



**Bureau of Land Management Coos Bay
District Office
FY 2022**

Coos Bay District Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds Business Plan



**Bureau of Land
Management
Coos Bay District Office
1300 Airport Lane
North Bend, Oregon 97459
(541) 756-0100**

Developed By:

Coos Bay District BLM Recreation
1300 Airport Lane, North Bend, OR 97459
Phone: (541) 756-0100
E-Mail: BLM_OR_CB_Mail@BLM.gov

Signatures for Approving Business Plan

Reviewed By:

John Harper, Coos Bay District Supervisory Recreation Planner

Date

Recommended By:

Steve Lydick, Coos Bay District Manager

Date

Approved By:

Todd Curtis, Deputy State Director – Division of Resources, Lands and Minerals

Date

Table of Contents

I. Executive Summary

II. Introduction and Authorities

- A. Fees and Plan Requirements

III. Background

- A. Area Description
- B. Demographics and Visitor Use
- C. Recreation Site Description and Activities
- D. Operating Costs
- E. Recreation Use and Fee Revenues

IV. Fee Proposal

- A. Summary of Fee Proposal
- B. Fee Calculation (Fair Market Value)
- C. Existing and Proposed Fee Types and Amounts
- D. Financial Analysis (what will be collected, existing vs. proposed)
- E. Use of Fees
- F. Impact of Fee Changes
- G. Use of Partners, Volunteers, and Community Engagement

V. Outreach

- A. Public and Stakeholder Participation
- B. Public Comments and Visitor Feedback Mechanisms

VI. Appendices

- A. Maps
- B. Recreation Use Permit Fees
- C. Comparable Fees
- D. Public Comments

E. Communications Plan



View of Sixes River from the Sixes River Campground

I. Executive Summary

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Coos Bay District located in southwestern Oregon has prepared this Business Plan, which applies to the administration and operation of two public-use fee campgrounds and a day use area. The primary purpose of the plan is to analyze and propose a Recreation Use Permit (RUP) campground fee increase for Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds. The plan also establishes management goals and priorities for each campground, serves as public notification of the objectives for the use of recreation fee revenues, and provides the public an opportunity to comment on these objectives. Developed campgrounds offer a valuable public service and help meet the recreation and visitor services management objectives, outlined within the 2016 Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Resource Management Plan.

The proposed fees are based on a comparative review of fees charged by other public agencies and private providers for similar services within the respective geographical area or referred to as the Fair Market Value. The fee increases

would help support the expenses of the recreation program, including operations, maintenance, resource damage protection, and the ability to provide quality visitor service. Business plans were last completed for both campgrounds in 2004. Fees have not been modified, or increased, in over a decade while the cost of goods, labor, and services have risen steadily. With increased costs, the purchasing power from recreation fees has decreased proportionately. An overview of the proposed fee schedule is provided in Table 1.

Table 1: Overview of Proposed Fee Schedule

| Edson Creek Campground | Existing Fee | Proposed Fee | Average Fair Market Value |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Double Campsite | \$16.00 | \$32.00 | N/A |
| Group Campsite | \$30.00 | \$40.00 | \$92.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |
| Firewood | \$5.00 | \$6.00 | N/A |
| Sixes River Campground | | | |
| Day Use | \$4.00 | \$6.00 | \$5.00 |
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |

As the Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds age and the visitation demand grows, the deferred maintenance and capital costs are magnified. The proposed fee increase would help address the increased costs of services, need for modernized infrastructure at both campgrounds and the day use area and provide additional revenue that may be used for improvements such as accessible campfire rings, sign replacement, and resurfacing roads in the campgrounds.

II. Introduction and Authorities

A. Fees and Business Plan Requirements

This business plan was prepared in accordance with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of December 2004 (P.L. 108-447, as amended), BLM recreation fee program policy and Manual (Manual 2930 – Recreation Permits and Fees) and Handbook (H-2930-1 Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook). FLREA grants the BLM authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at

Federal recreational lands and waters; authorizes the BLM to retain collected recreation fees locally; and outlines how revenues may be used for such things as facility repair, maintenance, facility enhancement directly related to public use, and operating or capital costs associated with the Recreation and Visitor Services program.

Under the FLREA, a Standard Amenity fee and an Expanded Amenity fee may be charged for using certain facilities or services, which include developed day-use sites and campgrounds. The developed recreational sites must meet the criteria that are defined below. These fees are usually implemented through the issuance of a Recreation Use Permit (RUP) or a specific annual pass. BLM policy requires that revenue from RUP's be deposited into a separate account from other types of recreation fees (pg. 2-3 of H-2930-1).

The following definitions of Standard and Expanded Amenities are taken from FLREA, and BLM's Recreation Fee Program policies for the areas covered under this business plan:

Standard Amenity Recreation Fees are charged at sites or areas that provide significant opportunities for outdoor recreation; have substantial Federal investments; and require intensive management to enhance visitor experiences, address environmental needs and manage conflicting uses. The area must contain all the following six amenities: 1) designated developed parking, 2) permanent toilet facility, 3) permanent trash receptacle, 4) interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk, 5) picnic tables and 6) security services. Fees for standard amenity recreation sites and services are typically collected either on-site or through a reservation system. Although new methods are continuously being developed, such as Digital Passes sold on Recreation.gov and Treasury Mobile Point of Sale that may be implemented in the future.

Expanded Amenity Recreation Fees are charged at specialized outdoor recreation sites and services, including but not limited to developed campgrounds with at least five of the nine following amenities: (1) tent or trailer spaces, (2) picnic tables, (3) drinking water, (4) access roads, (5) fee collection by an employee or agent of the BLM, (6) reasonable visitor protection, (7) refuse containers, (8) toilet facilities, (9) simple devices for containing a campfire (Sec. 803. (g)(2)(A) of FLREA).

Purpose of Document

The BLM Handbook H-2930-1 requires that each recreation fee program have an approved business plan which thoroughly discusses fees and explains how fees are consistent with the criteria outlined in the FLREA. Business plans are to assist management in determining the appropriateness and level of fees, the cost of administering a fee program, the expected benefits to be derived for the public from collected fees, and to provide a structured communication and marketing plan. The plan's main purpose is to serve as public notification of the objectives for use of recreation fee revenues and to provide the public an opportunity to comment on these objectives. The Business Plan for Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds is subject to public review, and comments will be considered before making any changes to the current campground fee program. The finalized business plan guides the expenditure of collected FLREA funds and ensures public accountability.

The plan will specifically cover a description of the fee site, proposed changes in fees at these sites, associated operating costs, planned expenditures of fee revenue, a financial analysis utilizing a regional comparative market study of fees charged for other similar recreation facilities, and the potential impacts of proposed fee changes. The data used to analyze and prepare this business plan was obtained through internal BLM tracking and accounting mechanisms such as the Financial and Business Management System (FBMS), Recreation Management Information System (RMIS), Collections and Billing Systems (CBS), and other locally generated recreation and visitor use tracking spreadsheets. Much of the data is open and available but associated personally identifiable information contained in these systems may be subject to Privacy Act requirements. For additional detailed information, contact the BLM Coos Bay District.

Prohibitions on Charging Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act Fees

Section 803(d) of the FLREA provides that standard or expanded amenity recreation fees shall not be charged for (shortened list): solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trail sides, general access, low investment sites or areas, persons moving through without using the facilities or services, for camping at undeveloped sites that do not provide a minimum number of facilities or services as described above

(expanded amenity recreation fee), use of overlooks or scenic pullouts, any person engaged in the conduct of official Federal, State, Tribal, or local government business, special attention or extra services necessary to meet the needs of the disabled, any person under 16 years of age, outings conducted for non-commercial educational purposes by schools or bona fide academic institutions, and others.

Fee Discounts

Section 805 of the FLREA provided for the establishment of a single interagency national pass known as the “America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass,” which provides the bearer full coverage of standard amenity fees and holders of the Interagency Senior and Access Passes a 50 percent discount on some expanded amenity fees. The National Interagency Senior and Access Passes replaced the Golden Age and Access Passports in 2007; to honor these passes. No discount is allowed for expanded amenity group use sites, shelters, yurts, or cabins.

