



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

BLM Coeur D'Alene Field Office Mica Bay Boater Park, Windy Bay Boater Park and Killarney Lake Campground Business Plan



June 2024

BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office Mica Bay Boater Park, Windy Bay Boater Park and Killarney Lake Campground Business Plan

Mica Bay Boater Park – LVRDID240000
Windy Bay Boater Park – LVRDID250000
Killarney Lake Campground – LVRDID260000

Recommendations, Reviews, and Approvals

Recommended by:

J. Raymond Pease, Field Manager, Coeur d'Alene Field Office Date

Reviewed by:

Kurt Pindel, District Manager, Coeur d'Alene District Office Date

Approved by:

Peter Ditton, Idaho State Director Date

This business plan was prepared by the Bureau of Land Management's Coeur d'Alene Field Office pursuant to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6801-6814) and BLM recreation fee program policies. It establishes future management goals and priorities for the Mica Bay Boater Park, Windy Bay Boater Park and Killarney Lake Campground within the Coeur d'Alene Field Office.



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Coeur d'Alene Field Office
3232 W. Nursery
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815



In Reply Refer to:
2932 (IDC01000)

Dear Reader,

I would like to present for your review and comment the *Draft Business Plan for Mica Bay Boater Park, Windy Bay Boater Park, and Killarney Lake Campground*. These recreation sites are currently overnight campgrounds within the Coeur d'Alene Field Office (CDAFO) of the Coeur d'Alene District Office of Idaho. These sites fall within the Lake Coeur d'Alene Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and the Killarney Lake SRMA. Currently these sites are fee sites for overnight use. The authority to collect and retain these fees derives from the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (FLREA).

Currently each of these campgrounds charge \$10/night per site for overnight camping as well as a \$30 day-use fee for the group pavilion at Mica Bay Boater Park. We propose to raise the site fees at each campground from \$10/night per individual site to \$20/night per individual site. Also included in this proposal would be raising the day-use fee for the group pavilion from \$30 for use up to \$100 for use, the fee will start at \$80 and will phase up to the full cost. Finally, we are proposing to implement day-use fees at Mica Bay and Killarney Lake locations of \$10 per vehicle per day with the fee starting at \$5 and phasing up to the full amount.

Over the last decade, North Idaho has seen tremendous growth in population and outdoor recreation use. This growth has driven an increase in alternative types of usage at some of our developed facilities. Windy Bay Boater Park, Mica Bay Boater Park and Killarney Lake Campground have all seen a substantial increase in day-use recreation over this period. The Covid-19 pandemic further drove up use rates at BLM recreational facilities.

We prepared the *Draft Business Plan for Mica Bay Boater Park, Windy Bay Boater Park, and Killarney Lake Campground* primarily to show how recreation fee revenues have been spent in the past and how we plan to invest fee revenues in the future. In addition, we want to provide you the opportunity to comment on the proposed fee price increases. Comments may be mailed to Bureau of Land Management, Coeur d'Alene Field Office, Windy Bay, Mica Bay, and Killarney Lake Business Plan, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815, or emailed to: **BLM_ID_CD_CDAREcreationFees@blm.gov** (put "Windy Bay, Mica Bay and Killarney Lake Business Plan Comment" in the subject line). Comments are most useful if received by July 11, 2024.

Thank you for your interest in public lands,

J. Raymond Pease
Coeur d'Alene Field Manager
Bureau of Land Management – Idaho

Table of Contents

1	Executive Summary	5
2	Background and Authorities	5
3	Introduction to the Coeur d'Alene Field Office Recreation Program	6
4	Description of Each Existing or Proposed Fee Site/Area	7
5	Proposed Modifications to Recreation Fee Rates	12
6	Operating Costs.....	13
7	Revenues	14
8	Priorities for Future Expenditures.....	15
9	Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates	15
10	Impacts from Changing and Non-Changing Recreation Fee Rates	16
11	Public Outreach.....	17

