

Recreation Facility Analysis Background/Program Goals

National Forests across the nation are completing an evaluation of their developed recreation sites to ensure they are providing clean, healthy, safe, well-maintained recreation opportunities that are most important to visitors. This evaluation is also important in addressing the backlog of needed maintenance that have built up at facilities over the years, creating health, safety, and visitor satisfaction concerns.

Many facilities were built 30-50 years ago and have reached the end of their useful life. Other facilities receive little or no use, and no longer experience the same demand that existed when they were built. Sites that fall into these categories contribute most to the backlog of site maintenance that is now more than \$148 billion nationally. With the Forest Service currently obligated to maintain all sites, less than one-quarter of developed recreation sites are now being operated to meet all quality standards.

The Olympic National Forest's proposed program of work is designed to meet the following objectives:

- Operate and maintain sites to standard within available revenues
- Reduce deferred maintenance by 20 percent over the five-year life of the program of work
- Focus available resources on sites which conform most closely to the forest recreation niche
- Maintain and enhance customer satisfaction with available sites



Recreation Facility Analysis

The Olympic National Forest Niche

Access the Olympics - Where the Rain Creates the Forest

Surrounded on three sides by saltwater, with the Olympic Mountains nestled in the center, the Olympic National Forest provides visitors with the unique opportunity to hike a mountain for great 360 degree views, explore the only temperate rainforest in the lower 48, and shuck oysters for supper, all in one weekend. The emphasis is day-use supported by waterfront camping, and includes driving, viewing scenery and wildlife, and hiking for all ages. The forest is part of the larger Olympic Peninsula community and a partner providing opportunities for a changing demographic of visitor.



THE NICHE is the vision of what the Olympic is best suited to provide in terms of developed recreation settings and experiences. To determine its niche, the Olympic identified its unique attributes:

- Extreme ecosystems dominate the forest, ranging from sub-alpine meadows to temperate rainforests to saltwater beaches
- Lush forests and rugged mountains provide a remote and solitary experience to the Seattle and Tacoma metropolitan areas
- Rainfall as high as 140 inches per year to as low as 15 inches create a diverse range of experiences
- Five designated wilderness areas supply a terrific starting point for access to the Olympic National Park



Recreation Facility Analysis Ranking Process

Recreation sites were evaluated and placed into four categories. These categories identify the desired future condition and guides the planning for future proposed actions. These categories are:

Category A: Sites that are under some type of operational or contractual agreement whose terms are longer than the five-year period of the RFA analysis.

Category B: Sites that meet the unit niche; are environmentally sustainable within the capability and capacity of the natural resources; are supported by and provide support to local communities; and have a sustainable management cost-benefit ratio.

Category C: Sites that do not meet all of Category B criteria, but with a combination of mitigation, additional resources, or other type of action could be made to qualify.

Category D: Sites that do not meet all of the Category B criteria; or fall sufficiently short in one or more of the criterion so as to render the capability of meeting it unsustainable. These sites may be managed for dispersed recreation opportunities.

Sites were placed into these categories based on the following:

- Conformance to the forest niche and amount of recreation use (35%)
- Financial efficiency (35%)
- Environmental and community sustainability (30%).



Recreation Facility Analysis 7-step Process

1. Prepare site inventory and financial data

2. Develop the unit recreation program niche

3. Identify operational efficiencies

4. Rank recreation sites

5. Develop proposed five-year program of work

6. Produce analysis documentation

7. Gather public input

8. Finalize Ranking and 5-Year Program of Work

9. Site Specific Focused Public Participation

Hood Canal District Proposed Site Changes

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
BEAR GULCH Category: B Site Score: 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Operate site through a partner agreement Replace existing constructed feature to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from April 1 to Oct. 30
BIG CREEK Category: B Site Score: 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close water system Change to a concession operation Replace existing constructed feature to reduce deferred maintenance Improve visitor information and bulletin board 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30
BIG CREEK 4 MILE AND CAMPGROUND LOOPS Category: B Site Score: 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce winter services 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30
BIG QUILCENE LOWER Category: B Site Score: 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce winter services 	Operate site from May 1 to Sept. 30
BIG QUILCENE UPPER Category: B Site Score: 77	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce winter services 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
BROWN CREEK Category: B Site Score: 74	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermittent closure during season of use Close water system Increase current Rec Fee 	Operate site from Jan. 1 to Dec. 30
BROWN CREEK INTERPRETIVE Category: B Site Score: 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
COHO Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermittent closures during season of use Change to concession operation Replace/repair existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30
COLLINS Category: B Site Score: 69	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve visitor information and bulletin board Change to a concession operation Repair existing features 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30
DRY CREEK LOWER Category: B Site Score: 73	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Operate site through a partner agreement 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
DUCKABUSH Category: B Site Score: 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce services in winter Increase volunteer staff Change in development scale from 4 to 3 	Operate site from May 1 to Sept. 30

