

Eldorado National Forest Prospectus Questions/Comments

The following questions have been submitted either by email, phone, or site visit.

If you have additional questions, please contact Michelle Zuro-Kreimer at mzurokreimer@fs.fed.us (530)621-5214.

Thank you for your interest in the Eldorado National Forest (NF).

General Questions/Comments

- The operation and maintenance plan was not specific to the Eldorado NF
 - The one in the appendix is an example and will be tailored based on the concessionaire and discussions with the Forest.
- Request for an extension to the proposal due date (originally due 9/10) due to complex area and late addition of the amendment
 - Proposals have been extended and are now due COB 10/10/18
- The sample special use permit was missing from Appendix 10.
 - The sample permit with the water system information has been sent out and uploaded to our website. This was an oversight.
- There was some concern regarding Section 13 Law Enforcement of the Sample Operating Plan stating that “Appendix U clarifies the law enforcement authorities and responsibilities at concession operated recreation sites (FSM ID 2340-96-1).” Applicant could see an Appendix 8, however it appeared to be a different document, “Forest Service Manual 2342.1 – Exhibit 01.”
 - Appendix U is a typo from a past version of an appendix in a prospectus. The sample AOP is referring to FSM 2340 for more information on Law Enforcement, which is exactly what Appendix 8 is. Appendix 8 must have been an Appendix U at some point along the way and the reference in the document was missed.

Monday, August 13, 2018 – Georgetown Ranger District (RD), Gerle Creek and Loon Lake Campgrounds (CG)

Some of the Georgetown RD facilities were impacted by the 2014 King Fire, particularly Black Oak Group CG.

Stumpy Boat Launch

- There are four overnight spots at the boat launch parking area that can be used for self-contained vehicles. These four sites can be charged a higher fee than the other parking sites. Historically, the four spots have not been on the reservation system.
- There is a spot for a host site (also self-contained) but it is not currently being used.
- Lifejackets near restroom are provided by California Boating & Waterways
- Boat launch is open year-round, although there are times when the water is so low that only small boats are able to launch.

Ponderosa Group CG - (capacity of 75 people at one time (PAOT))

- Water system - well is located in Stumpy Meadows CG, with the tanks located in Black Oak Group CG
- There is a gas-powered FS generator that pumps water into the tanks, the distribution is gravity fed and distributes water to Black Oak, Stumpy Meadows, Ponderosa Cove and the dump station.
- Distribution lines are mostly PVC, although the original lines were iron pipe. Most of that has been replaced throughout the years.
- Water testing is per requirements from the State of California, but includes initial testing before system can be opened and then monthly testing. These requirements are for each complete water system, not for each campground.

RV Dump Station

- Current operator says they usually only keep it open for a few hours on Sundays or holiday Mondays.

Stumpy Meadows CG – 39 campsites, including 1 host site and 3 double family sites

- The well head is located near site #28, with the generator shed nearby
- Hazard trees were discussed, concessionaire is limited to paying for 1% of their gross revenue from the prior year for removal of hazard trees.
- Monitoring and Identification of hazard trees is the concessionaire's responsibility, although FS approval is required before action is taken.
- Smaller diameter trees still need to be reviewed by FS before any action is taken
- Bear boxes do not currently exist at the campground, although the concessionaire can propose to add them under the GT fee offset plan. Bears are not currently active in this location.
- Does El Dorado County charge transient occupancy tax (TOT) – searching online, yes the county collects TOT at 10%

Gerle Creek CG – 50 campsites, including 1 host site and 2 double family sites

- Tahoe Disposal is the garbage service provider for Gerle Creek

Loon Lake Day Use & Boat Ramp

- Twelve spaces have been identified for overnight use by self-contained vehicles.
- FS recommends two hosts in the Loon Lake Recreation Area. There are two host sites available with water and sewage holding tanks, one at the boat ramp and one near the equestrian group CG

Loon Lake CG – 62 campsites, including 9 equestrian and 1 double family site

- Who is responsible for cleaning up manure at equestrian sites? Individual campers and concessionaire.
- Can one of the group sites be changed back to a family campground? That would need to be discussed with the FS permit administrator.

