

# RECREATION MANAGEMENT

## Board of Forestry Recreation Accomplishments (FY 2023)

**Table 1: Summary of Volunteer Hours for Recreation Projects FY 2023**

Tillamook State Forest - Forest Grove District	Tillamook State Forest - Tillamook District	Clatsop State Forest	Santiam State Forest	West Oregon District
Facilities and Non-Motorized: 2,486 Motorized: 1,530 Total: 4,016 hours	Facilities and Non-Motorized: 2,198 Motorized: 1,850 Total: 4,048 hours	Facilities and Non-Motorized: 1,260 Motorized: 1,200 Total: 2,460 hours	Facilities and Non-Motorized: 776 Motorized: n/a Total: 776	Non-Motorized: 1,750 Motorized: 150 Total: 1,900

**Table 2: Trail Project Summary for FY 2023**

Activity	Tillamook State Forest		Clatsop State Forest	Santiam State Forest	West Oregon District
	Forest Grove District	Tillamook District	Astoria District	North Cascade District	
<b>OHV Trails (Existing)</b>	102 miles	373.6 miles	28 miles	6 miles	2.2 miles
New Trails Construction	1.8 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles	0 miles
Trail Upgrade/Improvement	2.3 miles	16.8 miles	1.1 miles	0 miles	0 miles
Trails Maintained	15.6 miles	27.1 miles	1.1 miles	6 miles	2.2 miles
<b>Non-Motorized Trails (Existing)</b>	69.4 miles	18.3 miles	20.3 miles	22.2 miles	7.3 miles
New Trails Construction	1.5 miles	0 miles	0 miles	.3 miles	0 miles
Trail Upgrade/Improvement	2.3 miles	6.3 miles	5.6 miles	6 miles	2 miles
Trails Maintained	35 miles	18.3 miles	15 miles	18 miles	7.3 miles

**Table 3: Number of Campers and Revenue from Campgrounds during FY 2023**

<b>Campground</b>	<b>District/Campsites</b>	<b>Campers</b>	<b>Visitor Nights</b>	<b>Revenue</b>
Henry Rierson Spruce Run	Astoria/38 sites	5,270	10,625	\$70,707
Gnat Creek	Astoria/4 sites	785	1,223	\$7,684
Northrup Creek	Astoria/11 sites	607	1,914	\$8,408
Beaver Eddy	Astoria/8 sites	720	1,798	\$7,004
Viewpoint	Astoria/5 sites	159	299	\$1,801
Gales Creek	Forest Grove/19 sites	2,741	4,445	\$32,152
Brown's Camp	Forest Grove/30 sites	2,509	6,650	\$33,802
Stagecoach Horse Camp	Forest Grove/10 sites	62	245	\$822
Elk Creek	Forest Grove/14 sites	2,068	3,330	\$16,745
Rechers Camp	Forest Grove/17 sites	518	1,031	\$7,471
Rock Creek	North Cascade/5 sites	289	455	\$1,099
Butte Creek Falls	North Cascade/3 sites	Not open due to fire damage		
Santiam Horse Camp	North Cascade/12 sites	521	2,134	\$8,975
Jones Creek	Tillamook/44 sites	1,873	9,721	\$69,686
Jordan Creek	Tillamook/6 sites	295	854	\$7,423
Nehalem Falls	Tillamook/21 sites	1,230	5,292	\$43,016
Keenig Creek	Tillamook/12 sites	1,027	3,016	\$19,583
Diamond Mill	Tillamook/15 sites	1,158	2,942	\$6,834
Cedar Creek	Tillamook/25 sites	2,117	5,822	\$12,846
Morrison Eddy	Tillamook/6 sites	208	698	\$3,660
North Fork Wilson	Tillamook/7 sites	578	2,068	\$3,793
<b>Total</b>	<b>312 campsites</b>	<b>24,735 campers</b>	<b>64,562 visitor nights</b>	<b>\$363,511</b>

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## **Recreation Facility Planning and Development Projects**

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Each State Forest and District within ODF's Northwest Oregon Area with developed recreation facilities and trails operates under limited-duration plans that provide a prioritized list of maintenance and development projects. Other State Forests and Districts across the State pursue recreation opportunities as time and resources allow, and in concert with user groups and volunteers.