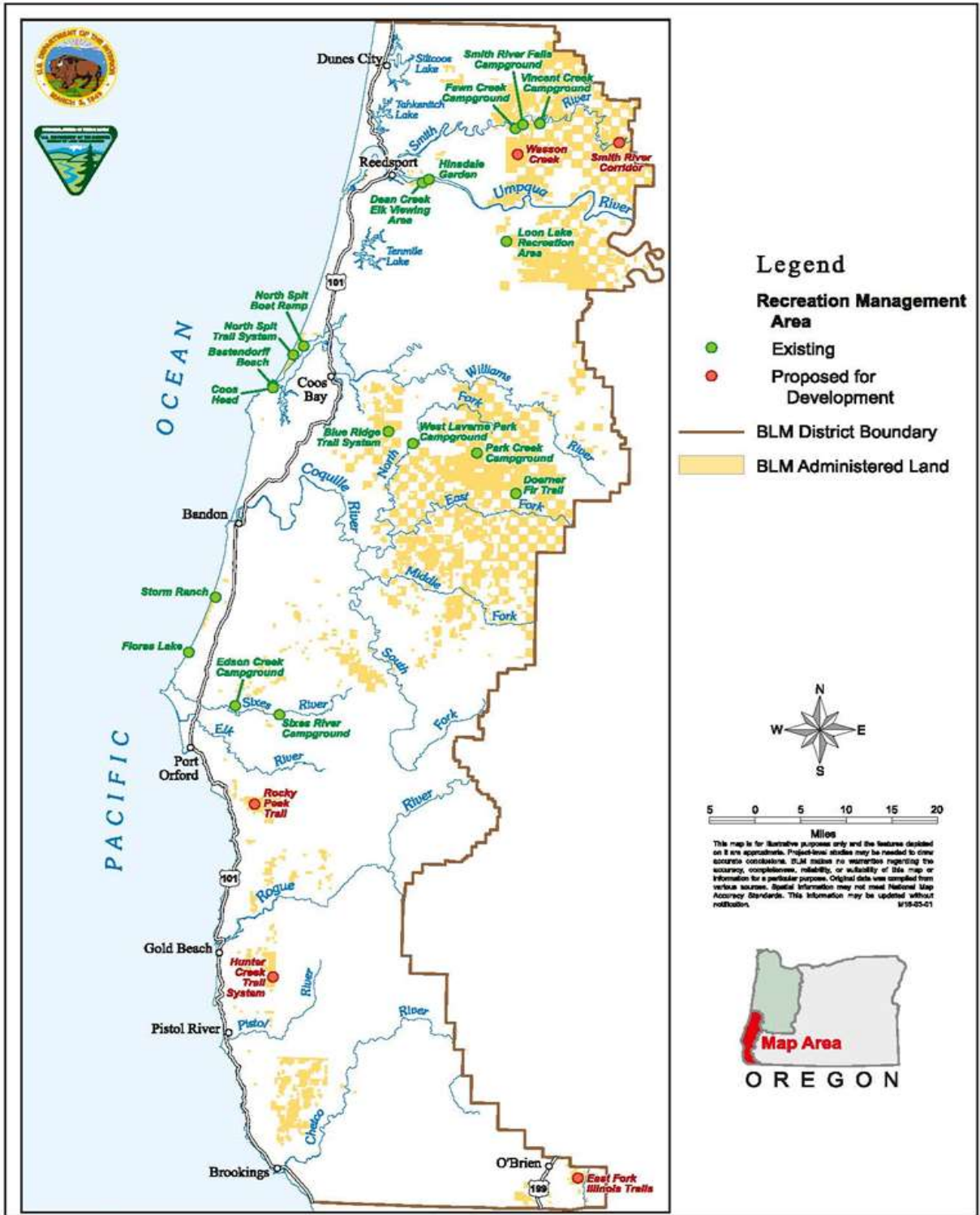
All America the Beautiful passes would cover day use fees at the Sixes River site and the Senior and Access passes would provide a 50 percent discount for single campsites at both campgrounds.

III. Background

A. Description of the Planning Area

The Coos Bay District manages approximately 300,000 acres of public land in the Coast Range of southwestern Oregon within three counties: Douglas, Coos, and Curry Counties. Oregon’s 4th congressional district represents all three counties. A majority of the district comprises second and old-growth Douglas-fir forest and contains twelve miles of coastal habitat and several other unique habitat types. There are several cities located within the Coos Bay District boundary, which extends from the Siuslaw River in the north to the California border in the south, they are Reedsport, Coos Bay/North Bend, Coquille, Myrtle Point, Bandon, Port Orford, Gold Beach, and Brookings. Many of the recreation sites and opportunities are within a 10 to 25-mile driving distance from one or more of these cities.

Coos Bay District Recreation Sites



The Coos Bay District is responsible for managing four developed fee campgrounds: East Shore Campground, Edson Creek Campground, Loon Lake Campground, and Sixes River Campground. Both Loon Lake and East Shore campgrounds are within Douglas County, while Edson and Sixes campgrounds are within Curry County. The district also manages four fee-free campgrounds. This plan includes fee proposals for Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds. Although none of the fee sites are within Coos County, the cities of Coos Bay/North Bend, the largest population center in Coos county, are located centrally to all four fee campgrounds with many of the visitors coming from Coos County.

B. Demographics and Visitor Use

Edson & Sixes Campgrounds

A zip code analysis of the 2018 RUPs at Edson Creek Campground showed that 55% of the visitors were from Oregon, 16% from California, 10% from Washington, 14% from other states, and 5% from Canada. Previous visitor analyses, and anecdotal observations by the recreation staff, suggest that most of the visitors from Oregon are from Coos and Curry counties. The 45% of visitors from other states and Canada is consistent with the fact that Edson Creek Campground is only 4 miles east on Sixes River Road from the junction of Highway 101, a main travel route from Southern California to the Canadian border. Edson Creek Campground has a long history of use by local family groups from the Bandon and Port Orford area as a gathering place for significant family events such as weddings, graduation celebrations, family reunions, etc. Before the BLM took over management in 1996, it was a county park, and prior to that, it was managed as a campground by a private timber company. Many of the local families go back several generations in their use of the campground.

The same zip code analysis of the 2018 RUPs from Sixes River Campground showed a different visitor use pattern. The majority of visitors (80%) are from Oregon. The remaining 20% of visitors are from California (5%), Washington (5%), and other states (10%). Again, previous visitor analyses, and anecdotal observations by the recreation staff, suggest that most of the visitors from Oregon are from Coos, Curry, Douglas, and Lane counties. Sixes River Campground is located seven miles east of Edson Creek Campground on Sixes River Road, which

becomes very narrow and winding. Sixes River Campground is a more rustic and remote site with fewer amenities. In the 1850s, gold was discovered on the Sixes River. At one point in time, a small mining settlement was established at the confluence of the South Fork of the Sixes and the Main Sixes River at what is now the site of the Sixes River Campground. The small mining town is long gone, but the area still attracts people searching for gold. Within the campground, gold prospecting is limited to non-motorized methods within the wetted perimeter of the river.

The table below shows the percentage of in-state versus out-of-state visitors combined by campground and at both campgrounds from RUP data collected in 2018. As shown on the chart, the majority of the visitors (63%) are from Oregon.

Table 2: Visitation: In-State versus Out-of-State

| Visitor Use from In State (Oregon) vs. Out of State | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|---------------|----------------|--------|
| Campground | Oregon* | % Oregon | Out of State* | % Out of State | Totals |
| Edson Creek | 87 | 55% | 71 | 45% | 158 |
| Sixes River | 62 | 81% | 15 | 19% | 77 |
| Total | 149 | | 86 | | 235 |
| Percent | 63% | | 37% | | |
| *Number of visitors counted using a sampling strategy from the 2018 RUP and Visitor Use data. | | | | | |

Table 3 shows demographic information for the Oregon counties representing the majority of reported use. The United States data is included for comparison. Of particular interest are the two metrics: Median Household Income and Persons in Poverty. Notice the median household income in all counties except Multnomah County is at least \$10,000 lower than the national median income. In all counties, the percent of persons in poverty exceeds the national average of 11.80%. These statistics are essential to keep in mind when proposing new fees or increasing existing fees because they could reduce participation in resource-based recreation for low-income populations.

| SELECTED DEMOGRAPHICS OF SOUTHWEST OREGON * | | | | | | |
|---|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|
| Demographic | Coos County | Curry County | Douglas County | Lane County | Multnomah County | United States |
| Population estimates, July 1, 2018 | 64,389 | 22,813 | 110,238 | 379,611 | 811,880 | 328,239,523 |
| Population, Census, April 1, 2010 | 63,043 | 22,364 | 107,667 | 351,715 | 735,334 | 308,758,105 |
| Increase in population, % | 2.10% | 2.00% | 2.40% | 7.90% | 10.40% | 6.30% |
| Persons under 18 years, % | 18.4% | 14.5% | 19.3% | 18.4% | 18.8% | 22.4% |
| Persons 65 years and over, % | 25.8% | 34.2% | 25.7% | 19.3% | 13.4% | 16.0% |
| Female persons, % | 50.7% | 50.8% | 50.7% | 50.8% | 50.5% | 50.8% |
| Male persons, % | 49.3% | 49.2% | 49.3% | 49.2% | 49.5% | 49.2% |
| White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, % | 85.0% | 85.9% | 87.5% | 81.5% | 69.3% | 60.4% |
| High school graduate or higher, % of persons 25 years plus, 2014-2018 | 88.8% | 89.1% | 89.1% | 91.4% | 91.3% | 87.7% |
| Bachelor's degree or higher, % of persons 25 years plus, 2014-2018 | 17.9% | 24.0% | 17.2% | 29.6% | 44.5% | 31.5% |
| Median household income in 2018 dollars, 2014-2018 | \$43,308 | \$46,396 | \$45,812 | \$49,958 | \$64,337 | \$60,293 |
| Persons per household, 2014-2018 | 2.34 | 2.13 | 2.37 | 2.39 | 2.42 | 2.63 |
| Persons in poverty, % | 15.90% | 14.90% | 15.00% | 18.10% | 12.00% | 11.80% |
| Population per square mile, 2010 | 40 | 14 | 21 | 77 | 1,705 | 87 |
| Land area in square miles, 2010 | 1,596 | 1,627 | 5,036 | 4,553 | 431 | 3,531,905 |
| * U.S. Census Bureau | | | | | | |

