

Recreation Facility Analysis



5-year Program of Work and Programmatic Results of Implementation

ALLEGHENY National Forest
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Recreation Facility Analysis
5-year Program of Work

ALLEGHENY National Forest

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Purpose of Recreation Facility Analysis and Summary Statement:

The purpose of the Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) and five-year Program of Work (POW) is to identify a strategy for assuring that developed recreation sites are consistent with the Forest recreation niche, bring sites up to Regional standards for health and safety, and to maintain them over the long term within expected budgets.

The Allegheny National Forest strives to provide healthy, safe, and well-maintained recreation opportunities that are important to local communities and visitors.

The overall goals of our recreation site program are to:

- Meet quality health and safety standards at all developed recreation sites.
- Be environmentally sound.
- Maintain community sustainability.
- Be financially sustainable.
- Focus resources on the most appropriate recreation opportunities to meet public desires and demands.
- Maintain or enhance visitor satisfaction with the sites and services provided.
- Offer a variety of recreational opportunities.

Many of our facilities were constructed 30-50 years ago and have reached the end of their useful life. Due to the amount of deferred maintenance, they need a significant investment in order to meet today's minimum standards. Other facilities receive little use, or no longer serve the demand that existed in years past. The Recreation Facility Analysis is designed to move us toward having sustainable recreation sites. The program of work is designed to be flexible enough to be adapted annually to any changes in demand, available resources, and opportunities.

During the Recreation Facility Analysis process we reviewed 52 recreation sites on the ANF, looking at each to determine what actions or changes are needed to meet Forest Plan objectives, provide outstanding public service, reduce maintenance costs, bring the facility up to standard, appropriately meet demand, and support the Forest's recreation niche. This included a range of possible actions from closing a facility to changing the length of time facilities are open to offering more or different services. Implementing the results of the Recreation Facility Analysis will result in better public service through higher quality and more efficiently managed recreation sites.

The Recreation Facility Analysis is a guide to help focus implementation efforts of the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan. In addition, site specific environmental analysis and public involvement will occur at the project level as appropriate.

Forest Strategy

The ANF refined the forest niche described in the ANF Land and Resource Management Plan (2007) by developing a niche specific to recreation. The Recreation Niche emphasizes three themes for future development: Connecting People to the Land and Water, Something for Everyone, and Get Away From it All. These three themes guide future development by describing a forest setting, ROS setting, niche emphasis, focus areas, and key amenities and activities for future recreation development.

Forest staff used the recreation niche to assist them in ranking sites during the Recreation Facilities Analysis process. In addition both District Rangers were asked to develop criteria to use during the analysis. The analysis was conducted using the following criteria to implement needed Deferred Maintenance (DM) and Operations and Maintenance (O&M) reductions:

- Reduce sites in close vicinity that provide similar services
- Make reductions where they would have a real effect on reducing our overall O&M and DM costs
- Retain as many facilities as possible around the Allegheny Reservoir
- Reduce services or eliminate sites with severely low occupancy level
- Reduce the number of water and wastewater facilities to a level that could be properly operated and maintained with the current staffing and funding available

The Forest Service has a national goal for reducing its facility deferred maintenance (DM) by 90% by 2020. In addition it has a five-year goal of reducing deferred maintenance by 20%. The five-year POW is our tool to achieve this goal. The ANF POW shows a 47% reduction in DM within this five-year planning period with a one-time cost of \$235,300. The forest will finance this cost using the following:

- CMFC - \$20,000 dedicated to Improve Facilities X 5 years = \$100,000
- G/T Offset - \$24,500 X 5 years = \$122,500 (this is expected to drop in a year so)
- Annual O&M savings from closure of sites \$88,000 X 4 years = \$352,000

The POW is designed to address needs of an aging infrastructure, bring facilities into standard for accessibility and meet public demand in line with the Forest's niche. From this analysis the ANF is proposing the following:

- Maintain or increase services at 19 recreation sites
- Reduce services and/or facilities at 14 recreation sites
- Seek partnerships for help in operating 13 facilities.
- Remove 4 sites and rehabilitate the areas to a natural condition

Response to Regional and Forest Goals

The ANF Forest Plan outlines two goals for the recreation program. These include:

- Provide a diverse range of high quality, sustainable recreation opportunities consistent with public demand and resource capability emphasizing locally popular recreation places and those important to the tourism industry.
- Cooperate with the Commonwealth in the promotion and development of recreation opportunities associated with the Pennsylvania Wilds program

The Recreation Facility Analysis will help the Forest move forward with implementing these goals in a sustainable manner.

In addition, the RFA is consistent with Regional Goals for Courageous Conservation of "Protecting Ecosystems Across Boundaries" and reducing infrastructure to a sustainable level. Finally, the Forest's recreation niche and the RFA Program of Work focus on what is special or unique about the ANF. The process recognizes that the National Forest cannot be "all things to all people all the time" in providing recreation opportunities and that we will work to compliment recreation opportunities provided by the private sector.

Public Participation

The Forest Planning process, during which recreation on the national forest was a key issue, involved several years of public participation and involvement. These comments helped inform the RFA process.

The public will continue to be involved by having the opportunity to comment on the proposed RFA Program of Work and on any resulting site-specific projects through the NEPA process, as appropriate. Public information on the RFA will be available on the ANF website, through the media and contacts with local communities.

What's been done:

- 2004-2006 – Multiple public workshops for forest plan revision. Many comments from public about values and preferences.
- Jan. 2008 – pre-niche public meeting. Many written and e-mail comments.
- Feb-May 2008 – Rangers and Recreation staff met with counties and townships sharing info about RFA. Also met with Clarion River Municipal Partnership, Seneca Nation, PA Wilds.
- April 2008 – Meeting with Warren County commissioners and tour of recreation sites per their request.
- June 2008 – Hosted open houses at both District offices week of 6/16 to share PPOW.
- July 2008 – 30-day public comment period on PPOW and recommendations. Numerous media articles/contacts, phone calls, emails and letters received.
- August 2008 – Rangers met with current concessionaires per their request.
- September 2008 – Information (PPOW and draft recommendations) posted on website. Sent letters in response to all comments received.
- Ongoing – Rangers and Forest Supervisor continually update members of the public on process and progress via news releases and appearances at a variety of public meetings where invited to speak, including Rotary, Lion's Club, County Governments, etc.

Contacts prior to public release of PPOW:

- Rangers contacted key stakeholders including:
 - County commissioners from Elk, Forest, Warren, McKean
 - State and federal legislative reps
 - Seneca Nation of Indians
 - Concessionaires
 - Other federal and state agencies – Corps of Engineers, State Parks

Public comment on PPOW:

- July 2-July 28 comment period
- Updated website and included PPOW
- News release to media including local, Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Erie
- Notices at developed recreation sites
- Ensured permittees, AOC, other user groups had info about PPOW

Based on what we heard from the public, it is clear that many people care deeply about the ANF. This includes a strong connection with particular facilities and areas. The Forest Service clearly recognizes that it will not be easy for everyone to agree on some of the proposals in the program of work.

Results of July Public Participation-Revised POW

As a result of the public comment and open houses held on July 28, 2008, several changes to the POW have been made.

Bradford Ranger District

Dunkle Corners Boat Launch – given the very low O/M and DM and the fact that this is one of the few places on the Allegheny reservoir where the public can launch a boat for free this site was removed from the decommission list.

Roper Hollow Boat Launch – This boat launch was also removed from the decommission list due to moderate O/M and DM costs and the fact that it is usually the only boat launch that has a ramp long enough to access the waterline in the late fall and winter.

Sugar Bay Dispersed Area – This area is an active fishing site, picnic area, wildlife observation area, and small boat site. It has no DM costs and minimal O/M costs.

Timberdoodle Flats Trailhead – This trailhead was removed from the decommission list due to strong local interest in an Adopt-a-Site program. O/M and DM will be deferred due to this local interest.

