

## Central Oregonian

### Some recreation sites to see fee increases

## Fees will go up next month in the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River Grasslands

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With the weather starting to warm up, visitors to several popular recreation sites in the Ochoco National Forest and Crooked River Grassland will have to pay new or increased recreation-use fees starting next month.

According to an Ochoco National Forest release, recreation managers recommended the fee increases after a study of fair market values showed that comparative recreation sites in the region were charging higher fees. The new or increased fees take effect on May 1.

"The increased revenue will help us keep the recreation sites maintained and in good condition for the recreating public," said recreation staff officer Cathy Lund.

On the Ochoco National Forest, overnight fees at both the Ochoco Divide Campground and Ochoco Forest Camp and Pavilion campsites will remain at \$13 a night and \$6 per extra vehicle. However, due to high demand, the group site at the pavilion will increase from \$60 to \$100 a day on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Ochoco Divide Campground is located in the tall pines 25 miles east of Prineville just off Highway 26. The Ochoco Forest Camp is located 20 miles east of Prineville adjacent to the Ochoco Ranger Station.

The most pronounced changes will come to Haystack Reservoir, a popular developed site nine miles south of Madras on the Crooked River Grassland. Camping fees at the reservoir will increase from \$8 to \$13 per night and \$6 per extra vehicle. A new day-use fee of \$5 will also be charged.

At the West Shore campground, a new camping fee of \$10 per night, plus \$5 per extra vehicle will be instituted. A \$5 day-use fee will also be charged. The South Shore group campsites will be available for \$50 a night.

The U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Reclamation, which operate the West and South Shore sites, have hired an outside company to manage the sites as a concessionaire. This is due to a lack of money and resources to effectively maintain the areas.

Campground fees at Skull Hollow - a popular camping area for hikers, climbers, mountain bikers and horseback riders southeast of Gray Butte - will remain at \$5 a night and \$3 per extra vehicle.