



**Bureau of Land Management
Vale District Office**

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center Business Plan



**Bureau of Land Management
Vale District – National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center
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Date

Executive Summary

This business plan was prepared pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of December 2004 (P.L. 108-447, as amended), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreation fee program policy and manual direction. The FLREA provides BLM the authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreational lands. The process includes involvement of a Resource Advisory Council (RAC). RACs provide recommendations to agency official on matters including, but not limited to; implementing or eliminating fees, expanding or limiting the recreation fee program, and implementing fee level changes.

This business plan addresses standard amenity fees at the National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center (NHOTIC). It includes research and analysis of fees charged at comparative sites in the Pacific Northwest.

The NHOTIC has been collecting fees since 1997 under the authority of the federal Recreational Fee Demonstration Program, and this authority was replaced by FLREA in 2005. Fees were established in 1997 and increased in 2008. There have been no changes to NHOTIC’s fee rates since 2008.

The NHOTIC is a 509-acre developed recreation and cultural heritage site located 5 miles east of Baker City, Oregon. It opened in 1992, and has hosted over two million visitors. It plays an important role in the BLM interpretation and recreation program, heritage program, and in the regional tourism economy.

This plan proposes to:

- Increase per person fee for Seniors 62 and over
- Add an Expanded Amenity fee for special activities
- Increase commercial group fee to match current group use fee for Special Recreation Permits
- Provide free fee days for the entire month of December.
- Discontinue a site specific pass.

Tables of existing and proposed standard amenity fees

Existing Fee Schedule (2008 to present)

Per Person Fee		
	April 1 – October 31	November 1 – March 30
Adult (16 and over)	\$8 two days	\$5 two days
Youth (15 and under)	Free	Free
Seniors (62 and over)	\$4.50 (free with Senior Pass)	\$3.50 (free with Senior Pass)
Commercial groups	\$5/person	Same
Annual NHOTIC Pass or Membership	\$25 individual, \$45 family	Same
Exterior visitors*	Free	Same
Bona-fide Educational groups	Free	Free
Monthly Free Fee Day	10 days per year	
All America the Beautiful federal interagency passes honored and available for sale. **	Regional or special passes when authorized and available.	

Proposed new Fee Schedule

Per Person Fee	April 1 – October 31	Nov 1 – March 31	Special
Adult (16 and over) (free for pass holders)	\$8.00 two days	\$5.00 two days	Month of December free fee for entire month.
Youth (15 and under)	Free	Free	
Senior (62 and over) (free for pass holders)	\$6.00 two days	\$4.00 two days	Month of December free fee
Commercial groups	\$6.00 per person	same	
Exterior visitors*	Free	same	
Bona-fide educational groups	Free	same	
Expanded Amenity fee	\$3.00 per person per hour	same	
Free Days	Nine (once per month) per year; month of December free*** – total of 26 days per year. No free days during July, August.		
All America the Beautiful federal interagency passes honored and available for sale **	No regional or special passes available at this time.		

*Exterior visitors who come through the main entrance gate are charged according to the appropriate fee rate. Hikers who come on site through other access points are not charged.

**Includes: Annual, Senior Annual, Senior Lifetime, Military, and Access and Every Kid in a Park passes.

***The NHOTIC is open four days per week December – mid-February.

Introduction

This business plan was prepared pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of December 2004 (P.L. 108-447, as amended), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) recreation fee program policies included in Manual 2930 – Recreation Permits and Fees and Handbook H-2930-1 – Recreation Permit and Fee Administration. FLREA provides the BLM current authority to establish, modify, charge, and collect recreation fees at Federal recreational lands and waters. FLREA authorized the BLM to locally retain collected recreation fees and outlines how revenues may be used.

The BLM's guidelines for determining fee rates is not to maximize revenue but to help protect natural resources, provide for public health and safety, and facilitate access to public lands. Fees should be balanced and affordable for all members of the public, rather than an impediment. Fees are a way of ensuring that those who actively use recreation opportunities make a greater, but reasonable contribution toward protecting and enhancing these opportunities than those who do not.

Under FLREA, a Standard Amenity fee and an Expanded Amenity fee may be charged for the use of certain facilities and/or services. These fees are usually implemented through the issuance of a recreation use permit (RUP)* or through a specific annual pass. BLM policy requires that revenue from RUPs be deposited into a separate account (H-2930-1 pgs. 2-3). This allows the BLM to more readily track and report collections and ensures that RUP revenue is spent at or near the site of collection.