Marienville Ranger District

Twin Lakes Campground & Recreation Area - The District will actively pursue private/public partnerships to maintain the level of service at Twin Lakes. This includes working with local & state government, and seeking private partners to do the following: 1) Retool the existing waste-water treatment facilities or replace them with lower cost options; 2) Investigate the possibility of a voucher system for local residents to access the day use area; and 3) Explore funding options for repairs and maintenance of historic structures. If partnerships come up short, recommend the waste-water treatment plant be decommissioned and removed; but the all other facilities related to the water and waste-water systems be “mothballed” rather than removed, in the event that trends change and funding becomes available in the future.

Loleta Campground and Recreation Area – The District will investigate partnerships to address historical buildings’ deferred maintenance and to increase occupancy rates. If these efforts do not succeed within 5 years then partial decommissioning will proceed as planned.

Beaver Meadows Campground and Recreation Area – The District plans to analyze the possibility of connecting Beaver Meadows to the ATV trail network and changing the emphasis to ATV camping within the next 5 years. If this concept is not validated through analysis or public comment then decommissioning will proceed.

Timberline ATV Trailhead and Camping Area - Future actions at this trailhead should be considered as part of the Feasibility Study within the next 5 years to determine if Beaver Meadows (BM) is a suitable site for an ATV Trailhead and Campground. If the Study determines that conversion of Beaver Meadows to an ATV Trailhead and CG is feasible; then this site should take on a diminished role as a camping location. No-fee sites could be reduced or eliminated, and this site could be managed as a trailhead parking area only. If the Study determines that conversion of Beaver Meadows to an ATV Trailhead and CG is not feasible; then this could signal the need to add amenities to this site, expand camping sites, and charge fees as a developed campground with emphasis on ATV users.

Buzzard Swamp NFSR 157 Trailhead – Retain the original size of the parking area to accommodate use on peak days. Facility will be maintained by Pennsylvania Game commission.

CHANGED CONDITION SUMMARY	
ANNUAL OPERATIONS & MAINTENANCE	\$213,097
AVAILABLE ALLOCATION	\$220,144
REVENUE	\$0
O & M SHORTFALL OR “IN-THE-BLACK”	\$7,047
DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	\$2,896,785

1. INTRODUCTION

This document is a living, working road map to guide the Forest in providing a quality, sustainable recreation sites program. It describes the vision for the overall Forest recreation program and outlines proposals specific to individual developed recreation sites.

The proposals and guidance contained in this document were developed through, and are the end result of, the national Recreation Facility Analysis (RFA) process. Existing and projected visitor demands, recreation program niche, resource conditions, links to the community, program costs, and revenue were all considered in developing proposals.

This document will serve as a framework from which the Forest will prioritize investments, and pursue changes in operations or maintenance of recreation sites. Proposals are wholly consistent with the Eastern Region’s “Recreation Strategy”, and the Allegheny Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

The Forest recognizes that site-specific analysis and public involvement may be necessary prior to implementing some of the proposals contained in this document. As implementation of site-specific proposals are considered, they will be evaluated to determine if they are subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and all required procedures shall be executed.

The Forest also recognizes that proposals relating to fees will require consistency with criteria outlined in the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) and coordination with the appropriate Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC).

2. SUMMARY - Programmatic Results of Implementation

A. BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF PROCESS

The purpose of the Recreation Facility Analysis process is to display the tasks needed over the next 5 years to bring the Forest's recreation infrastructure into alignment with the resources available to operate and maintain it to standard, as well as meet the needs of our visitors. Many of our facilities were built 30-50 years ago and have reached the end of their useful life without significant deferred maintenance investment. Other facilities receive no or little use, and no longer serve the demand that existed 30-50 years ago. The fundamental premise of the program of work is to create an inventory which is sufficiently sustainable and flexible to be adapted annually to any changes in available resources. The program of work has been developed to meet the following objectives:

- Operate and maintain sites to standard within available revenue stream.
- Reduce deferred maintenance by 20% over the 5 year life of the program of work.
- Focus available resources on sites which conform most closely to the Forest Recreation Program Niche.
- Maintain and enhance customer satisfaction with available sites.

The RFA process defines the proposed actions for management of forest recreation sites in order to meet the desired future condition that aligns with the Forest Plan. For purposes of the analysis, four categories (A-D) of proposed management are used. These categories are:

- 1) Category A: sites that are under some type of operational or contractual agreement whose terms are longer than the 5-year period of the RFA.
- 2) 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.
- 3) Category C: sites that do not meet all of the above criteria, but with a combination of mitigation, additional resources, or other type of action could be made to qualify for Category B status.
- 4) 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 evaluated and ranked based on conformance to the forest niche and amount of recreation use (35%), financial efficiency (35%), and environmental and community sustainability (30%).

Some sites were identified as non-discretionary based primarily on existing agreements such as concession permits.

B. FOREST RECREATION NICHE

April 2008 (for the coming decade)

To meet the national goal of financial sustainability, the ANF has identified a specific recreation focus (niche) for the coming decade. The niche incorporates recreation opportunity supply/demand and emphasizes key social and ecological features. It is used to help prioritize future recreation opportunities and investments. It further refines the recreation niche “A Place to Play” as identified in the 2007 Allegheny National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Key Social and Ecological Features

The scenic and cultural landscape of the Allegheny provides a wide variety of recreation opportunities. For nearby communities and larger population centers, the ANF is a place to “get away from it all”. The ever-present features of the ANF, dense woodlands, big trees, river valleys, reservoir and high plateau, provide some of the most striking scenery and notable attributes within the landscape. These scenic attributes enhance the recreation experience and appeal of the Forest.

Although 2/3 of the nation’s population lives within a day’s drive of the ANF, about 80% of visitors live within a 100-mile radius of the Forest. In the next decade, the ANF will continue as a local provider of recreation. Within this population of nearby residents, there will be an increase in visitors 60 years and older and a decrease in those 59 and younger. Accessibility as well as passive activities such as scenic drives and easy day hikes will become increasingly important. Trails, water, campgrounds, roads, and the general forest area will see more use. Marketing strategies, such as Pennsylvania Wilds, may contribute to an increase in visitation and demand for additional activities. Oil and gas development on the ANF may decrease some recreation opportunities, experience and appeal.

<i>Niche Theme</i>	<i>Connecting People to the Land and Water</i>
Forest Setting	Rivers, Reservoir and Roads
ROS Setting	Rural/Roaded Natural
Niche Emphasis	Higher amenity facilities designed for user comfort, convenience and accessibility. Connectors help provide local economic benefits by linking communities directly to the Forest along primary scenic corridors, byways and routes. The ANF provides quality campgrounds and other sites while working closely with partners to provide additional amenities such as resorts, cabins and information centers. Strategically placed, highly developed campgrounds and sites provide access to the land and water for other activities and incorporate opportunities for observation, hiking/walking and/or interpretation.
Focus Area(s)	Clarion and the Allegheny WSR, Tionesta Creek (along SR 666), Allegheny Reservoir, major east-west & north-south community connector routes, scenic byways, roads that traverse the Reservoir and river corridors
Key Amenities	Campgrounds, boating sites, picnic sites, interpretive sites and observation sites - development level 3/4/5. Higher level developments are emphasized along the Reservoir while smaller, more rustic developments are emphasized along the Clarion River.
Key Activities	Viewing scenery/natural features/wildlife, driving for pleasure, picnicking, developed camping, motorized water, fishing, non-motorized water

