



Mt. Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest

Forest Service News Release

Proposed Changes to Recreation Fees Identified by the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

EVERETT, Wash., August 18, 2022 – The Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest is proposing to charge new fees at 20 developed recreation sites, including adding several new day use sites to the popular Northwest Forest Pass program. The full suite of interagency passes will also be honored at these day use sites. The forest will also eliminate fees at two trailheads.

Many day use sites, camping sites, and other recreation sites are currently managed without user fees on the forest. The forest currently waives fees at all Forest Service managed day use sites six days throughout the year.

“National Forests provide recreational opportunities for all Americans. The revenue generated by recreation fees helps protect natural resources and enhance recreation opportunities on our Forests,” said Jody Weil, Forest Supervisor for the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The proposed fees by Ranger District and site are listed below.

Mt. Baker Ranger District

Site Name	County	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Lower Sandy Campground	Whatcom	\$0	\$20 per night (single site)
Sauk Mountain Trailhead	Skagit	\$0	\$5 per day
Marblemount Boat Launch	Skagit	\$0	\$5 per day

Darrington Ranger District

Site Name	County	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Sauk Boat Launch	Skagit	\$0	\$5 per day
Beaver Lake Trailhead	Snohomish	\$0	\$5 per day
Old Sauk Trailhead	Snohomish	\$0	\$5 per day
White Chuck Boat Launch	Snohomish	\$0	\$5 per day
White Chuck Overlook Picnic Area	Snohomish	\$0	\$5 per day

*The White Chuck Boat Launch is already a fee site; however, because fees have not been required at this location for a few years, it has been included in public engagement efforts.

Skykomish Ranger District

Site Name	County	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Frog Mountain Trailhead	Snohomish	\$0	\$5 per day
Cable Drop Boat Launch	Snohomish	\$0	\$5 per day
Deception Falls Picnic Area	King	\$0	\$5 per day
Jennifer Dunn Trailhead	King	\$0	\$5 per day

Snoqualmie Ranger District

Site Name	County	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Camp Brown Trailhead	King	\$0	\$5 per day
Dingford Creek Trailhead	King	\$0	\$5 per day
Garfield Ledges	King	\$0	\$5 per day
Pratt Bar Trailhead	King	\$0	\$5 per day
Government Meadows Horse Camp	Pierce	\$0	\$5 per day
Lonesome Lake Day Use Area	Pierce	\$0	\$5 per day
Ranger Creek Campground*	Pierce	\$5 per day	\$20 per night (single site) \$75 per night (group site)
Evans Creek Campground*	Pierce	\$5 per day	\$20 per night (single site) \$75 per night (group site)

*A Northwest Forest Pass or \$5 day use fee is already required at Ranger Creek and Evans Creek campgrounds . The proposed camping fee will replace the current day use fee for the campground.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites. Ninety-five percent of the revenue from recreation fees remains on the forests to operate, maintain and improve facilities. Raising the revenue collected through recreation fees will help the forests improve infrastructure at campsites and day use sites and hire additional recreation staff during the season of operation. Fees help provide quality recreation opportunities that meet the modern expectations of visitors and creates a more financially sustainable developed recreation program for the benefit of future generations.

Under REA, all new fees and any fee changes must be proposed and approved by a citizens' advisory committee. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable new fees and fee changes.

The public is invited to comment on the proposed fee changes to the developed recreation program. The comment period is set to end by close of business on October 21, 2022. To ensure that your comments are considered, please send them no later than the above date by email to sm.fs.mbsfeecomm@usda.gov (preferred) or by mail to Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest Service, Attention: Amy Linn, 2930 Wetmore Avenue, Suite 3A, Everett, Washington 98201. Comments can also be provided online at (<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=3aaab599927c4757a4433a727b600012>).

Oral comments must be provided in person at the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest during normal business hours (Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.) or by calling 503-307-7002 and indicating you would like to provide comments on the proposed recreation fee changes. For more information on the proposed project, visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/mbs>.

Once public involvement is complete, the proposed fee changes will be reviewed by a Recreation Advisory Committee, which will submit its recommendation to the Regional Forester for a final decision.

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