Tables

Table 1: Current and Proposed Fees	13
Table 2: Total Operating Costs 2016-2023	14
Table 3: Past Revenues 2016-2023	14
Table 4: Projected Revenues 2025-2029	14
Table 5 Analysis of Similar Fee Sites	15

Figures

Figure 1: View of Mica Bay Boater Park	8
Figure 2: Docks of Windy Bay Boater Park	9
Figure 3: Killarney Lake Campground on a busy day	10
Figure 4: Map Showing Location of CDAFO Recreation Sites around Coeur d'Alene Lake	11

1 Executive Summary

This business plan proposes to modify and add recreation fees at three different recreation sites within the Coeur d'Alene Field Office (CDAFO). The fees at the three sites have not been adjusted since 2012. Since that time, public use at the sites has dramatically increased. The heavy increase in use is the result of both a significant influx of new residents moving into north Idaho, and an increase in the popularity of recreation associated with Coeur d'Alene Lake. At the same time, costs for operation, regular maintenance and upgrades have climbed steeply.

These sites covered in this Business plan are Mica Bay Boater Park, Windy Bay Boater Park, and Killarney Lake Campground. Each site is fully operated and maintained by the CDAFO offering overnight camping and day-use activities.

The CDAFO is responsible for daily upkeep as well as long-term maintenance, feature replacements and upgrades. Specific ongoing costs include lawn mowing and maintenance, toilet pumping, signage, water testing, trash collection, hazard tree mitigation, campground host reimbursement (Mica Bay), compliance checks, and basic site upkeep. All three sites have boat dock systems which see extensive use. These docks need to be maintained periodically and eventually replaced. Fees collected are used for operations and maintenance costs, with excess monies generated being carried over annually for improving infrastructure and adding amenities desired by the visiting public.

The current overnight camping fee at each location is \$10. The Mica, Windy, and Killarney Business Plan proposes to increase the overnight camping fee to \$20 and proposes to implement a new day-use fee of up to \$10 at Mica and Killarney that will be phased up after starting at \$5. Day-use fees can be waived with valid annual purchase of the CDAFO's Access Pass for \$80. We will also be increasing the day-use pavilion fee at the Mica Bay Pavilion to \$80. These fees were determined through a comparative cost review of similar public and private facilities in the surrounding area as required by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004.

Public outreach for this proposed business plan includes posting at each recreation site, a news release to local and regional media, social media posts, posting on BLM websites and a Notice published in the Federal Register. Comments from the public and the BLM The Idaho Statewide Recreation Resource Advisory Council will be considered prior to the implementation of the proposed recreation fees.

2 Background and Authorities

This business plan has been prepared to meet the criteria defined in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-447; Title VIII, Section 801; 16 U.S.C. 6801–6814). The authorities and regulations for this business plan are:

- **The Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976** (Public Law 94-579; 43 U.S.C. 1701–1787), contains BLM's general land use management authority over the public lands, and establishes outdoor recreation as one of the principal uses of those lands. Section 302 (b) of FLPMA directs the Secretary of the Interior to regulate through permits or other instruments the use of the public lands. Section 303 of FLPMA contains BLM's authority to enforce the regulations and impose penalties.
- **The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) of 2004** repealed applicable portions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act and replaced BLM's authority to collect recreation fees. This current law authorizes BLM to collect recreation fees at sites that meet

certain requirements, allows BLM to keep the fee revenues at the local offices where they were collected, and directs how BLM will manage and utilize these revenues. FLREA also established the America the Beautiful – The National Parks and Federal Recreational Pass Program.

- **Title 43 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 2930 (43 CFR 2930) Permits for Recreation on Public Lands** contains the regulations governing BLM’s recreation permitting program.