Tuesday, August 14, 2018 – Pacific RD – Crystal Basin

Emphasized that many of the Crystal Basin sites will be undergoing reconstruction throughout the life of the permit to due to requirements in the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) FERC license.

Schedule is subject to change but current information is in the prospectus or you can check out <https://www.smud.org/en/Giving-Back-to-Community/Visit-our-Recreational-Areas/Crystal-Basin>

Ice House CG – two separate loops, 83 campsites including 2 host sites and 6 double family sites

- There is one host site in each of the two loops
- RV dump station has a fee and a holding tank that will be the concessionaire's responsibility to pump as needed
- Sites here and across the forest (**in general**) are kept to the 60% reserved/40% first-come, first-served
- Communication is better in this portion of the Crystal Basin due to coverage from Big Hill and Hwy. 50

Ice House Boat Ramp

- There is a launch/day use fee at the boat ramp that is separate from the day use fee at Ice House Picnic area (two separate sites)
- Ten spaces have been identified for overnight use by self-contained vehicles
- In the winter, SMUD plows the boat ramp and FS operates it for snow play
- Recycling is run by the FS, but the concessionaire picks up the material

Crystal Basin Administrative Site

- This area is available for concessionaire use during the season, along with FS use of the site.
- There are 4-6 RV sites that can be made available to the concessionaire for \$15/night. The fees can be offset or other arrangements can be made.
- Storage facility is available but must be shared 50/50 with the FS. There is no charge for use of this building

Peninsula Recreation Area

Some of this area is currently under construction by SMUD, so we were unable to visit. The FS will be installing a kiosk along the road before the boat ramp and bike trail.

Sunset Boat Ramp

- Twelve spaces have been identified for overnight use by self-contained vehicles.

Big Silver Group CG – one site with 50 PAOT

- Discussed the parking that is adjacent to this campground is FS run and provides parking for Bassi Falls and use of the bicycle trail. There may be issues with parking due to the multi-use of the area.

Wench Creek CG – 100 sites including 2 host sites

- The first loop in the campground and the two group sites have flush toilets, loops 2 and 3 have vault toilets
- There are two sites with water and sewage holding tanks available in the first and third loops
- Azalea Cove CG (FS run) is connected to the Wench Creek CG water system, but there is a shut-off valve that can isolate that portion of the water system

Yellowjacket Boat Ramp & CG

- Dumpsters are generally provided by the contractor who picks up the garbage

Wednesday, August 15, 2018 – Placerville RD and Wench Creek CG

We visited the Placerville RD including the two sites that were added to the prospectus with Amendment #1 – Lovers Leap CG and Pyramid Creek TH.

Wench Creek Recreation Area

The history of this site was discussed with the group, including that this has been operated by the FS for many years and the complexity of the management of this site. We also talked about the recreation residences in the area. In general, the recreation residence permittees are very concerned about the change in management and about increased or additional fees in the area. One of the key messages was that including the permittees in discussion and ‘getting off on the right foot’ with them will be very valuable. In addition, we discussed the wilderness trailhead parking and general parking issues.

Thursday, August 16, 2018 – Amador RD

We discussed that some of the sites that were new to the prospectus were along the Mokelumne River. These sites can potentially be operated year round due to their location. We did not visit these sites as they are about a 45 minute drive from the nearest campground.

Bear River Recreation Area

Pardoes Point CG & Day Use – 10 campsites, including 1 host site

- Discussed garbage contractor. It was discussed that the concessionaire would need to pick-up and take garbage to a central location. However as we walked through the site we saw that there were garbage bins present so we determined that the garbage contractor does pick up at this site.

Bear River Group CG – 4 campsites: 3 with 25 PAOT and 1 with 50 PAOT

- The group talked to the host at this site. It was pointed out that there is only one central parking area, so campers would need to drop off their equipment and park in the centralized parking area.

Woods Lake Recreation Area

- Campground is small and not recommended for RV camping. There are 25 campsites, including 1 host site and 2 double family sites.
- Mentioned that thundershowers are possible during the summer afternoons.
- One site has water hook-up and sewage holding tank

Caples Lake CG & Silver Lake CG

- We discussed that these sites are scheduled for reconstruction in 2019 and 2020 due to requirements in the El Dorado Irrigation District (EID) FERC license.
- We visited these sites, there were no further questions or discussion