This site qualifies as a Category 2: Standard Amenity Recreation Sites and Services.

Definitions of Standard and Expanded Amenity Fee Sites used in this business plan were taken from FLREA, BLM Manual 2930, and BLM Handbook H-2930-1, which include this description:

Standard Amenity Sites: Destination visitor/interpretive/discovery centers. Sites and facilities designed and managed to provide a broad range of information and interpretive programs. These facilities may have a natural or cultural attraction as a major theme, and they provide basic interpretive services, such as short interpretive talks at campgrounds and visitor centers for which there is no separate charge.

Purpose of Document

BLM Handbook H-2930-1 requires that each recreation fee program have an approved business plan which thoroughly discusses fees and how fees are consistent with the criteria set forth in FLREA. Business plans are to inform management in determining the appropriate level of fees, understand the cost of administering a fee program, the expected benefits to be derived for the public, and to provide a structured communication and marketing plan. The plan serves as public notification of the objectives for use of recreation fee revenues and to provide the public an opportunity to comment. The finalized business plan guides the expenditure of collected FLREA funds and insures public accountability.

*Recreation Use Permit is not the same as a Special Recreation Permit.

The data used to analyze and prepare this business plan comes from internal BLM tracking and accounting systems such as its Federal Business Management System (FBMS), Recreation Management Information System (RMIS), and Collections and Billing Systems (CBS), as well as site specific records of

visitation trends, visitor use, expenses and labor utilization. Data on visitor use trends comes also from local and regional tourism organizations, Oregon State heritage and recreation studies, and miscellaneous industry related information.

Prohibitions on Charging REA Fees

The FLREA provides listed exclusions for charging standard or expanded amenity recreation fees (P.L. 108-447 Section J Title VIII, Sec. 803 (d)). Those relevant to the NHOTIC site are:

- For any person who is engaged in the conduct of official Federal, State, Tribal or local government business.
- For special attention or extra services necessary to meet the needs of the disabled.
- Any person under 16 years of age
- Outings conducted for noncommercial educational purposes by schools or bona fide academic institutions.
- Any person engaged in a non-recreational activity authorized under a valid permit issued under any other Act.

Under the FLREA, fees cannot be charged at Standard Amenity Recreation sites for recreational use of Federal lands and waters unless the site meets specific criteria. FLREA's statutory criteria relevant for the NHOTIC Business Plan are:

- A destination visitor interpretive center that provides a broad range of interpretive services, programs and media.

And for the surrounding area within the designated boundaries:

- provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation
- has substantial Federal investments
- fees can be efficiently collected
- contains all of the following amenities: Designated developed parking, a permanent toilet facility, a permanent trash receptacle, interpretive sign, exhibit or kiosk, picnic tables, and security services.

Fee Discounts and Passes

Section 805 of the FLREA describes availability and use of America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass. The NHOTIC accepts these passes for admission of the pass holder and up to 3 accompanying others. The NHOTIC offers a commercial group rate which is lower than individual adult admission, but applies to all members of a commercial tour group regardless of individual ownership of passes. The NHOTIC offered a site specific annual pass, but this plan calls to discontinue that program. As appropriate, the NHOTIC may participate in other national or regional pass programs, free days, or special rate reduction programs as directed by the Oregon/Washington State Office.

NHOTIC uses the Standard Amenity Recreation Fee as defined in the FLREA. Based on its history of fee collection from 1997 through 2018, use of passes, free days, and free admission options for youth under 16 and school groups resulted in an average of 70-80% of visitors entering the NHOTIC at no charge. This has a significant impact on fee revenue, however it has been fairly consistent and predictable, and in line with trends recorded by similar recreation sites and National Park Service figures for impacts of pass use.