This business plan has also been prepared pursuant to all applicable BLM recreation fee program policies and guidance, including:

- BLM Manual 2930, *Recreation Permits and Fees*, Rel. 2-296 dated October 22, 2007
- BLM Handbook 2930-1, *Recreation Permit and Fee Administration Handbook*, Rel. 2-300 dated November 17, 2014

The BLM strives to manage recreation and visitor services to serve the diverse visitor outdoor recreation demands while helping to maintain sustainable setting conditions needed to conserve the public lands, so the visitors’ desired recreation choices remain available. The BLM’s goals for delivering recreation benefits from BLM-administered lands and waters to the American people and their communities are to:

- Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities,
- Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources, and
- Provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

3 Introduction to the Coeur d’Alene Field Office Recreation Program

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) strives to manage recreation and visitor services to serve diverse visitor outdoor recreation demands while helping to maintain sustainable setting conditions needed to conserve public lands so the visitor’s desired recreation choices remain available. The BLM’s goals for delivering recreation benefits from BLM-administered lands to the American people and their communities are:

- Improve access to appropriate recreation opportunities;
- Ensure a quality experience and enjoyment of natural and cultural resources; and
- Provide for and receive fair value in recreation.

The BLM’s Coeur d’Alene District covers BLM lands spread across northern and central Idaho. The Coeur d’Alene Field Office (CDAFO) is a subdivision of the Coeur d’Alene District and spans Idaho’s five northern most counties (Boundary, Bonner, Kootenai, Shoshone, and Benewah). The office is part of the 1st Congressional District of Idaho. The CDAFO recreation program is spread across non-contiguous lands and features both water-based recreation and backcountry type settings. Coeur d’Alene Lake is a huge driver of recreation on the CDAFO with many developed recreation sites located on the lake. Outside of Lake Coeur d’Alene and the immediate vicinity, a lot of the recreation opportunities are characterized by rural and backcountry settings. Outside of the BLM lands, the Northern Idaho area is dominated by US Forest Service lands. The Idaho Panhandle National Forests includes five Ranger Districts across the five northern counties of Idaho and a sliver of northeastern Washington. Several private timber corporations manage lands across northern Idaho and allow varying degrees of public access to their lands. State of Idaho lands in the region are managed by Idaho Department of Lands. The area’s economy is based in a rich tradition of mining and logging activities, with tourism and residential living driving most of the regional commerce today. According to the U.S. Census Bureau

statistics, in 2010 Spokane and Kootenai County populations were about 609,715 combined. In 2022, the combined county's population grew to 733,268. In that time, the average growth rate for Spokane was 1.3% and Kootenai's grew at 2.5%. The largest growth rate for Kootenai County occurred between 2020 and 2022, at 7.1%. Kootenai County is one of the fastest growing counties in Idaho. Ada, Canyon, and Kootenai Counties' represent 50% of Idaho's total population. Trends expect 227,000 people will be living in Kootenai County by the year 2030. As of 2023, Idaho remained one of the nation's fastest growing states at 1.6% population growth rate.

The Coeur d'Alene Field Office has seen large growth in visitation over the past few years. During fiscal year 2023, the CDAFO had 628,859 visits. Over the past five years the CDAFO averaged 710,331 visits. We expect that visitation will continue to increase in the area as it continues to be a relocation and vacation destination. As noted earlier, we have seen an increase in day-use recreation at traditional overnight sites as well as a general increase in visitation across all sites.

These sites fall within the 2007 Resource Management Plan for the CDAFO. Under that plan these sites are also in the Lake Coeur d'Alene Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) and Killarney Lake SRMA. Both SRMAs promote lake-based recreation to a variety of user groups.

4 Description of Each Existing or Proposed Fee Site/Area

This business plan proposes to modify and add recreation fees at three different recreation sites within the Coeur d'Alene Field Office: Mica Bay Boater Park, Windy Bay Boater Park, and Killarney Lake Campground.

Mica Bay Boater Park

Mica Bay Boater Park is an approximately 8-acre campground located on the shores of Mica Bay on the west side of Coeur d'Alene Lake in Kootenai County, Idaho. The site is predominately accessible by boat and has traditionally been used by boaters as an overnight campground. The campground has 14 campsites providing picnic tables, fire rings and stand-up charcoal grills. The site also features 2 vault toilets, 2 large docks, horseshoe pits, drinking water, a beach with swimming area and a covered pavilion. The Mica Bay Boater Park has no vehicle access, although users have been parking on the nearby country road and walking into the site for both day and overnight use. Users coming into the site via boat or foot for day-use usually come to either recreate on the sandy beach, fish off the long docks, or just have a picnic.



