



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

News Release

Coos Bay District

Media Contact: Megan Harper, (541) 751-4353

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 9, 2022

Limited Camping Opens at Loon Lake Recreation Site

North Bend, Ore. – The Bureau of Land Management is pleased to announce that a part of the Loon Lake Recreation Site is now open for weekend camping. Seventeen campsites will be open for camping each Friday, Saturday and Sunday night starting Friday, Aug. 12, 2022.

The campsites are available by reservation only. Visitors can begin making reservations through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) after 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022. Sites number 34 through 53 are available. These sites are located in the lower part of the campground nearest to the lake and day use area.

There is no potable water available onsite. Visitors should bring all the water they will need for their visit, including drinking water. Non-potable water will run the flush toilets in the day use restrooms.

The day use area also is still open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The beach and swimming area, picnic tables, charcoal grills, boat ramp, and waterfall trail will be open.

“The water wells and holding tanks are keeping up with demand in the park since we opened for day use in July,” said Steve Lydick, Coos Bay District Manager. “We are excited to open more of the site now that we know we can reliably operate basic facilities for visitors.”

The BLM is opening limited areas in the park while contractors continue work to bring the water treatment system online. The BLM plans to open more campsites later this summer if the water system successfully handles the increased use from limited camping. It is unlikely potable water will be available this season due to construction delays.

The site will remain closed from 11 a.m. on Mondays to 8 a.m. on Fridays. Entering closed areas in the campground is prohibited to protect public safety while work continues on the water treatment and distribution system.

Nearby East Shore Campground is also open on the shore of Loon Lake. Six campsites available on a first come, first served basis. A valid East Shore camping permit also allows entry for one vehicle to Loon Lake Recreation Site for day use.

The BLM closed Loon Lake Recreation Site since 2019. Heavy snow that year toppled trees around the site. Falling trees destroyed the potable water treatment system, a restroom in the day use area, and the maintenance shop. The repairs at the site are being partially funded through the Great American Outdoors Act.

The BLM will post regular updates at blm.gov/office/coos-bay-district-office and recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234076

-BLM-

The BLM manages approximately 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 Western states, including Alaska. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The agency's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



Loon Lake Recreation Site Reopening

Updated August 9, 2022

Is Loon Lake Recreation Site open for camping?

Yes. A limited number of sites will open for camping on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights starting on Friday, Aug. 12.

How many sites are open and where are they in the campground?

Seventeen campsites are open. These are sites number 34 through 53 and are located in the lower part of the campground nearest to the lake and day use area.

How do I get a campsite?

The campsites are available by reservation only. Visitors can begin making reservations through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) after 10 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10, 2022. Recreation.gov will show which campsites and dates are available for reservation.

Will water be available for visitors?

No. There is no potable water available onsite. Visitors should bring all the water they will need for their visit, including drinking water. Non-potable water will run the flush toilets in the day use restroom.

When is the day use area open?

The day use area also is still open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays. The beach and swimming area, picnic tables, charcoal grills, boat ramp, and waterfall trail will be open.

When is the Loon Lake Recreation Site closed?

The site will remain closed from 11 a.m. on Mondays to 8.a.m. on Fridays. Entering closed areas in the campground is prohibited to protect public safety while work continues on the water treatment and distribution system.

When the BLM open Loon Lake Recreation Site during the week, or open additional sites for camping?

The BLM plans to complete a phased reopening of Loon Lake Recreation Site. The BLM will open additional campsites if the water system successfully handles the increased use during the first weekend or two that camping reopens.

Non-potable water may be used to operate limited facilities onsite until the water treatment system is brought online.



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Where can I find updates?

The BLM will post regular updates at blm.gov/office/coos-bay-district-office and recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234076. Information will also be distributed to local media.

Are there other areas I can go to camp at and access Loon Lake? Are there other places to camp in the area?

Yes. Nearby East Shore Campground is open on the shore of Loon Lake, with six campsites available on a first come, first served basis. Lake access is available at Loon Lake Lodge and RV Resort. The BLM also operates six other campgrounds on the southern Oregon coast, most with access to coast range rivers.

What is preventing the site from being fully reopened now?

The primary well on site is not yet producing useable water, due to heavy sediment loads. While this is being addressed, a smaller secondary well is being utilized to fill on-site holding tanks to ensure that enough water will be available for visitor use. The agency is opening the site in small phases to be sure the wells will produce enough water to keep up with visitor use. Additionally, the system that treats the water is still being brought online, which prevents the BLM from offering potable water to the public at this time.