<i>Niche Theme</i>	<i>Something for Everyone</i>
Forest Setting	General Forest Area (GFA)
ROS Setting	Roaded Natural (does not include an emphasis on Roaded Modified)
Niche Emphasis	A wide variety of road based dispersed recreation opportunities at a more rustic level. Sustainable trails are emphasized, constructed for a primary use and often allow multiple uses. Trailhead and parking areas provide access to the Forest for other activities such as hunting and fishing. Dispersed camp sites are managed to prevent resource damage rather than for comfort and convenience of the user. Some minimally developed campgrounds are provided to accommodate access and use on trails. The ANF works with partners, including outfitter & guides to provide and enhance trail opportunities and economic benefit. Roaded modified areas (extensive oil/gas landscape alteration) are generally avoided for recreation development and/or emphasis.
Focus Area(s)	Extensive road network (easy access), Hearts Content/Tionesta Scenic/RNA, high value fishing streams, NCNST, Spring Creek Equine Trail, various hiking/XC ski trails, Allegheny Snowmobile Loop, existing ATV/OHM trails, popular Concentrated Use Areas
Key Amenities	Trails, trailheads and parking areas, small campgrounds - development level 2/3
Key Activities	Viewing scenery/natural features/wildlife, driving for pleasure, bicycling, hiking, picnicking, developed/primitive camping, fishing/hunting, equestrian, snowmobile, OHV riding

<i>Niche Theme</i>	<i>Get Away From It All</i>
Forest Setting	Wilderness, Wilderness Study Areas, National Recreation Area, Remote Recreation Areas
ROS Setting	Semi-Primitive
Niche Emphasis	Quiet relaxation and solitude in more remote areas. Longer hiking and backpacking opportunities on more primitive, yet environmentally sustainable trails. Solo or small group primitive camping. In some areas, dispersed camping may be limited to designated sites in order to maintain opportunities for solitude and/or environmental protection.
Focus Area(s)	Hickory Creek Wilderness, Chestnut and Minister Valley WSA, Allegheny NRA, Clarion and East Hickory RRA, NCNST in some areas
Key Amenities	Trails – trailheads, parking and smaller campgrounds located outside or on exterior boundary of areas - development level 1/2
Key Activities	Viewing scenery/natural features/wildlife, primitive camping, hiking/backpacking/xc skiing, fishing/hunting

C. CRITICAL MONETARY FACTORS

This matrix displays asset and expense information for the Forest Recreation Sites program before and after 5-year Program of Work development.

ALLEGHENY National Forest				
A.	CRITICAL MONETARY FACTOR	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	Program of Work CHANGED CONDITION (does not include CATEGORY C or CATEGORY D sites)	Program of Work PERCENT CHANGE (does not include CATEGORY C or CATEGORY D sites)
OPERATIONAL ASSETS	APPROPRIATED FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ 220,144	\$ 220,144	0%
	FEE RECEIPTS AVAILABLE	\$ -	\$ -	0%
	OTHER FUNDS AVAILABLE	\$ -	\$ -	0%
EXPENSES	OPERATING COSTS	\$ 180,659	\$ 70,800	-61%
	ANNUAL MAINTENANCE COSTS	\$ 468,406	\$ 142,298	-70%
	DEFERRED MAINTENANCE COSTS*	\$ 5,421,810	\$ 2,896,785	-47%

*-Deferred Maintenance included for all sites except CATEGORY D

Deferred Maintenance. "Maintenance that was not performed when it should have been or when it was scheduled and which, therefore, was put off or delayed for a future period."

When allowed to accumulate without limits or consideration of useful life, deferred maintenance leads to deterioration of performance, increased costs to repair, and decrease in asset value.

D. INVENTORY

The Inventory Matrix displays the recreation site inventory characteristics before and after implementation of the 5-year Program of Work. It displays by site type and displays other recreation site program characteristics including capacity, number of sites with drinking water and waste water systems, and the annual maintenance cost for drinking and waste water systems and buildings.

ALLEGHENY National Forest							
B.	INVENTORY CHARACTERISTICS	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	PROGRAM OF WORK - CHANGED CONDITION	PROGRAM OF WORK - CHANGED CONDITION	PROGRAM OF WORK - CHANGED CONDITION		
			CATEGORY A & B Sites	CATEGORY C Sites	CATEGORY D Sites		
			TIER SITE TYPE CATEGORY			CAMPGROUND DEV SCALE 2	2
CAMPGROUND DEV SCALE 3	10	9				0	1
CAMPGROUND DEV SCALE 4-5	7	6				1	0
PICNIC SITE DEV SCALE 2-3	1	1				0	0
PICNIC SITE DEV SCALE 4-5	0	0				0	0
TRAILHEAD	17	17				0	0
BOATING/ SWIM SITES/ FISHING SITES	9	5				0	4
INTERP MAJOR/VC	0	0				0	0
GROUP CAMPGROUND/ GROUP PICNIC	0	0				0	0
CABINS/LOOK-OUTS	0	0				0	0
INTERP MINOR/ OBSERVATION/ INFO SITES	5	4				0	1
HORSE CAMP	0	0				0	0
INFO SITE ADMIN	0	0				0	0
OTHER 1	1	1				0	0
OTHER 2	0	0				0	0
OTHER CHARACTERISTICS						CAPACITY (PAOT)**	15,021
			CAPACITY (PAOT-DAYS)**	3,199,005	2,798,798	53,040	0
			# SITES w/ DRINKING WATER SYSTEM \$	22	19	1	2
			# SITES w/ WASTEWATER SYSTEM \$	8	7	1	0
			DW SYSTEM ANNUAL MAINT COST	\$ 104,534	\$ 93,116	\$ 3,227	\$ 8,191
			WW SYSTEM ANNUAL MAINT COST	\$ 84,641	\$ 66,745	\$ 17,896	\$ -
			BUILDING ANNUAL MAINT COST	\$ 52,969	\$ 52,821	\$ -	\$ 148

**Sum of CATEGORY A&B, C and D columns do not equal Baseline column due to capacity changes in CATEGORY A and B sites

E. RESULTS

The Results Matrix describes the significant programmatic results of the ranking process

ALLEGHENY National Forest				
C1.	PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	PROGRAM OF WORK - CHANGED CONDITION (does not include CATEGORY C and D sites)	Program of Work PERCENT CHANGE (does not include CATEGORY C and D sites)
METRICS	AVERAGE NICHE CONFORMANCE SCORE	14.15	13.42	-5%
	AVERAGE DEVELOPMENT SCALE	3.23	3.31	2%
	AVERAGE UNDERSERVED POPULATION SCORE	1.02	1.02	0%
	% OF CAPACITY ACCESSIBLE	20.8%	22.3%	7%
	% OF CAPACITY W/ ACCESSIBLE FURNISHINGS ONLY	32.6%	36.1%	11%
	PAOT-DAYS TO REGIONAL REQUIRED STANDARDS	1,127,086	2,798,798	148%
	CAPACITY (PAOT)	15,021	13,353	-11%
	CAPACITY (PAOT-DAYS)	3,199,005	2,798,798	-13%
	ANNUAL O&M COST PER PAOT DAY	\$ 0.20	\$ 0.08	-61%
	ANNUAL NET O&M COST PER VISIT	\$ 2.59	\$ 0.94	-64%

C2.	PROGRAMMATIC RESULTS	BASELINE CONDITION (Benchmark Data)	PROGRAM OF WORK - CHANGED CONDITION (does not include CATEGORY D sites)	Program of Work PERCENT CHANGE (does not include CATEGORY D sites)
	TOTAL DEFERRED MAINTENANCE	\$ 5,421,810	2,896,785	-47%