Figure 1: View of Mica Bay Boater Park

Windy Bay Boater Park

Windy Bay Boater Park is an approximately 2-acre campground located on the shores of Windy Bay on the west side of Coeur d'Alene Lake in Kootenai County, Idaho. The campground has 12 campsites providing picnic tables, and fire rings. The site also features two floating vault toilets and seven boat docks. The site is only accessible by boat and has traditionally been used by boaters as an overnight campground. Foot traffic into the site is rare. Day-use at the site has steadily increased, with main day-use activities being swimming/boating and picnics.



Figure 2: Docks of Windy Bay Boater Park

Killarney Lake Campground

Killarney Lake Campground is an approximately 1.25-acre campground located on the Northeast shore of Killarney Lake in Kootenai County, Idaho. The campground has 11 campsites providing picnic tables and fire rings. The site also features a vault toilet, two boat docks, a boat launch ramp, hand pump potable water pump and a small day-use area. The site is accessible by vehicle off Highway 3 or boat via the Coeur d'Alene River. Also included within the recreational development of Killarney Lake is a 3-site day-use picnic area that is accessible via foot on a short trail or boat, that includes picnic tables, fire rings, a boat dock and floating vault toilet. Finally, a single developed campsite is on Popcorn Island, located on the north end of Killarney Lake. Amenities at the site include a fire ring, picnic table, boat dock and floating vault toilet.