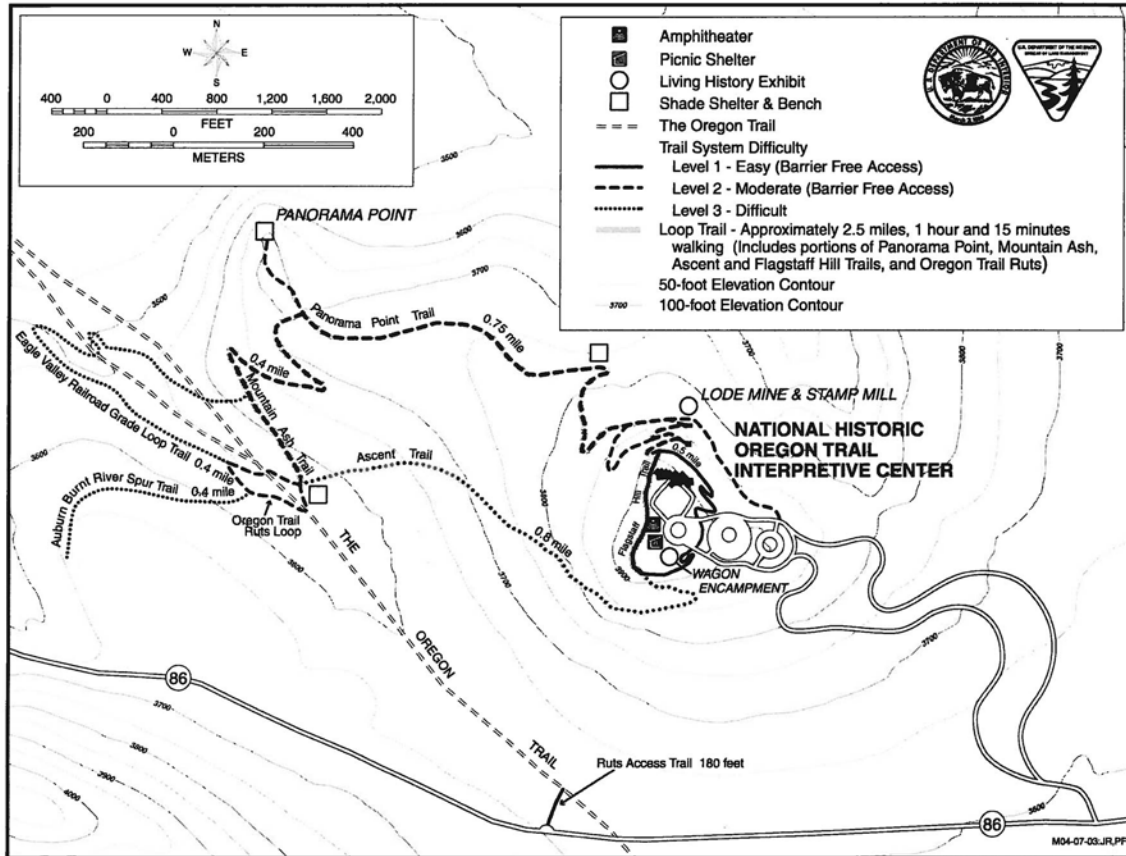
Background

National Historic Oregon Trail Interpretive Center is part of the BLM Vale District. The facility is located just outside Baker City, Oregon. Opened in 1992, it was designed to be a destination visitor center, with significant input and support from the local community and state tourism and economic development organizations. The facility and operations were designed to accommodate recreational and educational activities for the general public and enhance sustainable tourism initiatives in eastern Oregon. It is located on the Oregon National Historic Trail, and cultural features include wagon ruts from the Oregon Trail migrations of the mid-19th century, and buildings and workings of a historic gold mine dating to the 1890s.

Site:

- 509 acre fenced site, at 22267 Oregon Hwy 86, five miles east of Baker City, Oregon.
- One mile stretch of Oregon Trail route and ruts, adjacent ruts on adjoining public and private lands.
- 4.5 miles of hiking trails with interpretive signs, including 3.5 miles that are paved and graded for universal accessibility.
- Trail system includes shade shelters and interpretive signs.
- Picnic shelter.
- Outdoor wagon encampment interpretive area.
- Outdoor Mining interpretation area: recreated 5-stamp mill, gold panning demo area, blacksmith shop, adit.
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Main Interpretive Center building, two levels: 16,545 square foot building with exhibits, theater, multipurpose room, sales outlet, office and work space, restrooms, storage. 2,323 sq. ft lower level includes mechanical equipment and 55,000 gallon water tank.
- Maintenance/artifact storage building: 8,000 square feet, includes storage for maintenance supplies and equipment, mechanical and carpentry workshops, three bay garage, interpretive supply storage, an artifact repository and associated workrooms, office space, restrooms.
- Fee booth at main entrance.
- Waste water lagoon system
- Well and water filtration system
- Two miles of paved driveway, three parking lots for 107 passenger vehicles, 26 oversize vehicles.

