

RECREATION MANAGEMENT

Board of Forestry Recreation Accomplishments (FY 2021)

Table 1: Summary of Volunteer Hours for Recreation Projects FY 2021

	Tillamook State Forest - Forest Grove District	Tillamook State Forest - Tillamook District	Clatsop State Forest	Santiam State Forest	West Oregon District
Total Hours	5,898	416	222	135	1,471

Table 2: Trail Project Summary for FY 2021

Activity	Tillamook State Forest		Clatsop State Forest	Santiam State Forest	West Oregon District
	Forest Grove District	Tillamook District	Astoria District	North Cascade District	
OHV Trails (Existing)	116 miles	317 miles	30 miles	6 miles	4.2 miles
New Trails Construction	1 miles	3 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles
Trail Upgrade/Improvement	10 miles	2 miles	2 miles	0 miles	1 miles
Trails Maintained	50 miles	30 miles	30 miles	6 miles	4.2 miles
Non-Motorized Trails (Existing)	68.5 miles	21.1 miles	21 miles	26 miles	9.5 miles
New Trails Construction	2.5 miles	0.3 miles	0 miles	1 miles	0 miles
Trail Upgrade/Improvement	0.8 miles	0.5 miles	0 miles	1 miles	0.25 miles
Trails Maintained	33 miles	20.8 miles	21 miles	26 miles	9.5 miles

Table 3: Number of Campers and Revenue from Campgrounds during FY 2021

Campground	District/Campsites	Campers	Visitor Nights	Revenue
Henry Rierson Spruce Run	Astoria/38 sites	806	2,699	\$12,254.00
Gnat Creek	Astoria/4 sites	589	702	\$6,115.00
Northrup Creek	Astoria/11 sites	755	2,868	\$14,616.00
Beaver Eddy	Astoria/8 sites	89	537	\$1,095.00
Viewpoint	Astoria/4	197	253	\$2,199.00
Gales Creek	Forest Grove/19 sites	1,014	1,695	\$13,692.00
Brown's Camp	Forest Grove /30 sites	795	1,769	\$9,174.75
Stage Coach Horse Camp	Forest Grove/10 sites	70	152	\$1,070.00
Elk Creek	Forest Grove/14 sites	2,839	4,707	\$24,337.66

Reehers Camp	Forest Grove/17 sites	241	359	\$3,019.50
Rock Creek	North Cascade/3 sites	Unknown, records lost in the office fire	Unknown, records lost in the office fire	Unknown, records lost in the office fire
Butte Creek Falls	North Cascade/3 sites	Unknown, records lost in the office fire	Unknown, records lost in the office fire	Unknown, records lost in the office fire
Santiam Horse Camp	North Cascade/12 sites	136	302	\$3,020.00
Shellburg Falls	North Cascade/7 sites	0	0	\$0
Jones Creek	Tillamook/44 sites	1,387	2,371	\$13,139.25
Jordan Creek	Tillamook/6 sites	182	1,840	\$1,400.00
Nehalem Falls	Tillamook/21 sites	549	1,067	\$8,556.50
Keenig Creek	Tillamook/12 sites	618	781	\$5,257.50
Diamond Mill	Tillamook/15 sites	336	814	\$1,255.00
Cedar Creek	Tillamook/25 sites	958	2,820	\$4,856.70
Morrison Eddy	Tillamook/6 sites	63	104	\$505.00
North Fork Wilson	Tillamook/7 sites	184	430	\$711.00
Total	316 campsites	11,808 campers	26,270	\$126,274

Recreation Facility Planning and Development Projects

Each State Forest and District with developed recreation facilities has a ten-year plan that provides a prioritized list of facility development projects. Other districts pursue recreation opportunities as time and resources allow and in concert with user groups and volunteers.

In FY 2021, the Recreation team was faced with many difficulties resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, and its associated restrictions and guidelines. All of the changes meant the team was faced with operating campgrounds, trailheads, and other facilities differently than in any prior year. Some of those changes included closing campgrounds and effectively barring volunteer activities. However, even despite the many challenges, the Recreation team was able to produce outcomes to advance recreational activity across ODF's Northwest Oregon Area. The following is a summary of recreation-related accomplishments during FY 2021.

Clatsop State Forest—Astoria District **Developed Facility Improvements**

Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground

- Continued making improvements to various infrastructures in the campground including rocking and widening of sites, and planting of native vegetation.
- Installed open and closed signs to the ODOT signs on Highway 26.

Beaver Eddy Campground

- Improved camping infrastructure through rocking and hardening of sites.
- Moved Campsite 1 to be within campground boundaries and vacated old day-use area at the campground's entrance.
- Closed south entrance of parking area to inhibit trailers from using the walk in tent site campground and parking area.