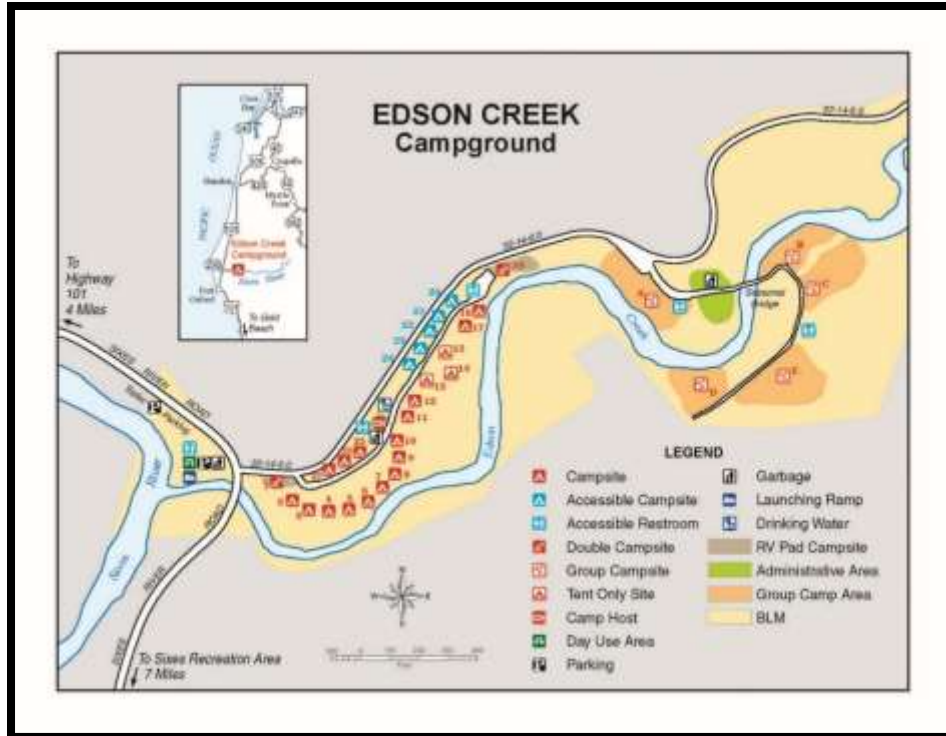
Table 3: Selected Demographics of Southwest Oregon

C. Recreation Site Description and Activities

1. Edson Creek Campground



Edson Creek Campground is a 27-site campground with five additional group sites within 45 acres. Individual sites are currently first-come, first-served, while the group sites are available by reservation through Recreation.gov. It is located approximately 21 miles south of Bandon or 5 miles north of Port Orford, 4 miles east of Highway 101 on Sixes River Road. The campground is located along Edson Creek in a meadow setting. The facility includes the following amenities: picnic tables, fire rings, vault toilets, drinking water, trash collection, a boat ramp at the confluence of Edson Creek and Sixes River, gravel access roads, and a seasonal bridge to access group areas. Some of the facilities are universally accessible. Overnight camping, fishing, and swimming are the primary visitor activities. Edson Creek Campground is currently open the Friday before Memorial Day until September 30. The group sites are usually open starting the first week of July, depending on the weather, until September 30.

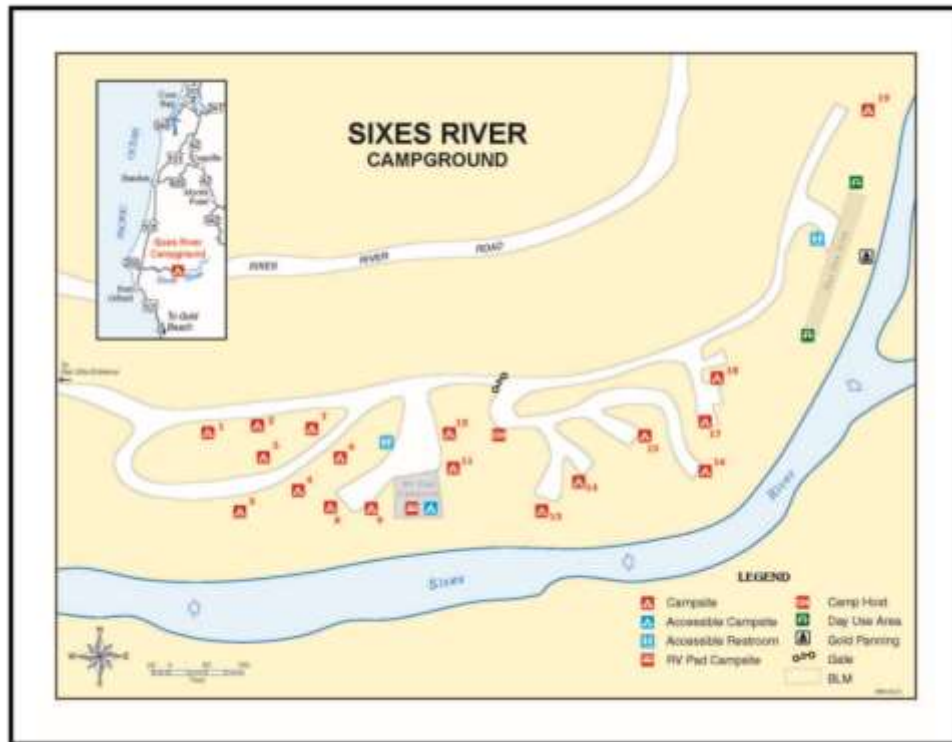


2. Sixes River Campground



Sixes River Campground is a 19-site campground within 27 acres along the Sixes River. It is approximately 7 miles further east on

Sixes River Road from Edson Creek Campground. All sites are currently first-come, first-served by self-registration. The amenities on site for campsites and the day use area includes: picnic tables, fire rings, gravel access roads, an interpretive kiosk, and vault toilets. There is one accessible campsite. Common activities include camping, swimming, fishing, and recreational gold panning. Sixes River Campground is open from the Friday before Memorial Day until September 30.



D. Operating Costs

The Coos Bay District expends valuable resources in managing visitor use at developed recreation sites. All sites require considerable levels of visitor contact, signage, trash pick-up, and maintenance. Operation costs for these services include BLM employees, campground hosts, law enforcement, youth crews, brochures, and other interpretive materials. Administrative costs provide program management, monitoring and evaluation, and collections support. While maintenance costs include restroom pumping, garbage collection, hazard tree mitigation, potable water testing, and supplies. The BLM utilizes several funding sources to develop and maintain its recreation sites. These sources include congressional appropriations, collected fee revenues, external

partnerships, and grant opportunities. The fee revenues collected under the FLREA authority complement the suite of funding sources. Table 4 shows total annual cost of operation for each campground by cost type and the average fee revenue collected from fiscal years 2017-2020.

Table 4: Annual Cost of Operation and Average Fee Revenue Collected

| | Operating Cost by Category | | | Total Operating Cost | Average Fee Revenue (FY 2017-2020) |
|-------------|----------------------------|------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| | Administration | Operations | Maintenance | | |
| Edson Creek | \$11,182 | \$12,853 | \$18,227 | \$42,262 | \$15,930 |
| Sixes River | \$6,497 | \$8,221 | \$9,564 | \$24,282 | \$3,157 |
| Totals | \$17,679 | \$21,074 | \$27,791 | \$66,544 | \$19,087 |

E. Recreation Use and Fee Revenues

Table 5 shows the recreation use, in visits, for fiscal years 2017 through 2020. A visit represents one person regardless of the length of stay. Table 6 is a summary of Appendix B and illustrates the total fee dollars collected for the same years.