-Site, exhibits and building designed to accommodate 200 visitors per hour; have had events exceeding 700 visitors on site within one hour.



Recreation Use

The site does not offer any camping or overnight stay options – it is day use only with minor exceptions as permitted through individual Special Recreation Permits for group events outside of scheduled hours. The site is open daily except for 10 weeks from December 1 to mid-February, when it is open to the public Thursday-Sunday. Peak visitation months are June-September, with lower visitation in spring and autumn shoulder months, and very low visitation in December and January.

Over the past 5 years, NHOTIC has averaged 40,000 visitors per year.

In addition to exhibits and non-facilitated interpretation such as films and interpretive signs, ranger led programs and activities are offered several times a day during peak summer months, and on a lesser schedule during shoulder seasons and winter months. Educational materials and recreation information materials are distributed to the visiting public.

Typically visitors spend 30 minutes to 3 hours on activities including viewing permanent and special exhibits, attending programs or films in the theater, participating in ranger led demonstrations, talks, or guided hikes, visiting the gift shop, self-guided hikes on interpretive trails, visiting the outdoor mine

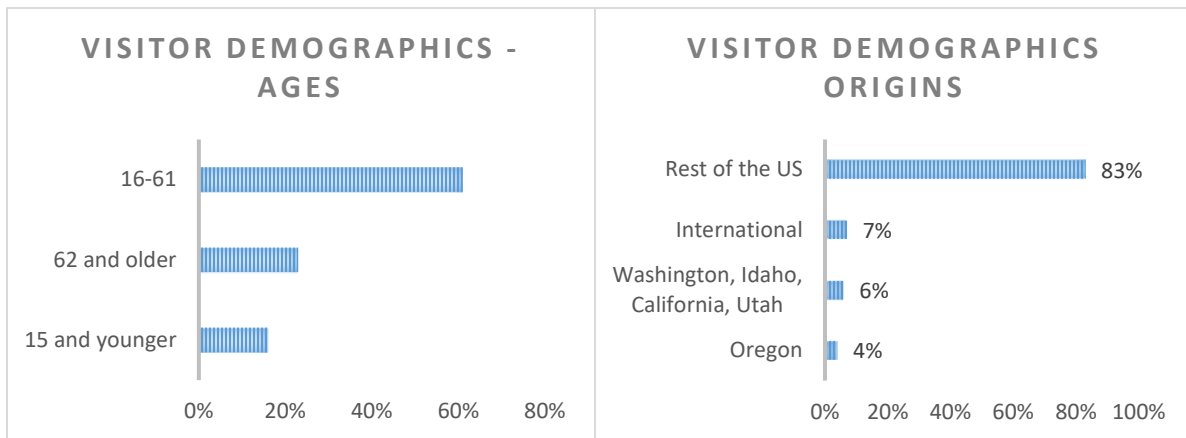
exhibit, picnicking, and visiting the Oregon Trail ruts. A Junior Ranger activity is also offered and many family visitors participate in that opportunity.

Approximately 10% of NHOTIC's annual visitation is from organized educational groups who participate in a self-guided hike, ranger provided educational activities, special exhibits, theater presentations by staff or contracted interpreters, and using site specific educational materials.

Demographics of visitors

Data on origins of visitors is determined by guest book entries and parking lot surveys. For the past five years, averages indicate approximately 4% of visitors come from Oregon, mostly western Oregon. Less than 0.25% originate from Baker County. Approximately 6% of US visitors originate from Washington, Idaho, California, and Utah. International visitors comprise about 7% of annual visitation, mainly from Canada and northern European countries.

In 2018, 16% of visitors were age 15 and under; 23% were 62 and older. 3,204 visitors attended as part of a school group, either as students or chaperones.



Fee Revenue over the past five years:

2014: \$92,303.50
2015: \$99,055.00
2016: \$98,657.50
2017: \$109,594.00
2018: \$86,795.00*
AVERAGE: \$97,281.00

*due to staffing shortages, NHOTIC was open 148 hours less during summer 2018 than in previous years, impacting visitation numbers and fee revenue.