Gnat Creek Campground and Trail

- Continued maintenance improvements to camping infrastructure at site, including hazard tree removal.

Northrup Creek Horse Camp and Trail

- Thinned areas around the campground to increase useable area and vistas.
- Improvements to Big Tree Trail were completed throughout the year.

Lost Lake Recreation Area

- Continued to monitor and maintain facilities and trails along the lake's shoreline and at the parking area.

Astoria District Demonstration Forest and Wellness Trail

- Redesigned and completed the construction of a new arboretum trail, which included the installation of a memorial arch.
- Continued work to refresh and update informational signage along the trail and within the demonstration forest.
- Relocated the picnic area along the trail to provide for better usage by the public.

Soapstone Lake Trail

- Completed design for a new 40-foot trail bridge. The new bridge will replace a worn and damaged trail bridge.

Bloom Lake Trail

- Cleared trails of brush that resulted from winter storms, specifically the Valentine's Day Weekend storm.
- Installed tank trap infrastructure along the southern access of the lake to prohibit destructive vehicle access.

Gnat Creek Trail

- Cleared trails of brush that resulted from winter storms, specifically the Valentine's Day Weekend storm.
- Continued to maintain trail infrastructure and kept trail surfacing clear of vegetation.

The Astoria OHV program provides and maintains Class I (quad), II (4WD), III (MC), and IV (SidexSide) OHV trails.

Trail Maintenance – Projects focused on protecting investment and reducing resource impacts.

- Completed winter storm damage work (logout and clearing) and general maintenance on entire trail system (30 miles).
- Completed assessment and monitoring of the entire OHV trail network (30 miles).
- Completed seasonal maintenance and cleaning of OHV trail bridges

Miscellaneous OHV Program Activities and Accomplishments

- Continued development and outreach for trail improvement/expansion plan

Tillamook State Forest—Forest Grove District

Within the Forest Grove District, Elk Creek and Stagecoach Campgrounds were the only campground facility to remain open throughout the entire fiscal year. In the spring of 2021, the Recreation team worked to bring all other campgrounds back into operation after a year of closures. The process was difficult and took significant planning, but proved to be successful and facilitated learning opportunities for all staff.

Even despite the campground closures, OHV trails and non-motorized trails throughout the forest were used heavily as recreationalists took to the forest during COVID closures elsewhere. This presented new challenges and opportunities that the Recreation team is continuing to work through in adjusting to different visitor use patterns.

Recreational Facilities and Trail Maintenance and Operations – Forest Grove District

- Operated and maintained five developed fee-campgrounds, 16 day-use facilities and more than 30 undeveloped dispersed site camping areas.
- Collected fees at five sites during operational season: Reehers Camp Campground, Browns Camp OHV Campground, Gales Creek Campground, Elk Creek Campground, and Stagecoach Horse Campground.
- Operated and maintained 4 designated target shooting lanes in collaboration with our target shooting community partners.
- Completed hazard tree review and assessment at all campground and day use facilities, which included the removal of unsafe trees.
 - Gales Creek Campground was the primary facility of focus
- Completed the construction of the upper Fear and Loaming Trailhead, which will help to facilitate safe usage of the newly created downhill mountain bike trail.
- Completed the construction of a 2.5 mile segment of the Fear and Loaming downhill mountain bike trail to complete the 4 mile trail project.
- Undertook the yearly assessment and monitoring of the entire non-motorized trail network (66 miles).
- Completed significant logout and clearing maintenance following the Valentine’s Day Weekend winter storm.
- Completed seasonal maintenance and cleaning of 35 trail bridges within in the non-motorized trail system.
- Installed the seasonal trail bridge across Elk Creek on the Wilson River Trail.

- Completed widening of Elk Creek Trail to accommodate Tillamook County Sheriff's Office Search and Rescue Side X Side vehicle access.
- Completed the location and design work for a 6.2-mile segment of the Wilson River Trail. Work was completed in collaboration with the International Mountain Bike Association Trail Solutions team.
- Completed construction of a new 0.8-mile reroute segment of the Nels Rogers Trail within the Historical Hiking Loop.
- Maintained the Tillamook State Forest Blog and supported ODF website management associated with public use and recreation management activities.
- Successfully facilitated recruitment efforts for campground hosts at Gales Creek, Browns Camp, and Reehers Camp Campgrounds for the 2021 operational season.

OHV Trail Projects

The Forest Grove District OHV program provides and maintains Class I (quad), II (4WD), III (MC), and IV (SidexSide) OHV trails.

