



# SECTION 3: THE PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM

Pend Oreille County is primarily a rural region with large areas of forest and mountains offering many opportunities for outdoor recreation, relaxation and renewal. The Pend Oreille River is a popular site for fishing, boating and other water-related recreational activities. Private residences, vacation homes and cabins dot the banks and setbacks along the river. In the southwest corner of the county, the headwaters of the Little Spokane River provide numerous recreational opportunities where lakes, ponds, wetlands and riparian environments abound. Commercial establishments adjacent to river and lake communities offer leisure related services. Recreation and tourism are substantial parts of our local economy and the importance of tourism is increasing.

Recreation is heaviest in the summer months, but also occurs during other seasons of the year. Boating, jet skiing and other water-related activities along the Pend Oreille River and the multitude of scenic lakes are very popular during warm summer days. Camping, picnicking, sunbathing, relaxing and sightseeing are popular activities along the shorelines of the river and on some of the larger islands, such as Indian Island and Down's Island. Sightseeing is very popular throughout the County. In the spring; many visitors come from the Spokane area to watch the swans migrate through the region. Fishing is popular along the river and in the lakes in the late spring, summer and fall. Since the river does not always freeze over in the winter, ice fishing is rare but when conditions are right ice fishing is popular in the county lakes. Duck and goose hunting are popular activities in fall months. People hunt and fish by boat and from along the shores. Winter use along the river is minimal, although snowmobiling and cross-country skiing are very popular in the upland areas in the winter months and some trails extend down toward the river. The campgrounds, picnic areas, resorts and boat launches along the Pend Oreille River receive the majority of their use in summer months.

Winter recreation is intensely popular in Pend Oreille County. The sparsely inhabited landscapes attract visitors from Washington, Idaho and parts of Canada. Cross-country skiing is a favorite pursuit. Skiers use the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) roads as well as designated groomed trails. Enthusiasts also use the USFS roads, ground trails and open terrain for snowshoeing, snowmobiling and wildlife viewing in the winter months.

With its diverse and abundant wildlife populations, hunting and fishing are predominant sports in Pend Oreille County during the spring, fall and summer. Big game, waterfowl

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and upland game seasons begin in September and continue through to early winter. Northeast Washington is rated as one of the more popular whitetail deer hunting areas in the state. Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife figures indicate that more black bear and cougar exist in northeast Washington than in any other part of the state. Increased populations of wild turkey have provided additional hunting opportunities. A large variety of fish populate the numerous rivers and lakes in the county. The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages fish populations and coordinates an active lake and river stocking program to provide fun and excitement for anglers of all ages. The county's wildlife populations also provide an additional and ever popular opportunity for wildlife viewing and photography.

A variety of community events focused on the Pend Oreille River are held during late spring and summer including Down River Days, the Poker Paddle, the Tri-Town Float Down, The Event on Main Street in Metaline and bass fishing tournaments. Down River Days, which originated as a celebration for the completion of Box Canyon Dam, unfold in the Town of Lone. The festivities include hydroplane races, a fishing derby, entertainment and a crafts fair. Two annual bass fishing tournaments take place on the river as well.

There are large numbers of exceptional recreational resource sites in Pend Oreille County. For the most part, non-county government agencies and private owners operate and manage the majority of the recreational facilities in Pend Oreille County. Several towns and the Kalispel Tribe also own and operate facilities.

## PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARKS

Within its boundaries, Pend Oreille County has designated 1063 acres of county land as park and recreation areas. Of these areas, Pend Oreille County Park, Rustler's Gulch and Yocum Lake Wildlife and Recreation areas are regional parks. Sweet Creek Rest Area is a combination rest area and hiking park. Crescent Lake and Eagle's Nest Viewing Area are small rest stops. The remaining designated park areas consist of 12 county owned public access sites along the Pend Oreille River Water Trail. [\(For a map of Pend Oreille Recreation areas, see Appendix L\)](#) There is an additional county owned area just northeast of Lone, known as Edgewater North, which has great potential for providing additional outdoor recreation opportunities. The State land five miles northwest of Newport known as Newport Lake State Park also has good potential as a boat-in water trail site and may be a worthy acquisition to add to County park and recreation areas.

# HISTORY OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

## 1977

The earliest known Comprehensive Plan for parks and recreation in Pend Oreille County is completed by the Planning Department. It outlines public and private facilities and the general direction of park planning.

## 1982

The County acquires Pend Oreille State Park.

## 1987

A Pend Oreille County Think Tank meeting is organized and a report compiled by WSU Extension. The purpose of the meeting was to identify problems, set goals and objectives. The first goal of the report is to develop recreation facilities and opportunities.

## 1989

In the spring, the Pend Oreille Park Advisory Board is established to assist the Pend Oreille County Planning Department in preparing a new park plan.

## 1991

A new comprehensive plan is completed and provides a more detailed inventory, a description of broad alternatives of actions and supports the linkage between recreation and economic development.

## 2000

Another new Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Plan is written and approved by the County Commissioners.

## 2005

The entrance at Pend Oreille County Park is rebuilt. Improvements include a restroom and a new entrance sign. The 80 acres on the south end of Yocum Lake property is acquired by the county. Additionally, the first phase of Sweet Creek Rest Area is completed.

## 2006

A Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Plan Update is written and compiled by the County Parks and Recreation Board.

## 2008

The WA Department of Natural Resources transfers the 561 acres known as Rustler’s Gulch (Section 16) to Pend Oreille County with the direction that the property shall be used exclusively for fish and wildlife habitat, open space or recreation. Also in 2008 the County Commissioners pass a resolution stating that all timber sale proceeds from the newly acquired park property (Rustler’s Gulch) shall be deposited directly into the parks fund and proceeds shall be used only to establish and improve parks and recreation in the county. Also, the county designates the Yocum Lake property as “Yokum Lake Wildlife and Recreation Area”.

## 2009

35 acres in Rustler’s Gulch are logged and the Parks and Recreation Board receive its first ever substantial funding. The Pend Oreille River Water Trail Committee receives initial funding.

## 2010

The second phase of Sweet Creek Rest Area is completed.

## 2012

The Pend Oreille River Water Trail Concept Plan is completed and 12 Pend Oreille County properties with access to the river are designated official Water Trail Sites. Also, in Pend Oreille County Park, improvements are made to the Caretaker’s residence and a new caretaker is obtained.

## 2013

Major improvements are made in Pend Oreille County Park including removal of an old shower house, installation of a new restroom in the picnic day use area, installation of a new restroom in the campground, road repairs, diseased tree removal and beginning construction of the new group day use area and campground. On the Water Trail, signs are installed at all of the initial water trail sites. A grant request for funds to develop an equestrian trail between Pend Oreille County Park and Rustler’s Gulch is submitted but not approved. A grant request for funds to extend the hiking trail at the Sweet Creek Rest Area is also submitted and also denied. Plans for a new comprehensive parks and recreation plan begin.



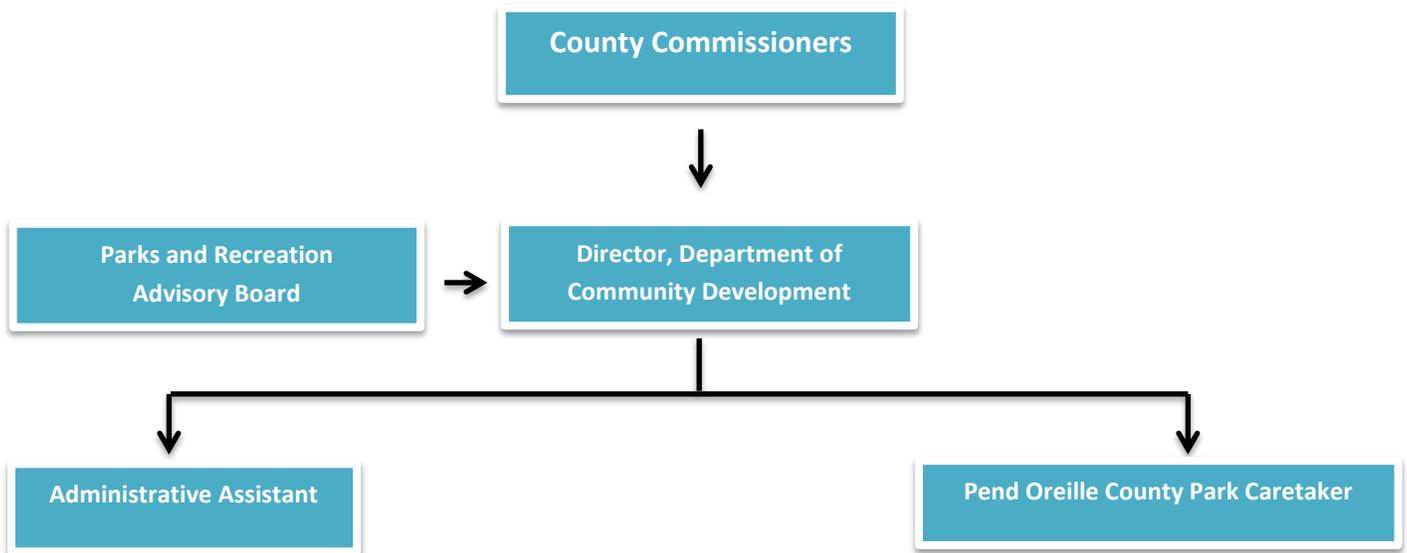
## PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION ORGANIZATION

Parks and recreation activities in Pend Oreille County are currently supervised by the Director of the Community Development Department (formerly The Planning Department). Under the Director works the Community Development Department’s Administrative Assistant. Both of these positions receive salary support from the Parks and Recreation General Fund. The Director of the Department of Community Development also supervises the Pend Oreille County Park Caretaker. The Caretaker position is described more completely in the description of Pend Oreille County Park.

Maintenance of county park lands is performed in several different ways. In some cases, partnerships have been formed with agencies that own adjoining property. In other cases, maintenance is provided by property caretakers or volunteers. Private contractors are also hired to maintain some properties. Specific details concerning maintenance at different county areas are outlined in each individual site description.

The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board consists of 7 members; 3 members each represent a section of the north, middle and southern regions of the county; 4 members serve as members-at-large. The board meets monthly on the third Wednesday.

**Figure 11** Parks and Recreation Organization



## PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MISSION STATEMENT

***“IT IS THE MISSION OF THE PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD TO PROMOTE SAFE, SUSTAINABLE OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN PEND OREILLE COUNTY.”***

## **PARKS AND RECREATION GENERAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

**GOAL 1** *BE GOOD STEWARDS OF THE LAND BY DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE, USING ESTABLISHED BEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES, TO CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN AREAS THAT ARE DESIGNATED AS PARK OR RECREATION LAND INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, WATER AND SOIL SO THAT FUTURE GENERATIONS MAY ENJOY CONTINUED QUALITY OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES.*

- a. Develop specific management plans for every area that is designated as park or recreation land
- b. Develop Forest Stewardship Plans for each area
- c. Develop Wildlife Management Plans for each area
- d. Develop general policies and standards concerning the use of each area

**GOAL 2** *DEVELOP AND PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY.*

- a. Acquire and maintain park lands to be used by residents and visitors for the purpose of leisure and outdoor recreation activities.
- b. Acquire and maintain lands within the County in order to conserve and protect natural or cultural resources.

- c. Organize, coordinate and/or provide outdoor recreation classes and activities involving archery, shooting sports, fishing, hunter safety classes, snowshoeing, X-country skiing, horseback riding, orienteering/GPS, camping, backpacking and more.
- d. Organize outdoor family events such as living history, concerts, festivals, races, scavenger hunts, tubing/sledding parties, conservation projects, etc. that encourage families to be active in a natural setting.
- e. Install geo-cache sites and disc golf courses where appropriate.

**GOAL 3**                    ***PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION LANDS.***

- a. Develop inspection and maintenance schedules for all County Parks and Recreation lands.
- b. Develop safety standards and policies for all County Parks and Recreation lands.

**GOAL 4**                    ***ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN A PERMANENT COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT.***

- a. Support a resolution that will establish a permanent County Parks and Recreation Department.
- b. Hire a part-time Parks, Recreation and Tourism Coordinator.
- c. Hire a seasonal parks ranger.
- d. Develop an internship program and hire a seasonal intern from regional community colleges, colleges or universities that provide Parks and Recreation or Natural Resources programs.
- e. Determine funding sources to support the Parks and Recreation Department.

**GOAL 5**                    ***PROVIDE A VARIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL FAMILIES AND SCHOOL GROUPS, VISITING TOURISTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.***

- a. Develop a Pend Oreille County Interpretive Master Plan
- b. Pursue grants and donations to provide funding for interpretive and outdoor education programs.
- c. Design and provide natural resource classes, activities and other programs as outlined in the Interpretive Master Plan.
- d. Cooperate with WSU Pend Oreille County Extension to help sponsor and support adult and family educational activities such as Forest Stewardship Education, Family Forest Expos and other programs.
- e. Also provide programs and facilities for regional community college and University Natural Resource programs including Eastern Washington University, Spokane Falls Community College Environmental Science and Spokane Community College Natural Resource programs and other agencies and organizations in the Northeastern Washington area.

- f. Cooperate with the Pend Oreille County Conservation District to help sponsor and support local educational activities for youth such as Water Festival, Envirothon and others.

**GOAL 6**      ***WISELY MANAGE ALL MONIES IN THE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION GENERAL FUND AND WORK TOWARD FULLY FUNDING THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE YEAR-ROUND USE OF THE PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION SYSTEM.***

- a. Determine financial policies for spending funds.
  - i. Earmarking certain funds for certain projects
  - ii. Handling requests for donations
  - iii. Emergency funds
  - iv. Maintenance funds
- b. Identify and pursue additional funding sources from grants.
- c. Identify and pursue revenue generating facilities and programs.
- d. Outline a plan for soliciting donations.
- e. Recruit and maintain a volunteer base of adults and youth to support projects and programs within the County park system.
  - i. Work with the Pend Oreille County Risk Management team to develop a strategy to enable the County to make use of volunteer work forces in a safe and organized manner; resolve liability insurance issues and develop procedures and appropriate forms for utilizing volunteer workers on County projects.
  - ii. Take advantage of the Federal VISTA Volunteer program coordinated by Rural Resources to provide economical and qualified assistance to the Parks and Recreation Department in organizing and developing fund raising programs and events and in pursuing and writing grants.
  - iii. Recruit, develop and sponsor a “Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Foundation” 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization that consists of members dedicated to advancing the goals and objectives of the Pend Oreille County Park Board.
  - iv. Recruit, develop and sponsor a “Master Naturalist” program that will assist the Parks and Recreation Department by providing environmental and outdoor education programs as well as actively planning and executing conservation projects throughout the county.
  - v. Recruit camp hosts and “adopt-a-site” volunteers to assist staff with maintenance and inspection of park areas.
  - vi. Actively recruit local service clubs and organizations such as Backcountry Horsemen’s Association, Professional Forestry Associations, Safari Club International, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and more to assist in outdoor education programs and conservation projects within county.
  - vii. Partner with local and regional colleges and universities to provide internship positions and other learning opportunities for upper level students pursuing a careers in Outdoor Recreation, Forestry and other natural resource degrees.
  - viii. Coordinate with county high schools to provide meaningful and

educational parks and conservation projects for students needing to fulfill community service requirements for graduation.

**GOAL 7**      ***COMMUNICATE, COORDINATE AND PARTNER WITH OTHER AGENCIES (FEDERAL, TRIBAL, STATE AND LOCAL), ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN AND/OR MANAGE OUTDOOR RECREATION PROPERTIES WITHIN PEND OREILLE COUNTY TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION AND EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COUNTY AND TO MAXIMIZE OUTDOOR EXPERIENCES FOR COUNTY RESIDENTS AND VISITORS.***

- a. Recruit attendees, coordinate and facilitate regular meetings of a cooperative group consisting of all resource agencies and organizations, public and private, managing outdoor recreation areas within Pend Oreille County. This group shall consist of all interested parties, including but not limited, to US Forest Service, US Department of Transportation, Pend Oreille PUD, Seattle City Light, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, WA Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, WA Dept. of Natural Resources, City of Newport, Towns of Cusick, Lone, Metaline, Metaline Falls, private recreation businesses, PORTA, Economic Development Council and any other interested parties. This group will also assist in achieving the following goal #8.
- b. Develop written and signed Memorandums of Understanding with any agency, organization or other party with which agreements are made.

