



Lower Deschutes River Management Area

News Release

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Prineville Bureau of Land Management Announces Increase in Boater Pass Fees for Lower Deschutes River

CENTRAL OREGON—River Managers from the Prineville District of the Lower Deschutes Managers Group have finalized their decision to increase boater pass user fees on the Lower Deschutes River. Annual boater pass fees have increased from \$35 to \$75 (since the annual pass will not be available until April, the prorated cost will be \$60 for the 2003 season. Day use boater pass fees have increased from \$5 to \$8 on peak weekends (from Memorial Day to Labor Day). For the remainder of the year, daily passes will remain at \$2.

“Our reasons behind the increase in boater use fees is to minimize use on the peak weekends and to raise the additional revenue needed by the agencies to provide public services such as law enforcement, campsite maintenance and boater facilities,” said Deschutes Resource Area Field Manager Robert Towne. “The peak weekends are when we are in the highest probability of exceeding our allowable use numbers. We are hopeful that by leaving the non-peak boater pass fee at \$2 per person per day, that more boaters will choose to visit the Lower Deschutes during those periods and as a result, minimize user conflict that occur on busy weekends,” added Towne.

Over the past several years, river managers, private boaters and outfitter guides have worked together to achieve significant improvements in the health of the Lower Deschutes River. Many boaters, both guided and non-guided, have changed their boating schedules to avoid busy summer weekends. River managers have increased seasonal staffing to monitor the river’s ecological and social conditions. A \$50,000 portable toilet cleaner, which greatly enhances waste compliance, has been installed at Maupin City Park. Additional planned improvements include two composting toilets (\$60,000 total) and three vault toilets (\$36,000 total).

“We have experienced significant cooperation from our recreation partners. In order to ensure the long-term health and vitality of the Lower Deschutes, we are now asking the general public for their cooperation,” said Towne.

An informational open house regarding the boater pass fee increases is scheduled for April 19th from 1-3 pm at the Bureau of Land Management Information Center, 7 North US Hwy 197, Maupin, OR 97037. BLM River Managers will be available to explain the changes in management and answer questions. To monitor annual boater pass availability, visit the website at <http://www.boaterpass.com> For additional information, contact the Prineville District of the Bureau of Land Management at (541) 416-6700.