In FY 2023, the Recreation Team built upon a strong return to “normal” operations following the FY22 COVID-19-impacted operations season. With the return to a standard season, total revenue and visitor nights in most facilities increased throughout the program's developed campgrounds and designated dispersed sites. Outside of campgrounds, use of recreational trails, both motorized and non-motorized, continued to remain at high levels across the Northwest Oregon Area Districts.

With another year under the program's belt as an area-wide team, efficiencies and programmatic standardizations continued to grow. During FY23, the program built new operational manuals and processes for campground fee collection, visitor contact documentation, and maintenance tracking for facility assets. Outside of facilities, the motorized and non-motorized trail operations worked towards creating more sustainable opportunities for recreationalists.

Moving forward in FY24, the Recreation team will continue to focus on providing and maintaining exceptional recreational opportunities and customer service at all developed sites and trails across ODF land and work to further landscape-wide management processes.

The following is a summary of recreation-related accomplishments during FY 2023.

## **Clatsop State Forest—Astoria District**

### **Developed Facility and Non-Motorized Trail Improvements**

- Maintained and fully operated all campgrounds, designated dispersed sites, trailheads, and trail systems throughout the year.
  - This included hiring seasonal staff, communicating with recreationalists for fire and recreation restrictions, documenting infrastructure condition, coordinating contractors for facility operation (garbage services, bathroom cleaning, and septic/holding tank pumping), continuing water system upkeep and testing, and performing all basic facility maintenance.
- Collected fees and tracked occupancy at five developed campgrounds during each facility's operational season: Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground (year-round), Beaver Eddy Campground (May-October), Gnat Creek Campground (year-round), Viewpoint OHV Campground (year-round), and Northrup Creek Horse Campground (May-November)
- Coordinated the demolition of an aged bathroom facility at Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground to enhance visitor experiences and decrease maintenance costs
- Completely re-treaded and repaired the Spruce Run Creek Trail out of Henry Rierson Spruce Run Creek Trailhead for safety and sustainability purposes
- Replaced three aging bridges along the Northrup Creek Horse Trails to provide a more functional trail system for equestrian campers and day-users
- Facilitated recruitment and management of campground hosts at Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground and Northrup Creek Horse Campground for the 2023 operational season
- Monitored and maintained 15 miles of non-motorized trails across the district during all seasons of the year to provide safe and sustainable recreational access
  - Focused on Gnat Creek, Bloom Lake, and Soapstone Lake Trails
- Completed the installation of a new 45-foot-long bridge over Spruce Run Creek in Henry Rierson Spruce Run Campground

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

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

- Completed construction of three OHV trail bridges on the McNary Trail. Project resulted in re-opening the trail that had previously been closed for 2 years due to bridge infrastructure failure
- Completed assessment and monitoring of the entire OHV trail network (28 miles)
- Completed blocking of 4 illegal water crossings created by oversized class 4 vehicles bypassing trail bridges
- Installed trail filters at 8 locations to ensure only appropriately sized OHVs could use trails with trail bridges

## Miscellaneous OHV Program Activities and Accomplishments

- Began development of a long-term trail system plan for the Nicolai Mountain OHV Area

## **Tillamook State Forest—Forest Grove District**

### **Developed Facility and Non-Motorized Trail Improvements**

- Maintained and fully operated all campgrounds, designated dispersed sites, trailheads, and trail systems throughout the year
  - This included hiring seasonal staff, communicating with recreationalists for fire and recreation restrictions, documenting infrastructure condition, coordinating contractors for facility operation (garbage services, bathroom cleaning, and septic/holding tank pumping), continuing water system upkeep and testing, and performing all basic facility maintenance.
- Collected fees and tracked occupancy at five developed campgrounds during each facility's operational season: Reehers Camp Campground (May-October), Browns Camp OHV Campground (April-October), Gales Creek Campground (May-October), Elk Creek Campground (year-round), and Stagecoach Horse Campground (year-round)
- Tracked occupancy and use information at three non-fee non-developed dispersed areas throughout the year: Lyda Camp OHV Staging Area, Chicken Camp and Woods Point undesignated campsites
- Coordinated the installation of three new garbage receptacles infrastructure at Browns Camp OHV Campground and Staging Area to help maintain a "Crumb Clean" facility for marbled murrelet management objectives
- Installed new information boards at Lyda Camp OHV Staging Area and Elk Creek Trailhead
- Successfully facilitated recruitment and management efforts for campground hosts at Gales Creek, Browns Camp, and Reehers Camp Campgrounds for the 2023 operational season
- Operated and maintained 4 designated target shooting lanes in collaboration with our target shooting community partners, Trash No Land
- Monitored and maintained 35 miles of non-motorized trails across the district during all seasons of the year to provide safe and sustainable recreational access
- Continued construction on the new Segment D of the Wilson River Trail. Work was completed in collaboration with Trailkeepers of Oregon, AntFarm Youth Services, and South Fork Crews
  - In total, 1.23 miles of the trail is now complete through volunteer and youth crew work.
- Began construction of the Gravelle Brothers Trail Sand Shed reroute within the Historic Hiking Loop to provide for increased safety of hikers, horseback riders, and mountain bikers
- Finalized the construction of Drift Creek Trailhead to provide parking and access for the future Wilson River Trail expansion project and the current Fear and Loaming downhill mountain bike trail