Trail Construction- projects focused on improving trail system connectivity and sustainability, improving public safety and reducing resource impacts, maintenance need, and user conflict. Covid-19 redirected OHV Team resources to other duties, and AOP projects suffered as a result.

- Seven Up Trail construction- .54 miles of new construction to improve system connectivity and reduce forest road use.
- Gummy Worm Trail reroute

Trail Maintenance – Projects focused on protecting investment and reducing resource impacts.

- Completed winter storm damage work (logout and clearing) and general maintenance on the entire OHV trail network (115 miles).
- Completed assessment and monitoring of the entire OHV trail network (115 miles).
- Completed seasonal maintenance and cleaning of 14 OHV trail bridges
- Performed trail hardening work on #58 Stage Road Trail

Miscellaneous OHV Program Activities and Accomplishments

- Purchased new Morooka rubber tracked hauler to support OHV trail maintenance work (ATV Fund Purchase)
- Administered 2 local club trail use events
- Managed 23 existing Adopt-A-Trail agreements
- Administered the permit for the annual National Jeep Jamboree event.
- Participated in 2 ATV Advisory Committee meetings addressing new ATV laws and current statewide issues
- Completed 2021 Event Calendar date allocation
- Maintained the following OHV program equipment
 - 10 yd Dump Truck
 - 3 heavy equipment trailers
 - 2 mini-excavators
 - Sweco trail dozer
 - 2 trail motorcycles

- 1 quad and 1 6x6 utility ATV
- 2 Morooka Rock Haulers

Tillamook State Forest—Tillamook District

Within the Tillamook District, Keenig Creek Campground was the only campground facility to remain open throughout the entire fiscal year. In the spring of 2021, the Recreation team worked to bring all other campgrounds back into operation after a year of closures. The process was difficult and took significant planning, but proved to be successful and facilitated learning opportunities for all staff.

Recreational Facilities and Trail Maintenance and Operations – Tillamook District

- Operated and maintained all campgrounds, designated campsite sites, OHV staging areas, trailheads, and day use areas.
- Collected fees at eight sites during operational season: Jones Creek Campground, Nehalem Falls Campground, Keenig Creek Campground, Jordan Creek OHV Campground, Diamond Mill OHV Staging Area, Morrison Eddy Campground, Cedar Creek Designated Campsites, and North Fork Designated Campsites.
- Completed a district-wide campsite signpost replacement project – replaced aging campsite sign posts at Keenig Creek Campground, Jordan Creek Campground, Jones Creek Campground, Nehalem Falls Campground, and Morrison Eddy Campground.
- Underwent a picnic table rehabilitation project at many of the district’s heavily used campgrounds.
 - 18 picnic tables at Nehalem Falls Campground
 - 6 picnic tables at Morrison Eddy Campground
 - 2 picnic tables at Nehalem Falls Campground
- Undertook a facility renovation project at the Diamond CXT vault bathroom building.
 - Replaced vault doors
 - Retrofitted vault framing and trim
- Completed the removal of an outdated and unsafe bridge crossing Jones Creek near the Jones Creek Campground.
- Storm Response: The Valentine’s Day Weekend Storm caused significant damage across the landscape and necessitated clean-up and repairs at many facilities and trails
 - Campgrounds: Keenig Creek Campground and Jones Creek Campground
 - Trails and Trailheads: Wilson River Trail, Cedar Butte Trail, Bridge Creek Falls Trail, and Footbridge Trailhead
- Renewed the falls overlook trail within Nehalem Falls Campground, including the installation of a new bench and viewing area.
- Installed a new information kiosk on the Wilson River Trail across from the Tillamook Forest Center.
- Planted 300 trees within designated recreation areas to help mitigate user created trails and vegetation damage.
- Successfully recruited, trained, and retained five camp hosts though for the 2021 operating season.
 - Hosts were present at Jones Creek and Nehalem Falls Campground

- Enforced ORS 477 by extinguishing 54 abandoned and/or illegal unescaped campfires on state lands during standard recreation patrols.
- Navigated dynamic and fluid operational situations related to Covid-19 pandemic.

OHV Trail Projects

The Tillamook District OHV program provides and maintains Class I (quad), II (4WD), III (MC), and IV (SidexSide) OHV trails.

Trail Construction- projects focused on improving trail system connectivity and sustainability, improving public safety and reducing resource impacts, maintenance need, and user conflict. Covid-19 redirected OHV Team resources to other duties, and AOP projects suffered as a result.

- Elk Wallow Trail construction- Constructed 3 miles of Class III trail to replace trail damaged from timber harvest impacts.
- BPA Trail construction- Constructed new entrance to BPA trail.

