

**ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST  
BRADFORD RANGER DISTRICT**

**DISTRICT RANGER WHITE PAPER ON  
RECREATION FACILITIES ANALYSIS ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The purpose of this white paper is to express our 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 our hope that this document provides clarification on how the Action Recommendations were made and what our thoughts and intents are for the future of these facilities on the District.

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, our 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. We 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, we 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.

As you will see in the chart below, difficult recommendations had to be made on how and where to reduce and eliminate services or facilities to ensure that our financial checkbook for recreation facilities is in balance. I understand these choices will often cause internal and external conflicts, but it is our jobs as leaders and managers to make choices that are in the best interest of the federal government and the American taxpayer. Furthermore, we 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. We 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.

## District Recreation Facilities Action Recommendations

Rec Facility	Recommendation	Final Recommendation	Primary Rationale	Ranger Thoughts
Kelly Pines Campground	No Change	NC - No Change	Minimal O&M costs and no DM costs	
Little Drummer Trailhead	Increase services if possible	NC - No Change.	Minimal O&M costs and no DM costs	Increase services if possible
Birdsall Eddy Girlscout Camp	Change Operator and operate with through a partnership agreement	H - Change Operator and operate through a partnership agreement	High O&M costs and DM costs	
Buckaloons Rec Area	Remove or Eliminate a Cost Source & Change to a Concession Operation	No Change.	High O&M costs and DM costs	
Dewdrop Rec Area	Partial Decommission & Remove or Eliminate Cost Sources	A2 - Partial Decommission & D - Remove or Eliminate Cost Sources	High O&M costs and DM costs	It was decided to remove all buildings and recreation features because of their poor condition and the money it would take to reconstruct them, along with low occupancy levels. However, we will leave the roads, utility lines, water, and waster water structures and attempt to have partners reconstruct and operate the site. Site could be converted to a primitive camping site in the future.
Dunkle Corners	Decommission	NC - No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	Based on public comment and the ability to operate and maintain site.
Elijah Run Boat Launch	No Change	NC - No Change	Low O&M costs and High DM costs	Important to maintain boat access to the Reservoir despite the costs. Determination was to reduce costs at other sites.
Handsome Lake Boat Access Campground	Change of Operator (other)	NC - No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	Reservoir site.
Hearts Content Day Use Area	Change of Operator (increase use of volunteers)	NC - No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	Increase use of volunteers if possible.
Hearts Content Rec Area	Change of Operator (other)	NC - No Change	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	
Hickory Creek	No Change	NC - No Change	Low O&M and DM	

Wilderness Trailhead			costs	
Hooks Brook Boat Access Campground	Change of Operator (other)	NC - No Change	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	Reservoir site.
Hopewell Boat Access Campground	Change of Operator (other)	NC - No Change	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	Reservoir site.
Jakes Rock Overlook	Replacement/Repair of features (remove flush toilets and water system – replace with vault toilets; Change of Operator (other & volunteers); Remove or Eliminate Cost Sources	L1 - Replacement/Repair of features (remove flush toilets and water system – replace with vault toilets	Medium O&M costs and High DM costs	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 to operate and maintain this site in the future to possibly improve the services.
Kiasutha Rec Area	Close the site pending completion of site improvements and until the FS no longer maintains and operates water and sewage systems. The site is not financially sustainable if the FS continues to operate and maintain sewage and water systems	A - Close the site pending completion of site improvements and until the FS no longer maintains and operates water and sewage systems. The site is not financially sustainable if the FS continues to operate and maintain sewage and water systems	Medium O&M costs and High DM costs	It is important to retain this site associated with the Reservoir; however, the high costs associated with the campground was not enough to justify its continued operation. We will look for partners to redesign/construct/operate/maintain the site in the future. Site could be converted to a primitive site.
Kinzua Beach	Partial Decommission (remove wastewater system and consider connecting to Wolf Run system, remove main buildings (shower/dressing/concession); Change in Site Type (transition into new facility by year 5); Change of Operator (design/construct/operate/maintain by partner/permittee)	A2 - Partial Decommission (remove wastewater system and consider connecting to Wolf Run system, remove main buildings (shower/dressing/concession); Change in Site Type (transition into new facility by year 5); H6 - Change of Operator (design/construct/operate/maintain by partner/permittee)	Low O&M costs and High DM costs	<b>Identified as Signature Site.</b> It is important to retain this site associated with the Reservoir; however, the wastewater system is no longer functional and beyond repair financially. We will work with partners to fully reinvigorate the site in the future.
Kinzua Point Information Center	Partial Decommission; Change of Operator (design/construct/operate/maintain by partner/permittee);	A2 - Partial Decommission; H6 - Change of Operator (design/construct/operate/maintain by partner/permittee); F6 -	Low O&M costs and High DM costs	<b>Identified as Signature Site.</b> It is important to retain this site associated with the Reservoir; however, its current condition

