

## Fremont-Winema Forests To Increase Fees



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Glenn Vaagen

BEND, OR -- The Fremont-Winema National Forests will increase fees at three campgrounds and five recreation rental cabins/lookouts, as well as starting to charge fees at ten campgrounds, starting Friday May 28th.

"Recreation use on the Forest has been increasing over the years, but many of our facilities were built 30 to 60 years ago and are reaching the end of their useful life," said Rick Newton, Acting Forest Supervisor. "The new fee structure will help the Forest Service maintain and improve campgrounds, rental cabins and other recreation sites."

According to Recreation Program Manager Robert Wetherell, the goal of this new fee structure is to create a sustainable recreation program that meets the needs and expectations of visitors. "95% of the funds collected at recreation fee sites remain on the Forest to help fund needed improvements," he added.

The updated fee structure is one of several outcomes from the Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) process the Fremont-Winema National Forests completed in 2008 where the agency evaluated the future management of 85 developed recreation sites, including campgrounds, picnic areas, trailheads, Sno-Parks, horse camps, cabin/lookouts, boat/swim/fish areas and interpretative and observation sites. Through this analysis process, and with public input, the Forest developed a "program of work" outlining the future management of these sites over the next five years. This fee proposal was reviewed by the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee in 2008, and was included as part of their recommendation that was approved by the Pacific Northwest Regional Forester.

Fees were established based on the facilities, services and amenities provided in comparison to other similar recreation sites in the market area.

"Originally, this fee increase was suppose to go into effect in the Spring of 2009," said Wetherell. "We elected to postpone the increase until 2010, so Forest employees could install fee collection tubes and kiosks at the ten campgrounds being added to the recreation fee system."

For a complete breakdown of all increases, visit the [Forest Service's Website](#).

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