. If you are just passing through and not stopping, there is no need to obtain a reservation.

**How will I know if I am in a no parking area?**

There will be large signs identifying each end of the 10-mile-long Lewis River Recreation Area. Each designated parking area will have a dedicated sign.

**How do I reserve at campsite at Lower Falls Campground and Lewis River Horse Camp?**

Campsites at Lower Falls Campground can be reserved at Recreation.gov. Campsites at the Lewis River Horse Camp can be secured on a first come first served basis. Those who have reserved a campground reservation at Lower Falls Campground or secured one of the campsites at the Lewis River Horse Camp may park at these campgrounds without obtaining an additional reserved parking ticket.

**I have a campground reservation at Lower Falls campground. Do I also need a reserved parking ticket?**

No, you do not also need a reserved parking ticket to park at your reserved campsite.

**Is there a limit to the size of vehicle that can park at the designated parking areas within the Lewis River Recreation Area?**

Vehicles exceeding 22 feet in length are prohibited including buses and 12 plus passenger vans. Vehicles with trailers are also prohibited to park within the Lewis River Recreation Area except at Lower Falls and Lewis River campgrounds.

**Can I camp outside of a campground and/or backpack within the Lewis River Rec Area without a ticket?**

Yes. Dispersed uses such as hiking through or backpack-camping within the Lewis River Rec Area are not restricted. The reserved parking ticket system is being implemented to better manage parking and vehicle passage along Forest Rd. 90.

**I am unable get a reserved parking ticket to visit Lewis River Recreation Area, what other recreational opportunities involving waterfalls, rivers and lakes are in the area?**

Curly Creek Falls (Forest Rd. 90), Falls Creek Falls (Forest Rd. 3062), Panther Creek Falls (Forest Rd. 65), Sunset Falls (Sunset Falls Rd.), Lava Canyon (Forest Rd. 83), Takhlakh Lake (Forest Rd. 2329), Hemlock Picnic Area (Forest Rd. 43), Eagle Cliff Park (Forest Rd. 90), Swift Forest Camp (Forest Rd. 90), Yale Park, Beaver Bay, and Merwin park (Forest Rd. 90).

**Can I give or sell my reservation to someone else?**

No. Reserved parking tickets are non-transferable and are only valid for the person who made the reservation and that person's vehicle.

**I am not going to be able to use my reservation, what should I do?** If you are unable to make your reserved date, please cancel your ticket on Recreation.gov within 24 hours of your reservation. Tickets that have been canceled will reappear on the reservation system, allowing other visitors the opportunity to visit the Lewis River Recreation Area. Please note, the \$2 reservation service fee is non-refundable.

**For more information about the Lewis River Recreation Area please visit us online at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/gp/LRRA>.**