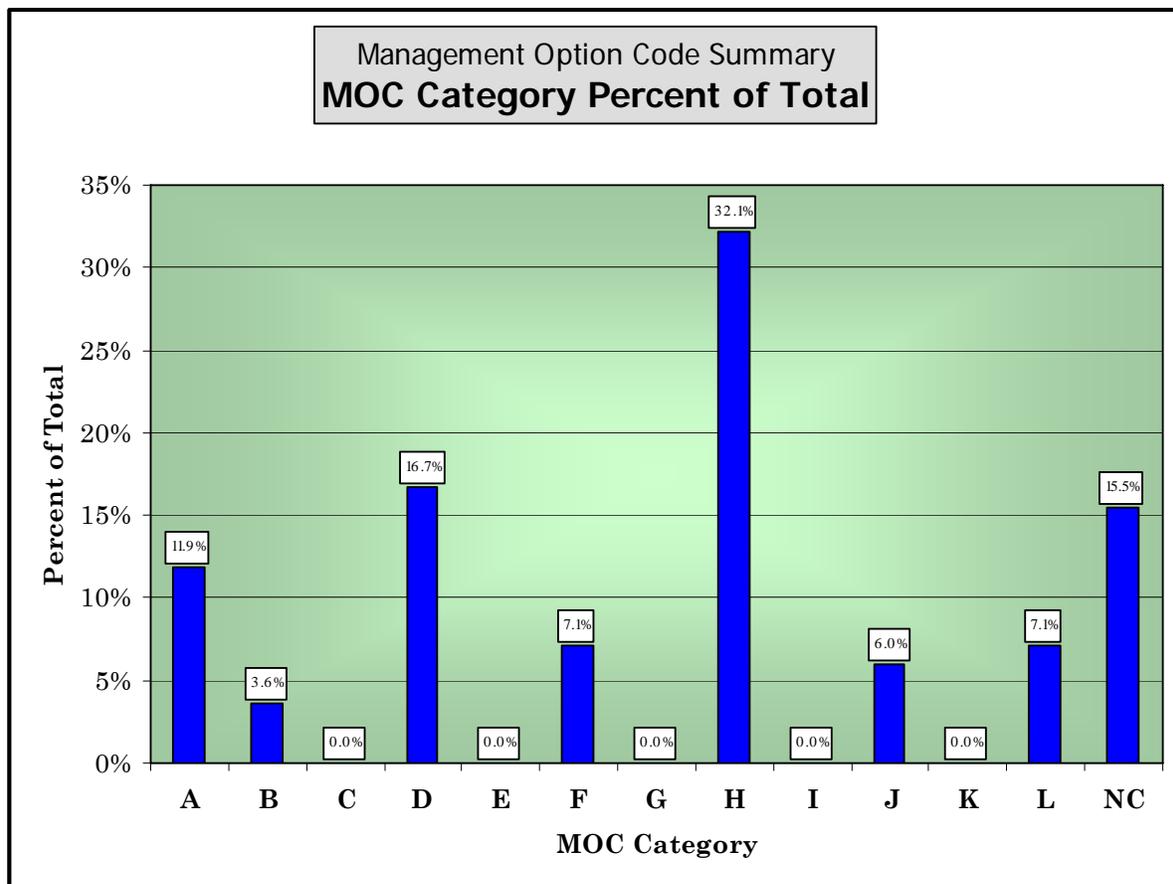
Annual O&M Cost per visit and per PAOT day are averages derived from a summation of ALL the 52 analyzed recreation facilities on the Forest; the cost per visit and per PAOT for each site and site type will vary.

PAOT - An acronym for Persons-At-One-Time; a measure of facility or site designed recreation carrying capacity, particularly for developed sites. National conventions include 5 persons per family picnic/camp unit, 3.5 persons per parking lot stall at a trailhead or visitor center, 1.5 persons per motorcycle parking stall and 40 persons per tour bus parking stall.

O&M - Operations and maintenance; includes the activities and resources required to annually operate and maintain recreation sites at a level of quality which meets their management objectives and customer satisfaction. Costs associated with O&M are generally recurrent, as opposed to capital investment costs that are generally one-time and non-recurrent.

F. PROPOSED MANAGEMENT ACTION SUMMARY

ALLEGHENY National Forest Management Option Code Summary		
MANAGEMENT OPTION CODE CATEGORY	OPTION CODE COUNT	PERCENT OF TOTAL
A-DECOMMISSION	10	11.9%
B-CLOSURE	3	3.6%
C-CHANGE SEASON	0	0.0%
D-REMOVE OR ELIMINATE COST SOURCE OR SERVICE SEASON	14	16.7%
E-REDUCE SERVICE FREQUENCY	0	0.0%
F-INCREASE/IMPROVE SERVICES	6	7.1%
G-CONSTRUCT A NEW AREA	0	0.0%
H-CHANGE OPERATOR	27	32.1%
I-CHANGE FEES	0	0.0%
J-CHANGE CAPACITY	5	6.0%
K-SITE CONVERSION	0	0.0%
L-REPLACEMENT/REPAIR	6	7.1%
NC-NO CHANGE	13	15.5%



3. RECREATION SITES PRIORITY RANKING REPORT

The Forest’s Recreation Sites Priority Ranking Report lists recreation sites in rank score priority order. Ranking is based on how well a site meets the four objectives of the RFA analysis. (Objectives are listed page 2). Tier Category designations are based on initial ranking and Forest Leadership Team analysis.

ALLEGHENY National Forest

52

SITE COUNT

8. REPORT: 5-Year Program of Work - Table of Ranked Site Planned Operating Season & Capacity

MNG ORG	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	TOTAL RANK SCORE	TIER CATEGORY	PLANNED OPENING DATE	PLANNED CLOSING DATE	PLANNED CAPACITY [PAOT]
91903	KINZUA BEACH	SWIMMING SITE	101	CATEGORY B	25-May	5-Sep	1659
91903	KINZUA POINT INFORMATION	INFO SITE/FEE STATION	101	CATEGORY B	25-May	5-Sep	175
91903	KINZUA WOLF RUN MARINA	BOATING SITE	101	CATEGORY B	15-May	15-Sep	1138
91902	TIMBERLINE ATV BUEHLER TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	84	CATEGORY B	21-Dec	1-Apr	56
91903	BUCKALOONS REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	83	CATEGORY B	1-May	30-Oct	658
91903	KIASUTHA REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	77	CATEGORY B	25-May	5-Sep	2141
91902	TIMBERLINE ATV PIGS EAR TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	76	CATEGORY B	21-Dec	1-Apr	46
91903	MINISTER CREEK CAMPGROUND & TRAILHEAD	CAMPGROUND	74	CATEGORY B	15-Apr	10-Dec	128
91902	MARIENVILLE ATV TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	73	CATEGORY B	21-Dec	1-Apr	182
91902	MARIENVILLE ATV-395 TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	73	CATEGORY B	21-Dec	1-Apr	42
91902	TIMBERLINE ATV TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	73	CATEGORY B	21-Dec	1-Apr	140
91903	HOPEWELL BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	73	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	100
91903	WILLOW BAY REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	71	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	1305
91903	ROCKY GAP TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	70	CATEGORY B	25-May	30-Sep	175
91903	WILLOW CREEK ATV TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	70	CATEGORY B	25-May	30-Sep	18
91903	HANDSOME LAKE BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	68	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	100
91903	HOOKS BROOK BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	68	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	160
91903	RED BRIDGE REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	63	CATEGORY B	15-Apr	10-Dec	325
91903	DEWDROP REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	61	CATEGORY C	25-May	5-Sep	510
91903	JAKES ROCK OVERLOOK	OBSERVATION SITE	61	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	323
91903	TRACY/JOHNNYCAKE TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	60	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	105
91903	MORRISON BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	59	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	180
91903	PINE GROVE BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	59	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	60
91902	TWIN LAKES REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	58	CATEGORY B	13-Apr	30-Oct	1057
91903	TIMBERDOODLE FLATS TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	57	CATEGORY B	15-Apr	10-Dec	58
91902	IRWIN RUN CANOE LAUNCH	BOATING SITE	56	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	50
91903	ELIJAH RUN BOAT LAUNCH	BOATING SITE	56	CATEGORY B	15-Apr	15-Oct	606
91903	OLD POWERHOUSE	INTERPRETIVE SITE (MINOR)	55	CATEGORY B	15-Apr	15-Oct	150
91903	RIMROCK OVERLOOK	OBSERVATION SITE	54	CATEGORY B	15-Apr	10-Dec	272
91902	TIONESTA BOAT TO CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	53	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	105
91902	BUZZARD SWAMP 157 TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	52	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	161