Trail Maintenance – Projects focused on protecting investment and reducing resource impacts.

- Completed winter storm damage work (logout and clearing) and general maintenance on 150 miles of trail.
- Completed assessment and monitoring of the entire OHV trail network (314miles).
- Completed seasonal maintenance and cleaning of 10 OHV trail bridges
- Performed trail hardening work on Bushong Rd Class II trail and Poe Wade Class III trail

Miscellaneous OHV Program Activities and Accomplishments

- Completed Installation of Yamaha funded double vault toilet at Cedar Creek OHV staging area.
- Completed rocking of new Jordan Creek OHV staging area.
- Worked with Timber Sale administrators to vacate unsustainable trails within Timber Sale areas.
- Administered 2 local club trail use events

North Cascade District - Santiam State Forest

The pandemic created visitor use and management challenges and in the early part of the fiscal year campground and day use facility operations were limited and the Labor Day fires resulted in fire impacts to recreation facilities and trails and a closure of the Santiam State Forest to public use. As a result of the fire, recreation project activity was focused on post fire assessment of recreation facilities and repair and improvement of facilities and trails impacted by the fire. Following is a summary of recreation project accomplishments during FY 2021.

On the North Cascade District the Recreation, Education and Interpretive Program operates and maintains 4 developed camping areas, 1 dispersed camping area, and 6 trailheads.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic campgrounds did not open until July 22nd 2020 and the 2020 Labor Day fires cut short the 2020 camping season and campground facilities remained closed into the 2021 camping season.

Prior to the Labor Day fire a variety of projects and events took place in the recreation program over the past fiscal year including:

- Painting
- Closure and decommissioning of the Fern Ridge Trailhead to address safety and neighbor and user conflict issues
- Maintained and updated CXT restroom buildings
- Completed key trail reroutes on Monument Peak trail system
- In partnership with Trash No Land, was awarded a grant from the NRA Foundation to construct a target shooting lane off Butte Creek Mainline Road
- Replaced roadside signage leading to recreational facilities along the Highway 22 corridor

Post fire project activity:

- Completed post fire assessment of recreational facilities and recreation facility directional signing.
- Completed post fire assessment and post winter 2021 assessment of 26 miles of trail
- Developed maintenance and repair plans for recreation facilities and trails impacted by the fire
- Partnered with Northwest Youth Corps and Trailkeepers of Oregon to hire and manage three interns employed by Northwest Youth Corps and working under the guidance of Trailkeepers of Oregon and ODF staff to complete trail assessment and maintenance work and to support volunteer work party efforts on trails impacted by the fire.
- In partnership with Trailkeepers of Oregon, hosted four volunteer work parties for post fire restoration of trails in the Shellburg Falls area.
- Started reconstruction of Santiam Horse Camp facilities that were damaged by the fire.

West Oregon District

The district has active Adopt-A-Trial agreements with the Mt. Baber ATV Club and the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association. These groups are responsible for the maintenance of the Mt Baber ATV trails and Black Rock mountain bike trails. Over the past year no new trails were constructed in the Black Rock or Mt. Baber ATV areas. Total volunteer hours were associated with maintaining the current infrastructure.

The 2021 winter snow and ice storm significantly impacted the Black Rock Mountain Bike Area trail system. Downed trees and broken branches covered the trail system and damaged trail structures. The trail system was closed for nearly 2 months as The Black Rock Mountain Bike Association facilitated hundreds of hours of volunteer clean-up effort to clear, repair, and reopen the trail system. District staff facilitated the purchase of a 24-acre parcel of land for the purpose of constructing a trailhead staging area for the Black Rock Mountain Bike Area. The majority of the work to facilitate the purchase was done in FY 2021. The purchase is expected to be fully executed in early FY 2022.

Klamath-Lake District: Gilchrist State Forest, Sun Pass State Forest, and other scattered tracts:

The primary recreation strategy in the Eastern Region Long-Range Forest Management Plan is to make District forests available for dispersed recreation. During development of the FMP, it was determined that current users value this type of opportunity because surrounding agencies and private landowners are providing a full spectrum of more developed as well as more primitive recreation opportunities. Working with Klamath Trails Alliance ODF has permitted a scattered parcel to be used as a trailhead for a number of bike trails adjacent to State Lands. Two additional trails will be constructed through this State Parcel.

On the Sun Pass State Forest Klamath Outdoor Science School continues to provide a recreational experience to students, teachers, and chaperones. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic most of the scheduled camps were closed.

The KOSS nature trail is maintained by ODF and continues to provide educational benefits to the users. The district is currently working with the Gilchrist High School on plans to construct a nature/educational trail from the high school to the top of Crescent Butte.