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
DUNGENESS FORKS Category: B Site Score: 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve visitor information and bulletin board Operate site through a partner agreement Increase current Rec Fee 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30
DUNGENESS LOWER Category: B Site Score: 54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Increase volunteer staff 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
DUNGENESS UPPER Category: B Site Score: 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce services in winter 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
ELK LAKE LOWER Category: C Site Score: 37	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use Eliminate Fee Replace existing feature to reduce deferred maintenance 	Propose to close site
ELKHORN Category: B Site Score: 54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce operating season 	
FALLS VIEW Category: B Site Score: 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Close or remove water system Change to a concession operation Change in development scale from 4 to 3 	Operate site from June 30 to Sept. 15
FALLSVIEW CANYON Category: B Site Score: 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change in development scale from 4 to 3 Begin charging a Rec Fee 	Operate site from June 30 to Sept. 15
HAMMA HAMMA Category: B Site Score: 68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove water system Improve visitor information and bulletin board Change to a concession operation Change in development scale from 4 to 3 Replacement of existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30. Site will be closed in 2008
HAMMA HAMMA CABIN Category: B Site Score: 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use Change to a concession operation Change in development scale from 5 to 4 Replacement of existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31.
HIGH STEEL BRIDGE Category: C Site Score: 43	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate through partnership Change operation of site to General Forest Area (GFA) and reduce development scale from 2 to 1. 	Propose to close site



Hood Canal District Proposed Site Changes

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
HOOD CANAL RANGER DISTRICT QUILCENE VISITOR CENTER Category: B Site Score: 67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change—currently USFS operated 	Visitor center is open for weekends and holidays during summer months
INTERROREM Category: D Site Score: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decommission site as soon as practical 	
INTERROREM CABIN Category: B Site Score: 61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use Change to a concession operation Change in development scale from 5 to 4 Study feasibility of converting site from FA&O facility to recreation site 	Operate site from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31
LEBAR Category: C Site Score: 51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve visitor information and bulletin board Increase volunteer staff Increase current Rec Fee 	Propose to close site Relocate Wildlife Gate or install gates on campground road
LENA CREEK Category: B Site Score: 82	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change to a concession operation Reduce capacity at site Change in development scale from 4 to 3 Repair/replacement of existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 20 to Sept. 7
LENA LAKE CAMPGROUND Category: B Site Score: 72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Remove restroom facility Increase volunteer staff Reduce development scale from 3 to 2 	Operate site from May 1 to Sept. 30
LENA LAKE TRAILHEAD Category: B Site Score: 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce winter services Reduce development scale from 4 to 3 Replace existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 1 to Sept. 30
LITTLE QUILCENE Category: B Site Score: 56	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in development scale from 3 to 2 	Operate site from May 14 to Sept. 30
LIVING LEGACY INTERPRETIVE Category: B Site Score: 63	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
LOUELLA CABIN Category: B Site Score: 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate site through a partner agreement Increase current Rec Fee Change in development scale from 5 to 4 Study feasibility of converting site from FA&O facility to recreation site 	Operate site from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31
MILDRED LAKES Category: B Site Score: 57	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce services in winter 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
MT. ELLINOR LOWER Category: B Site Score: 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
MT. ELLINOR UPPER Category: B Site Score: 66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce winter services Replace existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
MT. ROSE Category: B Site Score: 72	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
MT. TOWNSEND LOWER Category: B Site Score: 78	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change in development scale from 2 to 1 Change in site type to General Forest Area trailhead 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
MT. TOWNSEND UPPER Category: B Site Score: 80	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Add toilet building Begin charging Rec Fee 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
MT. WALKER LOWER Category: B Site Score: 61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change in development scale from 3 to 2 	Operate site from April 15 to Oct. 30
MT. WALKER NORTH Category: B Site Score: 58	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Remove restroom facility Increase volunteer staff Begin charging Rec Fee Change in site type to Interpretive Site 	Operate site from May 15 to Oct. 30 Look into potential for concession operation
MT. WALKER SOUTH Category: B Site Score: 68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change in development scale from 4 to 3 Change in site type to Interpretive Site Increase volunteer staff Begin charging Rec Fee 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30. Site will be closed in 2008
MT. ZION Category: B Site Score: 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce winter services 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
MURHUT FALLS Category: B Site Score: 68	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30



