



NEWS RELEASE

United States
Department of Agriculture

Forest Service
Salmon - Challis National
Forest
1206 South Challis
Salmon, Idaho 83467



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Forest Developed Recreation Site Maintenance and Fees

The Salmon-Challis National Forest has 31 designated fee campsites that provide amenities ranging from picnic tables, fire rings and toilet to campsites with trailer spaces and drinking water. All of these campsites are located in or near places where people love to fish, hunt, and hike and participate in other type outdoor recreation. These campsites and 11 additional developed sites require funding for operation and maintenance and the costs continue to rise.

In 2004 Congress passed the Recreation Enhanced Act which allows participating agencies to retain up to 95% of the use fees collected at developed recreation sites for operation, maintenance and fee collection expenses at those sites. The legislation includes a list of ten standard amenities to be used in determining campsites that are eligible under the program.

Proposed fee changes

The Salmon-Challis National Forest is proposing to raise campground and cabin rental fees in 2009 to keep up with increased costs associated with maintaining and operating campground facilities and is seeking public comment on the proposal. The fees collected at forest campgrounds and cabins go back into local facilities.

The fee proposal would affect 42 sites across the forest. We will be taking public input on these expected changes until September. Currently, there are 31 fee sites on the forest. The standard amenities include: tent or trailer space; picnic tables; drinking water; access roads; collection of the fee by an employee or agent of the Forest Service; reasonable visitor protection; refuse containers; toilet facilities; and simple devices for containing a campfire.

“We have reviewed 180 developed sites on the Forest, 31 of them currently have fees ranging from \$4 - \$20. We are proposing a new fee structure that would be consistent across the Forest and to add 11 sites to the fee program,” said Forest Recreation Officer Trish Callaghan. “This is the early part of our process and we will be taking public input

on these expected changes until September.” Ms Callaghan can be reached at 208-756-5115 for comments and questions about this proposal.

Under the proposal, if a campground has at least 5 out of 10 of the “standard amenities” and **INCLUDES drinking water, the proposed fee will be \$10.00/night**. The 22 campsites in this category include: Flat Rock, Pole Flat, Mill Creek (Challis RD), Park Creek, Phi Kappa, Wild Horse, Starhope, Iron Bog, Timber Creek, Daggar Falls, Boundary Creek, Lola Creek, Beaver Creek, Thatcher Creek, Big Eightmile, Bighorn Crags, Iron Lake, Wallace Lake, Meadow Lake, Corn Creek, Twin Creek, Ebenezer, and Spring Creek.

If a site has at least 5 out of 10 of the “standard amenities” but NO Drinking Water, the **proposed fee will be \$5.00/night**. Campsites in this category include: Cougar Point, Custer #1, Flat Rock Extension, Blind Creek, Mosquito Flat Reservoir, Mill Creek (LRRD), Lake Creek, Broad Canyon, Banner Creek, Mount Borah, and Bench Creek.

The 11 sites added to the fee program include: Custer #1, Flat Rock Extension, Blind Creek, Mosquito Flat Reservoir, Mill Creek (LRRD), Lake Creek, Broad Canyon, Banner Creek, Mount Borah, Bench Creek and Big Eight Mile (drinking water available).

The forest also proposes to increase the fees at the **rental cabins to \$40.00** per night to help recuperate the utility costs and maintenance of these facilities: Cabin Creek A-Frame, North Basin A-Frame, Peel Tree A-Frame, Sheephorn Lookout, Williams Creek A-Frame, Yellowjacket Guard Station, Iron Lake A-Frame, Wallace Lake A-Frame, and Cape Horn Guard Station (Winter)

The current fees are inconsistent across the forest, and costs for fuel, materials, and personnel have increased while the appropriated budget for developed recreation has remained flat or slightly decreased.

The fees collected in these sites are retained by the forest for maintenance and operation as well as improvements to the sites. The forest welcomes comments on the proposal through the 2008 camping season.