**GOAL 8**      ***IDENTIFY, PROMOTE AND FACILITATE THE USE OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN PEND OREILLE COUNTY.***

- a. Develop a marketing plan to publicize County parks and recreation areas, projects and programs.
- b. Develop a public relations plan to promote County parks and recreation areas, projects and programs.

**GOAL 9**      ***PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING LOCAL PARKS AND RECREATION PLANNING WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.***

- a. Coordinate efforts with local Chambers of Commerce, Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance, Economic Development Council and other regional organizations.

**GOAL 10**      ***MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY.***

- a. Provide environmental education and outdoor recreation programs and facilities for local and regional elementary, middle and high school groups.
- b. Cooperate with the Pend Oreille County Conservation District to help sponsor and support local educational activities for youth such as Water Festival, Envirothon and others.
- c. Actively participate with the Upper Columbia Children’s Forest by providing facilities and programs to help fight child obesity and encourage youth and their families to participate in healthy outdoor activities.

## GENERAL POLICIES

### NON-MOTORIZED RECREATION IN PEND OREILLE COUNTY

The Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board has designated two areas within the park system as Non-motorized. The first is the trail system and all other areas (excluding the paved road that allows entry into the park) inside the 440 acre Pend Oreille County Park located in the south end of the County where hiking, camping, horse-back riding, bird watching and snowshoeing are the major activities. The Sweet Creek Rest Area, located in the north end of the County, where picnicking and hiking predominate is also a designated Non-motorized area. The Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board will continue to designate these two areas as Non-Motorized.

At this time, all other County lands under the jurisdiction of the Parks and Recreation Board shall remain open to both motorized and non-motorized recreational activities. Efforts shall be taken to develop and coordinate maintenance, improvements, facilities, and events so that motorized and non-motorized recreational activities are able to co-exist in the same areas without conflict. In the event that damage to natural resources occurs or problems arise between motorized and non-motorized recreational interests, the Parks and Recreation Board will consider each individual area and take steps to resolve conflicts keeping in mind at all times resource conservation as well as the best interests of the residents of Pend Oreille County.

### MAINTENANCE

Providing top quality, well maintained outdoor recreation opportunities is one of the most important goals of the Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board. No areas, facilities, equipment or other items shall be purchased, acquired or obtained by the Pend Oreille County Parks and Recreation Board unless adequate funds are available to provide proper maintenance for said acquisitions.

### MEMORANDUMS OF UNDERSTANDING

It is the policy of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to require written, dated and signed Memorandums of Understanding between all other agencies, organizations, contractors, adjacent landowners and any other party pertaining to agreements, actions, development or joint projects on county land.

## **REQUESTS FOR DONATIONS**

All monies in the Parks and Recreation Fund belong to the People of Pend Oreille County and the Parks and Recreation Board of Advisors shall not donate any of these funds to any other organization requesting any type of donations or financial support. Likewise, natural resources found within the areas designated as County Park lands belong to the People of Pend Oreille County and the Parks and Recreation Board of Advisors shall not donate any of these resources to any other agency or organization requesting donations of resources.

## **ACCOMMODATIONS FOR CITIZENS**

All facilities and programs will be designed to make reasonable accommodations for all people and will be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and other Federal, State and County regulations.

## **COMPETITION WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR**

Private business and other organizations are encouraged to provide outdoor recreation opportunities within Pend Oreille County and at no time shall County facilities or programs compete with those private businesses or organizations.

## COUNTY DESIGNATED PARKS AND RECREATION RESOURCES AND FACILITIES

### PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK

In the early 1980's the State of Washington granted jurisdiction of the 440 acres of this park to Pend Oreille County. ([See Appendix M](#)) It is located just north of the Spokane County line on Highway 2 and offers primitive tent and small RV camping with a few amenities. Wildlife such as elk, white-tailed deer, moose, black bear, bobcat, and many small mammals as well as bird species are abundant in the park but the main attractions are the majestic old growth trees found in the area.



POC PARK ENTRANCE SIGN

The park has a main entrance area with parking lot and restroom, an overnight campground, a day-use picnic area and an extensive trail system. The entrance is open year-round and will accommodate around 8 cars. There is also a vault toilet, two interpretive signs and a large park sign at the entrance. Beyond the entrance, the gated, overnight campground includes one single vault, ADA compatible toilet; freeze proof water hydrant, 18 campsites all with fire rings and picnic tables and a self-service pay station. Also behind the gate is the day-use picnic area that includes two small open picnic shelters, 15 picnic tables, 7 fire rings and BBQ grills, one drinking fountain, a freeze proof water hydrant, one single vault, ADA compatible toilet and a large parking lot that will easily accommodate 20-25 vehicles. The parking lot is large enough to also accommodate school busses. The cost to camp one night is \$10.00; the day use area is free. The park behind the gate (campground and day-use picnic area) is open between Memorial Day and Labor Day from 8:00 a.m. until 10:00 p.m. The entrance parking lot and restroom are open year-round.

The trail system includes over 7 miles of hiking trails; one main loop trail and a variety of adjoining trails and loops. There is an intermittent stream that runs through the picnic area in the spring. ([See Appendix M](#)) The trail system may be accessed year-round for hiking, snow-shoeing and cross country skiing from the park entrance parking lot.

Pend Oreille County Park is maintained by a resident caretaker. The county provides housing at no cost in exchange for park maintenance services. These services include day-to-day cleaning and maintenance of camp sites, picnic areas and restrooms. The Caretaker periodically checks the self-service camp fee station and disseminates information to the public. The Caretaker also performs periodic inspections and takes steps to repair minor problems to keep the park clean and safe for visitors.

### **CAPACITY:**

The campground has 17 camping sites although not all sites are completely useable due to small parking spots, sharp turns in the road and uneven slopes. It is currently no more than 25% full during peak times. At this time there is no need to increase the number of campsites available. The picnic area can easily accommodate 20-25 vehicles and as many large families. In the spring of 2013 the picnic area hosted a large group of 170 students for an outdoor education event sponsored by the West Valley Outdoor Learning Center. The site easily accommodated the large group of students, teachers and parents in all ways except for restroom facilities. There were long lines of students waiting to use the picnic area restroom. Some students walked over to the campground restroom to avoid long waits at the picnic area restroom. Should large groups, such as family reunions or weddings, be using the picnic area during peak seasons it may be wise to recommend that they rent a portable toilet to accommodate their group. The entrance parking lot can accommodate 8-10 vehicles and the restroom easily serves the number of cars and visitors that stop here.

### **VISITATION:**



**NEW RESTROOM IN PICNIC AREA**

In general, Pend Oreille County Park is underutilized by the public except for the restroom located at the entry way to the park. This restroom is open year-round and serves as a “last stop” for those driving on to the Spokane area or the “first stop” after leaving the Spokane area. The toilet vault here was historically pumped at the beginning and the end of the season. Due to increasingly heavy use it is now pumped at least once a month during the busy summer season. The camping area and picnic areas are usually no more than 25% full even in the busiest times of the season. The Backcountry Horsemen’s Association uses the park regularly and through their efforts the park’s trail system is cleared in the spring. They also volunteer many hours of labor in the park in general. They are currently providing labor to create new group day-use and camping areas at the west end of the park.

The Association is also providing labor to lay a new water line that will supply water to the new day-use area. They are also improving a road that will lead to the new overnight group camping area. Here there will be a loop with dispersed campsites to accommodate campers and horses, if present, around the outer edge.

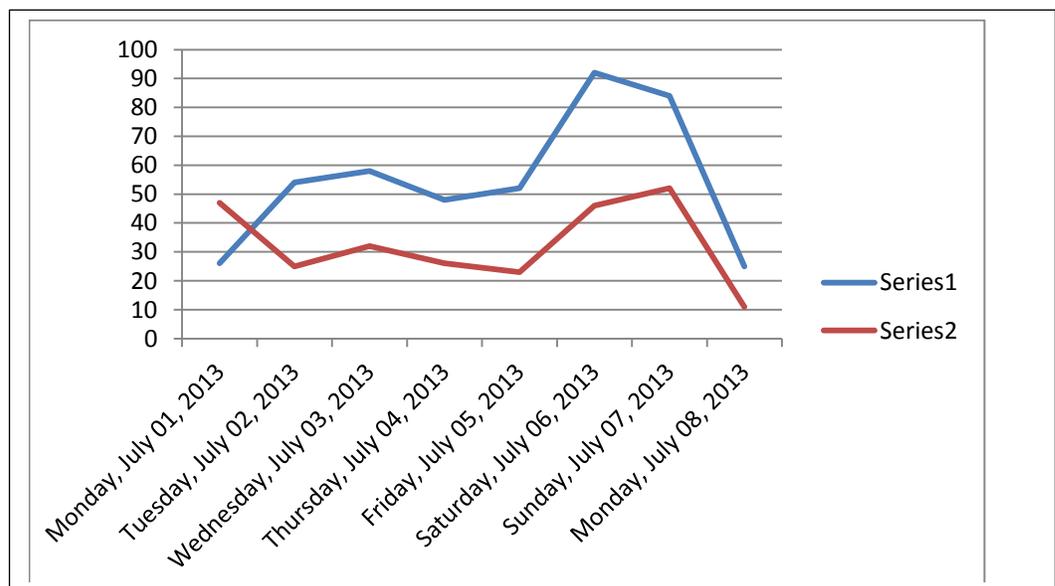
Traffic counters were placed in two areas in Pend Oreille County Park starting at 7:30 a.m. on July 1, 2013 and were left in place until July 8. The first counter was placed at the park entrance to determine how many cars entered the park each day. A second counter was placed about 100 yards beyond the entrance past the campground gate to determine how many cars continued on and entered the campground/picnic area. The table below shows the visitation numbers. Visitation was highest on Saturday and Sunday. 59% of cars entering the park continued on into the campground/picnic area. These visitors were entering to use the day use area or just curious about the facilities inside the park. Of those entering the park, 41% never travelled beyond the entrance

and presumably entered the park to use the restrooms along the highway or the trails and never drove into the campground or day-use picnic areas. Looking at the numbers of cars leaving compared to the number of cars entering will show numbers of visitors electing to camp over-night in the campground. It can be estimated that 4-8 campsites per night were being used over the Independence Day holiday. It is difficult to explain why traffic entering and leaving the gate to the campground/picnic area is so much higher than the actual traffic entering the park on Monday, July 1. The Park Caretaker or park volunteers must have been driving back and forth over the traffic counter while working on maintenance or cleaning projects.

**Table 4 Pend Oreille County Park Visitation**

Date	Enter park	Leave park	Enter picnic/camp	Leave picnic/camp
Monday, July 01, 2013	26	26	47	47
Tuesday, July 02, 2013	54	54	25	25
Wednesday, July 03, 2013	58	61	32	34
Thursday, July 04, 2013	48	44	26	24
Friday, July 05, 2013	52	56	23	26
Saturday, July 06, 2013	92	88	46	47
Sunday, July 07, 2013	84	80	52	51
Monday, July 08, 2013	25	23	11	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>439</b>	<b>432</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>262</b>

**Figure 12 Number of cars entering POC Park (top line) vs. number of cars that continue driving into campground/picnic area (bottom line)**



## CONDITION:

Pend Oreille County Park, in general, is in poor condition. Disease problems in the old growth trees seem to be escalating and each year crews need to remove more and more trees that have become safety hazards. The fire grates and fire pits are old and some need to be replaced. Picnic tables are deteriorating and need to be replaced. The two small picnic shelters in the day-use picnic need to be re-roofed. The roads leading to the campsites have eroded and need to be repaired. Most individual campsites need to be redesigned to provide level (and larger) parking and camping areas. Individual campsites need to be delineated and separated with newly planted vegetation to provide privacy. A few campsites could be redesigned, joined to an adjacent site and provide at least a few drive-through sites to accommodate larger RVs. Paths through the campground need to be established to prevent widespread erosion, soil compaction and habitat destruction. New trees and native shrubs should be planted to replace trees that have died and provide a more natural appearance. Habitat destruction and soil compaction caused by uncontrolled vehicle parking is widespread. Parking barriers and gates need to be installed to control vehicle access in both the picnic area and in the campground. Most of the signs in the park need to be replaced and additional signs providing information and directions need to be installed. The trail system map is good but some parts of the trail system need to be redesigned or improved to match the map. There are some areas where the trails become indistinguishable and hikers lose their way. Pend Oreille County residents, according to the 2013 survey, are requesting additional nature trails and Pend Oreille County Park is an excellent area to meet that demand.

On the other hand, some very nice improvements were made to this park in the spring of 2013. The old shower house/restroom in the campground was removed and two new ADA compatible vault restrooms were installed, one in the picnic area and one in the campground. The eroded road leading to the picnic area and part of the parking lot was improved. Road base was also brought in to repair the road leading to the new restroom in the campground. Two students from Selkirk High School built 10 new picnic tables for their required community service project. The tables were delivered by employees of Seattle City Light and have replaced old, unusable picnic tables. There is also a newer interpretive sign near the restroom at the entrance providing information on water conservation in the Little Spokane River watershed.

## PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

***1. USING ESTABLISHED BEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES, DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE THE OLD GROWTH FOREST OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK AND CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.***

- a. Develop a Pend Oreille County Park Master Plan including all aspects of park management.
  - i. Develop a Forest Stewardship Plan for Pend Oreille County Park.
  - ii. Develop a Wildlife Management Plan for Pend Oreille County Park.
  - iii. Continue the current designation of Pend Oreille County Park as a non-motorized area and develop a strategy that will encourage walk-in, non-motorized recreational activities beyond the existing access road, parking lots and campground.
  - iv. Develop policies and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.)
    - 1. Regulation language needs to emphasize and promote old-growth forest atmosphere in a positive manner rather than negatively place limitations on user's activities.
    - 2. Regulations need to protect the park facilities and natural landscape as well as the interests of the surrounding land owners.

***2. DEVELOP AND PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK AND USE THE "OLD GROWTH FOREST" AS A CONTINUING THEME.***

- a. Create a Group Day-Use and Group Camping Area
  - i. Develop a Day Use area with large parking spots for trucks and horse trailers.
  - ii. Install an ADA approved vault toilet at the Group Day Use area.
  - iii. Develop a separate Overnight Group Camping area.
  - iv. Build an established road connecting the Day Use area to the Overnight Camping area
  - v. Develop a connecting non-motorized trail to Rustler's Gulch.
  - vi. Install water lines from the main campground to the Day Use Area.
  - vii. Build and install high lines and corrals for equestrian use.
  - viii. Build and install manure bins for equestrian use.
- b. Improve the main campground.
  - i. Redesign, reconstruct and improve the existing campground to make campground more attractive and usable by visitors.
    - 1. Improve and delineate the road and parking areas.
    - 2. Level sites/ install retaining walls.
    - 3. Improve and delineate trails through the campground to discourage resource damage off of trails
    - 4. Landscape certain areas with native plants and rocks to improve aesthetics, prevent erosion, create privacy between sites and provide a more natural environment.
    - 5. Improve the appearance of the Caretaker's residence.
      - a. Install new siding.
      - b. Provide neat and attractive storage buildings.
      - c. Install appropriate fencing and landscaping.
    - 6. Develop a Camp Host RV parking site complete with sewer, water and electrical hookups.
    - 7. Design and install a dump station that will be used jointly by the Camp Host and the public.
- c. Improve the trail system throughout the Park.
  - i. Redefine trails where necessary using existing maps as guides.