Table 5: Number of Visits (estimated based on number of RUPs Sold)

| Number of Visits (estimated based on number of RUPs) | | | | |
|---|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Campground | FY2017 | FY2018 | FY2019 | FY2020 |
| Edson Creek | 4,950 | 6,255 | 5,940 | 4,950 |
| Sixes River | 680 | 1,340 | 1,150 | 2,310 |
| Totals | 5,630 | 7,595 | 7,090 | 7,260 |

Table 6: Average Fee Revenue

| Revenue from Fees (estimated based on RUP* transaction amounts) | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|---------------------------|
| Campground | FY2017 | FY2018 | FY2019 | FY2020 | Average (FY 2017-2020) |
| Edson Creek | \$17,695 | \$18,217 | \$15,710 | \$12,096 | \$15,930 |
| Sixes River | \$2,543 | \$3,380 | \$2,010 | \$4,693 | \$3,157 |
| Totals | \$20,238 | \$21,597 | \$17,720 | \$16,789 | \$19,087 |

IV. Fee Proposal

A. Summary of Fee Proposal

BLM Manual 2930 states the following regarding the purpose of recreation use fees:

Recreation fees are used to provide needed public services while protecting and enhancing public lands and recreation opportunities. Fees should be balanced and affordable for all members of the public, should not be an impediment to visiting public lands, and should not be used as a means to affect the allocation of recreation opportunities. However, those persons actively using recreation opportunities should make a greater, but reasonable, contribution to protect and enhance those opportunities than those who do not use these opportunities.

The BLM collects recreation fees at all recreation sites which meet fee collection guidelines as provided for in FLREA. The collection of recreation fees supports the Department of the Interior's 2007-2012 Strategic Plan Performance Goal "To Provide for and Receive Fair Value in Recreation" and conforms to the BLM's "Priorities for Recreation and Visitor Services" strategic plan. Fee programs should support protection of natural resources, provide for public health and safety, and facilitate access to public lands.

The purpose of this business plan is to present the need and rationale for a moderate increase in existing RUP fees. No new fees are proposed or recommended. The average increase for all fees is approximately 54%, as shown in Table 7.

Table 7: Average Percent Increase for Proposed Fees

| Average % Increase for Proposed Fees | | | | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| Site | Type of Fee | Existing Fee | Proposed Fee | % Increase |
| Edson Creek Campground | Single Campsite | \$8 | \$16 | 100% |
| | Double Campsite | \$16 | \$32 | 100% |
| | Group Campsite | \$30 | \$40 | 33% |
| | Extra Vehicle | \$7 | \$8 | 14% |
| | Firewood | \$5 | \$6 | 20% |
| Sixes River Campground | Day Use | \$4 | \$6 | 50% |
| | Single Campsite | \$8 | \$16 | 100% |
| | Extra Vehicle | \$7 | \$8 | 14% |
| | Average % Increase: | | | 54% |

Campground fees on the Coos Bay District have remained constant for nearly two decades. Many of the campground amenities and facilities on Edson Creek and Sixes River campgrounds are over twenty-five years old and are nearing the end of their functional life span. Theft, weathering, and use have created the need to replace or refurbish amenities and facilities for aesthetic, function and safety reasons. While the majority of funding for the campgrounds comes from appropriated funding, fee revenue is essential to maintain a quality visitor experience. BLM Handbook H-2930-1 states:

The BLM retains recreation fee revenue for use at the recreation site where the fees are collected, and it uses these funds to provide benefits visible to and desired by visitors.

B. Fee Calculation (Fair Market Value and Cost Recovery)

There are two types of fee determination methods BLM policy references, fair market value and cost recovery, to calculate proposed fees. Each method addresses a different objective. With the cost recovery method, a fee rate is calculated to provide revenue to cover the projected annual operating and maintenance costs. The fair market value method determines the market price for a good, resource, or service based on competition in open markets. The analysis in this business plan uses the fair market value method to determine the proposed fees.

Table 8: Amenity Fees for Local, Federal, State, County, and Private Campgrounds

| Campgrounds | Standard Amenity Fee | Expanded Amenity Fees | | | | Expanded Amenities (FLREA) | | | | Additional Amenities | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|----------------------|---------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | Fee Per Vehicle | Basic | Partial/Full Hookups | Group Camp - No Shelter | Group Camping Shelter | Extra Vehicle | Drinking Water | Vault Toilets | Flush Toilets | Boat Launch | Showers | Water Access | Picnic Sites | Universal Access | Camp Host | RV Dump Station |
| Edson Creek (BLM) | \$ 4.00 | \$ 8.00 | | \$ 30.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | x | | x | | x | x | x | x | |
| Sixes River (BLM) | \$ 4.00 | \$ 8.00 | | | | \$ 7.00 | | x | | | | x | x | x | | |
| Bastendorf Beach (CC) | | \$ 22.00 | \$ 32.00 | | * \$320.00 | | x | | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Bennett (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | \$ 7.00 | | x | | | | | | | | |
| Bluebill (FS) | | \$ 22.00 | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | | |
| Boice Cope (CUC) | \$ 2.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 30.00 | | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Bullards Beach (SP) | | \$ 19.00 | \$ 33.00 | | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Cape Balco (SP) | | \$ 18.00 | | \$ 71.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Half Moon Bay (DC) | \$ 6.00 | \$ 35.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 165.00 | | | x | | x | | x | | | | x | |
| Ham Bunch/Cherry (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | | | x | | | | | | | | |
| Horsefall (FS) | | \$ 25.00 | | | | | | | | | x | | | | | x |
| Humbog Mountain (SP) | | \$ 18.00 | \$ 26.00 | | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | | | | | | | x |
| Laveme Park (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | \$ 32.00 | | | | x | | x | | x | | | | x | x |
| Nesika (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | | | x | | | | x | | | | x |
| Powers (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | \$ 32.00 | | | | x | | x | | x | x | | | x | x |
| Riley Ranch (CC) | \$ 5.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00 | | | | x | | x | | x | | | | x | |
| Rooke-Higgins (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | | | x | | x | | | | | x | |
| Smith River Campground (PVT) | \$ 5.00 | \$ 25.00 | | \$ 125.00 | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | |
| Smith River Campground (PVT) | \$ 5.00 | \$ 35.00 | | \$ 135.00 | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | |
| Spinreef (FS) | | \$ 25.00 | | | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | |
| Sunset Bay (SP) | \$ 7.00 | \$ 19.00 | | \$ 71.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Tennile (CC) | \$ 3.00 | \$ 32.00 | \$ 32.00 | | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | |
| West Laveme Park (CC) | | | | | | | x | | x | | x | | | | x | x |
| Wild Mare (FS) | | \$ 22.00 | | | | | x | | x | | | x | | | | |
| William Tugman (SP) | | | \$ 29.00 | \$ 50.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Windy Cove (DC) | \$ 6.00 | \$ 25.00 | | | | | x | | x | | | | | | | |
| Average Cost Estimate | \$ 5.00 | \$ 21.00 | \$ 34.00 | \$ 92.00 | | \$ 7.00 | | | | | | | | | | |

CC= Coos Co., FS = Forest Service, CUC Curry Co., SP = State Park, DC = Douglas Co., PVT = Private
 *Not included in cost estimate because of additional amenities

Fair Market Value – Comparable Fees

Twenty-six campgrounds, including Edson Creek and Sixes River, located in Coos, Curry, and Western Douglas counties, were used to determine an average cost for services. Campgrounds included: Federal, State, County, and privately operated campgrounds. All campgrounds are within

the Coos Bay District boundary and offer similar amenities to the Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds as shown in Table 8. An assessment of the average cost across local providers resulted in the proposed fee rates.

Table 9 is a summary of Table 8 and displays the average cost for each available type of service. It is important to note that the proposed fees are comparable to the fair market value at nearby campgrounds with similar amenities, as shown below in Table 10.

Table 9: Average Fair Market Value Summary

| | Type of Service | | | | |
|------|------------------------|-----------|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| | Basic Site | Full Site | Group Site | Extra Vehicle | Day Use per Vehicle |
| Cost | \$21 | \$34 | \$92 | \$7 | \$5 |

According to the direction given in BLM Manual 2930:

Recreation fees are one part of a comprehensive funding strategy to support recreation sites and services. Other elements of the funding strategy include appropriated funding (as a primary funding source), volunteer assistance, interagency cooperation, grants, partnerships with the private sector, commercial operations, and leveraged funding. Fees are not used to maximize revenue.

C. Existing and Proposed Fee Types and Amounts

The existing and proposed fees are compared to the average fair market value (*all proposed fees are increases in existing RUP fees*) in Table 10.

