

Summary of Public Comment – State Forests Recreation Rulemaking

The Division held a public comment period from February 1st through March 4th, 2018 and held public hearings on February 26th, 2018 and March 1st, 2018. Six people submitted written testimony and seven provided comment at the hearings. The comment was primarily focused on the implementation of a reservation system at the Astoria District's Northrup Creek campground. All comments were supportive of the rules to allow for the reservation system to be used. Comments were also submitted in support of the reduction in camping stay limits. Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET), an equestrian user group, submitted written comment in support of the reservation system, but did encourage usage patterns be evaluated to ensure equestrian users have access to the corral sites at Northrup Creek. They also wrote in support of the change in camping fees. OET did express concern over the rule allowing removal of unattended property, so that legitimate recreation users don't have equipment or vehicles removed while they are away. Another equestrian user group, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon, also provided comment in support of the reservation system at Northrup Creek. This group also supported the fee increase, noting that while many equestrian users won't bring a second vehicle, the fees are still in-line with other equestrian sites in the state. There was concern over the lack of clarity regarding the prohibition on horses in non-designated areas, as what is a designated area for horses is not clear in the rules.