- ii. Move trails where necessary to accommodate physical on-site problems and obstacles.
  - iii. Redesign current maps to reflect any changes in trail locations.
  - iv. Improve and increase trail signage.
  - v. Design and install interpretive signs and develop some trail sections into self-guided nature trails.
- d. Develop a non-motorized trail that will connect Pend Oreille County Park to Rustler's Gulch and the West Branch Little Spokane Wildlife Area.
  - e. Work toward keeping Pend Oreille County Park open year-round so that winter recreation opportunities may also be provided.
  - f. Develop a safe and accessible sledding/tubing/tobogganing slope.
  - g. Encourage the use and support of Pend Oreille County Park.
    - i. Organize and provide outdoor recreation classes and activities involving archery, shooting sports, fishing, hunter safety classes, snowshoeing, X-country skiing, horseback riding, orienteering/GPS, camping, backpacking, outdoor cooking and more.
    - ii. Organize outdoor family events such as living history, concerts, festivals, races, scavenger hunts, tubing parties, conservation projects and more that encourage families to be active in a natural setting.

**3. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK.**

- a. Improve and increase signage to designate camping areas, parking areas, launching and loading areas, trail heads and area regulations.
- b. Install interpretive signs with information about Leave No Trace camping practices.
- c. Bring all facilities up to American with Disabilities Act standards.
- d. Recruit a camp host to assist the Parks Coordinator in park regulations enforcement and maintenance.
- e. Develop a security Memorandum of Understanding with the Sheriff's Department to maintain park security.
- f. Purchase additional security equipment as necessary such as cameras, fencing, locks, etc.
- g. Identify and delineate park boundaries and inspect boundaries on a regular basis to check for encroachments and maintain boundary delineators.
- h. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist.
- i. Develop management objectives including a fire safety plan and emergency evacuation plan.
- j. Develop a maintenance schedule for all areas within the park including trails, roads, campsites, picnic tables and restrooms.
- k. Develop an equipment and facility replacement schedule.

**4. MAINTAIN AND EXPAND NUMBERS OF PARK STAFF**

- a. Continue to provide a seasonal Park Caretaker who will live in the park and provide security, make reservations, undertake minor construction and maintenance projects, supervise the camp host and protect the park from vandalism.
- b. Create an internship program and recruit an intern every summer from area schools that teach Forestry, Natural Resources or Parks and Recreation programs.

- c. Hire a seasonal park ranger to assist the Parks Coordinator, Caretaker and Host in completing park projects, repairs and maintenance.

**5. PROVIDE A VARIETY OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL FAMILIES, VISITING TOURISTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC.**

- a. Develop an Interpretive Master Plan for Pend Oreille County Park and take initial steps to begin completing interpretive objectives.
  - i. Interpretive materials
    - 1. Design and distribute interpretive brochures
    - 2. Design and install interpretive signs
    - 3. Develop additional interpretive and educational projects
  - ii. Programs
    - 1. Design and provide natural resource classes, activities and other programs as outlined in the Interpretive Master Plan.
    - 2. Cooperate with WSU Pend Oreille County Extension to help sponsor and support adult educational activities such as Forest Stewardship Education, Family Forest Expos and other programs.
  - iii. Facilities
    - 1. Initiate plans for a multi-use picnic group shelter that will not only generate funds for the park but also accommodate school groups, classes, events, meetings, evening campfire programs and other large group activities.
    - 2. Seating in the form of benches or picnic tables should be provided in or near the multi-use picnic shelter to accommodate groups of people.

**6. WISELY MANAGE EXISTING FUNDS AND IDENTIFY AND PURSUE ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE SEASONAL USE OF PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK.**

- a. Determine County funding sources for the Parks and Recreation budget that will fund the following:
  - i. Seasonal park ranger
  - ii. Park Intern
  - iii. Group day-use and group camp improvements
  - iv. Campground improvements
- b. Develop revenue income from POC park's facilities.
  - i. Improve campground to increase park usage.
  - ii. Build a revenue-generating picnic shelter, available by reservation, with parking, picnic tables and other amenities large enough to accommodate weddings, family picnics and school groups. Any buildings or facilities in the park shall consistently be designed to characterize the old growth, native theme. (Large posts, timbers, cabin theme, etc.)
  - iii. Design and install a dump station to increase park usage, solve environmental health and pollution problems and generate revenue.
  - iv. Develop a tubing/sledding/tobogganing slope.
  - v. Organize events at the Park to generate funds.
- c. Recruit volunteer groups to support the Park programs.
  - i. Local community college students

- ii. Backcountry Horsemen and other community organizations
- iii. Master Naturalists – education, classes, conservation projects
- iv. POC Parks and Recreation Foundation
- d. Pursue grants, develop a donation box program, pursue other donations and outside funding for the following:
  - i. Group day-use and group campground
  - ii. Campground improvements
  - iii. Signage
  - iv. Conservation projects
    - 1. Habitat
    - 2. Wildlife
  - v. Interpretation and Education/outdoor classes

***7. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK AS WELL AS THE FULL RANGE OF OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COUNTY.***

- a. Develop a comprehensive marketing plan for Pend Oreille County Park.
- b. Continue to develop a “Gateway to Pend Oreille County and Washington” theme.
  - i. Install a kiosk displaying maps and full information about facilities, services, programs of Pend Oreille Park and other sites of interest throughout the County.
  - ii. Enhance the park entrance to increase the aesthetic appeal, creating a visual draw to the park. Base the design on the natural forest setting offered by the park itself.
  - iii. Landscape suitable sites at the entry with low, flowering, wildlife habitat shrubs, with various bloom schedules for color attraction.
  - iv. Use some of the logs from old-growth trees designated to be removed to build an entry frame. This can demonstrate the size of the trees within the park to passers-by.
  - v. Contact the Department of Transportation to discuss the possibility that the entrance to the Park be designated an official “Rest Area” and pursue development of that opportunity.
- c. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning Pend Oreille County Park.
- d. Write and release periodic news releases to local media concerning the area
- e. Develop brochures, newsletters, quarterly outdoor recreation activity guides and other written materials to disseminate information and encourage the use of the Park.
- f. Make available information of other County recreation opportunities and events to park visitors.
- g. Partner with PORTA (Pend Oreille River Tourism Alliance) to advertise, market and encourage tourism through parks and recreation activities.

***8. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.***

- a. Coordinate and facilitate periodic meetings with agencies and other adjacent landowners.

- b. Create a Pend Oreille County Park e-mail list to notify adjacent landowners of any change in management policies and/or upcoming plans and projects.

**9. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.**

- a. Coordinate with and assist local Chambers of Commerce, the Economic Development Council and other tourism based organizations.
- b. Coordinate fairs, shows and other events at Pend Oreille County Park that will give local businesses exposure such as chainsaw carving competitions, art and sculpture shows, cabin building, camping and fishing expos, etc.

**10. MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH USING TRAILS, FACILITIES AND AREAS IN PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK.**

- a. Coordinate with local and regional schools in developing environmental education curriculum and programs for elementary, middle school and high school, community college, college and university.
- b. Develop classes and activities for youth at the park to teach outdoor recreation skills such as archery, snowshoeing, leave no trace camping, geocaching, horseback riding, outdoor cooking etc.
- c. Develop areas and facilities for youth activities such as fun obstacle courses; tubing/sledding slope; archery range; disc golf course; geo-cache site, etc.
- d. Contact Pend Oreille County Conservation District to reinstitute past environmental education activities for youth such as Water Festival, Envirothon and others.
- e. Actively participate with the Upper Columbia Children's Forest.
- f. Develop a sledding/tubing/tobogganing slope.

**PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK POLICIES**

- All plans, signs and other park projects shall reflect an old growth forest theme wherever possible using large logs salvaged from trees from the park.
- The campground shall accommodate a park host from May until October
- All efforts will be made to keep the campground and picnic areas open as long as possible and work toward keeping it open year-round.
- The Parks and Recreation Department shall recruit and provide housing for a year-round caretaker.

**PEND OREILLE COUNTY PARK RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- No hunting within 100 yards of campgrounds or parking lots.
- No stallions in the park.
- A 10 night stay is the limit.
- All overnight campers must pay current fees. Current fee is \$10 per night.
- Day-use is free.
- All sites and areas are available on a first-come-first-served basis.
- No firewood cutting allowed within the park boundaries.
- Dogs must be on leashes at all times.
- All park areas are designated as non-motorized except the main roads providing entry and access to parking areas.
- The Park is open from 8 a.m. until 10 p.m.

## RUSTLER’S GULCH EQUESTRIAN TRAIL (PROJECTED)

Rustler’s Gulch Equestrian Trail, approximately 2.5 miles long, provides a non-motorized connection from Pend Oreille County Park to the Rustler’s Gulch Recreation Area. The trail is designed to accommodate hikers, mountain bikers, cross-country skiers, snow shoeing and other non-motorized activities. [\(See Appendix N\)](#) A grant to provide funding for this trail was applied for in the summer of 2013 but the request was denied. The County already has some funding available for this project and plans to go ahead with the trail design work and then re-apply for funding at a later date.

### **Rustler’s Gulch Equestrian Trail Goals and Objectives**

#### ***1. USING ESTABLISHED BEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.***

- a. Develop a comprehensive management plan that will include a Forest Stewardship Plan, a Wildlife Management Plan, a Weed Management Plan and policies, guidelines and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.).
- b. Regulations need to protect the natural landscape as well as the interests of the surrounding land owners.

#### ***2. DEVELOP AND PROVIDE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO RUSTLER’S GULCH***

- a. Provide the trail for hiking, snow shoeing, cross-county skiing, mountain biking, horseback riding, nature study, bird watching and all other non-motorized activities as well as good access to the trail.

#### ***3. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING RUSTLER’S GULCH TRAIL***

- a. Improve and increase signage designate parking areas and area regulations.
- b. Provide trail maps.
- c. Identify and delineate trail boundaries and inspect boundaries on a regular basis to check for encroachments and maintain boundary delineators.
- d. Recruit volunteers to patrol the trail on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist
- e. Develop a maintenance plan for the trail.

#### ***4. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL FAMILIES, VISITING TOURISTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY INSTALLING INTERPRETIVE SIGNS THAT HELP FORM A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP.***

- a. Install interpretive signs along the trail that include tree/plant identification, birds and other wildlife of the area, historical and cultural interests, etc.

**5. WISELY MANAGE EXISTING FUNDS AND IDENTIFY AND PURSUE ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE SEASONAL USE OF RUSTLER'S GULCH.**

- a. General Parks and Recreation fund
  - i. Area maintenance and litter patrol
- b. Volunteer groups
  - i. Local community college students
  - ii. Backcountry Horsemen
  - iii. Master Naturalists – education, classes, conservation projects
  - iv. POC Parks and Recreation Foundation
- c. Grants, donations and other outside funding
  - ii. Signage
  - iii. Conservation projects
    - a. Trail maintenance/erosion control
    - b. Wildlife
    - c. Habitat

**6. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE RUSTLER'S GULCH AS WELL AS THE FULL RANGE OF OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COUNTY.**

- a. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning Rustler's Gulch Trail.
- b. Install interpretive signs with information about other recreation opportunities in the area.

**7. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH WA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN OR MANAGE PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO RUSTLER'S GULCH TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.**

- a. Coordinate and facilitate periodic meetings with WDFW, other interested agencies, organizations and adjacent landowners.
- b. Create a Rustler's Gulch Trail e-mail list to notify adjacent landowners of any change in management policies and/or upcoming plans and projects

**8. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR RUSTLER'S GULCH TRAIL WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.**

**9. MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH USING TRAILS, FACILITIES AND AREAS IN RUSTLER'S GULCH TRAIL.**

- a. Make the Rustler's Gulch Trail an easily accessible area for youth by organizing, coordinating and providing nature hikes and classes in horseback riding, cross country skiing and snow shoeing and other outdoor youth activities.

## RUSTLER'S GULCH



POSSIBLE PARKING LOT SITE AT  
RUSTLER'S GULCH

The Rustler's Gulch area was donated to Pend Oreille County by the Washington Department of Natural Resources in May of 2009 with the stipulation that the 560 acre parcel be used exclusively for the purpose of providing fish and wildlife habitat, open space or recreation. It is located in the south end of Pend Oreille County approximately 1 ½ miles northwest of Pend Oreille County Park and adjacent to the West Branch Little Spokane Wildlife Refuge managed by the Department of Fish and Wildlife. [\(See Appendix P\)](#) The area is currently open to Off Road Vehicles (ORV) and is used mostly by surrounding landowners and some regional recreationists for hunting. The proceeds from logging on this parcel provide funding for the Parks and Recreation Board. In 2011, a portion of this area was logged and produced an income of \$340, 659. A 2012 Timber Cruise report estimated that the remaining stumpage on this section was valued at \$795,950.74 (based on 2012 log selling prices).

### Capacity:

This is a 560 acre, undeveloped area that has the capacity to serve large numbers of visitors.

**Condition:** Rustler's Gulch is undeveloped. There are some existing roads within the area that are used by 4x4 trucks and ORVs. In some spots these roads show considerable erosion as the soil is very sandy. The boundaries of this area are not clearly defined by signage and therefore illegal firewood cutting is a recurring problem.

### RUSTLER'S GULCH

#### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

***1. USING ESTABLISHED BEST MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.***

- a. Develop a comprehensive management plan that will include a Forest Stewardship Plan, a Wildlife Management Plan, a Weed Management Plan and policies, guidelines and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.)
- b. Regulations need to protect the natural landscape as well as the interests of the surrounding land owners.

***2. DEVELOP AND PROVIDE A VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO RUSTLER'S GULCH.***

- a. Develop a non-motorized trail that will connect Pend Oreille County Park to Rustler's Gulch and the West Branch Little Spokane Wildlife Refuge.

- b. In cooperation with WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, develop a parking lot on county land to accommodate vehicles and trailers. A parking lot on county land will provide free parking for those who do not wish to purchase a WA State Discover Pass or a Fish and Wildlife Parking Pass. The parking lot would also provide restroom facilities and appropriate signage.
  - i. Develop a memorandum of understanding with WDFW concerning development and management of the area
- c. Design and develop a safe and accessible winter sledding/tubing/tobogganing slope and other winter recreation opportunities.

***3. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING RUSTLER’S GULCH.***

- a. Develop a memorandum of understanding with WDFW concerning maintenance of the area.
- b. Improve and increase signage on County land to designate parking areas and area regulations.
- c. Identify and delineate park boundaries and inspect boundaries on a regular basis to check for encroachments and maintain boundary delineators.
- d. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist

***4. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL FAMILIES, VISITING TOURISTS AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC BY INSTALLING INTERPRETIVE SIGNS THAT HELP FORM A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP IN VISITORS.***

- a. Install interpretive signs at the parking lot and along trails within the area.
- b. Develop a nature trail within the area

***5. WISELY MANAGE EXISTING FUNDS; IDENTIFY AND PURSUE ADDITIONAL FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE SEASONAL USE OF RUSTLER’S GULCH.***

- a. General Parks and Recreation Board fund
  - i. Area maintenance and litter patrol
- b. Volunteer groups
  - i. Local community college students
  - ii. Backcountry Horsemen
  - iii. Master Naturalists – education, classes, conservation projects
  - iv. POC Parks and Recreation Foundation
- c. Grants, donations and other outside funding
  - i. Connecting trail to PO County Park
  - ii. Signage
  - iii. Winter OR facilities/activities
  - iv. Conservation projects
    - a. Wildlife
    - b. Habitat

***6. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE RUSTLER’S GULCH AS WELL AS THE FULL RANGE OF OTHER PUBLIC AND PRIVATE RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES IN THE COUNTY.***

- a. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning Rustler's Gulch.
- b. Install interpretive signs with information about other recreation opportunities in the area.
- c. Plan and coordinate activities to draw visitors the Rustler's Gulch such as winter recreation events, contests, road rallies, tours and other outdoor recreational activities.