Figure 3: Killarney Lake Campground on a busy day

Coeur d'Alene Lake Area BLM Recreation Sites

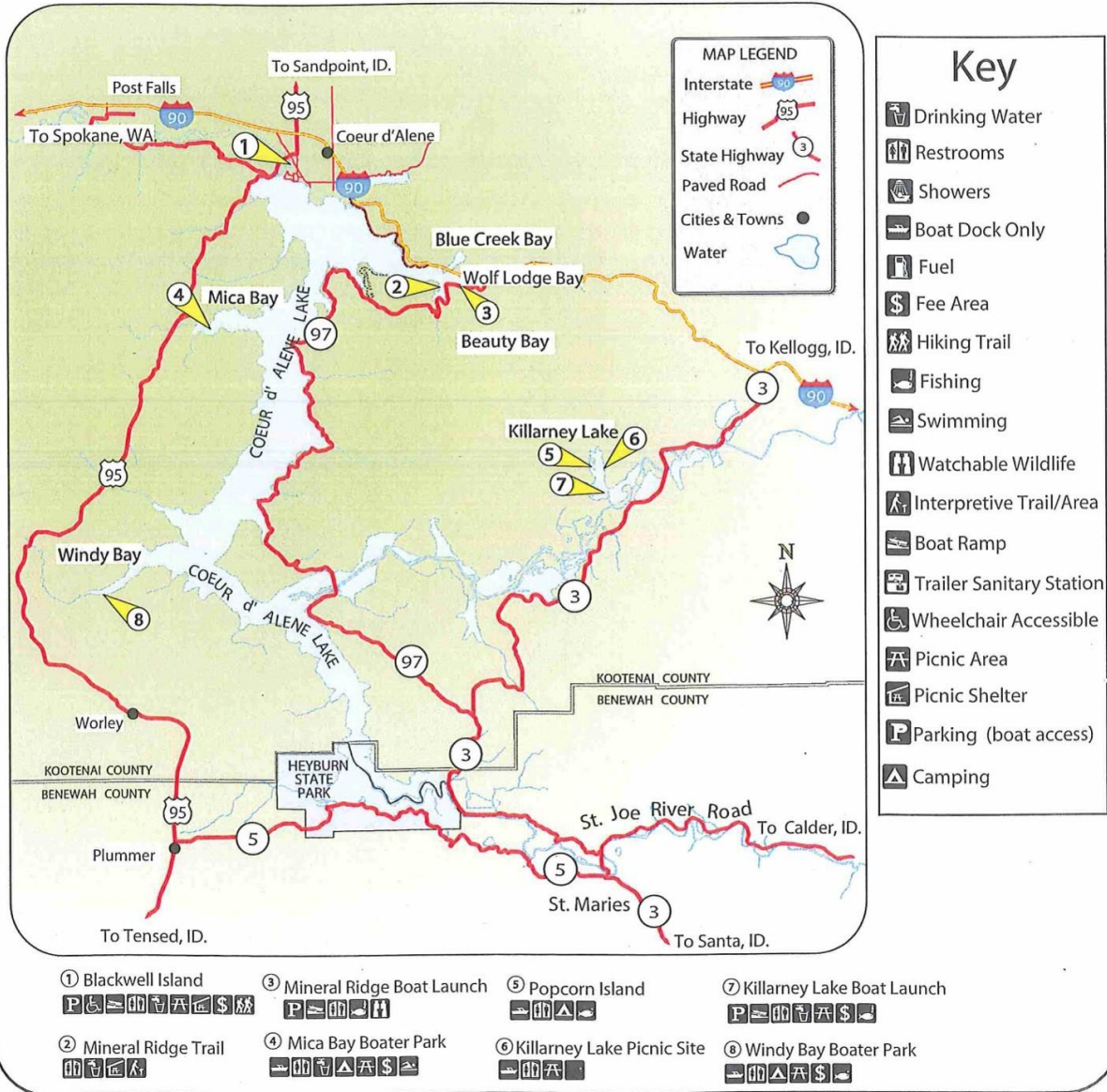


Figure 4: Map Showing Location of CDAFO Recreation Sites around Coeur d'Alene Lake

5 Proposed Modifications to Recreation Fee Rates

E-commerce Technologies

The CDAFO will use various e-commerce technologies as directed in BLM Instruction Memorandum 2022-010, to provide recreation visitors opportunities to find, reserve and pay for campsites and day use within the field office. Most of these options are provided through the interagency reservation service Recreation.gov. If the CDAFO decides to add additional reservation services of other types of e-commerce options available in the future, an expanded amenity fee for reservation services would be charged in addition to any other standard or expanded amenity fees in accordance with 16 U.S.C. 6802(g)(2)(G).

Reservation services fees could range from \$.50 to \$10.00 depending on the type of service provided. The reservation service is subject to contracting requirements and will be adjusted with contract changes or with future updates to the business plan. For visitors who wish not to pay the expanded amenity fee of reservation services, the field office will attempt to continue to provide a blend of reservation and first come-first served options until or unless the office moves the fee site/area entirely to e-commerce. Other payment options may also be considered in the future as technology and software develops, such as onsite credit card payment systems or scan and pay.

Per the BLM Handbook, *standard amenity fees* are appropriate in nationally designated areas and destination visitor or interpretive centers providing a broad range of interpretive services. Standard amenity fees may also be charged at developed day-use sites that provide significant opportunities for outdoor recreation; entail substantial federal investment; and require intensive management to enhance visitor experiences, address environmental needs, and manage conflicting uses. However, the Handbook states that *expanded amenity fees* are appropriate at places such as developed campgrounds and highly developed boat launches with specialized facilities or services, such as mechanical or hydraulic boatlifts or facilities, multilane paved ramps, paved parking, refuse containers, restrooms, and other improvements. Highly developed boat launches may feature ramp or parking lighting, security services, changing rooms, mooring floats, picnic areas or playground areas.

