

Campground

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The thick canopy of Douglas fir is almost completely gone, leaving the park wide open and sunbaked. From the open road, you can see the old buildings, basketball court and remnants of the campground in the distance, but those areas remain off-limits due to safety concerns, said officials with the Bureau of Land Management.

Building a new campsite is likely years away, officials said.

“The roads were the one thing that wasn’t too impacted, so once we cleared out the hazard trees and made it safe, the boat ramp and a little day-use area was what we felt best about reopening,” said John Huston, field manager for BLM in Northwest Oregon.

“For the rest of the park, we’re looking at it as a new beginning. The fire cleared out a lot of things and it’s definitely a reset.”

Why is the boat ramp important?

The boat ramp is a critical stop on the North Santiam River, almost dividing in half the river’s roughly 15-mile “white-water” section that includes a handful of Class III and II rapids.

Traditionally, those with rafts and drift boats could split the run into an upper section of bigger rapids (Packsaddle Park to Fishermen’s Bend) and a lower section with somewhat smaller rapids (Fishermen’s Bend to Mehama boat ramp).

But with Fishermen’s Bend closed all of last summer, people had to use the steep and sketchy boat ramp in Mill City, which had limited parking and wasn’t ideal.

Mill City fishing guide Mike Ferris said he lost about 25% of his business by having Fishermen’s Bend closed last summer. Overall, between the wildfires and COVID-19 limits, he said he was down 52% percent between 2020 and 2021.

“I’m really happy that it’s back open,” he said. “It’s the beginning and end of a lot of trips and without it, you’re kind of stuck.”

While getting a boat on the river is the biggest upside of the reopening, there are also a few picnic tables around the



Fishermen’s Bend Recreation Site reopened in a limited way following damage from the 2020 Labor Day Fires last week. The boat ramp and a small day-use area opened, but the campground and most of the park remains closed. ZACH URNESS / STATESMAN JOURNAL

boat ramp.

What’s next for the rest of the park and campground?

What’s reopened now is a small fraction of the park’s former glory. Huston said the BLM is likely to rebuild the campground, but it’s going to take years.

He said they will likely start by asking for public input late in 2023.

“We committed to rebuilding the site, but we don’t have any specific plans yet,” Huston said.

While they haven’t put together plans for a new campground, they have cleaned up lots of old propane tanks and other hazards throughout the park.

There are a few changes they’ll make to the park. One they’ve already started includes planting a greater variety of native trees such as oak, cedar, maple, cottonwood and ash. Previously, the park was dominated by Douglas firs, which Huston said he believed were all planted there and were already dying even before the fire.

Another change they’ll make is burying all the powerlines throughout the park. A small fire sparked early in the summer of 2020 by downed power lines prompted evacuations. Later, the Labor Day Fires were caused in some part by downed power lines in the Santiam Canyon.

Overall, Huston said, it could take four to five years before major progress

is made in rebuilding a campground and Fishermen’s Bend returning to something resembling the previous park.

“Fire is part of the ecosystem, it’s meant to reset things and we’re going to see that up close at Fishermen’s Bend,” Huston said.

Zach Urness has been an outdoors reporter in Oregon for 15 years and is host of the Explore Oregon Podcast. To support his work, subscribe to the Statesman Journal. Urness is the author of “Best Hikes with Kids: Oregon” and “Hiking Southern Oregon.” He can be reached at zurness@statesmanjournal.com or (503) 399-6801. Find him on Twitter at @ZachsORoutdoors.

Miller

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at Silverton Reservoir & Marine Park.

Instead, free shuttle buses will have quarter-hourly pickups and returns beginning at 8 a.m. with the last bus leaving the lake at 3 p.m. Pick-up sites are: Roth’s Fresh Markets, 918 N First St; Robert Frost Elementary School, 201 Westfield St.; Silver Falls Library, 410 S Water St., and the Church of the Nazarene, 1130 S Water Street.

The traditional separate event at the reservoir for those with physical and mental challenges spearheaded by the Silverton Lions Club has been folded into the family event, Holowati said.

Because of that, the lone exception to the no-parking restriction at the lake is for vans from group homes and organizations for those with special needs.

Holowati asked that if you fit into that category, please call her in advance to let organizers know how many are coming. Her number at Silverton Together is (503) 873-0405.

WORK IN A REAL CLIP JOINT: Here’s your chance to invest in the future of Oregon’s iconic Chinook salmon, one snip at a time.

Nestucca Anglers, a non-profit volunteer organization, is looking for helping hands for its annual fin-clipping “party” on June 18 at Rhoades Pond on Three Rivers east of Hebo.