***7. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH WA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AND OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN OR MANAGE PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO RUSTLER'S GULCH TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.***

- a. Coordinate and facilitate periodic meetings with WDFW, other interested agencies, organizations and adjacent landowners.
- b. Create a Rustler's Gulch e-mail list to notify adjacent landowners of any change in management policies and/or upcoming plans and projects

***8. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR RUSTLER'S GULCH WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.***

***9. MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH USING TRAILS, FACILITIES AND AREAS IN RUSTLER'S GULCH.***

## YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA

The 80 acres surrounding and including the south half of Yocum Lake was acquired by Pend Oreille County through a land trade with Stimson Lumber Company in 2005. [\(See Appendix O\)](#) In 2008 it was designated The Yocum Lake Wildlife Recreation Area by the



YOCUM LAKE

County Commissioners. The adjacent US Forest Service's Yocum Lake Campground, which is accessed from the west by a Forest Service road, is a primitive campground with a boat launch. No motors are allowed on the lake. There is a separate, county maintained primitive access road that comes in from the south. This road, leading directly to the County maintained boat launch, is open as soon as crews are able in the spring until snow forces its closure in the fall. There is a loop that goes down to the gravel boat launch that allows easy access for vehicles and boat trailers. Yocum Lake, in the past, has provided good habitat for nesting loons.

### CAPACITY:

The Yocum Lake Wildlife Recreation Area does not have the capacity to serve large amounts of visitors especially since it is important that the pristine and primitive aesthetics of the area be protected. The road is primitive and access by 4 wheel drive vehicles is recommended. Once at the lake, there is no parking lot so vehicles and boat trailers must park along the road adjacent to the boat launch. There are no restroom facilities. Dispersed camping areas on county property can probably accommodate only 2-3 small groups of over-night campers. At this time the current facilities can well accommodate the amount of use that the area receives.

### CONDITION:

Yocum Lake Recreation Area, with the exception of the access road and boat launch, is undeveloped. Its aesthetics are primitive and pristine. There is an old logging road on the east side of the lake that has been used by anglers and off road vehicles. Dispersed camping along this road has caused some erosion and trash problems.

## YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE AND RECREATION AREA

### GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

***1. DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE THE PRISTINE NATURE OF YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA AND CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.***

- a. Develop a Management Plan to include a Forest Stewardship Plan, a Wildlife Management Plan, a Weed Management Plan and a Shore-line Management Plan for Yocum Lake Wildlife Recreation Area
- b. Continue the current designation of Yocum Lake as a no combustion motorized, no wake boating zone and develop a strategy that will encourage walk-in, non-motorized recreational activities beyond the access road and parking lot.

- c. Develop policies and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.)

**2. DEVELOP AND PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA.**

- a. Continue to maintain the County road that provides access to Yocum Lake Wildlife Recreation Area and strive to keep that road open as early as possible in the spring after snow melt and as long as possible into hunting season in the fall.
- b. Design and construct hiking trails to provide additional opportunities for fishing, picnicking, hiking, wildlife viewing, tent camping, wildlife photography, bird watching and backpacking.
  - i. Develop a hiking trail with dispersed tent camping sites around the west side of the lake to connect with the Forest Service campground to the north
  - ii. Develop a hiking trail around the east side of the lake up to the County property line.

**3. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA**

- a. Create a parking area away from the boat launch to increase the capacity of vehicle parking for the entire area and to allow a safer, less crowded space near the boat launch for launching boats and maneuvering vehicles
- b. Improve and increase signage to designate parking areas, launching areas, area regulations and future trail locations
- c. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist

**4. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA IN THE FORM OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA.**

- a. Information on “Leave No Trace” camping and “Pack Your Trash”
- b. Information concerning wildlife (notably loons), fish and plants of the area

**5. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE SEASONAL USE OF YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA.**

- a. General Parks and Recreation budget management plans
  - i. Continued road maintenance
- b. Volunteer
  - i. Management plans – college student projects
  - ii. Periodic patrol
  - iii. Conservation projects – Master Naturalists
  - iii. Adopt a site program
- c. Pursue Grants

- i. Parking Lot
- ii. Signage
- iii. Trail design and construction

**6. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE AND RECREATION AREA.**

- a. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning Yocum Lake Wildlife Recreation Area
- b. Write and release periodic news releases to local media concerning the area
- c. Organize events to take place at Yocum Lake Wildlife and Recreation Area to draw visitors to the area.

**7. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE AND OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO YOCUM LAKE AND YOCUM LAKE WILDLIFE RECREATION AREA TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.**

- a. Coordinate and facilitate periodic meetings with USFS and other adjacent landowners
- b. Jointly create and sign a Memorandum of Understanding that outlines all agreements and commitments on the parts of both parties.
- c. Create a Yocum Lake e-mail list to notify adjacent landowners of any change in management policies and/or upcoming plans and projects.

**8. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR YOCUM LAKE RECREATION AREA WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.**

**9. MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH USING TRAILS, FACILITIES AND AREAS IN YOCUM LAKE.**

- a. Use this area to teach fishing, boating, leave no trace camping classes for youth.

**POLICIES**

- Preserve Yocum Lake’s pristine and primitive condition.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- No wake zone on lake
- No combustible motors on lake (electric okay)
- Pack Your Trash area
- Leave No Trace camping acceptable
- Follow all State fishing regulations
- No Discovery Pass required

## SWEET CREEK REST AREA

The Sweet Creek Rest Area is a natural and scenic 38 acre parcel situated on the North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway and the Selkirk Loop (State Route 31) about 1 ½ miles south of Metaline. [\(See Appendix P\)](#) It was developed in 3 different phases with the help of the Department of Transportation grants as an enhancement project of the International Selkirk Loop plan. Sweet Creek bisects the site. The highlights of the area are three waterfalls; the lowest waterfall is located a short walk from the parking area. This rest area offers excellent opportunities for wildlife viewing, hiking, picnicking and recreating



SWEET CREEK FALLS

in a quiet, natural setting. There is a large parking lot for 13 cars and 5 larger RVs or trucks, a two toilet vault restroom, trash receptacles, and two short trails. The north trail is the shortest and leads to the lower falls. The first part of the trail is paved and provides access to 2 different private areas with picnic tables. The second trail takes off from the south side of the rest area and leads to a viewpoint at the top of the falls. There are six picnic tables along this trail. There is also an interpretive sign near the restroom explaining the history of Sweet Creek and the former logging operations in that area.

### Capacity:

Currently, the parking lot that accommodates 13 vehicles, the restrooms, picnic tables and all other amenities are more than enough to serve the numbers of people that use the area. As the trail system is expanded and recreation and environmental education activities are organized for the area, this park may easily reach its maximum capacity.

### Condition:

Sweet Creek Rest Area is in excellent condition. The existing trail system originating at the parking lot needs to be extended to form a loop. A foot bridge would need to be built over one part of this extended trail. All facilities and features of this area are well maintained. There is a small amount of erosion repair work necessary and the usual maintenance needed to repair occasional vandalism.

## SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

### ***1. DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE THE PRISTINE NATURE OF SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA AND CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.***

- a. Develop a Management Plan that includes a Forest Stewardship Plan and a Wildlife Management Plan
- b. Continue the current designation of Sweet Creek Recreation Area as a non-motorized zone and develop a strategy that will encourage walk-in, non-motorized recreational activities beyond the access road and parking lot.

- c. Develop policies and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.)

**2. DEVELOP AND PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA.**

- a. Extend the current trail system to provide additional hiking opportunities.
- b. Coordinate recreation activities to be held at Sweet Creek Recreation area such as nature hikes, picnics for seniors, snowshoe hikes, etc.
- c. Install a geo-cache site in Sweet Creek Recreation Area.

**3. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA**

- a. Continue existing inspection and maintenance procedures.
- b. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist.

**4. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA IN THE FORM OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA.**

- a. Install a series of interpretive signs along the trail system providing information concerning the rich logging history of the area as well as local wildlife and plant species.
- b. Organize nature hikes and nature classes
- c. Use Sweet Creek Rest Area as a regional environmental education learning center for school groups since the parking area, picnic table layout, trail system and available natural and historical resources will easily accommodate small school groups of 30-40 students during periods of good weather.

**5. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA.**

- a. Pursue grants
  - i. Trail expansion
  - ii. Interpretive signs
- b. Volunteers
  - i. Conservation projects (erosion repair, trail maintenance, etc.).
  - ii. Adopt a site program

**6. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA.**

- a. Organize events to take place at Sweet Creek Recreation Area.

- b. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning Sweet Creek Rest Area.
- c. Write and release periodic news releases to local media concerning the area.

***7. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.***

- a. Selkirk International Loop organization
- b. Dept. of Transportation/Scenic Byway

***8. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.***

- a. Continue active participation in the International Selkirk Scenic Loop program.

***9. MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH USING TRAILS AND FACILITIES AT SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA***

- a. Coordinate activities with Selkirk High School to provide outdoor education programs at Sweet Creek Recreation Area.
- b. Provide outdoor recreation classes for youth using the area. Such classes might include snowshoeing, orienteering, living history, wildlife viewing, etc.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- Designated non-motorized
- No overnight camping

## EAGLES NEST VIEWING AREA

Overlooking the Pend Oreille River, just north of the Box Canyon Dam on Highway 31 is a roadside improvement that accommodates 6-8 vehicles called Eagles Nest Viewing Area. Bald Eagle nesting sites are located across the river from the existing kiosk and unimproved parking area. The parking area is gravel and undeveloped. Although the land belongs to the State of Washington, the County is currently working with the Department of Transportation and the International Selkirk Loop Board to implement improvements to this area. The project will create a paved parking surface and siting areas for viewing the Bald eagle nesting area.

### Condition:

The current condition of this area is poor but the planned renovation project will modify the site and greatly improve the condition. After completion, the only remaining project will be to replace and update the on-site interpretive signs.

### EAGLES NEST VIEWING AREA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

***1. DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.***

- a. Work with the Department of Transportation to develop policies and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.).

***2. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING EAGLE'S NEST VIEWING AREA***

- a. Continue existing inspection and maintenance procedures.
- b. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist.

***3. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO EAGLE'S NEST VIEWING AREA IN THE FORM OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA.***

- a. The existing interpretive signs are old and need to be replaced. Additional interpretive signs should be installed explaining additional wildlife species and other items of interest that can be seen from that overlook of the Pend Oreille River.

***4. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR EAGLE'S NEST VIEWING AREA.***

- a. Volunteer - maintenance and conservation projects at this area.
- b. Pursue grants and donations - Interpretive signs

***5. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE EAGLE'S NEST VIEWING AREA.***

- a. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning Eagle's Nest Viewing Area.
- b. Install a geo-cache in this area.

***6. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO EAGLE'S NEST VIEWING AREA TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.***

- a. Continue to coordinate and work with the Department of Transportation to improve and maintain this site.

***7. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR EAGLE'S NEST VIEWING AREA WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.***

- a. Continue active participation in the International Selkirk Scenic Loop program.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- No overnight camping

## CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA

Crescent Lake Rest Area is another small rest area owned by the State located on Highway 31 and is a part of the Selkirk International Loop. The County will continue to do its part to partner with the Department of Transportation to maintain and improve this site.

### CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

**1. DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.**

- a. Work with the Department of Transportation to develop policies and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.)

**2. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA**

- a. Continue existing inspection and maintenance procedures
- b. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist

**3. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA IN THE FORM OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA.**

**4. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA.**

- a. Use volunteer groups to maintain and work on conservation projects at this area.

**5. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA.**

- a. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning the Crescent Lake area.
- b. Install a geo-cache site in this area

**6. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.**

- a. Continue to coordinate and work with the Department of Transportation to maintain and improve this site.

**7. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR CRESCENT LAKE REST AREA WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.**

- a. Continue active participation in the International Selkirk Scenic Loop program.

## THE PEND OREILLE RIVER WATER TRAIL

The 70 mile Pend Oreille River Water Trail is a network of resting points, access points, and attractions for users of water craft on the Pend Oreille River as it flows north into Canada. (See further information at [www.pendoreilleriver.com](http://www.pendoreilleriver.com)) This beautiful waterway offers an outstanding opportunity for recreation-based tourism, bringing much-needed

income to county businesses. The river and its tributaries are designated as critical habitat for bull trout, which is listed as “threatened” under the Endangered Species Act. Water quality in the river has been affected through the introduction of invasive weeds such as Eurasian Milfoil. Wildlife habitat and water quality are vulnerable to damage from recreational use and possible introduction of further aquatic invasives including Quagga mussels. A developed Pend Oreille River Water Trail will provide a focal point for both economic development and for promoting good stewardship of this major resource.



ONE OF THE MANY NEW WATER TRAIL SIGNS

This project was initiated by WSU Extension in 2009 and has been supported through Kalispel Tribe grant funding, a Community Salmonid Recovery grant, Pend Oreille Economic Development Council funds, the Renewable Resource Extension Act, Pend Oreille Public Utility District and Pend Oreille County current expense funds. Major project partners are WSU Extension, Pend Oreille County Community Development Department, PORTA, a local tourism group, and the Kalispel Tribe Natural Resources Department. Additional project partners include County, State, Federal and community entities with shoreline or water management responsibilities and, individual volunteers and groups including WSU Master Gardeners, Spokane Kayak and Canoe Club, and the local Boy Scout troop. In 2011, National Park Service staff support was instrumental in completing the Water Trail Concept Plan, and in 2012, National Park Service funding further assisted project implementation. Kalispel Tribe Sense of Place contract with WSU Extension continued to support 10% FTE of WSU staff time in 2012 as well as project expenses.

### NORTH REACH SECTION (MILE MARKERS 17 – 41) INCLUDES THE BOUNDARY DAM TO TIGER

The North reach of the Pend Oreille River Water Trail flows by three small towns (Ione, Metaline and Metaline Falls), two dams (Box Canyon and Boundary), the Metaline Falls Rapid, amazing wildlife habitat, the striking Peewee Waterfall, and the lower 10-mile Canyon Reach with its impressive rock walls and unique geology. This 24-mile reach offers three developed campgrounds, two city parks, a private campground and cabin resort, a hotel, and a number of disperse recreation sites) . ([See Appendix T](#))

### MIDDLE REACH SECTION (MILE MARKERS 42 – 65) INCLUDES TIGER TO TACOMA CREEK

The 23-mile middle reach of the Pend Oreille River Water Trail flows through rural Pend Oreille County and a wonderful state wildlife area teeming with nesting birds and waterfowl, offering boaters a serene nature experience and a glimpse at what the river was like before it was settled. This reach features several campgrounds, two private businesses, prime estuaries and deltas for fishing, and multiple creeks and sloughs to explore. ([See Appendix S](#))

## **SOUTH REACH SECTION (MILE MARKERS 66 – 89) INCLUDES TACOMA CREEK TO OLDTOWN, ID**

The scenic 23-mile south reach of the Pend Oreille River Water Trail is the headwaters of the Water Trail. The Pend Oreille River Water Trail begins in Oldtown, ID and travels through a number of communities (Oldtown, Newport, Usk and Cusick), offering close-to-home recreation and fitness opportunities. It continues flowing north past the Kalispel Indian Reservation, home to the original paddlers of the Pend Oreille River, until it reaches the Tacoma Creek Wildlife Area. ([See Appendix R](#))

### **COUNTY OWNED WATER TRAIL SITES**

**ASHENFELTER BAY** (River mile 87.2) A public access boat launch at this site that is available for a fee.

**SANDY SHORES** (River mile 82.8) There is a public access boat launch at this site. The condition of the boat launch is very poor.