	Replacement/Repair (new facility by year 5)	Replacement/Repair (new facility by year 5)		does not justify the expenses need to remodel the current facility. This site is our second priority for the District and we will work with partners to fully reinvigorate the site in the future.
Kinzua Wolf Run Marina	No Change	NC3 - No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	<b>Identified as Signature Site.</b>
Longhouse Dispersed Site	Partial Decommission	A2 - Partial Decommission	Low O&M and DM costs	Site already planned for closure
Longhouse Trailhead	Change of Operator (volunteer group work)	NC1 - No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	Increase use of volunteers if possible.
Minister Creek Campground & Trailhead	No Change	NC1 - No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	
Morrison Boat Access Campground	Change of Operator (permittee picks up ½ pumping costs)	E7 - Reduce Cost Source. Have permittee pick up ½ pumping costs	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	Reservoir site.
Morrison Trailhead	Change of Operator (more use of volunteers)	NC1 - No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	Increase use of volunteers if possible.
Old Powerhouse	Change of Operator (partner with Oil Heritage Region to eliminate all O&M/DM)	Change of Operator (partner with Oil Heritage Region to eliminate all O&M/DM)	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	
Pine Grove Boat Access Campground	Change of Operator (permittee picks up ½ pumping costs)	Reduce Cost Source. Have permittee pick up ½ pumping costs	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	Reservoir site.
Red Bridge Rec Area	Change of Operator	No Change	Low O&M and DM costs	Reservoir site.
Rimrock Overlook	Change of Operator (more use of volunteers)	No Change. Increase use of volunteers if possible	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	Reservoir site.
Rocky Gap Trailhead	No Change.	No Change	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	
Roper Hollow Boat Launch	Decommission	No Change	Low O&M costs and Medium DM costs	Needed because it is the only boat launch that provides docking access during the fall and winter hunting seasons. Based on public comments.
Sugar Bay Dispersed Area	Decommission	No Change		This site is an active fishing site, picnic area, wildlife observation area, and small boat launch. It has no deferred maintenance costs and minimal operations and

				maintenance costs.
Tidioute Overlook	Decommission	Decommission	High O&M and low DM costs	Pursue partnership.
Timberdoodle Flats Trailhead	Decommission	Remove or eliminate costs sources (remove interpretative stations and replace with numbered posts that correspond with an information brochure)	High O&M and low DM costs	Have map/brochure available to download on the Allegheny website. Based on public comment.
Tracy Ridge Rec Area	Decommission (close the gate at 321, reclaim gravel, eliminate 5 toilets, 120 campsites, 5 wells, and signage)	Decommission (close the gate at 321, reclaim gravel, eliminate 5 toilets, 120 campsites, 5 wells, and signage). Convert to primitive camping site	Low O&M costs and High DM costs	This is a site associated with the Reservoir, but there is a similar /more utilized site at Willow Bay in the vicinity.
Tracy/Johnnycake Trailhead	No Change	No Change	Low O&M costs and no DM	
Webs Ferry Boat Launch	No Change	No Change	Low O&M costs and High DM costs	This is a site associated with the Reservoir.
Westline Trailhead	Change of Operator (more use of volunteers)	No Change. Increase use of volunteers if possible	Low O&M and DM costs	
Willow Bay Rec Area	Change of Operator (permittee picks up 1/3 of sewer costs)	Reduce Cost Source. Have permittee pick up 1/3 of sewer costs	Low O&M and High DM costs	This is a site associated with the Reservoir. Thus, the higher DM costs were acceptable to ensure there is a campground on the east side of the Reservoir that we can focus on.
Willow Creek ATV Trailhead	Increase Capacity	Increase capacity if decision is to expand Willow Creek ATV trail	Low O&M and DM costs	

## Final Comments

The Bradford Ranger District offers many great recreational opportunities. To continue these opportunities, there is a 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, we 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 our focus, and it is our hope that this will continue in the future.

Beyond our existing sites on the Reservoir, we are 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 in accordance with the ANF Forest Plan and through the help of partnerships or permittees such as private businesses. At the same time, we 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.

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October 7, 2008

DATE