Fee Collection:

Fees have been collected at this site since 1997. Previous business plan updates were completed in 2005 following the enactment of the FLREA, and in 2008 which increased fees to their current rate. Fees are collected by NHOTIC staff designated as a "Fee Collection Officer," and when available, through an

agreement with a partner organization called the Trail Tenders. Fees are collected at a main gate fee collection station, or a station located within the main doors of the interpretive center building. Cooperating association collects fees at the sales outlet located within the Interpretive Center Building.

The NHOTIC uses a point of sales cash register, as well as the BLM’s CBS to process cash and credit card transactions, including RUPs and America the Beautiful Passes. Fee collections are reconciled daily, and deposited weekly. Although site management has explored options for self-serve payment, as of this date a cost effective system that would serve visitor and management needs has not been found. If a feasible self-collection system becomes available in the future, it is highly likely to be initiated to help improve efficiency and consistency of processing visitor transactions and reduce costs of fee collection.

The NHOTIC makes reservation style prearrangements for many group tours and educational groups. For group tours, fees are estimated ahead of time.

Overall operating costs of NHOTIC:

Expense	2019 estimated cost
Permanent staff (manager, lead Park Ranger, 1 full time and 3 permanent seasonal Park Rangers, 1 full time Exhibit specialist)	\$436,000
Maintenance Staff	\$187,200
Seasonal Temp Park Rangers	\$35,000
Equipment/Supplies/Services/Travel/Training – Interp Staff	\$60,000
Equipment/Supplies/Services/Travel/Training - Maintenance	\$30,000
Vehicles – Interp & Maintenance	\$25,000
TOTAL	\$773,000

This is for average basic operating costs. It does not include district overhead costs, special project funds, or deferred maintenance projects. Utilities, security and communication costs are also not included, as these are managed through different budget avenues outside of the district. Utilities average \$70,000 to \$90,000 per year. Deferred maintenance projects vary in scope and size, but in recent years, can add \$100,000 to \$200,000 to annual costs.

Market Research

Fees at Comparable sites in Pacific Northwest

Site	Management	adult	senior	Child	comments
Tamastlikt Cultural Institute	Tribal Non-profit	\$10.00	\$9.00	\$6.00	Fees pay for 2 days under 5 free
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center	Private Non-Profit W/USFS & County support	\$9.00	\$7.00	\$5.00	Groups 6.50 10 or more under 5 free
Four Rivers Cultural center	Non-profit	\$4.00	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$2 per person w/ groups 10 or more
End of the Oregon Trail	Oregon Trail Foundation non-profit	\$13.00	\$9.00	\$9 (13-18) \$7(4-12)	Children 3 and under are free, as well as active military personnel
High Desert Museum	Non-profit	\$15.00 (W-12\$)	\$12.00 Student/Senior (W-10\$)	\$9.00 (W-7\$)	Winter (W) season reduced
Ore/Cal Trail Center Montpelier, ID	Closed in Winter	\$12.00	\$11.00	\$9(8-17) \$5(4-7)	School and group rates available
Baker Heritage Museum	County	\$6.00	\$5.00	\$5.00	12 and under free
Umpqua Discovery Center	Non-profit W/ city taxes	\$8.00(16+)		\$4.00(5-16)	Under 5 free
Lewis & Clark National Historical Park	National Park Service	\$7.00(16+)		15 and under free	\$30 Lewis and Clark National Historical Park Annual Pass covers entrance fee for the pass holder and three other adults. Oregon Coast Pass covers State and Federal coastal fee sites \$35. All Federal Passes honored
Museum at Warm Springs	Tribal Non-profit	\$7.00	\$6.00 (60+)	\$4.50 (13-18) \$3.50 (5-12)	No charge 4 yrs. and under group rates
Columbia River Maritime Museum	Private Non-profit	\$14.00	\$12.00 (65+)	\$5.00 (6-17)	3D Film \$5.00 Ages 6 and under free
Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area	BLM	\$7.00 per vehicle fee – 3 day pass			Vehicle fees: Motorcycle \$3.00 for 3 day. Commercial group rates. Accepts Oregon Coast passes.
Mt. Saint Helens Johnson Ridge Observatory	Federal US Forest Service	\$8.00 daily		Ages 15 and under free	Accepts Federal Passes

Proposed new fee schedule

Per Person Fee	April 1 – October 31	Nov 1 – March 31	Special
Adult (16 and over) (free for pass holders)	\$8.00 two days	\$5.00 two days	Month of December free fee for entire month.
Youth (15 and under)	Free	Free	
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Expanded Amenity fee	\$3.00 per person per hour	same	
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All America the Beautiful federal interagency passes honored and available for sale	No regional or special passes available at this time.		