**CHAR SPRINGS** (River mile 81.5) The site is currently undeveloped.

**GREGG'S ADDITION** (River mile 79.1) This site is owned and managed jointly with the Pend Oreille PUD. The Gregg's Addition primitive boat launch site, located on the east side of the Pend Oreille River, was selected for further development by the PUD. Because limited space was available at this county public access parcel for parking or other amenities, the District acquired additional property above the boat launch parcel and began the process of obtaining permits for the site work. Construction of facilities was initiated in 2008. The District provided a new dock and dock ramp for boating and swimming activities at the boat launch. On the newly acquired property above the county public access parcel, the District is in the process of completing the car/trailer parking area, and a vault toilet has been installed at the parking area site. The District will also be installing picnic tables and landscaping in the near future. One marked handicap parking space and a handicap accessible picnic table will also be provided at the site. A new sign was installed at the south side of the entrance near the parking area and a sign addressing invasive species was installed at the boat launch. Development of the Gregg's Addition boat launch cost around \$100,000. The District is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the new facilities on District-owned lands. The existing Gregg's Addition county public access parcel provides a gravel road running down to a concrete boat launch. This boat launch is in poor condition and badly needs repair.

**PEND OREILLE SHORES ROAD** (River mile 76.8) This site is currently undeveloped.

**DAVIS ROAD** (River mile 74.4) This site has a gravel boat ramp. The Pend Oreille River is on the east side of the site and Davis Creek Slough wetlands are on the west side of the site. This area would make an excellent waterfowl and bird viewing area as the river is on the east and wetlands at the mouth of Davis Creek are visible on the west. A wide variety of ducks, Canada geese, cormorants, great blue herons and many other bird species are commonly seen at this site.



Two views from Davis Road Water Trail

**RIVERBEND ESTATES** (River mile 61.6) This site is undeveloped but currently has a dirt road leading to a gravel boat launch. The road is badly eroded and needs repair. There is a need for additional parking to accommodate trucks and boat trailers.

**RUBY LANDING** (River mile 55.75) Pend Oreille County and the WA Department of Fish and Wildlife own adjacent properties at this site. There is a concrete boat launch; no camping; restroom available. The site is maintained by the DFW. This is also the site of the old Ruby Landing Ferry and has significant historical value. Old mooring facilities and timbers from the launch site can be seen at The Ruby East water trail site directly across the river which is owned by the US Forest Service.

**ALASKA LANE/NORTH BROWN'S COLD SPRING LANDING** (River mile 50.8) This site has a public access boat launch and is nicely maintained by the homeowners association.

**LAZY RIVER FARMETTES** (River mile 48.9) This site has a public access boat launch.

**EDGEWATER ESTATES REPLAT PUBLIC ACCESS** (River mile 42.9) This site has a public access boat launch.

**DEWITT ROAD** (River mile 39.8) This site is undeveloped.

## **CAPACITIES:**

Each site has its own carrying capacity. As of now, most sites are undeveloped. The site that can accommodate the most visitors is the Gregg's Addition site with its large parking lot and restroom.

## **CONDITIONS:**

Again, these water trail sites are undeveloped for the most part. Pend Oreille County will play a large part in continuing to implement and develop the Pend Oreille River Water Trail concept plan. Many of these sites are very remote and thus are targets for vandals and that should be considered when planning for maintenance and replacement costs. As use of the water trail increases, appropriate sites will require improved boat launches, restroom facilities, picnic tables, signage and continual inspection and maintenance.

## **PEND OREILLE RIVER WATER TRAIL SITES GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- 1. DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PRESERVE THE PRISTINE NATURE OF EACH WATER TRAIL SITE AND CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.**
  - a. Develop policies and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.)
- 2. DEVELOP AND PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO THE PEND OREILLE RIVER WATER TRAIL.**
  - a. Investigate the possibility of acquiring the Newport Lake State Park area to add to the list of County owned water trail sites. This would be a water access only site.
  - b. Coordinate recreation activities to be held on the Water Trail (canoe expeditions, guided nature floats, bird watching classes, leave no trace classes)
  - c. Install geo-cache in sites on county water trail sites
- 3. 3. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING THE WATER TRAIL**
  - a. Continue existing inspection and maintenance procedures
  - b. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist
  - c. Continue recruiting participants in the Adopt A Site program
- 4. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO WATER TRAIL IN THE FORM OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA.**

- a. Install a series of interpretive signs on county water trail sites providing information concerning the rich logging history of the area as well as local wildlife and plant species.
- b. Organize nature floats and nature classes at water trail sites.

**5. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR THE WATER TRAIL.**

- a. Pursue grants to fund additional sites and facilities at existing sites.
  - i. Explore possibilities of acquiring the Newport Lake State Park area as a water access only recreation water trail site.
  - ii. Interpretive signs
    - i. Picnic tables, restrooms, other amenities
    - iii. Boat launch improvements
- c. Volunteers
  - i. Conservation projects (erosion repair, trail maintenance, etc.).
  - ii. Recruit volunteers to adopt water trail sites.

**6. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF THE PEND OREILLE RIVER WATER TRAIL.**

- a. Organize events to take place at Water trail sites.
- b. Place a link on the County Parks and Recreation website to direct people to the Water Trail website.
- c. Write and release periodic news releases to local media concerning the area.

**7. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE WATER TRAIL PARTNERS TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.**

- a. Continue as an active partner in the water trail project and possibly take over as coordinating agency of the Water Trail.

**8. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR SWEET CREEK RECREATION AREA WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.**

**9. MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH USING THE WATER TRAIL.**

- a. Coordinate and provide youth canoe trips on the Water Trail
- b. Provide outdoor recreation classes for youth using the Water Trail. (Canoeing, fishing, wildlife viewing, Leave No Trace camping, etc.)

**POLICIES**

- County policies shall remain consistent with water trail policies
- County shall remain an active partner with the Water Trail Committee

## EDGEWATER NORTH RECREATION AREA (PROJECTED)



EDGEWATER NORTH SITE

This is a 160 acre county owned parcel located on the east side of the Pend Oreille River just northeast of the Town of Lone and adjacent to the north side of the USFS Edgewater Campground. ([See Appendix Q](#)) The property was selectively logged by the County in 2010 and is undeveloped except for the skid trails and logging roads left from the previous logging activity. There is one mile of river frontage. It is currently undeveloped but the logging skid trails are used by local off road vehicle enthusiasts.

### **Capacity:**

This is a large area that has the capacity to serve large numbers of visitors. The soil is very sandy so any use of the area should include plans for extra maintenance and erosion control. The fact that it is adjacent to the Edgewater Campground owned and operated by the US Forest Service should also be considered when determining the use. Due to the closure of many roads on Forest Service public lands there are fewer and fewer areas for ATVs to ride and camp. This may be an excellent area to keep open for motorized and non-motorized use.

**Condition:** The condition of this area is undeveloped. The skid trails are eroded in some areas due to sandy soils. This area is a prime candidate for recreational use. Meetings with user groups and adjacent landowners should be coordinated and a master plan for this area developed.

### **EDGEWATER NORTH RECREATION AREA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

#### ***1. DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO CONSERVE ALL THE NATURAL RESOURCES WITHIN THE AREA INCLUDING VEGETATION, WILDLIFE, FISH, WATER AND SOIL.***

- a. Develop policies and standards concerning use of the area (hunting, camping, carrying capacity, resource damage, etc.)
  1. Pay particular attention to trail erosion from ATV use in the area since sandy soils are especially erodible and develop standards for trail maintenance and repair.
- b. Develop a Management Plan to include a Forest Stewardship plan and a Wildlife Management Plan.

**2. DEVELOP AND PROVIDE A WIDE VARIETY OF OUTDOOR RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENABLE AND ENHANCE A FULFILLING OUTDOOR RECREATION EXPERIENCE FOR RESIDENTS AND VISITORS TO THE EDGEWATER NORTH AREA.**

- a. Develop this site to be used by motorized and non-motorized recreation.
- b. Activities to be offered include swimming, fishing, canoeing, hiking, camping, ORV trails, snowmobile trails, mountain biking, cross country skiing, snow shoeing, nature study, etc.
- c. Develop as a Water Trail site.

**3. PROVIDE A CLEAN, SAFE AND WELL MAINTAINED ENVIRONMENT FOR ALL THOSE USING THE EDGEWATER NORTH SITE.**

- a. Develop inspection and maintenance procedures.
- b. Recruit volunteers to patrol the area on a regular basis to pick up litter and report any unsafe conditions that may exist.
- c. Install information signs (maps, rules and regulations, etc.)

**4. PROVIDE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISITORS TO EDGEWATER NORTH IN THE FORM OF INTERPRETIVE SIGNS TO ENHANCE THE RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE AND DEVELOP A SENSE OF OWNERSHIP OF THE AREA**

- a. Install interpretive signs regarding leave no trace camping.

**5. IDENTIFY AND PURSUE FUNDING SOURCES; GENERATE REVENUE; SOLICIT DONATIONS AND ACTIVELY RECRUIT VOLUNTEER LABOR TO ASSIST IN THE PROMOTION, DEVELOPMENT AND MAINTENANCE FOR EDGEWATER NORTH.**

- a. Use volunteer groups to maintain and work on conservation projects at this area.
- b. Pursue grants and donations to provide maintenance funds especially for trail erosion due to ORV use

**6. SUPPORT THE IDENTIFICATION AND PROMOTION AND FACILITATE THE USE OF EDGEWATER NORTH.**

- a. Formalize the status of this area as a designated park and recreation site.
- b. Expand the current County Parks and Recreation website to include pictures, maps, driving instructions and other relevant information concerning the Edgewater North Area.
- c. Release news releases to media outlets concerning Edgewater North

**7. COMMUNICATE AND COORDINATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES, ORGANIZATIONS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS WHO OWN PROPERTIES NEARBY OR ADJACENT TO EDGEWATER NORTH RECREATION AREA TO FACILITATE COOPERATION IN PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES IN THE AREA.**

- a. Contact and meet with USFS personnel to coordinate and complement Forest Service plans concerning the Edgewater Campground adjacent to county property.

**8. PROMOTE RECREATIONAL TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES BY INTEGRATING PLANNING FOR EDGEWATER NORTH WITH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES.**

**9. MAKE SPECIAL AND CONSIDERATE EFFORTS TO INVOLVE AND PROVIDE OUTDOOR RECREATION AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES FOR THE YOUTH USING EDGEWATER NORTH.**

- a. Plan and schedule youth activities in this area.

## OTHER COUNTY RESOURCES AND CONSIDERATIONS

### PEND OREILLE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

The Pend Oreille County Fairgrounds is located on Highway 20 just west of Cusick. The land is owned by Pend Oreille County and administered by the County Fair Board. Facilities include a large parking area, multiple barns and display buildings, restrooms, vendor areas, a rodeo arena with seating and the other usual fairground amenities. On the north edge of the fairgrounds, on the edge of Calispel Creek, is a 25 site, County owned campground that is open from mid-April through mid-October. The sites that have hook-ups cost \$12 per night and those with no hook-ups cost \$10.00 per night. Sites are available by the week for \$50.00. Along with restrooms, the campground also provides facilities for showers. During the fair, usually the 2nd or 3<sup>rd</sup> week in August, the campground is completely full. At other times the campground runs at about 50% capacity.

### OHV ORDINANCE

In 2013, the Pend Oreille County Board of Commissioners adopted an Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) ordinance (effective July 28) that made legal OHV travel on all county roads with designated speed limits of 35 miles per hour and under. This legislation will have a great impact on recreation opportunities in the county providing access to areas heretofore unavailable to many recreationists. Coordination and partnering with other agencies within the county to provide connectivity between recreation areas will assist the Parks and Recreation Board in meeting its goal to provide a wide variety of recreation opportunities within the county.

## ADDITIONAL REGIONAL RECREATION RESOURCE AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to county park areas, there are an abundance of other park and recreation areas throughout the county administered and managed by Federal, State and Private Agencies and Organizations. An extensive inventory of these areas is listed below.

### UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE

The United States Forest Service manages the major percentage of all lands in Pend Oreille County. Throughout Forest Service land in the county, recreationists have the opportunity to hike, camp, hunt, fish and ride along rugged forest service roads and old abandoned logging roads. These areas are unimproved and provide dispersed camping opportunities. The Yocum Lake Campground is an example of this type of area.

The Forest Service also owns 19 developed campgrounds and boat launches that are operated under concessionaire (Scenic Canyons Recreational Services) permits. These major USFS campgrounds are summarized below.

**EAST SULLIVAN CAMPGROUND** is located on Forest Road 2200, thirteen miles off State Highway 31 (travel via paved County Road 9345). The major attraction of this campground is its location on the north shore of Sullivan Lake. Additionally, the Lakeshore National Recreation Trail and a short interpretive nature loop trail are located nearby. East Sullivan Campground is a 38 site full-service, fee campground with paved interior loop roads and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, a pressurized water system and eight accessible concrete vault toilet buildings. Thirty-two of the campsites are single-family units and six are double sites. Twenty-three of the campsites are available through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). A designated host site is located in the center of the campground which includes a water hydrant, wastewater holding tank, electrical power, picnic table and fire ring. A small (six car) non-fee trailhead parking area is located on the access road into the campground and serves the Lakeshore National Recreation Trail.

**EAST SULLIVAN DAY-USE AREA AND BOAT LAUNCH** includes five picnic tables, five benches, two fire rings, animal resistant garbage containers, developed swim beach with floating platform, concrete boat launch with a boat dock, paved loop road and graveled parking areas, pressurized water system and three accessible concrete vault toilet buildings. Three parking areas provide spaces for single vehicles as well as vehicles with trailers. Two designated host sites are located within the day-use area; one of these sites has typically been used by the area manager. Electric, water, wastewater and phone hookups are available to these sites as well as picnic tables and fire rings. Cellular phone service is not available at the present time from this campground; however, there is conventional telephone service available to the site. Trailers, vehicles, or other large equipment may be stored at the Sullivan Lake Ranger District storage yard located to the north of the East Sullivan Campground. The access road to the storage yard is gated.

**SULLIVAN LAKE GROUP CAMPGROUND** is situated to the east of the East Sullivan Campground, on the north shore of Sullivan Lake, and is accessed via County Road 9345 and Forest Road 2200. This campground is a very popular group campground on the Colville National Forest; its sites are typically reserved months in advance for summer weekends. The site is a full-service, fee campground with a graveled interior road and parking area, animal resistant garbage containers and two food storage lockers, two accessible concrete vault toilets and a pressurized water system. This site is available through National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). This group campground has a capacity of 40 persons and 10 vehicles or 5 recreational vehicles or trailers. Vehicles must be parked in the parking area, but tent camping is allowed closer to the lakeshore. The campground has five picnic tables, three fire rings and a group fire ring.

**WEST SULLIVAN CAMPGROUND** is located on County Road 9345, 12 miles off State Highway 31 directly across from the Sullivan Lake Ranger District office. The campground lies on the north end of Sullivan Lake. West Sullivan Campground is a 10 site full-service, fee campground with paved interior loop roads and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers and recycling containers, pressurized water system and three accessible concrete vault toilets. All sites in this campground are single family units. Six of the campsites are available through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). A designated host site is available in this campground which includes a water hydrant, electric power, picnic table, and fire ring. Phone service is not available at this campground, but a pay phone is located next to the Ranger District office.

**WEST SULLIVAN DAY-USE AREA** is located along the lake shore and includes a covered picnic shelter with six tables, a horseshoe pit, group fire ring, five scattered picnic tables and three fire rings, animal resistant garbage containers, developed swim beach with floating dock, paved loop road and graveled parking areas, pressurized water system and three accessible concrete vault toilets which are shared with West Sullivan Campground. The picnic shelter is frequently used by different groups. A building is available for use by the permit holder to store equipment and supplies at this site.

**NOISY CREEK CAMPGROUND** is located on County Road 9345, nine miles off State Highway 31. The major attraction of this campground is its location at the south shore of Sullivan Lake. Additional attractions including the Lakeshore National Recreation Trail and Noisy Creek Trail are located nearby. Noisy Creek Campground is a 19 site full-service, fee campground with paved interior loop roads and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, pressurized water system, and three accessible concrete vault toilets. All sites in this campground are single family units. Eleven of the campsites are available through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). A designated host site is located in the Eagle Loop which includes electric power, water hookup, picnic table, and fire ring. A storage area is available in the well pump house located directly across from the host site. The nearest telephone is a pay phone located at the Sullivan Lake Ranger Station, about four miles north of the Noisy Creek Campground. Cellular phone service is not available from this campground at the present time.

