



News Release

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Oregon Department of Forestry seeks public input for Northrup Creek Campground reservation system

During the 2017 recreation season the Astoria District of the Oregon Department of Forestry is considering shifting Northrup Creek Campground to a reservation system and special use permit process. This will allow ODF to keep the site and trails open for the full regular season with reduced staffing, while providing many benefits to multiple user groups. ODF requests public comment to help refine the plan or develop other options that would achieve the same objectives.

The Astoria District's Annual Operating Plan Summary Document outlines the plan and will be available for public comment from March 20 to May 4. ODF is required to adjust service levels statewide according to funds available in its annual budget.

Northrup Creek Horse Camp was identified as a safe and suitable location for a reservation system and reduced staffing due to consistently light use compared to similar-sized campgrounds. During June through September of 2015 and 2016, the campground was used an average of 21 percent of the available time. Volunteer hours, which aid in maintenance at this campground, average less than 35 hours annually.

Benefits of the Plan:

- The reservation system will allow horse campers to know in advance that they have a campsite.
- This will also allow campers to invite others to share the cost.
- The season for camping at Northrup will continue to be one weekend prior to Memorial Day through the month of November.
- The nine-mile trail system will remain open.
- ODF will be able to focus staff time at Northrup Creek Horse Camp when it is being used.
- Protecting the site, preventing vandalism, and eliminating over-stays will be a focus.

Details of the Plan:

- Reservations will be granted on a first-come, first-served basis for approved permit requests.
- There is a minimum two-night charge for use of the Northrup Creek Horse Camp.
- Fee Schedule: \$175/night with a minimum two-night charge and a \$100 refundable deposit that is to be submitted with the Special Use Permit form. Refund of the deposit is available after ODF Staff perform post-use inspection and ensure no damage has been done to the property.

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