Table 10: Existing and Proposed Fee Types Compared to the Average Fair Market Value

| Edson Creek Campground | Existing Fee | Proposed Fee | Average Fair Market Value |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Double Campsite | \$16.00 | \$32.00 | N/A |
| Group Campsite | \$30.00 | \$40.00 | \$92.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |
| Firewood | \$5.00 | \$6.00 | N/A |
| Sixes River Campground | | | |

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------|---------|---------|
| Day Use | \$4.00 | \$6.00 | \$5.00 |
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |

D. Financial Analysis

According to the fair market value data, the new proposed fees would be comparable to other providers with similar services, amenities, and recreational opportunities. Fees were set at even dollar denominations to alleviate the collection of coins as many visitors use America the Beautiful Senior and Access passes. As shown in Table 10, the Coos Bay District fee campgrounds provide similar amenities and are below market value in both the basic site and the group site fees. The market value indicates that visitors are willing to pay more than the current BLM fees. It is reasonable to assume that visitors to the BLM Coos Bay District campgrounds would be willing to pay up to the market value. This proposed fee increase would allow the Coos Bay District to minimize the decline of purchasing power for goods and services and update, refurbish or replace facility amenities that provide visitors with a quality recreation experience. The fee increase would also be more closely aligned with the fees charged at other facilities located nearby.

The rationale for increasing our extra vehicle fee slightly above the fair market value is that the sites at Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds are relatively small and very close together. Extra vehicles can be a problem with blocking nearby campsites and destroying vegetation that can cause areas of bare soil. The \$8 fee may encourage our visitors to carpool and bring fewer vehicles overall to the campgrounds and help to cover costs to restore damaged resources. Again, an even dollar amount was set for visitors who use the America the Beautiful Senior or Access passes to reduce breaking a dollar and requiring change. Table 11 is an estimate of the revenue the proposed fee increase would generate.

Table 11: Average Increase in Revenue from Proposed Fees

| Campground | Fees | (2017-2020) Average Fee Revenue | Proposed Fee Increase | Estimate of Proposed Fee Revenue |
|--------------------|------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Edson Creek | Campsite | \$9,361 | 100% | \$18,722 |
| | Group site | \$5,854 | 33% | \$7,796 |

| | | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------------|------|-----------------|
| | Extra Vehicle | \$110 | 14% | \$125 |
| | Firewood | \$604 | 29% | \$779 |
| Total | | \$15,929 | | \$27,422 |
| | | | | |
| Sixes River | Campsite | \$3,048 | 100% | \$6,096 |
| | Day Use | \$109 | 50% | \$164 |
| Total | | \$3,157 | | \$6,260 |
| *Extra vehicle data incomplete for Sixes River Campground | | | | |

E. Use of Fees

Direction for the use of Receipts

Direction for the expenditure of the fees collected is given in BLM Handbook H-2930-1 and states the following:

Unless the procedures described in Chapter 2, Section III.D., State Expenditures, are followed, each BLM office is allocated 100 percent of recreation fee receipts for use at the site of collection. At least 85 percent of these funds must be used directly for recreation facilities, services, and programs that impact visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety, such as:

- (1) *Backlogged repair, maintenance, and enhancement projects.*
- (2) *Current repair, maintenance, and enhancement projects. (See Guidelines for a Quality Built Environment, dated December 2010, or subsequent revision.)*
- (3) *Interpretation, visitor information, visitor services, visitor needs assessments, and signs (including printed materials, such as maps).*
- (4) *Habitat restoration directly related to the wildlife-dependent recreation activities of hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, or photography.*
- (5) *Law enforcement directly related to public use and recreation.*
- (6) *Direct (operating or capital) costs and expenses associated with recreation fee collection (i.e., the cost of collection).*
 - a) *Direct costs. The direct operating or capital costs associated with the Recreation Fee Program are the costs that result from collecting, remitting, transporting, protecting, storing, or securing fee revenue at a collection site.*
 - b) *Expenses. These expenses may include:*
 - *salaries, benefits, and training*
 - *fee collection equipment and upkeep*
 - *security services and equipment*
 - *communication needs, such as signage and phones*

- *audits and evaluations*
- (7) *Support of volunteer and Challenge Cost Share projects, and similar partnership authorities related to recreation.*

Objectives for the use of Fee Receipts collected on District Campgrounds:

Spending Priorities:

- Health and safety of visitors and staff
- Annual operations and maintenance
- Site modernization and improvements
- Resource protection (sustainability of the natural-based resource)
- Visitor services (i.e., information and interpretation)
- Deferred maintenance of site and or facilities

Expenditures of Fees Collected at Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds:

- Service contracts for garbage collection, septic pumping, water testing, and firewood.
- Increased patrols for visitor safety, property protection, and compliance.
- Renewal of county and state drinking and wastewater permits.
- Supplies including but are not limited to cleaning supplies, toilet paper, hand soap, paper towels, hand sanitizer, fuel for motorized equipment, paint, lumber, rock, concrete...etc.
- Maintain, improve, and replace recreation site infrastructure such as trails, signage, barbeque grills, fire rings, picnic tables, cement and wood fencing, restroom buildings, kiosks, lighting, roadway striping, maintenance building, communication devices, curb stops.
- Maintain and replace equipment such as lawnmowers, leaf blowers, weed trimmers, hand tools, golf carts, ATVs, pressure washers, chain saws, drills...etc.
- Information material such as maps, brochures, and interpretive signage.
- Fee collection equipment and upkeep.
- Audits and evaluations.
- Campground Host stipend payments.
- Purchase native trees and shrubs to prevent social trailing through sensitive areas.
- Increased effort to eradicate invasive species from recreation sites.

Special Projects – Projects that benefit visitors, improve campgrounds and should be completed within the next ten years.

Edson Creek:

- Resurface interior park road and repair entrance at Day Use area (\$50,000 - \$100,000)
- Add additional hardened (surfaced) sites (\$10,000 - \$20,000)
- Potential construction of permanent bridge to group site (Cost TBD)

Sixes River:

- Kiosk replacement with interpretive panels (Kiosk \$1000 – \$3,500, High-Pressure Laminate Interpretive Panels (Copy no design work \$1500 -\$2200)
- Park road repair (Cost TBD based on road survey)
- Addition of accessible camping site (\$10,000 - \$20,000)

F. Impact of Fee Changes

There is potential recreation, economic, socioeconomic, and environmental impacts that could result from implementing or not implementing the proposed fee increases for the Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds. Fees for the Coos Bay District have remained the same since 2004 while the cost of goods, labor, and services has steadily increased. As the costs of goods, labor, and services increase, the purchasing power from recreation fees decreases proportionately. This results in less available funding for current campground services and essential maintenance in individual and group campsites. Priority expenditures for the campground program include all aspects of maintaining current levels of service to campers. If the proposed fee increases are adopted, current services will continue to be offered while site infrastructure, resource protection, and visitor services and information could be enhanced. The continued services and combined upgrades would improve the overall visitor experience at both Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds. If fees remain the same, facility maintenance and visitor services may be reduced; and there would be no additional funds for replacement of aging or deteriorating infrastructure. Reduced maintenance levels for road grading, restroom cleaning and pumping, and sign replacement would result in degradation of facilities, increased deferred maintenance costs, and a probable increase in

resource degradation, property damage, and visitor health and safety concerns. Fewer law enforcement patrols and reduced funding for visitor education and information and staff could result in increased visitor use conflicts, resource degradation, and property damage. A failure to maintain visitor facilities and services and the subsequent impacts to the recreation setting would detract from visitors' recreational experiences and may lead to a decrease in visitation to the Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds.

Another important factor to consider in this business plan and fee proposal is the socioeconomic impact of a fee increase on recreation visitors. As described in the Demographics and Visitor Use section, a majority of the visitors come from Coos, Curry, and Douglas counties, where the median household income is approximately 30% lower than the United States as a whole. The increase could negatively affect low-income users who cannot afford the increase, and other visitors who refuse to pay the proposed increase in recreation fees. This fact must be balanced with the ability of the BLM to maintain existing campgrounds to ensure the health and safety of the visitors and minimize resource impacts. A moderate increase in fees would likely not dramatically impact the visitation at the fee campgrounds. However, some visitors may choose not to camp at either Edson Creek or Sixes River Campgrounds. Table 12 shows the proposed fees for Edson Creek and Sixes River campgrounds compared to the average market value for similar experiences in the region.