**NOISY CREEK GROUP CAMPGROUND** is situated adjacent to Noisy Creek Campground, near the south shore of Sullivan Lake, and is accessed via County Road 9345. Noisy Creek Group Campground is a full-service, fee campground with a paved interior road and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, two food storage lockers, one single accessible concrete vault toilet and a pressurized water system. This group campground has a capacity of 40 persons, and 10 vehicles. This site is available through National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). The site has five individual parking spurs that can be “rented” as single-family sites when the campground is not reserved by a group. Each parking spur is associated with a picnic table and fire ring.

There is also a group fire ring with benches within the site. A small (6-car) parking area on an adjacent loop road serves the trailhead for the Noisy Creek Trail #588.

**NOISY CREEK DAY-USE AREA** is located to the northeast of the Noisy Creek Campground along the lake shore. The site includes eight picnic tables, eight fire rings, developed swim beach, animal resistant garbage containers, one accessible concrete vault toilet and concrete boat ramp. Interior loop roads are paved and parking areas are graveled. Two 5 space parking lots and the upper loop of the day-use area provide parking for visitors who are boating on Sullivan Lake or hiking the Lake Shore National Recreation Trail. The lower loop of the day-use area provides picnicking on the lakeshore and access to the swim beach.

**MILL POND CAMPGROUND** is located on County Road 9345, six miles off State Highway 31. The major attraction of this campground is its location on the east shore of Mill Pond, a 63-acre lake. Mill Pond Campground is a 10 site full-service, fee campground with paved interior roads and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, hand-pump water system, and one accessible concrete vault toilet. All of the sites are single-family units. There is not a host site at this campground. A host from one of the other campgrounds will be responsible for servicing Mill Pond. West Sullivan Campground hosts have been responsible for Mill Pond under previous concessions permit. There are no power or water hookups available in this campground. A storage shed is available in the campground, located behind the accessible toilet building. The nearest telephone is a pay phone located at the Sullivan Lake Ranger District office which is approximately 2 miles away from the campground. Cellular phone service is not available from this campground at this time. There is a native-surface parking area and small boat access to Mill Pond at the end of the paved campground road. Boat use on Mill Pond is restricted to non-motorized and boats with electric (non-combustion) motors due to the small size of the lake. Boat size is limited to those that can be carried the 50 feet from the edge of the parking area to the water. Beginning in 2015, the Mill Pond Dam will be removed and the lake drained. Removal of the dam, rehabilitation of the lake bed and stream restoration may close this site for approximately two years.

**EDGEWATER CAMPGROUND** is located on County Road 3669 (Box Canyon Road), approximately three miles from State Highway 31. The major attraction of this campground is its location on the east shore of the Pend Oreille River. Edgewater Campground is a 20 site full-service, fee campground with paved interior roads and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage, pressurized water system and two concrete toilet buildings. Nineteen of the sites are single family and one is a double site. Twelve of the campsites are available through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). A designated host site is located in the center of the campground which includes a water hydrant, wastewater holding tank, electrical power, picnic table and fire ring. Conventional phone service is not available, but cell phone service is available at the host site. Edgewater Campground is a designated site along the newly

created Pend Oreille Water Trail. Development of the water trail has the potential to increase use at this campground. Edgewater also serves as an “overflow” campground when Sullivan Lake sites are full.

**EDGEWATER DAY-USE AREA** includes five picnic tables, five fire rings, a concrete boat launch, paved access road and parking areas, animal resistant garbage containers and recycling containers, pressurized water system and one concrete toilet building. The picnic sites are located in a treed area at the south end of the campground. The boat launch is to the south of the campground and day-use area. Three parking areas provide spaces for visitors.

**BROWNS LAKE CAMPGROUND** is located 8 miles northeast of Usk, Washington via County Road 3389 (Kings Lake) and Forest Road 5030 (Half Moon Lake). Browns Lake Campground is an 18 site full-service, fee campground with graveled interior loop roads and parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, boat ramp and two accessible concrete vault toilets. All sites in this campground are single family units. This lake is non-motorized and open to fly fishing only. As a result, it is very popular with local and regional fly fishing enthusiasts. Potable water is not available at this site. Located within the campground is a historical cabin built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The trailhead for the Browns Lake Trail is located near the boat ramp. This non-motorized hiking trail is one mile long and provides scenic viewpoints of the lake. The trail passes through a grove of old growth Cedar and ends at a fish viewing platform. In the existing concession permit, the host for this campground is stationed at South Skookum Lake Campground; however, if the holder desires a host can be stationed at this site. Hookups and phone service are not available at this campground.

**PANHANDLE CAMPGROUND** lies along the east shore of the Pend Oreille River 15 miles north of the town of Usk, along County Road 9325 (LeClerc Road). Panhandle Campground is a 13 site full-service, fee campground with paved interior loop roads and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, pressurized water system and two accessible concrete vault toilets. A storage area is available in the pump house. A small beach area is available for swimming. All sites in this campground are single family units. Eleven of the campsites are available through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). A designated host site is located in this campground which includes a water hydrant, wastewater holding tank, electrical power, picnic table and fire ring. Panhandle Campground is a designated site along the newly created Pend Oreille Water Trail. Development of the water trail has the potential to increase use at this campground.

**PANHANDLE DAY-USE** offers a small open picnic area with two tables and a concrete boat launch which provides access to the Pend Oreille River. The site also offers a graveled parking area with six parking spaces. Located next to the boat launch is a small wetland area which provides the visitor with the sights and sounds of the wetland environment.

**PIONEER PARK CAMPGROUND** lies just two miles from the city of Newport along the Pend Oreille River on County Road 9325 (LeClerc Road). Pioneer Park Campground is a 17 site full-service, fee campground with paved interior loop roads and graveled parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, gravity flow water system, and three accessible concrete vault toilets. This campground has the highest occupancy rate on the ranger district. All sites in this campground are single family units. Ten of the campsites are available through the National Recreation Reservation System (NRRS). A designated host site is located in this campground which includes a water hydrant, wastewater holding tank, electrical power, picnic table, fire ring and concrete storage building. Pioneer Campground is a designated site along the newly created Pend Oreille Water Trail. Development of the water trail has the potential to increase use at this campground.

**PIONEER PARK DAY-USE AREA** includes a covered picnic shelter with six tables, one accessible site (with picnic table, fire ring and parking), concrete boat launch, paved access road and parking areas, animal resistant garbage containers, gravity flow water system and three concrete toilet buildings. The day-use area also includes the Heritage Interpretive Trail (trail maintained by Forest Service) which is a 0.3 mile trail that has 12 interpretative displays and an elevated boardwalk which overlooks the inside of a camas oven as well as providing a scenic view of the of the Pend Oreille River. The trail offers users a chance to view how the Kalispell Tribe of Indians historically used this area. Two parking areas are available for day-use parking. The boat launch area provides access to the Pend Oreille River and has a separate parking area from the trail and picnic shelter.

**SOUTH SKOOKUM LAKE CAMPGROUND** is located 8 miles east of Usk just off County Road #3389 (Kings Lake). South Skookum Lake Campground is a 25 site full-service, fee campground with graveled interior roads and parking spurs, animal resistant garbage containers, a hand-pump water system and three accessible concrete vault toilets. All sites in this campground are single family units. South Skookum Lake is relatively small and is not suitable for large boats. The boat ramp is short and narrow. Two docks, one of which is accessible, are located near the launch area and provide fishing opportunities for campers who do not have boats. A designated host site which overlooks the lake is provided; however, no hook-ups are available. A table, fire ring and small storage shed are provided at the host site. Additional storage is available in the chases associated with the two double vault toilets. Conventional telephone service is not available from this campground, but there is limited cell phone service. South Baldy lookout, which is still staffed during the summer months, is visible from the campground and is a popular day trip. The trailhead for South Skookum Trail #138 is located next to the boat launch area. This non-motorized loop trail is 1.6 miles, which includes a spur trail, and offers scenic views of the lake. Five benches are scattered along the trail and offer visitors an opportunity to stop and enjoy the scenery. In the current concessions permit, the host for this campground also operates Browns Lake Campground.

[See Appendix U](#) for a detailed chart listing each campground, number of sites, toilets, water availability, and other amenities. For a listing of the USFS maintained trailheads in Pend Oreille County see [Appendix V](#).

## United States Fish and Wildlife Service

[TACOMA CREEK WILDLIFE AREA](#) is located 3 miles north of Cusick on the west side of Highway 20. The area consists of about 20 acres of wetlands where Trimble Creek and Tacoma Creek meet to then flow into the Pend Oreille River. Wildlife viewing, fishing and hunting opportunities abound. There is a short driveway entering the property but it is mostly accessible by canoe or kayak. This area is a designated site of the Pend Oreille River Water Trail.

## PEND OREILLE PUD

[CAMPBELL PARK, BOX CANYON DAM VISITOR CENTER AND BOX CANYON VIEWPOINT](#) are owned and operated by the Pend Oreille Public Utility District (PUD). These sites provide facilities for camping, picnicking, swimming, sightseeing, boating and fishing. Campbell Park and the visitor center are located just below Box Canyon Dam, off Highway 31 on the west side of the Pend Oreille River. Campbell Park has eight campsites with BBQ pits in a forested setting, vault toilets and water. A lined, 2 acre pond lays adjacent to the campsites. The District fills the pond by water pumped from the dam forebay. The pond has a floating swimming deck. Several picnic tables dot a large grassy area that surrounds the pond. A boat launch sets across the access road from Campbell Park. The launch provides access to the Pend Oreille River below Box Canyon Dam. The Visitor Center lies just south of the boat launch. The visitor center provides photographs and historical displays of Box Canyon Dam and schedules tours of the powerhouse.

A viewpoint located just upstream from the Box Canyon Dam provides spectacular views of Box Canyon, the dam and the railroad trestle that traverses the river at Box Canyon Dam. The North Pend Oreille Lions Club operates an excursion train between Lone and Metaline Falls on six weekends from Memorial Day through mid-October. The train travels over the bridge directly above the Box Canyon Dam spillway and slows or stops for a view of the facility. The Lion's Club also offers train rides from Newport to Sandpoint, Idaho.

[POWER LAKE CAMPGROUND](#) is located about 5 miles west of Highway 211 off of West Calispel Road. The District also owns most of the property around Power Lake and offers dispersed camping sites, a sheltered picnic area near the lake, and a small boat launch for non-motorized boats as power boats are not allowed on the lake.

From 1989 to 1992 the District conducted environmental studies and prepared preliminary plans for a park to be located on 160 acres of undeveloped land owned by Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (WSPRC). Based on public input, a boat ramp, swimming beach and overnight camping area were planned for the site. The District proposed to pay a significant portion of the development and maintenance costs and was seeking a state grant to provide a portion of the development costs. However, the District abandoned plans to develop the site. The District has since redirected funds to support other cooperative recreation improvements along the Box Canyon Reservoir. The District contributed funding towards the new boat launch and dock at Lone City Park. The launch began operation in 1996. The District also contributed a major portion of the funding for the new Cusick Boat Launch Facility, which began operation in the summer of 1997.

## SEATTLE CITY LIGHT

**THE FOREBAY RECREATION AREA** campground is just upstream from the dam on the west side of the reservoir and has eight RV sites and 12 non-hookup sites. Services include restrooms with running water (no showers) and a boat ramp providing access to Boundary reservoir. There are additional primitive campsites located near Z Canyon, which are only accessible by water. There is a limited six-day stay. No Discover Pass is required for parking. There is no charge for the facilities but availability is on a first-come basis and reservations are not taken. RV sanitation dump facilities and boat moorage are not available. There is a visitor's gallery and tours of the dam and hydroelectric operations are available. Seattle City Light has several plans to update and improve recreation sites and opportunities in the Boundary Dam reservoir area. Over the next 10 years they will be increasing the number of camp sites in the Fore Bay Campground; improving Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) facilities, parking and paths and extending the boat ramp. At Metaline Water Front Park they will be making improvements to the boat launch and boat ramp and either replacing the existing toilet or replacing it with a new toilet. They also plan to create a parking lot, trailhead and trail accessible from Highway 31 on the east side of the reservoir that allows visitors to see Pee Wee Falls which is currently only seen from the water. Additionally another trail head and view point will be developed at the Riverside Mine Area. Eventually, these two viewpoint trails will be connected to create a 5-6 mile hiking loop. Seattle City Light is also an important member of the Pend Oreille Water Trail Committee and will build a portage trail around the hazardous Metaline Falls. Along the reservoir there will be enhancements provided at 6 dispersed campsites. These improvements will include fire rings, tent pads and possibly sanitation facilities depending upon the site. Improvements to the Vista House facility to include better handicapped accessibility are also planned. Updated and new interpretive signs are planned for all areas.

## WA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

There are two wildlife areas and nine water access sites owned and managed for public use by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in Pend Oreille County. [See Appendix W for a list of sites](#) AND [Appendix Y for a map.](#)

### WEST BRANCH LITTLE SPOKANE WILDLIFE AREA

This property is located in southwestern Pend Oreille County and bordered on the north by Horseshoe Lake and on the south by Fan Lake and lies between Horseshoe Lake Road and Fertile Valley Road. It was purchased in two phases in 2008 and 2009 and consists of 2,835 acres; mostly surrounded by private land with Pend Oreille County Park land on the northeast. [\(See Appendix X\)](#) The general management goals and objectives include: maintain big game populations, improve and maintain fish populations, manage for upland bird, manage for species diversity, protect and restore riparian habitat, protect and manage other species, provide sustainable fish and wildlife related recreation, and manage weeds consistent with state and county rules. Facilities for this wildlife area are in the planning stage. This is a hike-in recreation site with the existing roads serving as an extensive trail system. Future development will include parking areas with restrooms and information kiosks.

### LECLERC CREEK WILDLIFE AREA

Purchased in 1972 with Pitman-Robertson and State Wildlife funds, this area is located about 25 miles northwest of Newport. It includes four land units totaling 614 acres. Management goals for the LeClerc Creek Wildlife Area include preservation of habitat and species diversity for both fish and wildlife resources, maintain healthy populations of game and non-game species, protect and restore native plant communities, and provide diverse opportunities for the public to encounter, utilize, and appreciate wildlife and wild areas. No facilities are provided and there are no plans for future expansion, but river trail access will likely be developed on the two parcels along the Pend Oreille River.

### CALDWELL LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE

From Newport, travel east across the Pend Oreille River to Leclerc Road, then north on Leclerc Road 29 miles to East Fork Leclerc Road, then north on East Fork Leclerc Road 2 miles to West Branch Leclerc Creek Road, 9 miles to this public access site. The “Public Fishing” sign marks the rough, walk-in road. A restroom is available but there is no launch; no internal combustion engines are allowed and no camping. The lake is open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through October 31.

### CHAIN LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE

This area is located in the southern part of Pend Oreille County near the town of Camden. Take Camden/Diamond Rd., travel north .25 miles, turn right on Wilms Rd. 1.5 miles to the bottom of the hill. Access is on the left. It is available by walk in only. There is no launch, no camping, no restroom and no motorized boats. It is open to fishing from

the last Saturday in April through October 31. Fish include black crappie, yellow perch, kokanee, rainbow trout, mountain whitefish, northern pikeminnow, suckers, and tench.

#### **DAVIS LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE**

Davis Lake is located in southern Pend Oreille County on State Highway 211. The site is indicated by a “Public Fishing” sign. There is a concrete boat launch; motorized boats are allowed; restroom available; no camping. It is open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through October 31.

#### **DIAMOND LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE**

Also in southern Pend Oreille County is Diamond Lake located on Highway 2. There is a concrete boat launch; motorized boats are allowed; restroom available; no camping. It is open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through October 31. Fish include largemouth bass, brown bullhead, black crappie, yellow perch, pumpkinseed, green sunfish, and rainbow trout.