For the Mica, Windy, Killarney Business Plan, the standard amenity fee (day-use fee) is charged at these sites that have substantial recreation opportunities separate from the overnight camping amenity fee. The introductory day-use fee at Mica Bay and Killarney Lake will be established at \$5 per day with a phased increase approach to \$10 per day within the next four years. The phased approach will have 2 increases, the first being to \$7 after 2 years, and then finally to \$10 2 years after that. Current market research support charging a day-use fee at these sites up to a \$10 threshold. The introductory group day-use rental fee for the Mica Bay pavilion will be established at \$80 per day with a phased increased approach to \$100 per day within the next four years. The phase approach will have 2 increases, the first being to \$90 after 2 years, and then finally to \$100 2 years after that. Current market research support charging a group day-use rental fee up to a \$100 threshold.

Below are the current and proposed new fee rates for the sites covered in this business plan.

Table 1: Current and Proposed Fees

Site Name	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Notes
Mica Bay Boater Park	\$10	\$20	Overnight
Windy Bay Boater Park	\$10	\$20	Overnight
Killarney Lake Campground	\$10	\$20	Overnight
Mica Bay Boater Park	-	\$10 (\$5 start)	Day-Use
Killarney Lake Campground	-	\$10 (\$5 start)	Day-Use
Mica Bay Boater Park – Pavilion	\$30	\$100 (\$80 start)	Group Day-Use

The CDAFO currently offers an annual boat launch pass to accommodate access to BLM’s Blackwell Island Recreation Site and Mineral Ridge Public Boat Launch. This annual pass costs \$40.00. Pass holders are exempt from the daily fee at both sites. This system has proven beneficial for both the public and BLM. With increased day-use occurring at established fee sites, the CDAFO proposes to enhance this annual pass system with a new version, called the Coeur d’Alene Field Office Access Pass (Access Pass), which combines the privileges of the old pass system with the proposed new day-use fees at several established fee sites, including Mica Bay and Killarney Lake. This proposed pass would help accommodate the growing demand for day-use activities while supporting management, maintenance, and operations at established fee sites and other developed recreation sites within the CDAFO.

Currently, the annual boat launch pass only covers Blackwell Island Recreation Site and Mineral Ridge Boat Launch use fees. The proposed Access Pass will continue to cover day-use fees at both locations, while additionally covering the new proposed day-use fee starting at \$5.00 for Mica Bay Boaters Park, Killarney Lake Campground, and Huckleberry Campground. The Access Pass is proposed to be priced at \$80.00 annually, while the alternative option would be the daily fee of \$12.00 at Blackwell and Mineral Ridge or \$5.00 - \$10.00 at Mica Bay, Killarney, and Huckleberry. The new Access Pass would have two components, one for vehicles and another for marine vessels.

Through the proposed new day-use fee at Mica Bay and Killarney Lake these sites will now be included in the CDAFO Access Pass to allow day-use access to a variety of BLM sites across Coeur d’Alene Lake, Killarney Lake, and the St. Joe River. Fee compliance at these sites will be performed by BLM recreation personnel as well as BLM Law Enforcement.

6 Operating Costs

Each of these three sites is fully operated and maintained by the Coeur d’Alene Field Office. The CDAFO is responsible for daily upkeep as well as long-term maintenance, feature replacements and upgrades. Specific ongoing costs include lawn mowing and maintenance, toilet pumping, signage, water testing, trash collection, hazard tree mitigation, campground host reimbursement (Mica Bay), and compliance checks. All three sites have boat dock systems which see extensive use. These docks need to be maintained periodically and eventually replaced.

Below is a chart showing total costs (labor + operations) per site for the last eight years:

Table 2: Total Operating Costs 2016-2023

Site Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Windy Bay</i>	\$15,902	\$15,364	\$15,922	\$12,313	\$16,499	\$17,097	\$17,718	\$18,650
<i>Mica Bay</i>	\$18,513	\$19,185	\$19,880	\$19,512	\$20,219	\$20,953	\$21,713	\$22,500
<i>Killarney Lake</i>	\$15,969	\$14,811	\$14,719	\$15,254	\$15,806	\$15,693	\$16,262	\$19,352