Hood Canal District Proposed Site Changes

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
NOTCH PASS UPPER Category: B Site Score: 61	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Increase volunteer staff 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
OSBOW RUSTIC Category: D Site Score: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close site (defer decommissioning) Change operation of site to General Forest Area (GFA) campground and reduce development scale from 2-1 	
PUTVIN Category: B Site Score: 66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change operation of site to General Forest Area (GFA) campground and reduce development scale from 2-1 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
QUILCENE LOWER Category: D Site Score: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decommission site as soon as practical 	
RAINBOW Category: C Site Score: 41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove water system Change to concession operation Replace existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Propose to close site
RANGER HOLE Category: B Site Score: 53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce winter services Reduce development scale from 4 to 3 Repair of existing features 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
SEAL ROCK CAMPGROUND Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Major recreation /upgrade of site Change to concession site Repair /replace existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30
SEAL ROCK INTERPRETIVE SITE Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Begin charging Rec Fee Change in development scale from 5 to 4 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
SKOKOMISH LOWER SOUTH FORK Category: B Site Score: 79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce winter services 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
SKOKOMISH LOWER SOUTH FORK VIA LEBAR Category: B Site Score: 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
SKOKOMISH UPPER/LOWER SOUTH FORK Category: B Site Score: 66	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
SLAB CAMP/DEER RIDGE Category: B Site Score: 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change in development scale from 3 to 2 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
SPOON CREEK FALLS Category: B Site Score: 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Increase volunteer staff 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
TUBAL CAIN Category: B Site Score: 75	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Add toilet building Begin charging Rec Fee 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30
TUNNEL CREEK VIA BIG QUILCENE Category: B Site Score: 60	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in development scale from 3 to 2 	Operate site from May 9 to Sept. 30



Pacific District Proposed Site Changes

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
BOGACHIEL RAIN FOREST Category: B Site Score: 64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Add toilet building Increase volunteer staff Begin charging a Rec Fee 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
CAMPBELL TREE GROVE Category: B Site Score: 62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Increase volunteer staff Begin charging a Rec Fee Repair existing constructed feature 	Operate site from July 1 to Sept. 6
FALLS CREEK Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in development scale from 3 to 2 Replace existing constructed feature to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 25 to Sept. 6
GATTON CREEK CAMPGROUND Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change—currently concession operated 	Operate site from May 25 to Sept. 6
GATTON CREEK TRAILHEAD Category: B Site Score: 54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in development scale from 4 to 3 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
KLAHANIE Category: B Site Score: 67	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermittent closure during season of use Increase volunteer staff Increase current Rec Fee Repair existing constructed feature 	Operate site from July 1 to Sept. 6
KLAWOWYA Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intermittent closure during season of use Install two gates Increase volunteer staff Increase current Rec Fee Replace existing features to reduce deferred maintenance 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 18
KLOSHE NANITCH LOOKOUT OBSERVATION SITE Category: C Site Score: 53	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Change in development scale Change in site type Repair existing constructed feature 	Propose to close site
KLOSHE NANITCH LOOKOUT TRAILHEAD Category: C Site Score: 52	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce services in winter 	Propose to close site
MT. MULLER HWY 101 Category: B Site Score: 65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce services in winter Increase volunteer staff at site 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
PACIFIC RANGER DISTRICT—KIOSK Category: D Site Score: 0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decommission site as soon as practical 	

SITE	RECOMMENDATIONS	NOTES
PACIFIC RANGER DISTRICT - QUINULT VISITOR CENTER Category: B Site Score: 79	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use 	Visitor center is open for weekends and holidays during summer months
PETE'S CREEK Category: C Site Score: 45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce services in winter Change in development scale 	Propose to close site
QUINULT LOOP Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
QUINULT RAIN FOREST Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce season of use Reduce services in winter Add toilet building 	Operate site from April 15 to Sept. 30
WEST FORK HUMPTULIPS LOWER Category: C Site Score: 24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use Add toilet Begin charging fee 	Propose to close site
WEST FORK HUMPTULIPS MIDDLE Category: C Site Score: 44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use Reduce services 	Propose to close site
WEST FORK HUMPTULIPS UPPER Category: B Site Score: 54	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30
WILLABY Category: A Site Score: 101	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change—currently concession operated 	Operate site from May 15 to Sept. 30.
WRIGHTS CANYON Category: C Site Score: 42	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase season of use 	Propose to close site



Recreation Facility Analysis

Results of Proposed Plan of Work

- ❑ Annual operating cost reduced by \$67,000 (-55%) to \$54,000.
- ❑ Annual maintenance cost reduced by \$158,000 (-82%) to \$35,000.
- ❑ Total deferred maintenance reduced by \$540,000 (-61%) to \$349,000.

Developed Recreation Program Balance Sheet

Expenses

Operating Costs	\$53,694
<u>Maintenance Costs</u>	<u>35,282</u>
Total	\$88,976

Operational Assets

Appropriated Funding	\$47,373
<u>Fee Receipts Available</u>	<u>86,002</u>
Total	\$133,375