#### **FAN LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE**

Fan Lake may be accessed from Highway 2 just north of the Spokane County/ Pend Oreille County border. Turn west on Allen Road West continue for 3 miles to the “Public Fishing” sign. There is a concrete boat launch; motorized boats allowed (electric motors only); no camping; restroom available. Open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through September 30.

#### **HORSESHOE LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE**

From Deer Park, go north on Short Road 6 miles to Davis Road, then east on Davis Road 1 mile to Sherman Road, then north on Sherman Road 1.5 miles to Horseshoe Lake Road, then north on Horseshoe Lake Road 4 miles to Public Fishing sign. There is a gravel boat launch; motorized boats allowed; no wake; no camping; restroom available. It is open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through October 31. Fish include largemouth bass, brown bullhead, yellow bullhead, black crappie, yellow perch, grass pickerel, northern pikeminnow, pumpkinseed, kokanee, suckers, tench, brown trout, lake trout, rainbow trout, and mountain whitefish.

#### **MARSHALL LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE**

From Newport, go east across the Pend Oreille River to Leclerc Road, then north on Leclerc Road to Bead Lake Road, then east on Bead Lake Road to Marshall Lake Road, then east on Marshall Lake Road to Public Fishing sign. There is a gravel boat launch; motorized boats are allowed; no camping; restroom available. It is open to fishing from the last Saturday in April through October 31. Fish include west slope cutthroat trout.

#### **RUBY FERRY WATER ACCESS SITE**

This site is open to fishing year-round. Fish include largemouth bass, smallmouth bass, brown bullhead, black crappie, yellow perch, northern pike, pumpkinseed, northern

pikeminnow, tench, brown trout, west slope cutthroat trout, eastern brook trout, rainbow trout, walleye, and mountain whitefish. It is located 15 miles north of the Highway 211 and Highway 20 junction and is indicated by a “Public Fishing” sign. There is a concrete boat launch; motorized boats are allowed on the Pend Oreille River; no camping; restroom available.

#### **SACHEEN LAKE WATER ACCESS SITE**

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Located on Highway 211, 4 miles north of the Highway 2 junction, this site has a concrete boat launch; motorized boats are allowed; no camping; restroom available. Check regulations to see when open to fishing. Fish include largemouth bass, brown bullhead, black crappie, yellow perch, green sunfish, tench, brown trout, and eastern brook trout.

### **WA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SKOOKUM CREEK CAMPGROUND** is a developed campground (including RV sites) and opens around May 23 and closes for the season on December 10. It has 10 campsites, restroom, picnic tables and drinking water. It is located northwest of Newport and just outside of Usk on the east side of the Pend Oreille River Bridge. Camping is free.

### **WA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

The Washington Department of Transportation maintains a roadside park off Highway 20, south of Blue Slide Resort. This site has a sign explaining the history of the explorer David Thompson and a picnic table. This site does not provide access to the Pend Oreille River.

### **WASHINGTON STATE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

Crawford State Park, located in the north part of Pend Oreille County, is 11 miles north of Metaline. This forested, day use park’s main attraction is Gardner Cave, the third longest limestone cave in Washington State. The cave was named for Ed Gardner, a long-time resident and bootlegger. In 1921, local resident William Crawford purchased the land around the cave and deeded 49 acres of it to Washington State. There is a paved parking lot and trail that leads to the cave entrance. Cave lights, stairways and walkways have been installed to provide safety for visitors. A few picnic tables and a comfort station are near the parking lot. The park usually opens the third weekend in May and closes around Labor Day. Tours are available.

### **CITY OF NEWPORT**

The City of Newport maintains a variety of park areas within its city limits. These include **TJ Kelly Park** located downtown on the corner of First Street and Washington. The park

has a restroom, benches, waterfall feature, and picnic tables. **The Gazebo** is just south of the downtown area by the Chamber of Commerce and the Museum and offers picnicking or just relaxing. There is a restroom, formal flower beds and a series of flag poles. **Little People's Park** offers playground, basketball, soccer activities and picnicking. There is also a restroom. **Newport City Park**, approximately 15 acres, offers picnicking, playground activities, rodeo grounds, softball fields, bleachers and a stage. Located in the City Park is the new **Spray Park** providing safe, fun water activities. **Veteran's Memorial Park** is a downtown rest stop with restroom and a veteran's memorial display. A portion of this land hosts a cell tower. The City of Newport also owns additional land for maintenance facilities and open space. Most notable is the 22 acre **Kelly Island Wilderness Area** located in the middle of the Pend Oreille River just north of the PO River Bridge at Oldtown. The City makes this property available to the public for day use hiking and picnicking.

## TOWN OF CUSICK

The town of Cusick constructed a boat launch facility in 1997 on the west shore of the Pend Oreille River. The facility includes a public boat launch, day use moorage floats, parking and restrooms. There is a pedestrian pathway between Cusick and Usk and a small trail system north of the boat launch area which goes through a wetland and adjacent the Pend Oreille River. In the years 2004-2013 an in-ground skateboard park, basketball court, family size picnic shelter with three barbecues and small beach area were constructed. New sidewalks and new parking areas were laid and a large grassy area with small picnic shelter, picnic tables and fire pit were installed for 4th of July fireworks viewing and outdoor events. The entire park facility was upgraded to be ADA access compliant.

## TOWN OF IONE

**Ione City Park** is located on the west side of the Pend Oreille River, in the town of Ione. There are grassy areas with large trees throughout. The park has picnic areas, a new covered food pavilion, a children's play area, a covered pavilion, restrooms and drinking water. There is a concrete boat launch, dock and a swimming area.

## TOWN OF METALINE

**Metaline Riverfront Park** is a beautiful park located on the northeast edge of town along the Pend Oreille River. It has a large parking lot for about 20 cars and trucks with boat trailers, a pavilion with picnic tables, a gazebo with a fire pit, restroom with flush toilets, additional portable toilets in the summer, playground and boat launch. The park is open until snow closes the road in the fall. Seattle City Light will be assisting in making improvements to this site under their relicensing agreement.

## TOWN OF METALINE FALLS

There are three park areas in Metaline Falls. The largest is **Busta Park** and offers 6 picnic tables, a gazebo, restroom, water fountain, and small visitor center with local train history. It is a day use area only and is the last stop for the Lion's Clubs train rides.

**Viewpoint Park** is located at the bridge and offers a view of the falls on the Pend Oreille River. It has several benches and a kiosk with information about Metaline Falls. Parking is across the street. The **Metaline Falls Softball Field** is the final area managed by the town. It hosts regional softball games and has bleachers, dugouts, picnic tables, portable toilets and drinking water. Parking is on the streets. The Town of Metaline Falls also hosts a popular event, the "Affair on Main Street" held over Labor Day weekend. Vendors, artists and tourists from all over attend the event. "Deck the Falls" is another winter event held more for local residents and artists. The famous Cutter Theatre is also located here providing theatrical presentations throughout the year.

## KALISPEL TRIBE OF INDIANS

More than 4,600 acres of Kalispel Tribal lands are located on the east bank of the Pend Oreille River. Another 240 acres are located across the river on the West Bank, just north of Cusick. The Tribe raises buffalo, which can be viewed from LeClerc Road on the east bank of the river. **Manressa Grotto** is located on Kalispel Tribal property. Caves at this site have been used for religious ceremonies by the Tribe and settlers for years. A stone altar and pews set in the cave offer views overlooking the river valley. On the west side of LeClerc Road, a dirt road provides access to the east shore of the Pend Oreille River. The site has several picnic tables, a swimming beach, swimming dock and a vault toilet for use during planned events and the peak season. The **Tribal Pow Wow grounds** are located along the east bank of the Pend Oreille River, south of Manressa Grotto. The Pow Wow grounds include a ceremonial park built on the site of the Tribe's historical main camp and later permanent village. Ball fields are located along the road leading to the Pow Wow grounds. A boat launch is located on the river near the Tribal Pow Wow ground facilities. The tribe sells approximately 10 permits per year to the public for waterfowl hunting on the lower Calispell Creek. The price for a permit is \$1.00 per day with a 10 day minimum. In the fall of 1999, the Tribe began offering guided waterfowl hunting at the **Flying Goose Ranch**. The price is \$170 per day for geese and \$140 per day for ducks. In the summer of 2013, the Tribe opened a new **Kalispel Rest Area** visitor center just north of Cusick on Highway 20. This rest area will include a large parking lot for vehicles, RVs and semi-truck trailers, restroom facilities, a visitor center with small café, outdoor vendor areas for hosting markets, festivals and other events and a ¼ mile walking trail with interpretive signs and views of the Pend Oreille River.

[www.kalispeltribe.com](http://www.kalispeltribe.com)

## UPPER COLUMBIA CHILDREN'S FOREST

In 2012, the US Forest Service created and awarded \$45,500 to the Upper Columbia Children's Forest (UCCF), Colville National Forest, Washington. The Upper Columbia Children's Forest will reach beyond forest boundaries to serve the communities of Stevens, Ferry and Pend Oreille counties in Washington. The Children's Forest and matching funds will provide seed money for a Stevens County Conservation District Conservation Educator, who will help identify and develop cohesive conservation themes over the years that are consistent with school curricula and state standards. The UCCF Committee's Mission Statement is: "The Upper Columbia Children's Forest is a collection of partners, programs and places to get kids and their families outside having fun, learning, and growing healthy. Play with purpose." The committee is currently in the organizational stage and hopes to hire a grant writer to assist in its goals and objectives.

## INTERNATIONAL SELKIRK LOOP ORGANIZATION

The International Selkirk Loop was formed in 1999 as a non-profit corporation designed to enhance the local economy through the promotion of tourism along its route in Northern Idaho, Northeastern Washington and the East and West Kootenay region of British Columbia. Since its inception, the Loop has drawn the attention of business owners that now make up its membership, as well as travel guides and various publications throughout the US and Canada. The loop includes Newport and all the communities along Highway 20 until it turns west to Colville. After that, the loop follows Highway 31 up into Canada where it turns south again at Kootenai Lake. The route then heads back down to the U.S. by way of Bonners Ferry, Sandpoint and Priest River then connects back to Newport, WA. The International Selkirk Loop website offers complete information concerning location, maps, sights to see along the way and participating businesses. [www.selkirkloop.org](http://www.selkirkloop.org)

## NORTH PEND OREILLE SCENIC BYWAY, NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM

The Scenic Byways Program ([www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)) is a division of the National Heritage Corridors. The North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway was designated as a scenic byway for its natural beauty and local history. The Byway currently includes the portion of Highway 31 from the junction of Highway 20 at Tiger to the Canadian border. The towns that the Byway travels through are Lone, Metaline and Metaline Falls. Box Canyon Dam is located along the Scenic Byway. An increase in visitors to the area has been noted since its inception. The North Pend Oreille Scenic Byway includes nine planned sites along the Highway 31 corridor: Tiger Historic Center, Lone Park, Box Canyon, Eagles Nest, Sweet Creek Falls Rest and Recreational Area, Metaline Park, Metaline Falls Park, Hook Nose, and Crescent Lake. All but the Eagles Nest and Crescent Lake sites are completed,

however, these two remaining sites are funded and will be completed in 2013. Gateway and way-finding signage is in place to help guide motorists throughout its length. [\(See Appendix Z\)](#)

## PACIFIC NORTHWEST TRAIL ASSOCIATION

The Pacific Northwest Trail (PNT), now designated as the Pacific Northwest National Scenic Trail, is a 1200 mile hiking trail running from the Continental Divide in Montana (connecting it with the Continental Divide Trail), through the northern panhandle of Idaho, to the Pacific coast of Washington's Olympic Peninsula. It traverses the Rocky Mountains, Selkirk Mountains, Pasayten Wilderness, North Cascades, Olympic Mountains, and Wilderness Coast. The trail crosses three National Parks and seven National Forests. The trail was designated a national scenic trail in 2009. The U.S. Department of Agriculture administers the trail. Locally, the trail continues over Lookout Mountain to Upper Priest Lake and through the Salmo-Priest Wilderness. It then travels over the Boundary Dam on the Pend Oreille River, and then continues over Abercrombie Mountain and into the bustling little town of Northport, Washington on the Columbia River. [www.pnt.org](http://www.pnt.org)

## VERBRUGGE ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Whitworth University's Verbrugge Environmental Center (VEC) comprises 605 acres of forested habitat and over two miles of riparian corridor situated approximately 35 miles northeast of Spokane, Wash., near the headwaters of the Little Spokane River in Pend Oreille County. Landscapes at the VEC represent the mixed coniferous forests characteristic of the Columbia Highlands of Northeastern Washington and Northern Idaho. A range of past management legacies and current restoration efforts apparent at the center provides a rich backdrop for education and research regarding the fragile nature and astounding resilience of Creation. Whitworth's Verbrugge Environmental Center is characterized by excellence and innovation in field-based education and research. The University has plans for small semester-long programs (8-12 students), summer workshops, and weekend field-labs. The center will also support basic and applied ecological research for students, faculty, and guest scientists. Future plans will include an interpretive center and a retreat center for use by 30-45 people for day use and no more than 16 persons for overnight use. Currently, the area is used for university student field excursions, occasional symposiums and outdoor retreats. No facilities are available to the general public. [www.whitworth.edu](http://www.whitworth.edu)

## PEND OREILLE COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICTS

There are three school districts within Pend Oreille County: Newport School District, Cusick School District and Selkirk School District. Each district maintains their own outdoor recreational facilities including football and track fields, baseball fields, softball fields and playgrounds. Newport School District has 3 tennis courts.

## OTHER PRIVATE RECREATION FACILITIES OR ORGANIZATIONS

**BARE NAKED ADVENTURES**, a new business to the area, was created in 2011 when a local non-profit organization provided funding for a viable business plan produced by local high school students. The business rents kayaks and provides pick up services to bring their customers back to their starting points. The small business owns eight tandem kayaks, two singles, life jackets, a kiosk, a van and trailer to pick up the kayaks and the customers after they've reached one of four portages. They maintain a website year-round but close the actual business during the winter months. In the past, their main rental facility was located on the Pend Oreille River at the Lion' Club boat launch (official Water Trail Site) in Oldtown Idaho. At this writing, the business has closed.

**BEAR PAW CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER** is located on the northeast side of the river just northwest of Furport. This is a group reservation only camp that offers cabins, a swimming pool, a sauna, game courts and river boating.

**BLUE SLIDE RESORT** is located on the west side of the Box Canyon Dam Reservoir off Highway 20 at Ruby Creek. This resort provides opportunities to engage in several types of water related activities in the Box Canyon Reservoir. The dock is one of the only locations where boats can refuel on the reservoir. Blue Slide Resort also has a net pen operation for raising "catchable" size rainbow trout for release in the Pend Oreille River. The resort has forty-six camper/trailer sites, four motel rooms and five cabins.

**CALISPEL CREEK RV COURT** is located in the Town of Cusick and offers 8 sites with full hook ups to self-contained Recreational vehicles. It is open year-round. There is a common area with a picnic table. Most sites are rented on a long term basis but several sites are usually available for overnight visitors.

**CAMP COWLES**, located on the northwest side of Diamond Lake in the south part of Pend Oreille County, is a 960 acre Boy Scout camp consisting of 4 separate camps and 58 buildings. When the facility is not hosting Boy Scouting activities it is available by reservation only for weddings, family reunions, camping and other group activities. One camp is open year-round. There is a variety of lodges, informal camping sites, picnic tables, a swimming and fishing dock and a shower house.

**CAMP SPALDING** was developed in 1957 by area Presbyterian Churches. It is located on 500 acres on the southwest end of Davis Lake in the south part of Pend Oreille County and offers facilities for Christian summer camps, weekend conferences, and mid-week retreats. Activities include boating, swimming, rock climbing and horseback riding. Clearwater Lodge was built in 1999 and provides guest rooms, meeting areas and dining facilities for adult conferences and other large group meetings.