Table 12: BLM managed Campgrounds Proposed Fees Compared to Regional Campgrounds with Similar Amenities

| Edson Creek Campground | Existing Fee | Proposed Fee | Average Fair Market Value |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Double Campsite | \$16.00 | \$32.00 | N/A |
| Group Campsite | \$30.00 | \$40.00 | \$92.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |
| Firewood | \$5.00 | \$6.00 | N/A |
| Sixes River Campground | | | |
| Day Use | \$4.00 | \$6.00 | \$5.00 |
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |

Those at the lower end of the socioeconomic spectrum would still have opportunities in the Coos Bay District if they chose not to utilize the fee campgrounds. The Coos Bay District manages four non-fee campgrounds: Fawn Creek, Smith River Falls, Vincent Creek, and Park Creek. Dispersed camping is permitted anywhere on BLM administered lands unless otherwise posted for up to 14 days in any 28-day period. In addition, the Forest Service also maintains three non-fee campgrounds on the Elk River in the Rogue-Siskiyou National Forest, Powers Ranger District: Sunshine Bar, Butler Bar, and Laird Lake.

There would be no socio-economic impacts, in the short term, if fees remained the same. In the long-term, the BLM may be forced to reduce operations and services and recreationists, including low-income visitors, would no longer be able to enjoy the current level of recreational opportunities provided in the area.

The proposed market-rate fees at Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds collected would be used on the campgrounds where they were collected. Consequently, more appropriated dollars could then be used to maintain the district's non-fee campgrounds and other recreation opportunities.

Some or many of the estimated 7,000 annual visitors who come to the area contribute to local economies by stopping in the surrounding communities to purchase goods and services (such as gas, food, and other supplies or services) while on their way to and from the Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds. Data is not available to estimate how much money visitors to the area spend in these local communities; however, any changes in visitation numbers would be expected to increase or decrease this amount accordingly. With the revenue from the proposed recreation fee increase, the campgrounds would have the additional funds to maintain and enhance the recreational setting in order to continue to attract these visitors and ensure continued contributions to the local economies.

If fees are not increased, a failure to maintain visitor facilities and services and the subsequent impacts to the recreation setting would detract from visitors' recreational experiences and may lead to many no longer recreating in the area. Any decrease in visitation would negatively impact local economies; less visitors traveling to the area would reduce the number of people potentially stopping in the nearby communities to

purchase goods and services.

Lastly, with revenue from the proposed new recreation fees, the BLM would be able to continue to maintain, and potentially improve, the current environmental protection measures provided at the campsites. Fencing, signing, staff inspections and monitoring, and law enforcement patrols would continue. As fee compliance and revenue increase, additional environmental protection measures would be possible, such as reclamation of overused areas, more intensive monitoring, increased law enforcement patrols, and additional services to restrooms and trash containers.

Without the revenue from the proposed recreation fee and with the continued decline in other funding, BLM may be fiscally unable to adequately maintain, and may need to reduce, the existing environmental protections in the area (such as restroom facilities, fencing, signing, and law enforcement patrols). Reduced maintenance levels for road grading, restroom cleaning and pumping, and sign replacement; fewer law enforcement patrols; and reduced funding for visitor education and information and staff would result in increased resource degradation. Also, the lack of a funding source for additional infrastructure would prevent the BLM from adequately mitigating the effects of increased use in the area, leading to negative impacts on the environment.

G. Use of Partners, Volunteers, and Community Engagement

The BLM believes that to have a successful recreation program, community partners must be engaged and utilized. By working with local stakeholders, the BLM gains great volunteers and instills an essential community attachment to a place. A community that is attached to a campground or trail system is more likely to promote these places and take pride in their stewardship. The community benefits from tourism dollars associated with these sites, the skills that the BLM staff teaches area youth, and the extra finances directly tied to the assistance agreements are empowering for rural communities.

As part of its Connecting with Communities Recreation Strategy, BLM seeks engagement and partnerships with local stakeholders and organizations such as Northwest Youth Corps, local scout groups, and other community service programs to accomplish mutual objectives for public access and recreation.

Annually, the Northwest Youth Corps spends approximately two weeks at Edson Creek and Sixes River campground clearing brush, removing invasive weeds, and assisting staff preparing for the camping season.

Northwest Youth Corps Group Photo



V. Outreach

A. Public and Stakeholder Participation

Section 804 of FLREA requires the Secretary of the Interior to provide the public with an opportunity to participate in the establishment and implementation of recreation fees. In addition to ensuring compliance with the FLREA, the BLM has the following objectives in the public participation process:

- Identifying key individuals, groups, and communities of interest concerned with the Recreation Fee Program
- Providing the public with an understanding of the needs and benefits of the Recreation Fee Program
- Ensuring that public issues and concerns are heard, understood, and addressed in an open setting
- Establishing positive relationships with public users and gateway communities to build support for and encourage participation in public lands recreation

B. Public Comments and Visitor Feedback Mechanisms

The BLM must gain the public's trust and support in the management of the developed fee campgrounds. Therefore, it is essential to promote

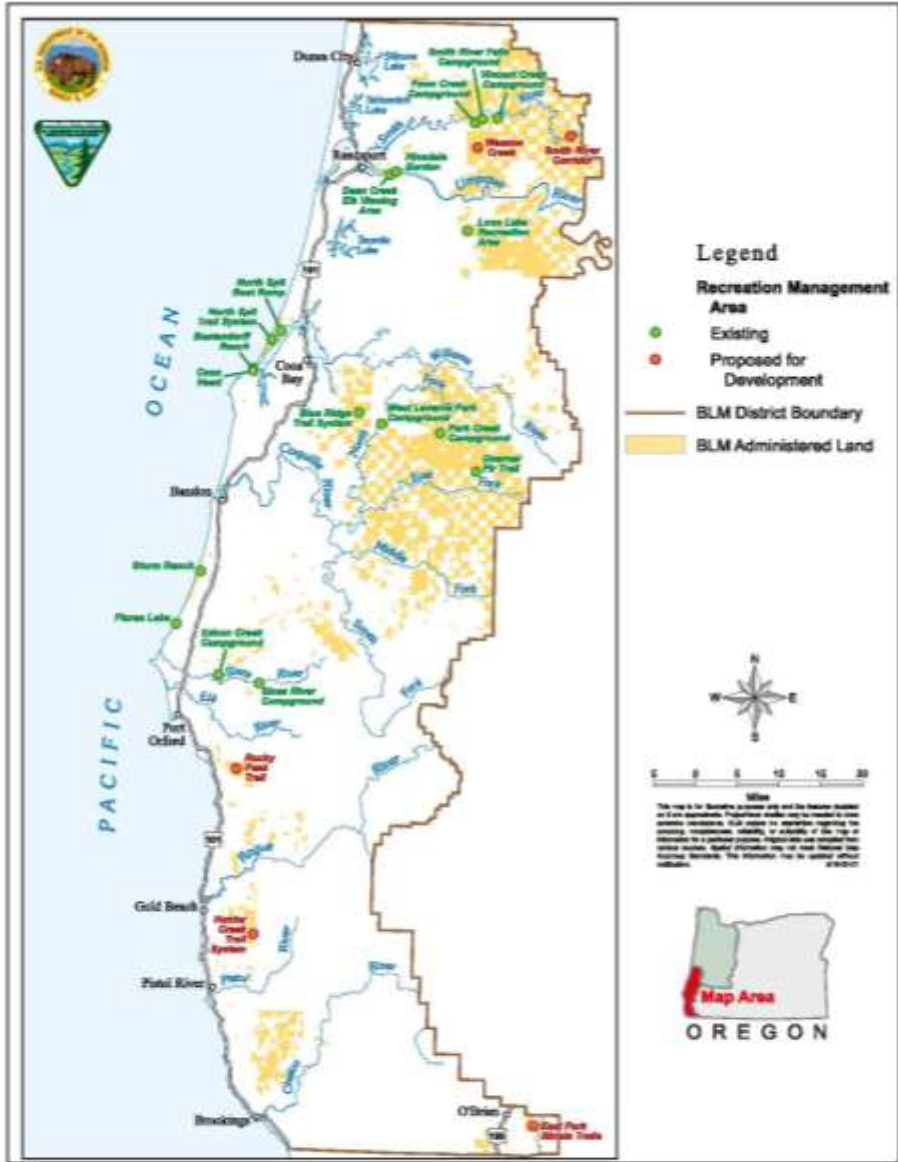
public awareness and receptivity of fee schedules at the campgrounds according to the FLREA legislation. It is also important to relay to the public the project work and expenditures of revenues and actively solicit input from recreation users on the type of products and services they desire. To actively involve the public and local stakeholders, information about the Coos Bay District's proposed fee changes were posted at both Edson Creek and Sixes River Campgrounds in August 2021 for 30 days. Oregon State Parks, county parks, and local privately operated campgrounds were also provided with the fee proposals for comment. The information provided the physical and email addresses where public comments related to the business plan could be submitted. In December 2021, the Coos Bay District Manager met with the Curry County Commissioners to provide an opportunity for comment on the proposed fee changes. The commissioners expressed support and a short summary of the meeting is attached in Appendix D. As of January 2022, no additional comments were received. The BLM will engage in and continue to use the following mechanisms:

- Public notice of the proposed fee changes will continue to be posted onsite until implemented.
- News releases will appear in local newspapers informing the public of fee changes.
- The public notice and news release will contain contact information for public comments on the proposed fee changes.
- Website information will inform the public of the proposed fee changes.
- Fee signs and paper materials will reflect the proposed fee changes, including notice of the fee rate(s), the accepted passes, and where the fees are charged.
- Visitor feedback will be solicited in several ways: direct personal visitor contacts, approved customer contact cards, contacting the BLM Coos Bay District via email, and approved periodic customer satisfaction surveys.