- Permitted and administered one large-scale running event, one large-scale downhill mountain bike race, two summer-long kids camp, and multiple commercial filming special use permits
- Installed and subsequently removed the seasonal trail bridge across Elk Creek on the Wilson River Trail

### *OHV Trail Projects*

**The Forest Grove District OHV program provides and maintains Class I (quad), II (4WD), III (MC), and IV (Side x Side) 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

- Trestle Trail construction- Completed construction of a 3.3-mile motorcycle trail project connecting Pink Ribbon Trail and Chute Trail

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 (102 miles)
- Completed assessment and monitoring of the entire OHV trail network (102 miles)
- Completed seasonal maintenance and cleaning of 14 OHV trail bridges
- Completed trail tread maintenance on Elliott Creek, Sidewinder, Chute, Cedar Tree, and University Firepower OHV trails

Trail Upgrade/Improvement- Projects focused on improving trail infrastructure and reducing resource impacts

- Completed replacement of decking and railings on Elliott Creek Trail bridge #3
- Replaced Military Trail bridge #1 with appropriately sized culvert, giving our crews access to middle portion of trail for routine maintenance projects
- Completed re-alignment of a portion of Elliott Creek Trail due to uprooted trees compromising trail tread

Miscellaneous OHV Program Activities and Accomplishments

- Administered 5 local club trail use events
- 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 2023 Event Calendar date allocation meeting
- Began development of a long-term trail system plan for the Browns Camp OHV Area
- Maintained the following OHV Program equipment
  - 10 yd dump truck
  - 3 heavy equipment trailers
  - 2 mini-excavators
  - trail dozer
  - ST240 trail machine

- 4 trail motorcycles
- 2 quads
- 2 6x6 utility ATVs
- 2 tracked rock haulers
- 2 trials motorcycles
- 1 side-by-side UTV

## **Tillamook State Forest—Tillamook District**

### **Developed Facility and Non-Motorized Trail Improvements**

- Maintained and fully operated all campgrounds, designated dispersed sites, trailheads, and trail systems throughout the year
  - This included hiring seasonal staff, communicating with recreationalists for fire and recreation restrictions, documenting infrastructure condition, coordinating contractors for facility operation (garbage services, bathroom cleaning, and septic/holding tank pumping), continuing water system upkeep and testing, and performing all basic facility maintenance.
- Collected fees and tracked occupancy at eight developed campgrounds and dispersed camping areas during each facility’s operational season: Jones Creek Campground (May-October), Nehalem Falls Campground (May-October), Keenig Creek Campground (year-round), Jordan Creek OHV Campground (April-October), Diamond Mill OHV Staging Area (year-round), Morrison Eddy Campground (May-October), Cedar Creek Designated Campsites (year-round), and North Fork Designated Campsites (year-round)
- Tracked occupancy and use information at seven non-fee developed dispersed areas throughout the year: Jordan Creek, Cook Creek, North Fork Trask, East Fork Trask, South Fork Trask, and Lake Tahoe Designated Campsites, along with Hollywood OHV Staging Area
- Facilitated recruitment and management of campground hosts at Jones Creek and Nehalem Falls Campgrounds for the 2023 operational season
- Monitored and maintained 18.3 miles of non-motorized trails across the district during all seasons of the year to provide safe and sustainable recreational access
- Permitted and administered one large-scale running event and multiple commercial filming special use permits
- Re-paved and painted the entire parking and roadway at Charles Sprague Wayside on the Tillamook State Forest’s western boundary
- Replaced the aging cedar fence surrounding the maintenance pole barn at Jones Creek Campground for equipment security and maintenance sustainability