**CEDAR RV PARK** is located in Lone on Highway 31. It has 16 sites with full hook-ups, 25 dry camp sites and 35 tent camp sites. They are frequently fully booked with monthly rentals and during the train ride and hunting seasons. The RV Park also has a rental cabin and a resort model trailer. There are restrooms, showers, laundry facilities and a

general store that sells snacks, RV parts, camping accessories and supplies. They are ORV friendly. Campers may ride right out of their park onto several miles of trails. Information is available on their website at [www.cedarrvpark.com](http://www.cedarrvpark.com).

**IONE MOTEL AND RV PARK** is located in Ione, next to Ione City Park. The RV park area provides fee RV and tent camping along the Pend Oreille River. The RV park has 26 RV hookups, tent sites and a dock.

**KEO'S CORNER AND GENERAL STORE** in the town of Usk is a privately operated facility that provides a public fee boat launch; fee camping; RV hook ups; and picnic tables. The store provides camping and fishing, supplies and fuel.

**LITTLE DIAMOND** is a 360-acre northeastern Washington KOA, dual campground (part membership and part open to public) and has many amenities. Fish for Kamloops trout or take a paddleboat ride right on the resort. The Granite Lodge stands ready to serve all your family reunion and other special event needs. Campsites: 150 power and water only, no overflow sites - Rentals: 1 cabin, 2 fully furnished units and the Granite Inn. Adult Center, Ball Field, Basketball Court, Canoes, Driving Range, Dump Station, Family Center, Fishing Lake, Fishing Boat, Frisbee Golf, Horseshoe Pits, Kayaks, Laundry Facilities, Nature Trails, Paddleboats, Picnic Areas, Playgrounds, RV Storage, Spa, Store, Swimming Pool are available to all guests. Overnight fees range from \$28 to \$40 per night. The facility often operates at maximum capacity during the peak season in July. The campground is open April through October.

**MARSHALL LAKE RESORT**, 8 miles north of Newport offers RV and tent campsites, rental cabins, public boat launch, pavilion, boat rentals, fishing docks, swimming, volleyball, hiking and biking. They have more than 65 camp sites, complete with picnic tables, fire pits, and water. There is electricity to some sites. There is also a picnic area and additional sites for RV's with hookups. There are clean restrooms with hot showers. The camp store sells bait, fishing tackle and snacks. Camping with electricity is \$25.00 per night, \$20.00 without electricity. They are open from the last weekend in April through the end of October. During the peak season, from Memorial Day to Labor Day, they operate at full capacity.

**MOONLIGHT RV PARK** includes 15 sites with electricity, water, sewer and garbage pickup. There is also a bathhouse with showers, hot tub, playground and a hiking trail to Sacheen Lake. They are open year-round but the bathhouse and showers are closed in winter. Cost to stay is \$15 per night. Sites are usually available even during peak visitor days.

**MT. LINTON RV PARK** is located in Metaline at 103 Metaline Street. There are 44 sites with full hook-ups including water, sewer, electricity and garbage removal. There are restrooms, showers and a Laundromat. A dump station is available for RVs not camping. The park is open year-round and is usually about 75% full during the busy summer season.

**OLD AMERICAN KAMPGROUND** is a Coast to Coast membership RV park and campground located in Newport on the southwest shore of the river. The park has around 90 RV/campsites and tent sites and a boat launch and dock. There is also a dump station, club house, hot tub, mini golf course, showers and laundry facilities. The park is generally for members only, but when the park is not full, the public can stay at the facilities. During the busiest season around the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend the campground is usually 85% full.

The **PEND OREILLE INN MOTEL** in the town of Lone, upstream from Box Canyon Dam, has a dock and offers boat rentals and boat rides on the reservoir.

**RIVERVIEW BIBLE CAMP** is a private church group camp located on the west side of the reservoir off Highway 20, just north of Jared. The camp has cabins, a private boat launch, dock and swimming beach.

**RIVER VIEW RV PARK AND TRAILER COURT** is located in the Town of Metaline. It is about 5 acres, on the river, and has 17 camp sites with full hook-ups providing water, sewer and electricity. There are no restrooms or showers available. There is a boat launch and fishing and swimming access to the river. The park is open year-round and is usually only about 30% full even during the busy summer season. A small percentage (25%) of the sites is leased by year-round trailer residents. There is no dump station however, the owner keeps one spot open and allows visitors to dump their tanks for no charge.

The 9-hole **SERENDIPITY GOLF COURSE** is family owned and operated and is located on the east side of the Pend Oreille River, 1.5 miles south of the Lone Bridge. They are “Open when it is light enough to play; Closed when it is too dark to see!”

**SKOOKUM RV** Park is a private resort on the west side of the Pend Oreille River in the Usk area. The RV lots are available for purchase and the facilities are available to lot owners exclusively. No lots or services are available for over-night campers.

**SEVERAL COMMUNITY/PRIVATE BOAT LAUNCHES** are located along the reservoir including Riveredge Estates community boat launch, Holiday Shores’ community boat launch, Riverbend Estates community boat launch and Greenwater Estates community boat launch. However, these boat launches are for use by residents of the subdivision or community and are not generally used by the public.

## COMMUNITY OUTDOOR RECREATION EVENTS

Poker Paddle, Downriver Days, Tri-town Float Down, Lion’s Club Train Rides, Lavender Festival, Kalispel Tribe Pow Wow, Newport Rodeo, Bull-A-Rama, Bluegrass Festival, Event on Main Street, Deck the Falls, Pend Oreille County Fair, Master Gardener Garden Tour, Rhubarb Festival at Create Arts Center and many more.

## COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH INTERESTS IN OUTDOOR RECREATION

PANTRA (Panhandle Trail Riders Association)  
Selkirk Trail Riders Club  
Backcountry Horsemen's Association  
Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Lions Club  
Spokane Kayak and Canoe Club  
Rotary Club

## AREAS OF MAJOR REGIONAL INFLUENCE

### BONNER COUNTY

**Rotary Park and Boat Launch**, in Oldtown Idaho, is located just over the Washington State line into Idaho on the east side of the Pend Oreille River. It is one of the selected Pend Oreille River Water Trail sites. The park offers a concrete boat launch with temporary docking areas, a large parking lot for vehicles and boat trailers, picnic shelter with picnic tables, restrooms, interpretive kiosks and a small event center that may be reserved for meetings and other group activities. It is open year-round. In the past, Bare Naked Adventures has used this location as its base for renting kayaks during the summer months.

**Stoneridge Country Club** and Golf Course, located to the southeast in Bonner County, is a popular regional recreation area. It has an 18-hole golf course, swimming pool, recreation center, restaurant and condominiums available for rent on short term basis. It is a popular destination for family reunions, weddings and other group events.

**Ranch Club Golf Course**, built out of a cow pasture in the 1940s is now a popular 18-hole regional golf course and is located just 4 miles east of Pend Oreille County in Bonner County. They also manage a popular on-site restaurant with rental facilities for large family and wedding groups.

**Schweitzer Mountain Resort** is located just north of Sandpoint, Idaho (just 45 minutes from Newport) and offers year-round recreation opportunities. Downhill skiing, cross-country skiing and snow shoeing trails are available in winter. In summer the resort offers, hiking trails, mountain biking trails, horseback riding, zip line, climbing wall, chair lift rides, spa facilities, music concerts and festivals as well as dining and lodging. They also offer day camps for kids throughout the summer.

### STEVENS COUNTY

**Chewelah Peak Learning Center**, located to the west of Pend Oreille County in Stevens County, is a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization built in 2003 by a foundation created by

the Association of Washington School Principals and provides outdoor and environmental education opportunities and leadership training to students across the entire Western Region of the Country. Amenities include a large dining hall that will accommodate 400 guests, dorms that will sleep 106 guests, a nurse's station, classrooms, library, challenge course, outdoor amphitheater with seating for 100, play fields, covered BBQ pavilion, nature trails, audio visual equipment, portable stage and wireless internet. Over-night stays cost from \$24.00 per day to \$40.00 per day and includes meals. Facility rental costs are available upon request.

**Little Pend Oreille National Wildlife Refuge** is named for the river that flows through its northern expanse. Consisting of over 40,000 acres on the west slope of the Selkirk Mountain Range in northeastern Washington, it is the only mountainous, mixed-conifer forest refuge outside of Alaska. Continental ice sheets from the north excavated and molded valleys and scoured lakes more than 10,000 years ago. Elevations range from 1,800 feet on the refuge's western lowlands to 5,610 feet on its eastern boundary at Olson Peak. Within this elevation range are six forest zones, including ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, western red cedar, western hemlock, and subalpine fir. These forests provide important habitats for hundreds of species of birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians, including songbirds, forest carnivores, and the bald eagle. Refuge lands provide protection for wide-ranging species that require large tracts of forest habitat and provide critical winter range for white-tailed deer. More than 50,000 visitors enjoy the refuge each year. Hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, hiking, camping, and horseback riding are the most popular recreational activities.

**49 Degrees North Mountain Resort** ski area is located off of Flowery Trail Road just west of Pend Oreille County into Stevens County between Usk and Chewelah. It offers 82 groomed downhill ski trails (2325 acres) and 10 miles of cross-country ski trails. Snowmobilers are allowed to use the trails at the end of the ski season. It has 1 Quad lift, 5 Double Chairs and one surface lift. It also has a ski shop, café, bar and day care facilities.

#### SPokane County

**Mount Spokane Ski and Snowboard Park** is a ski resort located inside Mount Spokane State Park north of Spokane. The base elevation is at 4,200 feet (1,300 m) with the peak at 5,889 feet (1,795 m). It has 5 chair lifts to transport skiers to groomed ski runs (1425 acres)

*Current number of park acres per person... .086 acres*

## LEVEL OF SERVICE ASSESSMENT (RCO FORM)

### QUANTITY CRITERIA

#### NUMBER OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Currently Pend Oreille County has 1063 acres that are officially designated as park areas. Since the population of the county is around 13,000 current level of service of acres of park land per person is .082 acres or 81.76 acres for every 1000 residents.

(The goal of Spokane County is to have 11.7 acres/1000 people.)

**Table 5                      Number of Acres in County Park System**

Location	Number of Acres
Pend Oreille County Park	386
Yocum Lake Recreation Area	80
Rustler’s Gulch Recreation Area	560
Sweet Creek Rest Area	37
<b>TOTAL ACRES</b>	<b>1063</b>

#### FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT ACTIVE RECREATION

- Pend Oreille County Park – Active
- Rustler’s Gulch – Active
- Rustler’s Gulch Trail – Active
- Water Trail – Active
- Sweet Creek Rest Area – Active
- Eagle’s Nest Viewing Area – Passive
- Crescent Lake – Passive
- Edgewater North - Active

#### FACILITY CAPACITY

All of Pend Oreille County’s park areas support and encourage active recreation opportunities with the exception of the two smaller road-side rest areas, Crescent Lake Rest Area and Eagle’s Nest Viewing Area. The percentage of active recreation areas is about 95%. At the current date all county park areas are meeting 100% of demand.

Pend Oreille County Park-	100%
Rustler’s Gulch –	100%
Rustler’s Gulch Trail –	100%
Water Trail –	100%
Sweet Creek Rest Area –	100%
Eagle’s Nest Viewing Area –	100%
Crescent Lake –	100%
Edgewater North –	100%

## QUALITY CRITERIA

### AGENCY-BASED ASSESSMENT

The only county park area that is fully functional at this time is Sweet Creek Rest Area and even that area could be improved with the extension of the trail system. All other areas need complete or partial renovation and/or development. Eagle's Nest Viewing area is being improved but still needs new interpretive signs. It is estimated that 30% of the county park facilities are fully functional.

### PUBLIC SATISFACTION

According to the General Public Survey of 2013 an average of 61.6% people completing the survey (residents and non-residents) had not visited the county parks. However, of those who did visit the parks, an average of 79.48% of the people was satisfied with their visit.

**Table 6** Assessment of satisfaction with POC Parks

Park	Number survey participants who visited park areas	% of people satisfied with experience
POC Park	118	74%
Rustler's Gulch	41	61%
Water Trail	88	90%
Yocum Lake	67	80%
Ruby Landing	52	66%
Eagle's Nest	63	86%
Sweet Creek	97	99.4
	Average	79.48%

## DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS CRITERIA

### POPULATION WITHIN SERVICE AREA

All county parks are regional parks. Pend Oreille County Parks and Rustler's Gulch serve the south part of the county and are 15 and 13 miles, respectively from Newport and 8 and 6 miles, respectively from the populated Diamond Lake Resort Area. Yocum Lake is 10 miles from the Town of Lone. Sweet Creek Rest Area is 2 ½ miles from Metaline and 3 ½ miles from Metaline Falls. The 12 county water trail sites are scattered throughout the county. It is estimated that 70% of county residents live within 25 miles of a county park.

### ACCESS

Because all park areas in Pend Oreille County are regional parks, no park areas are accessible safely via foot, bicycle or public transportation. However, all county water trail sites are accessible via canoe or kayak.

**Table 7 Level of Service Assessment**

<b>Quantity Criteria</b>	
<b>Number of Parks and Recreation Facilities</b> (Percent difference between existing quantity or per capita average of parks and recreation facilities and the desired quantity or per capita average)	A <10%
<b>Facilities that Support Active Recreation Opportunities</b> (Percent of facilities that support or encourage active (muscle-powered) recreation opportunities)	A >60%
<b>Facility Capacity</b> (Percent of demand met by existing facilities)	A >75%
<b>Quality Criteria</b>	
<b>Agency-Based Assessment</b> (Percentage of facilities that are fully functional for their specific design and safety guidelines)	D 20-40%
<b>Public Satisfaction</b> (Percentage of population satisfied with the condition, quantity, or distribution of existing park and recreation facilities)	A >65%
<b>Distribution and Access Criteria</b>	
<b>Population within Service Areas</b> (Percentage of population within the following services areas (considering barriers to access): 25 miles of a regional park/trail)	B 61-75%
<b>Access</b> (Percentage of parks and recreation facilities that may be accessed safely via foot, bicycle, or public transportation)	E <20%

## CONCLUSIONS

- There is an amazingly abundant amount of outdoor recreation opportunities in Pend Oreille County and most are not used to full capacity. The exception is the availability of overnight camping areas in the southern part of the county. Pioneer Park Campground outside of Newport is not meeting current demand during busy summer weekends. Little Diamond Campground north of Diamond Lake is full during the peak summer season. There are no other major campgrounds in the area of Pend Oreille County Park. The numbers of visitors driving into Pend Oreille County Park are good, 80 to 90 vehicles on a busy summer weekend. However, most visitors decide not to stay and camp. With campground improvements and a good marketing plan, Pend Oreille County Park would be better utilized. With its convenient location, on busy Highway 2 and the numbers of cars/trucks entering the park planned improvements to this park are well justified.
- An emphasis needs to be on maintaining and improving existing facilities in County Parks. Coordination of efforts with other agencies (USFS, DNR, DFW, PUD, etc.) to provide campground and/or recreation site maintenance to reduce costs and keep sites open longer during the season should be investigated.
- There is a need for a dump station in the southern part of the county. Not only would a dump station provide a necessary service to visitors to the County it would also reduce the amount of illegal dumping along roadsides and other areas.
- A large percentage of people of Pend Oreille County do not visit their county parks. An effort needs to be made to publicize the parks and to develop programming in the different park areas so residents will utilize and appreciate their parks.
- There is a need to provide pedestrian, bicycle and public transportation access to the county parks. The potential for a bike path to Pend Oreille County Park from Diamond Lake or Newport should be investigated as well as bike paths to Sweet Creek Rest Area from Metaline and Metaline Falls. Trails and bike paths in other areas should also be investigated. Plans for a non-motorized trail connecting Pend Oreille County Park and Rustler's Gulch are in the process.
- There is a need for coordination and someone to provide oversight of the multiple recreation agencies, public and private, in the county. The County shall make plans to coordinate and provide venues for quarterly meetings of all outdoor recreation agencies and organizations in this region.