

August 25, 2008

Forest Service plans fee hike in Gorge

HOOD RIVER — The Forest Service is proposing fee increases at three of its campgrounds and one group overnight reservation site in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area.

If approved the new fees would be implemented March 1, 2009.

“The price increases are necessary to maintain the level of services and amenities our visitors expect,” said Dan Harkenrider, Area Manager for the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area. “Current pricing was established in the early 1990’s. This will be the first proposed change in over the last 15 years.”

Fees were assessed based on the level of services and amenities provided, cost of operation and maintenance and market assessment.

Campground fees would increase from \$10 to \$15 per night at the Wyeth and Eagle Creek Campgrounds. Group sites at Wyeth Campground would increase from \$20 to \$30 per night. Herman Creek Horse Camp fees would increase from \$8 to \$10. The extra vehicle fee will not change (\$5 per car). The Eagle Creek Overlook Group Reservation Area fees would increase from \$90 to \$125 on weekends and \$50 to \$75 on weekdays.

This fee increase proposal will be presented at the next meeting of the Pacific Northwest Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RAC), created through authorities provided by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004. RAC members represent various recreation interests, outfitter guides, local environmental groups, tribes, tourism officials and affected local governments. For additional information on the Pacific Northwest Recreation RAC, visit the Region 6 Forest Service website at www.fs.fed.us/r6/passespermits/rrac.shtml.

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area is interested in hearing comments regarding this proposal. Please contact Stan Hinatsu at (541) 308-1708 or shinatsu@fs.fed.us by Sept. 20, 2008.

For more information on the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area visit www.fs.fed.us/r6/columbia.