Appendices

A. Maps

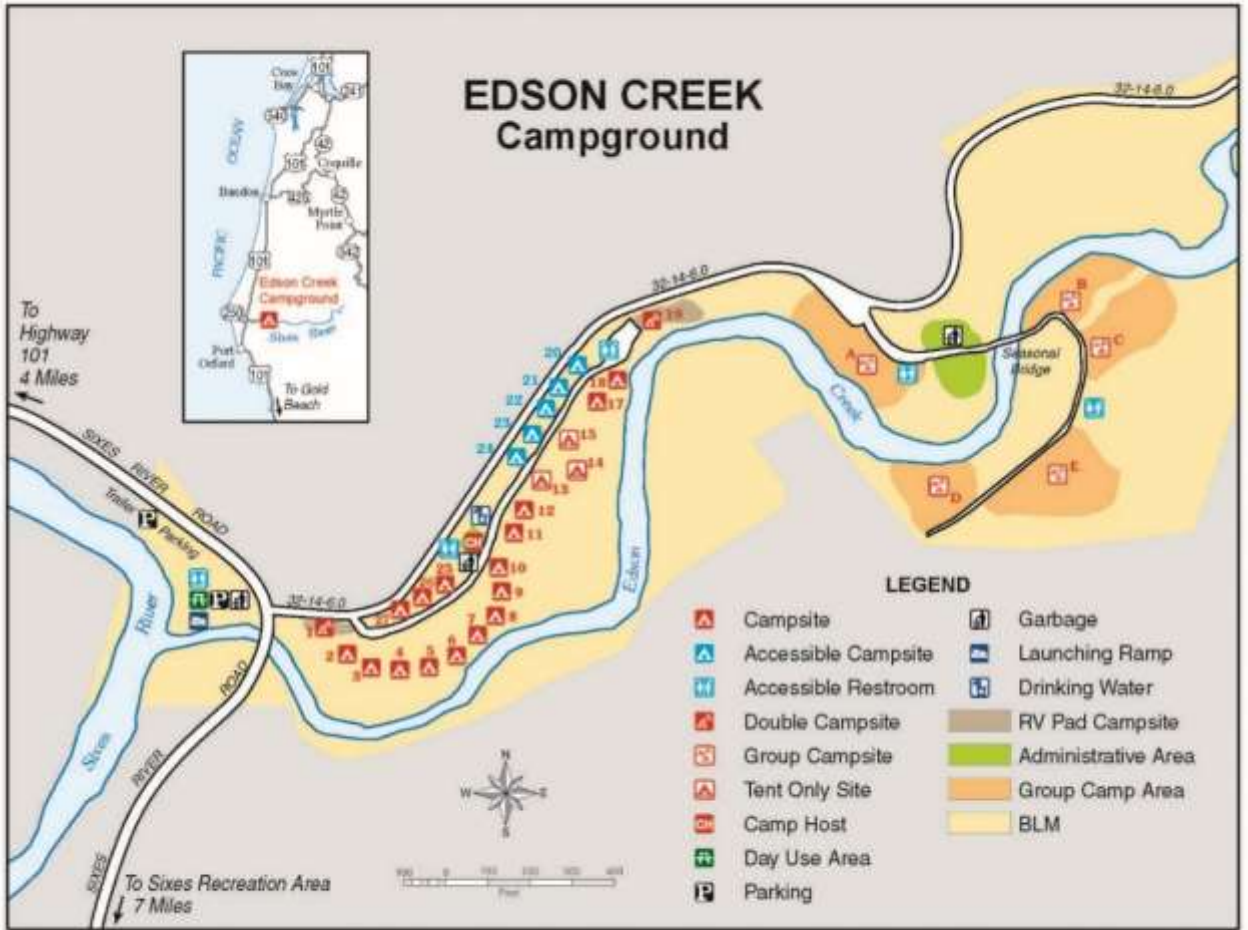
Coos Bay District Recreation Management Areas

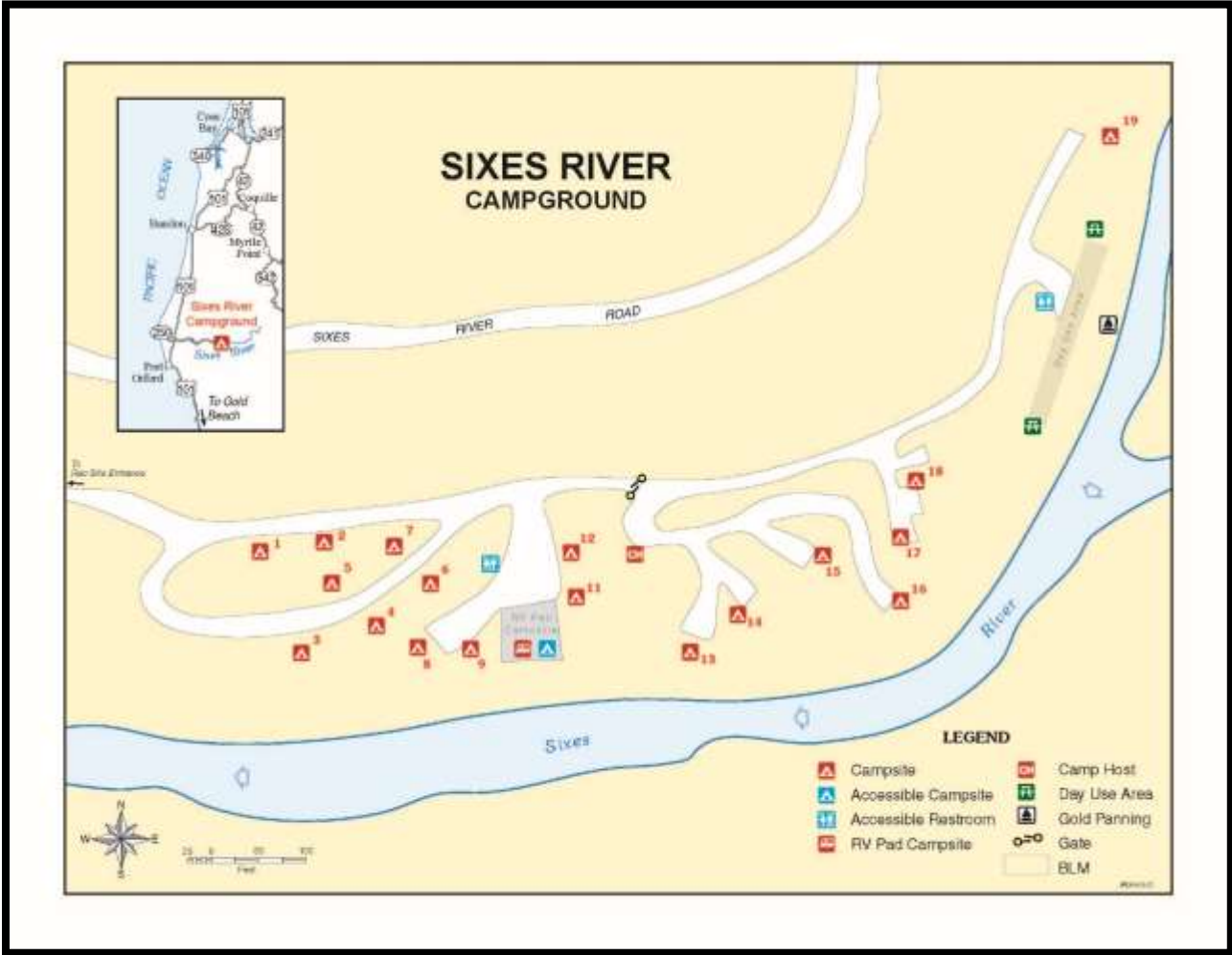


Coos Bay District - Fee Campgrounds



| | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Highway | BLM Lands | Forest Service Lands |
| County Boundaries | BIA Lands | City |
| Coos Bay District | Private/Other Lands | Campground |
| | State Lands | |