Explanation of proposed changes.

Adult pass rate is retained after examining options of raising to \$10 or \$12. Although higher rates would be consistent with similar sites in the Pacific Northwest, feedback from visitors informed us that this is a significant cumulative impact especially to families who wish to visit multiple sites, and may deter some from choosing to visit. As many seniors and children get into the NHOTIC at no cost, multiple adults in family groups incur a significant charge. A fee at this level seems to encourage many to donate or patronize the gift shop.

The increase on **the Senior Fee** was primarily inspired to remove a previous charge of \$4.50 and \$3.50 which was cumbersome for cashiers handling change making funds. The proposed rate was sampled with some visitors who felt it was affordable and appropriate. Currently the Senior Lifetime Pass is \$80, the Senior Annual Pass is \$20, and with the proposed NHOTIC fee of \$6.00, this provides some options for seniors. Many seniors possess and utilize valid senior passes purchased in the past or at another site.

The Commercial group rate was raised to match the current rate for Group Use under the Special Recreation Permit program.

The Expanded Amenity fee is a response to increased requests for specialized services from visiting groups, and especially from schools and educational groups in recent years. We have heard the following from educators:

- Requests for targeted educational activities at our interpretive site from schools and home schools
- Teachers relate they have less time to develop lesson plans for experiential activities, but sometimes have available funding to pay for this.
- Teachers have reached out to us as having received grants for these types of activities, and looking for a place to accommodate the need.
- Our site and the story are good opportunities to provide experiential, kinesthetic, and subject specific activities to students of all abilities; and can handle large groups.
- NHOTIC provides educational opportunities that enhance existing curriculums and education benchmarks.
- NHOTIC has subject matter expertise often unavailable to schools.
- Proximity to natural and cultural resources in an easy to reach recreation site in an advantage for group visits.

Background on what is currently available:

- NHOTIC has provided educational programs both on site and in school visits as staffing and budget allows, since inception in 1992.
- NHOTIC outreach includes a “standard” visit to school groups: self-guided tours, activity booklet, educational films, access to hiking trails and the Oregon Trail Ruts, and a seasonal exhibit for school groups “Pack Your Wagon” from February through June.
- Some extra activities and specialized programs have been sporadically funded using partner group dollars and grants through the cooperating association. This is not reliable funding.
- Specialized programs in recent years are estimated to have benefitted 800 to 1,200 students annually.

Our research on programs at similar sites informed us that:

- There is a range of additional activities and funding methods at both federal and non-federal/private/non-profit facilities. Additional fee for special activities is common.
- Some supplement these needs through donations from cooperating associations or donors.
- Many charge an extra fee for additional services or customized programs.
- Some charge a fee for specific programs, others use a per person or per hour fee.
- The BLM’s Campbell Creek Science Center in Alaska is a somewhat similar example of how the agency has utilized an activity/Expanded Amenity fee.

Under FLREA, Section 803(g)(2)(F), “The Secretary may charge an expanded amenity recreation fee, either in addition to a standard amenity fee or by itself, at Federal recreational lands and waters under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management or the Bureau of Reclamation but only for the following facilities or services:....(F) Participation in an enhanced interpretive program or special tour.”

Our proposed management and use of the Expanded Amenity fee:

- Charge a per person/per hour rate for all activities of \$3.00 per person/per hour for special activities.

- Have outreach listing of offerings via website, with information on how to arrange for customized visit.
- We estimate revenue at this rate at this time is \$3,600 to \$4,000 per year.
- Funds would be utilized mostly for materials and supplies, and toward permanent or seasonal labor, extra hours, overtime, as needed to present programs.

Month of December Free resulted from analysis of revenue generated versus cost of collection during this month. Statistics show December is typically an extremely slow month, with visitation that is not balanced out by cost of collection. The proposal to make the month free is hoped to increase awareness and visitation, and increase business for the partners' gift shop located on site. This proposal was especially endorsed by local tourism partners, who see opportunities to include this to encourage overall tourism objectives for winter months in the region.

Proposed use of fee revenue

This reflects analysis of fee revenue use from 1997 to the present and expected future use.

60% - temporary and term employees providing visitor services, fee collection, interpretation and maintenance.