MNG ORG	SITE NAME	SITE TYPE	TOTAL RANK SCORE	TIER CATEGORY	PLANNED OPENING DATE	PLANNED CLOSING DATE	PLANNED CAPACITY [PAOT]
91902	LOLETA REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	50	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	387
91903	MORRISON TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	50	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	98
91902	BEAVER MEADOWS REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	49	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	173
91903	HEARTS CONTENT DAY USE	PICNIC SITE	49	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	152
91903	WEBBS FERRY BOAT LAUNCH	BOATING SITE	49	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	231
91902	LAUREL MILL TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	48	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	100
91902	KELLY PINES CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	44	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	40
91902	LITTLE DRUMMER TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	43	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	35
91903	HICKORY CREEK WILDERNESS TH	TRAILHEAD	43	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	70
91903	WESTLINE TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	41	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	28
91902	BRUSH HOLLOW TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	40	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	67
91903	HEARTS CONTENT REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	40	CATEGORY B	1-Apr	10-Dec	180
91903	LONGHOUSE TRAILHEAD	TRAILHEAD	39	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	74
91902	RED MILL CAMPGROUND	CAMPGROUND	38	CATEGORY B	1-Jan	31-Dec	50
91903	BIRDSALL EDDY GIRL SCOUT CAMP	ORGANIZATION SITE	36	CATEGORY B			0
91903	DUNKLE CORNERS	BOATING SITE	0	CATEGORY D			0
91903	LONGHOUSE DISPERSED SITE	BOATING SITE	0	CATEGORY D			0
91903	ROPER HOLLOW BOAT LAUNCH	BOATING SITE	0	CATEGORY D			0
91903	SUGAR BAY DISPERSED AREA	BOATING SITE	0	CATEGORY D			0
91903	TIDIOUTE OVERLOOK	OBSERVATION SITE	0	CATEGORY D			0
91903	TRACY RIDGE REC AREA	CAMPGROUND	0	CATEGORY D			0

MNG ORG – Managing Organization Number; first number denotes the Region, the next two numbers the Forest, and the last two numbers the Ranger District.

EX: 9 = Eastern Region (Region 9)
19 = Allegheny National Forest
02 = Marienville Ranger District
03 = Bradford Ranger District

4. TABLE OF TASKS

A. SITE-SPECIFIC TASKS

The Site-Specific Tasks table lists tasks (Management Option Codes), one-time cost to implement and pertinent documentation for each recreation site. Start and finish dates are based on fiscal years (Oct. 1-Sept. 30)

ALLEGHENY National Forest

\$226,900

TOTAL ONE-TIME COST TO IMPLEMENT TASKS

**8a. INFO ENTRY: 5-Year Program of Work -
Table of Tasks**

MNG ORG	SITE NAME	TASK	START DATE	FINISH DATE	ONE-TIME COST TO IMPLEMENT ACTION	TASK COMMENTS
91902	BEAVER MEADOWS REC AREA	A2,J2,D3	2009	2015	\$40,000	Analyze the possibility of connecting Beaver Meadows to the ATV trail network and changing the emphasis to ATV camping. If this concept is not validated through analysis or public comment then decommission campground. Remove playground. Keep day-use area. Remove boat launch. Keep 1 Toilet for picnic area and remove others. Remove 2 wells. Move toilets to Twin Lakes.
91902	BRUSH HOLLOW TRAILHEAD	NC1			\$0	
91902	BUZZARD SWAMP 157 TRAILHEAD	NC1	2009	2009	\$0	Operate thru partnership with PGC.
91902	IRWIN RUN CANOE LAUNCH	F13,J1,H2	2009	2012	\$0	Increase parking by 22 PAOTS. Partner with Millstone Township. (Cost of increasing parking lot estimated to be \$300,000) Option 1-Operations reduction because of partnership with TWP and/or DOT. Likelihood of implementation may be based on success of partnership.
91902	KELLY PINES CAMPGROUND	NC1			\$0	
91902	LAUREL MILL TRAILHEAD	J2,F16,F12	2009	2010	\$1,200	Reduce parking by 23 PAOTS, paint warming hut, repair bulletin board.
91902	LITTLE DRUMMER TRAILHEAD	F16	2009	2009	\$0	Repair map box. \$50.00

91902	LOLETA REC AREA	J2,A2,D3	2009	2013	\$22,000	Investigate partnerships to address historical buildings deferred maintenance and to increase occupancy rates. If efforts do not succeed then partially decommission CG as planned: Reconfigure this area to a low-level, waterless camping and day-use area. Keep 3 toilets and 2 pavilions. Decommission upper loop to reduce PAOTs. Keep road. {CCC Bathhouse is historic, but it has limited utility and is in poor condition. This bathhouse is not likely to get a HABSHAER decision within 5 years to remove it, resulting in continuing high DM cost.} Remove double toilet and relocate to Marienville ATV trailhead. Remove single toilet and relocate to 395 trailhead. Decom water and wastewater systems. Investigate partnerships to address historical buildings deferred maintenance and to increase occupancy rates. If efforts do not succeed then decommission CG as planned: Decom water (2 wells) and wastewater systems. Use accessible tables from Beaver Meadows. After implementation, not likely for concessionaire operation.
91902	MARIENVILLE ATV TRAILHEAD	L3	2011	2011	\$0	Replace with accessible vault toilet (\$8,000 needed)
91902	MARIENVILLE ATV-395 TRAILHEAD	L1	2011	2011	\$0	Replace with toilet in kind (\$500)
91902	RED MILL CAMPGROUND	NC1			\$0	
91902	TIMBERLINE ATV BUEHLER TRAILHEAD	NC1			\$0	
91902	TIMBERLINE ATV PIGS EAR TRAILHEAD	NC1			\$0	
91902	TIMBERLINE ATV TRAILHEAD	F9			\$0	Re-evaluate need for additional campsites upon conclusion of the Beaver Meadows ATV CG analysis. If needed add campsites and/or reconstruct sites that are already there.
91902	TIONESTA BOAT TO CAMPGROUND	H6	2009	2013	\$0	High cost for low occupancy. OPTION 1: Transfer to Army Corps of Engineers. OPTION 2: Decommission

91902	TWIN LAKES REC AREA	L1,B1,D8,D9, H2	2009	2013	\$57,000	<p>The ANF will actively pursue private/public partnerships to maintain the level of service at Twin Lakes. Work with local and state government and seek private partners to do the following:</p> <p>1) Retool the existing waste-water treatment facilities or replace them with lower cost options; 2) Investigate the possibility of a voucher system for local residents to access the day use area; and 3) Explore funding options for repairs and maintenance of historic structures</p> <p>In the event partnerships come up short, the recommendation here is that the waste-water treatment plant be decommissioned and removed; all other facilities related to the water and waste-water systems be "mothballed" rather than removed, in the event that trends change and funding becomes available in the future. District will investigate partnerships to address historical buildings deferred maintenance and to increase occupancy rates. If efforts do not succeed then decommission CG as planned: Decom water (1 well) and wastewater systems. Remove buildings associated with water and wastewater. Remove 3 playgrounds. Keep Bathhouse but close it. Keep SST's in lower and upper loops. Decommission flush and composting toilets, replacing them with SST's from Beaver Meadows.</p>
91903	BIRDSALL EDDY GIRL SCOUT CAMP	H2	2009	2013	\$0	Decommission by conveying facilities to permittee or selling. They take on the O&M and responsibility for deferred maintenance. Initiate cost recovery with scouts to zero out DM and Ops/Maint.
91903	BUCKALOONS REC AREA	H1,D5	2009	2011	\$0	Reduce sewage costs. Permittee operates shoulder season, not FS, cost savings = \$5000
91903	DEWDROP REC AREA	A2,D1,D2,D3, D4,D5,D7	2010	2013	\$31,800	<p>It was decided to remove all buildings and recreation features because of their poor condition, costs and low occupancy levels. However, we will leave the roads, utility lines, water, and waste water structures and attempt to have partners reconstruct and operate the site. Similar opportunities exist nearby (Kiasutha & Red Bridge).</p> <p>DM cost is \$954,000. No utility hookups, no recent rehabilitation. Waste water facility is 11 years old. Decom all but roads and wastewater. OPTION 1: Partial Decommission, remove all buildings and recreation features. Leave roads, utility lines, water, and waste water. OPTION 2: Partnership with Warren County. OPTION 3: Allow seasonal use by partner or concession. (may result in higher occupancy but little or no DM reduction.)</p>
91903	DUNKLE CORNERS	NC2			\$0	
91903	ELIJAH RUN BOAT LAUNCH	NC2			\$0	Important to maintain boat access to the Reservoir despite the costs. Determination was to reduce costs at other sites.
91903	HANDSOME LAKE BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	H6	2009	2011	\$0	Reservoir site. Permittee pay 1/2 of pumping costs.
91903	HEARTS CONTENT DAY USE	H3	2009	2011	\$0	Volunteer group will cover O&M costs.

