

**USDA Forest Service
Deschutes National Forest
DECISION MEMO**

**Round Lake Christian Camp
Master Plan for Reconstruction and New Facilities**

**Jefferson County, Oregon
T. 13 S., R. 8 E., Section 16, W.M.**

Background:

Round Lake Christian Camp is an organization camp under special-use permit on the Sisters Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest. The camp has been under special use permit on the west side of Round Lake since 1959. In August of 2003, the B & B Complex Fire burned through the camp destroying all of the buildings except for the partially constructed lodge. The camp has been closed since the fire. Volunteers with the camp have cleaned up the burned buildings and finished the construction of the lodge. In the Fall of 2004, the Camp enlisted the assistance of a landscape architect and has completed a proposed master plan for the reconstruction of the camp.

Proposed Action and Decision to Make:

It is my decision to approve the Master Plan for the reconstruction of Round Lake Christian Camp. Round Lake Christian Camp would like to continue to operate as an organization camp, with new buildings and facilities on the same site. This proposed action is detailed in the 2005 Master Plan as follows:

Facilities to Rebuild:

1. The Camp is proposing to rebuild the cabins, shower and bath facilities for the campers. The new cabins would be 3790 sq. ft. each in 2 units with a capacity of 74 campers each.
2. Rebuild a new auditorium (2304 sq. ft.) in a location near the lodge.

New Facilities to Build:

1. Build a 2 story caretaker residence with a shop on the 1st floor (960 sq. ft. total).
2. The second camper's cabin would have a new shower, which would require a new septic system. The camp only had one shower in the past, this new one would allow for both girls and boys showers.
3. The Camp capacity would increase from 124 people at one time to 150 people at one time. The permit area would remain the same.
4. Improve and enhance the parking area.
5. Construct some structured outdoor spaces such as a fire circle, small amphitheater, rock climbing wall, bouldering area, multipurpose field, new floating dock, and a sand volleyball court in the remaining foundation of the previous auditorium.
6. Designate and construct trails between activity areas, including a nature trail/verse walk and a trail to the Round Lake perimeter trail.

7. Plant and manage vegetation in the permit area, to assist with the fire recovery and minimize erosion.

See Exhibit A – Round Lake Christian Camp Master Plan – Conceptual Plan.

Purpose and Need:

- In order to continue operating as an organization camp, burned facilities would need to be rebuilt.
- The Round Lake Christian Camp board feels there is a continued need for an organization camp, to provide an outdoor recreation experience to youth and families in the Central Oregon area. To better meet this need they also propose to expand capacity and add new facilities.
- The new buildings would better serve the customers of the camp, by meeting current building codes and providing needed facilities for a broader range of campers.

Reason for categorically excluding the proposed action:

This project falls within categories established by the Forest Service (Forest Service Handbook 1909.15, Chapter 30, Section 31.2 (3)) that normally do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, this project is excluded from documentation in an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.

Hazard Trees Included in B & B Fire Recovery Project Decision:

This decision does not analyze the removal of dead hazard trees in the camp permit area. The analysis and decision to remove hazard trees and treat fuels was made in the B&B Fire Recovery Project Record of Decision (ROD pages 16-18 and 29, August 2005). That decision allows the removal of dead trees in the permit area that are hazards to the camp, as well as fuel treatments along the access road into the camp.

Public Involvement:

A scoping letter was sent out to the public on February 10, 2006, to 108 interested parties. Five comment letters/emails were received. Issues were as listed below with clarification on how the project will affect the issue:

1. Effects of development (septic systems) on water quality in Round Lake, and First Creek.

New septic systems will be designed and installed to State of Oregon standards.

2. Effects from increased use on surrounding area, includes recreation impacts to the area and the general public.

Capacity will be increased by 26 people. This is an increase of 17%. This number is based on capacity of the camp for people at one time, based on the number of beds. Historic use shows an occupancy rate of 50% based on actual use and the previous capacity of 124 PAOT (people at one time).

3. Effects of development on wildlife, especially bears and garbage interaction.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recommended that bear proof garbage containers be used, this will be accomplished through the annual operating plan, approved by the Forest Service.

4. Effects on wilderness values, camp is adjacent to Mt Jefferson Wilderness area.

The Mt Jefferson Wilderness was established in 1968 and enlarged in 1984. Round Lake Christian Camp received their special-use permit in 1959 and began construction in 1965.

The camp is located adjacent to, but outside the wilderness. Most group activities occur on the camp. A few groups hike to Square Lake, since the trailhead is a few hundred yards from the camp. There have been no issues in the past with the camp location next to the wilderness. A twelve person party size restriction is in effect for the Mt. Jefferson Wilderness, visitors from the camp would be subject to this restriction as they have been in the past.

5. Visual impacts from proposed radio tower.

The Camp has decided not to install a radio tower for communications, but will utilize internet based telephone service with a small satellite dish for internet connection.

6. Is the proposal consistent with the Forest Plan?

The proposal has been found to be consistent with the Forest Plan direction.

Findings:

The analysis for the new construction did not identify any extraordinary circumstances that might cause the action to have significant effects.

This project is consistent with the standards and guidelines established in the Deschutes National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, as amended by the Northwest Forest Plan. The project is located in Management Area Metolius Special Forest. This management area was amended in the Northwest Forest Plan to the designation Late Successional Reserves and of Riparian Reserves within 320 feet of Round Lake.

In Riparian Reserves, the standards and guidelines in LH-4 state, for activities other than surface water developments, issue leases, permits, right-of-way, and easements to avoid adverse effects that retard or prevent attainment of Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives.

This project does not prevent attainment of the Aquatic Conservation Strategy and Late-Successional Reserves objectives.

Implementation Date:

This project can be implemented immediately.

Conditions Related to Implementation:

1. All building plans will be reviewed and approved by the Forest Service for compliance with the special-use permit, Master Plan and Forest Service policy before sending to Jefferson County for building permits. Jefferson County will approve the plans for compliance with building code.
2. No new buildings will be constructed within the riparian reserve of 320 feet of Round Lake.
3. To prevent the spread of noxious weeds, all construction equipment shall be pressure washed before entering the National Forest. Provide early detection and control of noxious weeds through monitoring for the next 1-3 years.
4. Minimize ground disturbance to protect habitat and recovering native species and prevent new weed infestations.
5. Consult with turf specialists to find an acceptable non-native turf grass mix for the lawn in front of the Lodge.
6. Transplant native plants into heavily used areas around the lodge using Forest Service free transplant permits. Cut back dead shrubs if desired, but retain roots to allow sprouting.
7. Spread duff from forest areas to provide mulch, soil cover and native seed introduction.

Administrative Review and Appeal Regulations:

This decision is not subject to notice, comment and appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.4 (a) and 36 CFR 215.12.

For information contact:	Jeff Sims Lands Forester Sisters Ranger District P.O. Box 249 Sisters, OR 97759 Phone 541-549-7706
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Responsible Official <u>(s) Leslie A.C. Weldon</u>	<u>8/10/06</u> Date
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LESLIE A.C. WELDON
 Forest Supervisor
 Deschutes National Forest
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Exhibit A

Round Lake Christian Camp - Master Development Plan