### ***OHV Trail Projects***

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

Trail Upgrade/Improvement- Projects focused on improving trail infrastructure and reducing resource impacts

- Completed construction of the Yellowjacket Trail bridge #2.
- Installed 12 appropriately sized culverts on previous open water crossings in the Trask OHV Area Trail System
- Installed 6 temporary trail bridges over previous open water crossings in the Trask OHV Area Trail System which are slated to be replaced with permanent structures in FY24

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 trail tread maintenance on Toll, Jones Creek Rd., Jordan Creek, and Bushong OHV trails
- Completed assessment and monitoring of the entire OHV trail network (373.6 miles)
- Performed trail brushing on 123 miles of OHV trails utilizing volunteers and OHV Program staff

Miscellaneous OHV Program Activities and Accomplishments

- Completed inventory collection of the Trask Area OHV Trail System network
- Administered 6 local club trail use events
- Began development of long-term trail system plans for the Jordan Creek, Diamond Mill, and Trask OHV areas

## **North Cascade District - Santiam State Forest**

- Maintained and fully operated all open campgrounds, designated dispersed sites, trailheads, and trail systems throughout the year
  - This included hiring seasonal staff, communicating with recreationalists for fire and recreation restrictions, documenting infrastructure condition, coordinating contractors for facility operation (garbage services, bathroom cleaning, and septic/holding tank pumping), continuing water system upkeep and testing, and performing all basic facility maintenance
- Collected fees and tracked occupancy at two developed campgrounds and dispersed camping areas during each facility's operational season: Santiam Horse Camp Campground (May-October) and Rock Creek Campground (May- October)
- Facilitated recruitment and management of the program's first campground hosts at Santiam Horse Camp Campground for the 2023 operational season
- Monitored and maintained 18 miles of non-motorized trails across the district during all seasons of the year to provide safe and sustainable recreational access
- Began the work of re-opening the Shellburg Falls Recreation Area with help from Trailkeepers of Oregon, Salem Area Trail Alliance, and Cascadia Trail Crew



- Began construction of the Butte Creek Falls Trail extension which will link Butte Creek Falls Trailhead and the Butte Creek Campground
- Monitored and maintained 6 miles of OHV trails at Crooked Finger OHV Area

## **West Oregon District**

Throughout the year, staff from the Santiam State Forest Recreation Team provided patrols of developed recreation sites across the West Oregon District. The focus of these patrols is on the most heavily utilized sites of Black Rock Mountain Bike Area in the District's Northern Block and the Mt. Baber OHV Area (including Salmon Creek OHV Staging Area) on the District's Western Block. Outside of these two areas, Recreation staff patrolled and provided maintenance work at the developed designated Big Elk Campsites and the undeveloped trails to the Upper and Lower Yaquina Falls.

For most basic maintenance and management of trails and facilities on the West Oregon District, the Recreation Program maintains active agreements with the Mt. Baber ATV Club and the Black Rock Mountain Bike Association. The Mt. Baber ATV Club is responsible for the maintenance of the Mt. Baber ATV Area (including all trails and staging area) throughout the year. Black Rock Mountain Bike Association is responsible for maintenance and improvement of trails at the Black Rock Mountain Bike Area (including all trails and staging area) throughout the year.

### Black Rock Mountain Bike Area Projects

- Completed conceptual design plans for development of a new trailhead parking area that when constructed will avoid ingress and egress to the trail system through private land
- Completed development of a trail system plan for the Black Rock Mountain Bike Area

## **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 several bike trails adjacent to State Lands.

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.

### **ODF-Wide Recreation Management Activities:**

To ensure appropriate information is distributed from internal ODF sources, the Recreation team works with ODF Public Affairs staff to maintain correct information on the ODF webpage and through outwardly facing messaging. Additionally, the Tillamook State Forest Blog is maintained by Recreation team staff to ensure appropriate messaging and updates are provided to recreationalists across the department's most heavily used forest. Lastly, throughout the year, as opportunities or needs arise, Recreation staff work with local newspapers, recreational clubs, and other non-profits to inform the public about recreational opportunities, fire restrictions, and other forest management practices taking place across ODF land.