91903	HEARTS CONTENT REC AREA	NC2			\$0	Permittee picks up shoulder season operations and costs.
91903	HICKORY CREEK WILDERNESS TRAIL HD	H2	2009	2009	\$0	Reduced O&M costs. Volunteer group covers O&M.
91903	HOOKS BROOK BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	H6	2011	2011	\$0	Reservoir site. Permittee pays pumping costs. Permittee picks up 1/2 pumping costs.
91903	HOPEWELL BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	H6	2011	2011	\$0	Reservoir site. Permittee pays pumping costs. Permittee picks up 1/2 pumping costs.
91903	JAKES ROCKS OVERLOOK	L3,H6,D3,D8,H3	2010	2013	\$13,000	It is important to retain this site associated with the Reservoir; however, the high costs associated with the water and wastewater systems was not enough to justify keeping the systems. It is a reduced service but will improve our ability to manage this site. We will look for partners/private businesses to operate and maintain this site in the future to possibly improve the services. FS resumes operation and maintenance. Costs will increase. Remove flush toilets, close/remove electric water system, no facilities are accessible. Remove flush toilet and water system (well). Reduce O&M by 80%. Volunteer group for O&M.
91903	KIASUTHA REC AREA	B3	2010	2013	\$0	Option 1: Close the site pending completion of site improvements and until the FS no longer operates and maintains water and sewage systems.. The site is not financially sustainable if the FS continues to operate and maintain sewage and water systems. Option 2: \$317,000 implementation to save \$15,000 annual operations & maintenance. It is important to retain this site associated with the Reservoir; however, the high costs associated with the wastewater system was not enough to justify keeping the system. It is a reduced service but will improve our ability to manage the site. We will look for partners/private businesses to redesign/construct/operate/maintain the site in the future. Permittee pay a percentage of pumping costs (\$5000 savings). Finish rehabilitation of campsites and buildings. Implement accessibility designs. Annual operations reduced by 95%. Annual maintenance reduced by 90% and wastewater is decom due to converting all flush toilets to vaults. Decommission the bathhouse; all toilets, wells (2) and playground. NOTE DM does not reflect decom of all toilets; only bath house and toilets P1, P2, P3. Keep water system. Check number of wells. Analyze DM costs. Redesign and construct new facility by year 5 (new operational facility and design/construct/operated/maintained by partner/permittee).
91903	KINZUA BEACH	B1,H2	2009	2013	\$0	It is important to retain this site associated with the Reservoir; however, the wastewater system is no longer functional and beyond repair financially. Work with partners/private businesses to fully reinvigorate the site in the future. Change swim site to a campground. Partnership/SUP. G/T cap for treatment plant and water system. No facilities are accessible. Partial decom and pursue partnerships. Remove wastewater system and consider connecting to Wolf Run system. Demo main buildings (shower/dressing/concession). Transition into new facility by year 5 (new operational facility and operated/maintained by partner).

91903	KINZUA POINT INFORMATION	A2,H6,H2,L3	2009	2013	\$0	Goal would be to eliminate DM and O&M costs within 5 years. Partial decom and pursue Partnerships. Phase 1: Open doors with minimal investment. Phase 2: Transition into new facility by year 5 (new operational facility and operated/maintained by partner).
91903	KINZUA WOLF RUN MARINA	NC2			\$0	
91903	LONGHOUSE DISPERSED SITE	A1a	2009	2009	\$1,200	Site already planned for closure Eliminate O&M due to closure of site.
91903	LONGHOUSE TRAILHEAD	H6,H3	2009	2013	\$0	FS resumes operation and maintenance. Costs will increase. Reduce operations because of volunteer group work.
91903	MINISTER CREEK CAMPGROUND & TRAILHEAD	NC2			\$0	
91903	MORRISON BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	H6	2009	2011	\$0	Reservoir site. Permittee takes over water utilities (takes residuals/security). Permittee picks up 1/2 pumping costs.
91903	MORRISON TRAILHEAD	H6,H3	2009	2013	\$0	FS resumes operation and maintenance. Volunteer hiking group will help with operations.
91903	OLD POWERHOUSE	H2	2009	2013	\$0	Volunteer historic group will manage site. Pursue partnerships to eliminate all DM and O/M
91903	PINE GROVE BOAT ACCESS CAMPGROUND	H6	2009	2011	\$0	Reservoir site. Permittee pays pumping costs. Permittee picks up 1/2 pumping costs.
91903	RED BRIDGE REC AREA	H6	2009	2009	\$0	Reservoir site. Permittee pays a percentage of utility costs.
91903	RIMROCK OVERLOOK	H6,H3,L3	2009	2013	\$0	Reservoir site. FS resumes operation and maintenance. Improve signing for overlook.
91903	ROCKY GAP TRAILHEAD	D8,F16	2009	2013	\$7,500	Plug water well. Change egress/ingress to improve plowing.
91903	ROPER HOLLOW BOAT LAUNCH	NC2			\$0	Moderate O/M and D/M costs; typically the only boat launch with ramp long enough to Access the waterline in late fall & winter.
91903	SUGAR BAY DISPERSED AREA	NC2			\$0	Active fishing site, picnic area, wildlife Observation area, and small boat site. No D/M costs and minimal O/M costs.
91903	TIDIOUTE OVERLOOK	A1a	2009	2009	\$0	Decom.
91903	TIMBERDOODLE FLATS TRAILHEAD	H2			\$0	Operate through partnership. No USFS cost Partners/volunteers to take over facility and manage to standard
91903	TRACY RIDGE REC AREA	A1a	2010	2013	\$52,000	This is a site associated with the Reservoir, but there is a similar site at Willow Bay in the vicinity. Decom. Reclaim gravel, eliminate 5 toilets, 120 campsites, 5 wells, and signage. Implementation costs reflect an economy of scale savings from normalized-forest-implementation costs. Could be converted to primitive campsite.
91903	TRACY/JOHNNYCAKE TRAILHEAD	NC2			\$0	

91903	WEBBS FERRY BOAT LAUNCH	NC2			\$0	This is a site associated with the Reservoir. The higher DM costs were acceptable to ensure there is a boat launch on the west side of the Reservoir that we can focus on.
91903	WESTLINE TRAILHEAD	H3	2009	2009	\$0	Volunteer ski group. Reduce operations cost because of volunteer group work.
91903	WILLOW BAY REC AREA	NC2			\$0	This is a site associated with the Reservoir and is a similar site to Sugar Bay and Tracy Ridge in the vicinity. Thus, the higher DM costs were acceptable to ensure there is a campground on the east side of the Reservoir. Permittee picks up 1/3 of sewer costs. Otherwise keep as is.
91903	WILLOW CREEK ATV TRAILHEAD	J1	2009	2013	\$0	Planned in Willow Creek ATV EIS, pending final decision. Expand parking, add an SST toilet.