A brief orientation and briefing for first-timers is followed by the clipping of an adipose fin from the backs of each of the fingerling-size salmon.

Nestucca Anglers annually raises 100,000 fall-run Chinook salmon for release into Three Rivers and other sites in the drainage on the northern Oregon coast.

Salmon fry raised to the 6- to 7-inch release size are supplied by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Cedar Creek Hatchery downriver from the pond.



With an accessible trail, fishing platform and bathroom, Silverton Reservoir and Marine Park is offering a Free Fishing Weekend opportunity June 4, 2022 for those with special needs. HENRY MILLER/SPECIAL FOR THE STATESMAN JOURNAL

Nestucca Anglers is one of the groups operating under the umbrella of the department’s Salmon Trout Enhancement Program with money for the operation of Rhoades Pond coming from donations and grants.

Clipping the adipose fin, the stub of fish flesh just behind the large dorsal fin on the back of salmon, marks the adult fish as being of hatchery-origin, which allows an eager angler to keep it.

Snipping starts at 9 a.m. at the pond, which is about 5 and a half miles east of Hebo on Highway 22. To get there from Salem, take Highway 22 west to Valley Junction (the split of highways 18 to Lincoln City and 22 to Hebo). Veer right to continue on 22. Just after passing Milepost 6, watch for the small sign on the right for the turn to the pond.

The fin-clipping party is a fun, educational, activity for families, and volunteers get a free barbecue lunch, raffles and prize drawings.

Not to mention the salmon-fishing opportunities that arrive a couple years down the road.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: I always come home with my limit, almost always; it’s the limit on my patience.

Contact Henry via email at HenryMillerSJ@gmail.com

TOTAL OF ALL FUNDS		Actual Amount This Year 2020-2021	Adopted Budget This Year 2021-2022	Approved Budget Next Year 2022-2023
Beginning Fund Balance/Net Working Capital		731,200	828,067	1,041,044
Fees, Licenses, Permits, Fines, Assessments & Other Service Charges		0	0	0
Federal, State and all Other Grants, Gifts, Allocations and Donations		218,895	50	50
Revenue from Bonds and Other Debt		0	0	0
Interfund Transfers / Internal Service Reimbursements		50,000	100,025	50,025
All Other Resources Except Current Year Property Taxes		140,831	95,289	12,650
Current Year Property Taxes Estimated to be Received		524,255	500,188	547,928
Total Resources		1,665,181	1,523,619	1,651,697

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS BY OBJECT CLASSIFICATION			
	Actual Amount This Year 2020-2021	Adopted Budget This Year 2021-2022	Approved Budget Next Year 2022-2023
Personnel Services	260,259	279,454	319,728
Materials and Services	239,796	173,450	186,450
Capital Outlay	42,236	550,000	550,000
Debt Service	110,325	111,500	112,200
Interfund Transfers	50,000	100,000	50,000
Contingencies	0	20,000	20,000
Special Payments	0	0	0
Unappropriated Ending Balance and Reserved for Future Expenditure	962,565	289,215	413,319
Total Requirements	1,665,181	1,523,619	1,651,697

FINANCIAL SUMMARY - REQUIREMENTS AND FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES (FTE) BY ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT OR PROGRAM *			
Name of Organizational Unit or Program	FTE for that unit or program		
Fire & Emergency Services	542,291	1,002,904	1,056,178
FTE	3.50	3.5	3.50
FTE			
FTE			
FTE			
Not Allocated to Organizational Unit or Program	1,122,890	520,715	595,519
FTE			
Total Requirements	1,665,181	1,523,619	1,651,697
Total FTE	3.50	3.50	3.50

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACTIVITIES and SOURCES OF FINANCING *

There have been no changes.

PROPERTY TAX LEVIES			
	Rate or Amount Imposed 2020-2021	Rate or Amount Imposed This Year 2021-2022	Rate or Amount Approved Next Year 2022-2023
Permanent Rate Levy (rate limit 1.0146 per \$1,000)	1.0146/\$1000	1.0146/\$1000	1.0146/\$1000
Local Option Levy			
Levy For General Obligation Bonds	120.222	106.080	105.051

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS		
LONG TERM DEBT	Estimated Debt Outstanding on July 1, \$110,000	Estimated Debt Authorized, But Not Incurred on July 1
General Obligation Bonds		
Other Bonds		
Other Borrowings		
Total		

* If more space is needed to complete any section of this form, insert lines (rows) on this sheet. You may delete blank lines.

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