1% - fee collecting supplies, equipment, and services

10% - additional interpretive programs, supplies, and outreach

5% - special exhibits, printed interpretive materials, interpretive signs and trail signs

9% - maintenance projects – trail improvements, visitor amenity improvements (such as picnic tables, restroom upgrades),

15% - cooperative projects with partner groups related to providing interpretation, outreach, enhanced tourism information or visitor services.

The additional fee revenue from the proposed changes will allow us to continue these uses which are generally not achievable with limited BLM base funding. We will be able to increase educational activities for school groups and adult education groups. Educational program costs typically require some supplies, and sometimes additional labor for a BLM employee, or for a contracted presentation. The additional fee revenue will also open some new opportunities for partnering with non-government organizations on development, implementation and promotion of new educational activities. Expanding the program for hands-on experiential learning is of special interest of NHOTIC's potential partners the Oregon Trail Preservation Trust and Eastern Oregon University.



Impacts of implementing or not implementing new schedule

- Free December has an expected loss of revenue based on average of last 5 years of \$600 annually, but savings in cost of collections, and potential boost in donation and gift shop revenue for a partner organization.
- Increase in commercial group rate has potential increased revenue of \$4,000 and would make it consistent with current group Special Recreation Permit rate.
- Increase in Senior rate has potential revenue increase of \$3,000, and would ease collection issues by eliminating the need for including quarters and half dollars in managing cashier change funds.
- Special activity fee expected revenue is \$4,000 to \$5,000 to be used specifically for supply and service costs associated with providing the extra activities.
- Implementing these cost changes now will provide additional funds for sustaining and building visitor and educational programs; not implementing new schedule will result in fewer programs and delays in accomplishing maintenance related improvements.
- There are no increased costs for collection of fees under this proposal. Additional fees can go entirely towards supply, services, and visitor amenity upgrades.

OUTREACH

Shareholder Input, visitor feedback, and employee observations

- Informal data based on fee collector assessment of comments from visitors indicates most visitor consider the current \$8.00 per adult rate appropriate and affordable, the current senior rate is expressed as a bargain. In 2018, many more seniors used the RUP rate rather than choosing to purchase a senior pass. Fee collectors do not hear many complaints about rates.

-We contacted individuals and organizations involved with heritage and tourism in Baker County: Oregon Trail Preservation Trust, Trail Tenders, Inc., Eastern Oregon Visitors Association, Baker County Marketing(BaseCampBaker), Baker County Parks and Recreation, Baker County Chamber of Commerce, Baker Heritage Museum, Hells Canyon Scenic Byway Marketing Association, Hells Canyon Adventures, Geiser Grand Hotel, Mountain View RV. Based on this extensive outreach with local and regional partners we found:

- Proposed rates are appropriate and supported.
- Some suggestions that adult rate was low but understanding of rationale.
- A couple of requests to keep senior rates as low as reasonable.
- Generally enthused and supportive of concept of free month in December.
- One suggestion to have the entire winter free.
- We answered many questions and addressed misconceptions about national passes.
- We heard and answered questions about alternatives for self-pay with credit card or phone app, and any options for prepay via internet.

Organizations contacted regarding developing an activity fee: Baker Heritage Museum, Campbell Creek Science Center, Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, Columbia River Maritime Museum, End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center, High Desert Museum, Lewis & Clark National Historical Park, Museum at Warm Springs, National Historic Trails Center - Casper, Oregon-California Trail Center - Elko, Tamastslit Cultural Institute, Umpqua discover Center, Haines Elementary School, Harvest Christian Academy, Oakgrove Elementary – Portland, Family Academy – Seattle, Cove School – Cove, South Baker Elementary School – Baker City, North Powder School – North Powder, Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington Bend Service Center.

From these contacts we gathered feedback regarding needs, comparable programming and special fees which helped determine feasibility and appropriate rates.

Keeping the public informed on collection and use of fees at this site.

Our plan for outreach and notice about fees has these steps:

- Public notice of proposed fee changes will be posted on site until implemented.
- Annual report on use of fees will be posted on site.
- New releases will be sent to local and regional newspapers informing the public of fee changes.
- News releases regarding fee changes will include contact information.
- Information on fee changes will be posted on website.
- Fee signs will be changed when new fee schedule implemented.
- Notice will be published in Federal Register six months before implementation.
- Vale District will present fee proposals to John Day Snake River RAC for formal review.
- Notices will be posted on site for projects, programs and services funded through fee revenue.