B. PROGRAMMATIC ACTIONS

ALLEGHENY National Forest

8b. INFO ENTRY: 5-Year Proposed Program of Work - Programmatic Actions

ACTION	LEAD	TIME FRAME
<p>BRADFORD RANGER WHITE PAPER ON RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The purpose of this white paper is to express my thoughts on the Action Recommendations made for recreation facilities on the Bradford Ranger District for the Recreation Facilities Analysis. As the Rangers went through this process it became apparent that the Ranking and Action steps were so process and template oriented that the thought-processes and intents of the Rangers were not at all apparent. It is my hope that this document provides clarification on how the Action Recommendations were made and what my thoughts and intents are for the future of these facilities on the District.</p> <p>With limited finances for Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Deferred Maintenance (DM) for existing facilities, priorities have to be clearly identified and difficult choices have to be made. For the Bradford Ranger District, my focus was to (in no particular order): (1) Reduce sites in close vicinity that provide similar services; (2) Make reductions where they would have a real effect on reducing our overall O&M and DM costs; (3) Retain as many facilities as possible around the Allegheny Reservoir; (4) Reduce services or eliminate sites with severely low occupancy levels; and (5) Reduce the number of water and wastewater facilities to a level that could be properly operated and maintained with the current staffing and funding available. I believe that these focus points are in line with the direction that Forest Service leadership has provided and with proper recreation facilities management practices. Most importantly, I believe the focus on facilities around the Reservoir are closely in line with the preferences of the local communities associated with the ANF, as well as people that visit the ANF from outside the local communities.</p> <p>As you will see in the chart below, difficult choices had to made on how and where to reduce and eliminate services or facilities to ensure that our financial checkbook for recreation facilities is in balance. These choices will cause internal and external conflicts, but it is my job as a leader and manager to make choices that are in the best interest of the federal government and the American taxpayer. Furthermore, I believe these choices will allow us to focus more dollars on priority sites and help ensure we have better maintained facilities and the opportunity to improve services in the future that will meet the wants and needs of our visitors. I would rather move in this direction, than continue to stretch our resources thin to the point where we have poorly maintained facilities, an inability to properly manage our water and wastewater systems, and a lack of updated services at our sites.</p> <p>The Bradford Ranger District offers many great recreational opportunities and it would be my preference to continue to provide them all at a high level of service. However, it is likely that we will continue to have flat or reduced budgets to provide these services. The result is the need to set priorities for our recreation program, focus our finite resources on those priorities, and become known locally and regionally as the place to go for those priority items. For the Bradford Ranger District, I have no doubt that our priority should be highly developed recreation facilities on the Allegheny Reservoir and developed and dispersed recreation facilities along the Allegheny River, Kinzua Creek, Tionesta Creek, and other popular streams as emphasized in the ANF Recreation Niche Theme "Connecting People to the Land and Water." This will be my focus as the District Ranger, and my hope is that this will continue in the future.</p>	<p>BRD</p>	<p>2009</p>

ACTION	LEAD	TIME FRAME
<p>Beyond our existing sites on the Reservoir, I am open to and will pursue the possibility of additional developments along the Reservoir such as lodges, cabins, restaurants, boat launches, beaches, communications technologies, interpretive sites, observation sites, and other attractions that will highlight and hopefully bring more visitors to the District. These facilities will have to be designed, constructed, operated, and maintained through partnerships or permittees such as private businesses. At the same time, I believe it is also important to properly balance the increase in developments along the Reservoir with the primitive, undeveloped nature of its shoreline and surrounding areas with proper landscape architecture designs and layouts.</p>	BRD	2009
<p>MARIENVILLE RANGER WHITE PAPER ON RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS</p> <p>The purpose of this white paper is to express my thoughts on the Action Recommendations made for recreation facilities on the Marienville Ranger District for the Recreation Facilities Analysis. As the Bradford and Marienville District Rangers went through this process it became apparent that the Ranking and Action steps were so process and template oriented that the thought-processes and intents of the Rangers were not at all apparent. It is my hope that this document will clarify how the Action Recommendations were made and the rationale I used in considering the future of these facilities on the District. Ranger Scardina has prepared a similar white paper for the Bradford District.</p> <p><u>The Situation</u></p> <p>The ability of the Allegheny National Forest to fund Operations & Maintenance (O&M) and Deferred Maintenance (DM) for existing recreation facilities has been on a decreasing trend for several years, and there is little to indicate that this will change in the near future. The District Rangers already make difficult choices on where to allocate our limited resources, and this has resulted in deferring maintenance required to keep facilities up to standard, reducing season and hours of operation and/or level of service, and fewer personnel on the ground. We have developed some simple tenets to guide management of the resources we have – 1) public health and safety, 2) clean facilities, and 3) service to and contact with the recreation public.</p> <p>However, we have reached a point where the Deferred Maintenance on our facilities is compromising our ability to meet those tenets consistently across the ANF, and the cost of ongoing Operations and Maintenance are such that – except for fixing things when they breakdown and putting an occasional coat of paint on our buildings – we won't be able to address the DM any time soon. The recreation budget for the ANF has been relatively stable for the past ten years (overall, though, we have less now than we did then), but costs have increased and the buying power of that budget has been reduced appreciably.</p> <p>And it is evident from our occupancy data that the public is simply not using ANF facilities as much as they have in the past, and certainly not as much as they could. Our choices for the future include, among others, 1) keep spreading a thinner layer of budget over all of the facilities we have, at least until the DM reaches a point where we would have to close some of these facilities,</p> <p>2) proactively close some facilities, reduce services at others, and create the flexibility to improve facilities at key locations, and/or 3) seek to develop private/public partnerships to enhance our ability to operate and maintain key recreation facilities. The ANF plays a critical role in the recreation economy of the four counties within which it is encompassed and the numerous communities which are within or encircle the ANF boundaries.</p> <p><u>The Rationale</u></p> <p>There are some unique characteristics that differentiate the recreation experience – and the management emphasis – that may be found on the Bradford and Marienville Ranger Districts. The Allegheny Reservoir is a dominant geographical and recreation feature on the Bradford District; and, even with the recommended reduction in services and facilities, management of the Reservoir will continue to emphasize developed recreation with full service campgrounds, day use areas, and comfort amenities (such as the marina, a visitor information station, water and waste-water facilities). The Bradford District also provides some of the more unique and popular geographical and natural features of the ANF, such as Buckaloons on the Allegheny River, Tionesta Overlook, the Tionesta National Scenic Area, the National Recreation Areas, Hickory Creek Wilderness, Minister Creek, and others.</p>	MRD	2009

ACTION	LEAD	TIME FRAME
<p>The Marienville District is characterized by less emphasis on developed recreation and greater emphasis on motorized trails and dispersed camping (camping with no services and no fees at user-developed sites, characterized primarily by car camping at scattered locations across the District). I relied on key focal points to guide my recommendations for managing the developed recreation on the Marienville Ranger District. These key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce sites in close vicinity that provide similar services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Where private vendors provide similar services, the Forest Service does not need to duplicate these services or compete with the private provider. • Make reductions where they would have a real effect on reducing our overall O&M and DM costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Emphasize providing only basic services at developed recreation areas – the more traditional, rustic experience of National Forest recreation. • Reduce services or eliminate sites with low occupancy levels • Reduce the number of water and wastewater facilities to a level that could be properly operated and maintained with the current staffing and funding available • Where the public has indicated a clear preference for some services that do not currently exist, we will consider providing some level of basic services 		
<p>Public Participation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Jan. 2008 – pre-niche public meeting. Many written and e-mail comments. -Feb-May 2008 – Rangers and Recreation staff met with counties and townships sharing info about RFA. Also met with Clarion River Municipal Partnership, Seneca Nation, PA Wilds. -April 2008 – Meeting with Warren Co. Commissioners and tour of recreation sites per their request. -June 2008 – Hosted open houses at both District offices week of 6/16 to share PPOW. -July 2008 – 30-day public comment period on PPOW and recommendations. Numerous media articles/contacts, phone calls, emails and letters received. -August 2008 – Rangers met with current concessionaires per their request. -September 2008 – Information (PPOW and draft recommendations) posted on website. Sent letters in response to all comments received. -Ongoing – Rangers and Forest Supervisor continually update members of the public on process and progress via news releases and appearances at a variety of public meetings where invited to speak, including Rotary, Lion’s Club, County Governments, etc. <p>Contacts prior to public release of PPOW: Rangers will contact key stakeholders including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - County Commissioners from Elk, Forest, Warren and McKean counties, - State and federal legislative reps - Seneca Nation of Indians - Concessionaires - Other federal and state agencies – Corps of Engineers, State Parks 	Linda White	2008