B. Recreation Use Permit Fees 2017-2020

| Campground | Fee Types | 2017 Revenue | 2018 Revenue | 2019 Revenue | 2020 Revenue | Average (2017 - 2020) |
|---|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Edson | Campsite | \$9,922 | \$11,447 | \$9,668 | \$6,408 | \$9,361 |
| | Group site | \$6,000 | \$6,770 | \$5,065 | \$5,580 | \$5,854 |
| | Extra Vehicle | \$223 | | \$112 | \$108 | \$110 |
| | Firewood | \$1,550 | | \$865 | 0 | \$604 |
| Total | | \$17,695 | \$18,217 | \$15,710 | \$12,096 | \$15,930 |
| | | | | | | |
| Sixes | Campsite | \$2,362 | \$3,380 | \$2,006 | \$4,443 | \$3,048 |
| | Day Use | \$181 | 0 | 4 | \$250 | \$109 |
| Total | | \$2,543 | \$3,380 | \$2,010 | \$4,693 | \$3,157 |
| *Extra vehicle data incomplete for Sixes River Campground | | | | | | |

C. Comparable Fees

| Campgrounds | Standard Amenity Fee | Expanded Amenity Fees | | | | | Expanded Amenities (FLREA) | | | | Additional Amenities | | | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--|---------------|---------------|-------------|----------------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| | Fee Per Vehicle | Basic | Partial/Full Hookups | Group Camp - No Shelter | Group Camping Shelter | Extra Vehicle | Drinking Water | Vault Toilets | Flush Toilets | Boat Launch | Showers | Water Access | Picnic Sites | Universal Access | Camp Host | RV Dump Station |
| Edson Creek (BLM) | \$ 4.00 | \$ 8.00 | | \$ 30.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | x | | x | | x | x | x | x | |
| Sixes River (BLM) | \$ 4.00 | \$ 8.00 | | | | \$ 7.00 | | x | | | | x | x | x | | |
| Bastendorf Beach (CC) | | \$ 22.00 | \$ 32.00 | | * \$320.00 | | x | | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Bennett (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | \$ 7.00 | | x | | | | | | | | |
| Bluebill (FS) | | \$ 22.00 | | | | | x | x | | | | | | | | |
| Boice Cope (CUC) | \$ 2.00 | \$ 25.00 | \$ 30.00 | | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Bullards Beach (SP) | | \$ 19.00 | \$ 33.00 | | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Cape Balco (SP) | | \$ 18.00 | | \$ 71.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | |
| Half Moon Bay (DC) | \$ 6.00 | \$ 35.00 | \$ 50.00 | \$ 165.00 | | | x | | x | | x | | | | x | |
| Ham Bunch/Cherry (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | | | x | | | | | | | | |
| Horsefall (FS) | | \$ 25.00 | | | | | | | | | x | | | | | x |
| Humbog Mountain (SP) | | \$ 18.00 | \$ 26.00 | | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | | | | | | | x |
| Laveme Park (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | \$ 32.00 | | | | x | | x | x | x | | | | x | x |
| Nesika (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | | | x | | | | x | | | | x |
| Powers (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | \$ 32.00 | | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | x |
| Riley Ranch (CC) | \$ 5.00 | \$ 30.00 | \$ 45.00 | | | | x | | x | x | | x | | | x | |
| Rooke-Higgins (CC) | | \$ 16.00 | | | | | | x | | x | | | | x | | |
| Smith River Campground (PVT) | \$ 5.00 | \$ 25.00 | | \$ 125.00 | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | |
| Smith River Campground (PVT) | \$ 5.00 | \$ 35.00 | | \$ 135.00 | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | x | |
| Spirreel (FS) | | \$ 25.00 | | | | | x | | x | x | x | x | | | | |
| Sunset Bay (SP) | \$ 7.00 | \$ 19.00 | | \$ 71.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Termile (CC) | \$ 3.00 | \$ 32.00 | \$ 32.00 | | | | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | | |
| West Laveme Park (CC) | | | | | | | x | | x | | x | | | x | x | x |
| Wild Mare (FS) | | \$ 22.00 | | | | | x | x | | | | x | | | | |
| William Tugman (SP) | | | \$ 29.00 | \$ 50.00 | | \$ 7.00 | x | | x | x | x | x | x | x | x | x |
| Windy Cove (DC) | \$ 6.00 | \$ 25.00 | | | | | x | | x | | | | | | | |
| Average Cost Estimate | \$ 5.00 | \$ 21.00 | \$ 34.00 | \$ 92.00 | | \$ 7.00 | CC= Coos Co., FS = Forest Service, CUC Dury Co., SP = State Park, DC = Douglas Co., PVT = Private *Not included in cost estimate because of additional amenities. | | | | | | | | | |

D. Communications Plan

Coos Bay District Proposed Recreation Use Fees Communications Plan 2021

The Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District is seeking public comments for increasing overnight camping and other recreation use fees at two of the District's developed fee campgrounds. Pending approval from the Western Oregon Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), the proposed fee increase will be implemented in time for the 2022 camping season.

Communication Goals

- Explain the need for a fee increase for campgrounds on the Coos Bay District
- Convey that the proposed increased fees are necessary and routine to keep open and maintain campgrounds, stay consistent with neighboring agencies and gain fair return for use on public lands

Target Audience

- Local and regional recreationists
- Local Outfitter/Guides
- Coos, Curry and Douglas County residents
- Congressional Delegation
- Local Government
- Members of the public who have previously expressed interest in Coos Bay District affairs

Key Messages

- Fees have not been increased at Bureau of Land Management, Coos Bay District campgrounds since 2004 while use of the developed recreation facilities has increased.
- The proposed fee increase will provide funding for sites and maintain consistency with similar recreation opportunities provided by Coos, Curry and Douglas Counties, the Siuslaw and Siskiyou National Forests and Oregon State Parks.
- With the passage of the FLREA, all fees collected from recreation sites must be reinvested for services, maintenance, and improvements to the sites. Fees may be adjusted from time to time to reflect changes in costs, due to

inflation, and to ensure a fair return for the use of the public lands.

- Provide a table of fee increases

Coos Bay District Existing and Proposed Campground Fees Compared to the Average Fair Market Value.

| Edson Creek Campground | Existing Fee | Proposed Fee | Average Fair Market Value |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Double Campsite | \$16.00 | \$32.00 | N/A |
| Group Campsite | \$30.00 | \$40.00 | \$92.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |
| Firewood | \$5.00 | \$6.00 | N/A |
| Sixes River Campground | | | |
| Day Use | \$4.00 | \$6.00 | \$5.00 |
| Single Campsite | \$8.00 | \$16.00 | \$21.00 |
| Extra Vehicle | \$7.00 | \$8.00 | \$7.00 |

Strategies

- Targeted outreach to public, elected officials, media and interest groups about the proposed recreation use fees.
- Convey that the proposed RUP fees will provide the additional budget to keep open and maintain sites and remain consistent with surrounding agencies

The public may submit comments on the proposed Recreation Use Fees by visiting the website or email listed below. Names may not be redacted if documents are requested under the Freedom of Information Act.

Website: www.BLM.gov/programs/recreation/permits-and-fees/business-plans
 Email: BLM_OR_CB_Mail@BLM.gov
 Mail: 1300 Airport Ln, North Bend, OR 97459

E. Public Comments

Presentation of Edson Creek/Sixes River Fee Proposal Curry County Commissioners
December 1, 2021

On December 1, 2021, Coos Bay District Manager Steve Lydick presented in-person to the Curry County Board of Commissioners the District's proposal to increase fees at Edson Creek and Sixes River recreation sites. The Board of Commissioners includes John Herzog, Chair; Christopher Paasch, Vice-Chair; and Court Boice, Commissioner.

Based on the District Manager's presentation, the Commissioners offered their support to the fee increases at the sites, including the following comments:

- The increase from \$8 to \$16 makes the fees more competitive with other fees in the region.
- Suggest making the fees higher in the next couple of years to keep up with costs.
- Fee schedule as proposed is very fair.

References

BLM Handbook H-2930-1 Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook, November 17, 2014, Release 2-300.

BLM Instruction Memorandum No. OR-2017-007, November 28, 2016, Expires September 30, 2020, Subject: Recreation Fee Proposals.

BLM Manual 2930 Recreation Permits and Fees, October 22, 2007, Release 2-296.

BLM Northwestern and Coastal Oregon Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan, August 2016.

Little North Fork Recreation Sites Business Plan, July 2017, Developed by: Dan Davis, Outdoor Recreation Planner, Northwest Oregon District BLM, Salem, OR.

Loon Lake Recreation Area Business Plan, September 2005, Prepared by: Dave Wash, Outdoor Recreation Planner, et al., Coos Bay District BLM, North Bend, OR.

Recreation Fee Site Business Plan, January 2016, Prepared by: Jessica Brewen, Outdoor Recreation Planner (Detail), Roseburg District Office BLM, Roseburg, OR.

Sixes River SRMA Business Plan, April 2004, Authored by: John Harper, Park Ranger, Coos Bay District BLM, North Bend, OR.