During the 2024 field season both Mica Bay and Killarney Lake will be receiving some upgrades. The CDAFO has secured funding through the Great American Outdoors Act to replace the campsite furnishings at both sites, including new boat docks, picnic tables, fire rings, and stand-up charcoal grills. In addition, Killarney Lake campground will also have the parking area and hardened pavement repaired and resurfaced. Currently, the CDAFO is working through the design and environmental analysis process to also replace the boat docks, picnic tables and fire rings. The CDAFO is also working on the environmental analysis for work to curtail or prevent ongoing bank erosion threatening the campground. The funds being used to perform this work are not appropriated by Congress and cannot be depended upon to continue to perform large scale upgrades and complete site furniture replacements in the future.

7 Revenues

All three of these sites have been fee sites for over ten years. Below is a chart of revenues per site over the last eight years as well as some projected revenues for the next five years using the proposed fees and fee increases.

Past Revenues 2016 - 2023

Table 3: Past Revenues 2016-2023

Site Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<i>Windy Bay</i>	\$3,910	\$2,946	\$2,094	\$2,997	\$4,087	\$2,533	\$1,715	\$1,760
<i>Mica Bay</i>	\$2,989	\$3,482	\$2,601	\$3,696	\$4,047	\$2,960	\$3,208	\$3,088
<i>Killarney Lake</i>	\$4,046	\$2,966	\$3,869	\$3,852	\$4,889	\$5,029	\$4,565	\$6,946

Projected Revenues 2025 - 2029

Table 4: Projected Revenues 2025-2029

Site Name	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
<i>Windy Bay</i>	\$4,500	\$4,800	\$5,250	\$5,800	\$6,300
<i>Mica Bay</i>	\$6,000	\$6,300	\$6,750	\$7,000	\$7,500
<i>Killarney Lake</i>	\$8,000	\$8,400	\$8,900	\$9,500	\$10,300

The effects of doubling the overnight use fee and adding new day-use fees will take some time to show up in revenues. Some members of the public may be hesitant about the fee increase for overnight use and compliance to the new day-use fees may lag as well.

8 Priorities for Future Expenditures

As these new fees are implemented, we will continue to reinvest in the operations, maintenance, and long-term viability of these sites. Over the past few years, the cost of services such as septic pumping of vault toilets has nearly doubled and with increased use comes increased demand for more routine pumping. All three of these sites have multiple boat docks, upkeep and eventual replacement of these facilities are very specialized and in turn can be costly. We will continue to fund a campground host position at Mica Bay Boater Park as it is very beneficial position to the public as well as the BLM. We will also continue to investigate new forms of technology to incorporate into the sites as they become available. We want to offer our users a great experience when they visit our sites on the Coeur d’Alene Field Office.

9 Analysis of Recreation Fee Rates

In order to set new fee rates for these sites we analyzed other federal, state, and private campgrounds in order to obtain fair market value in the area. Below you will find a chart of overnight and day-use fees at comparable sites in the area.

Table 5 Analysis of Similar Fee Sites

<u>Site Name</u>	<u>Managing Agency</u>	<u>Overnight Fee</u>	<u>Day-Use Fee</u>	<u>Site Type</u>
Bell Bay Campground	Idaho Panhandle National Forest	\$24	\$8 Season Pass: \$52	Campground on Coeur d’Alene Lake
Sam Owen Campground	Idaho Panhandle National Forest	\$26	\$8 Season Pass: \$52	Campground on Pend Oreille Lake
Shadowy St. Joe Campground	Idaho Panhandle National Forest	\$20	\$5	Campground on St. Joe River
Noisy Creek Campground	Colville National Forest	\$29	\$10 Season Pass: \$52	Campground on Sullivan Lake
Mokins Bay Campground	Idaho Panhandle National Forest	\$24	\$8 Season Pass: \$52	Campground on Hayden Lake
Indian Creek Campground	Idaho State Parks	\$24	\$7 (Park Entry Fee)	Campground on Priest Lake
Egin Lakes Campground	BLM Idaho – Upper Snake Field Office	\$25-\$30	\$5 Season Pass: \$60	Campground on Egin Lakes/St. Anthony Sand Dunes

By increasing fees to the new proposed rates, we will be more in line with neighboring agencies and sites. BLM recreation sites are still affordable for many people and continue to provide a high-quality recreation experience.