C. DEFERRED MAINTENANCE REDUCTION ANALYSIS

Variable DM Reduction Rate					
DM Total	% Reduction	Reduction \$	Annual Expenditure Required for 4 or 5 Years to Meet Target	Target DM \$ by Target Date	Target Date
\$5,421,810	20%	\$1,084,362	\$216,900	\$4,337,448	2010
\$4,337,448	50%	\$2,710,905	\$542,200	\$1,626,543	2015
\$1,626,543	20%	\$1,084,362	\$216,900	\$542,181	2020

Straight Line DM 14 Year Reduction Rate					
DM Total	% Reduction	Reduction \$	Annual Expenditure Required to Meet 2020 Target	Target DM \$ by 2020	Target Date
\$5,421,810	90%	\$4,879,629	\$375,400	\$542,181	2020
DM Total After MOC Staff Work	Target DM \$ by 2020	Reduction \$ After MOC Staff Work	Annual Expenditure Required to Meet 2020 Target after MOC Staff Work		
\$2,896,785	\$542,181	\$2,354,604	\$181,100		
* Reduction from MOC staff work			\$2,525,025		
Yrs. Resulting from staff work			7		

Annual Funds Available for DM			
Annual Expenditure Required to Meet 2020 Target after MOC Staff Work	Annual Granger-Thye Fee Off-set	Annual Revenues Available for DM	Remaining Annual DM Reduction Shortfall
\$181,100	\$ 24,500	\$0	\$156,600

5. APPENDIX

A. RECREATION SITE DEVELOPMENT SCALE GUIDE

Scale #	Definition
0	<p>No site modification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No constructed improvements evident at the site ○ Little to no controls or regimentation ○ Primary access usually over primitive roads ○ Spacing informal and often established by user
1	<p>Almost no site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rustic or rudimentary improvements designed for protection of the site rather than comfort of the users. ○ Use of synthetic materials excluded. ○ Minimum controls are subtle. ○ No obvious regimentation. ○ Primary access usually over primitive roads ○ Spacing informal and extended to minimize contacts between users.
2	<p>Minimal site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rustic or rudimentary improvements designed primarily for protection of the site rather than the comfort of the users. ○ Use of synthetic materials avoided. ○ Minimum controls are subtle. ○ Little obvious regimentation. ○ Spacing informal and extended to minimize contacts between users. ○ Primary access usually over primitive roads. ○ Interpretive services informal, almost subliminal.
3	<p>Moderate site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities about equal for protection of natural site and comfort of users. ○ Contemporary/rustic design of improvements is usually based on use of native materials. Inconspicuous vehicular traffic controls usually provided. ○ Roads may be hard surfaced and trails formalized. ○ Development density about 3 family units per acre. ○ Primary access may be over high standard roads. ○ Interpretive services informal if offered, but generally direct.
4	<p>Heavy site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Some facilities designed strictly for comfort and convenience of users. ○ Luxury facilities not provided. ○ Facility design may incorporate synthetic materials. ○ Extensive use of artificial surfacing of roads and trails. ○ Vehicular traffic control usually obvious. ○ Primary access usually over paved roads. ○ Development density 3-5 family units per acre. ○ Plant materials usually native. ○ Interpretive services, if offered, often formal or structured.
5	<p>Extensive site modification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facilities mostly designed for comfort and convenience of users and usually include flush toilets; may include showers, bathhouses, laundry facilities, and electrical hookups. ○ Synthetic materials commonly used. ○ Formal walks or surfaced trails. ○ Regimentation of users is obvious. ○ Access usually by high-speed highways. ○ Development density 5 or more family units per acre. ○ Plant materials may be non-native.

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Formal interpretive services usually available. Designs formalized and architecture may be contemporary. ○ Mowed lawns and clipped shrubs not unusual. |
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B. MANAGEMENT OPTION CODE LIST

A – DECOMMISSION [Capture decommissioning costs in 5-year Program of Work]

1. Decommission
 - a. As soon as practical
 - b. Begin glide path
2. Partial Decommission (e.g., remove campsites next to boat ramp)

B - CLOSURE

1. Close – defer decommissioning
2. Partial Closure – defer decommissioning (e.g., close campsites next to boat ramp but don't remove yet)
3. Closure pending completion of site improvements

C - CHANGE SEASON [If a change, reflect in columns J or K, in worksheet 3, the change in operating days]

1. Increase season
2. Reduce season
3. Intermittent closure during season
4. Open weekends/holidays only
5. Open for hunting season only

D – REMOVE OR ELIMINATE A COST SOURCE or SERVICE SEASON [use Site task cost detail in Worksheet 2b of the Ranking Template]

1. Reduce mowed area
2. Remove trashcans
3. Remove restroom facilities
4. Remove tables and/or grills
5. Other changes to site design or features to reduce costs
- 6.
7. Other changes to eliminate on-site services
8. Close or remove water system
9. Close or remove waste water system

E - REDUCE SERVICE FREQUENCY SEASON [use Site task cost detail in Worksheet 2b of the Ranking Template] *THESE CODES ARE RARELY USED AND REQUIRE SIGNIFICANT DOCUMENTATION*

1. Reduce service – mow less frequent
2. Reduce service – trash and clean-up less frequent
3. Reduce service – restroom cleaning less frequent
4. Reduce service – staff presence reduced on site
5. Reduce service – less frequent bulletin board posting
- 6.
7. Reduce service – other

F – INCREASE/IMPROVE SERVICES [use applicable rates in Features section of Recreation Sites module in Infra]

1. Add electrical hook-ups
2. Increase amps of existing electrical hook-ups
3. Add water hook-ups
4. Add sewer hook-ups

5. Add hot showers
6. Upgrade existing feature (e.g., replace SST with flush toilets)
7. Add amenities (playground, swim area, etc)
8. Add a Host site(s)
9. Major reconstruction/upgrade of the recreation area
10. Increase staff presence (including law enforcement)
- 11.
12. Improve visitor information and bulletin boards
13. Improve signing
14. Add water delivery service to individual users
15. Add greywater/blackwater pumping service to individual users
16. Other
17. Add a toilet building(s)

G – CONSTRUCT A NEW AREA

1. Construct a new site

H – CHANGE OPERATOR or WORKFORCE

1. Change to a concession operation [**apply a 60% savings to O&M cost per operating day**]
2. Operate through a partner agreement (e.g., local community, State agency, etc)
3. Volunteer (increase use of volunteers at the site)
4. Contractor (begin or expand use of contracting)
5. Prison labor (begin or expand use of prison labor)
6. Other

I – CHANGE FEES

1. Eliminate fee
2. Reduce fee
3. Begin charging a fee
4. Increase current fee
5. Increase fee compliance efforts

J – CHANGE CAPACITY (PAOT) [If a change, reflect in columns S or T, in worksheet 3, the change in capacity]

1. Increase Capacity (Add a loop, build additional sites, add parking, etc)
2. Reduce Capacity (i.e., close a loop, remove camp units, eliminate a parking area, etc.)

K -- SITE CONVERSION

1. Change in Development Scale
2. Change in Site Type
3. Study feasibility of converting site from FA&O facility to recreation site

L – REPLACEMENT/REPAIR

1. Replacement of an existing constructed feature that results in the reduction of Deferred Maintenance
2. Repair of an existing constructed feature that results in the reduction of Deferred Maintenance.
3. Conversion of constructed features to meet accessibility standards.

NC – NO CHANGE (i.e., none of the above site specific changes apply)

1. No change – currently USFS operated
2. No change – currently concession operation
3. No change – currently operated by a partner under some other type of formal agreement

Note – A site can have more than one code