10 Impacts from Changing and Non-Changing Recreation Fee Rates

Consistent with the Department of the Interior and BLM priorities, the BLM Coeur d'Alene Field Office seeks to achieve environmental justice, equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility and make a difference in Northern Idaho communities through expanding recreational access and opportunities and providing for natural resource interpretation. This includes to:

- encourage, facilitate, and improve partnership with and access for youth, tribes, and underserved communities to public lands through recreation partnerships and collaborations;
- improve public health and safety at developed recreation sites and areas by updating and modernizing infrastructure—including meeting accessibility standards for people with disabilities;
- invite education, interpretation, and recreational access for all Americans, especially for diverse populations and those near urban areas to encourage enjoyment of BLM-managed public lands and waters;
- collaborate with community members, government organizations, nonprofit organizations, academic institutions, and other stakeholders to address environmental and health-related challenges for recreation management;
- enhance understanding of environmental and health-related issues at the community level;
- improve methods for identifying, addressing, tracking, and measuring progress toward achieving environmental justice;
- and develop and support youth education and outreach programs.

By implementing these fee changes and additions we can continue to provide the high-quality recreation experience that our users have come to expect. Since the fees were last raised in 2012, prices for goods and services have sharply increased. Supplies to maintain the sites and services such as toilet pumping, water testing and other specialty work have continued to rise in price. By raising fees for overnight usage and adding associated day-use fees, we will be able to continue to provide these services at the current levels as well as continue to provide a campground host at Mica Bay Boater Park. Without the fee increase, the frequency of cleaning could be reduced as expenses continue to rise. In contrast, with a fee increase, some revenues could be used to gradually improve site infrastructure as part of routine upgrades. Site improvements are quite important as many of the BLM campgrounds are reaching an age where replacement of some of the infrastructure is necessary to maintain public health and human safety. Until now, the campground fee structure has never considered the replacement costs of these campground's infrastructure.

Adding Mica Bay and Killarney Lake to the Access Pass should help to attract some visitors to those sites as they might want to take advantage of the benefits of the pass at multiple sites. Keeping these sites maintained at a high level will keep them functioning and attractive to visitors for many years to come. Lake Coeur d'Alene is a very big draw for people coming to the area as well as being a recreation hub for the local population. Having these sites functioning at their full potential will go a long way to welcome visitors and give them a safe and structured way to recreate and enjoy access to the lake.

Although the proposed increase in overnight camping fees (from \$10 to \$20) will have a minor impact on campers, the BLM camping experience remains a cost-effective alternative in North Idaho for all public

land visitors. Senior citizens and those with disabilities who have obtained their America the Beautiful pass still enjoy a 50% discount on camping fees.

11 Public Outreach

As part of the proposal to increase the campground fee, the CDAFO will conduct the following outreach efforts to notify the public of its opportunity to review and provide comments:

- Post the Draft Business Plan on BLM Idaho Facebook page, Twitter account and BLM.gov website.
- Publish a news story in the CDA Press, Spokesman Review and St Maries Gazette Record newspapers.
- Post the fee increase proposal at the campground.

In addition to the above list, the CDA Field Office presented the recreation fee proposal to the BLM Idaho Resource Advisory Council (RAC) for its informal review at the May 2024 RAC meeting. The final recreation fee proposal will be presented to the RAC during the summer RAC meeting taking place in July 2024. The RAC is a 15-member advisory panel which provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues for nearly 12 million acres of public lands in Idaho. The FLREA mandates that the appropriate RAC review all BLM recreation fee proposals prior to approval. Comments from both the public at large and the Idaho RAC will be considered prior to approval of the fee increase and additions for Windy Bay, Mica Bay and Killarney Lake.