



Media Hotline: 503-813-6018

## **To maintain top quality recreation experience, PacifiCorp plans modest fee changes for Lewis River campgrounds and day use areas**

ARIEL, Wash. —March 10, 2021—In an effort to uphold top quality recreational standards at more than 500 Lewis River camping and picnic sites enjoyed by approximately 500,000 visitors annually, PacifiCorp is increasing fees, in most cases by less than \$2 per day, charged for camping and parking effective April 1.

Reservations made before April 1 will be charged at the former rates. Beginning April 1, the new fees will apply for reservations or any permits issued on-site. To reserve a campsite, go to: [pacificorp.com/community/recreation/washington](http://pacificorp.com/community/recreation/washington). For more information, call 503-813-6666 or email [recreation@pacificorp.com](mailto:recreation@pacificorp.com).

Specific fee increases are listed below.

### **A tradition of recreation**

The Lewis River is home to PacifiCorp's largest hydroelectric facilities, providing customers with emission-free, renewable energy. PacifiCorp, through Pacific Power, serves electric customers in Oregon, Washington and California.

As part of its federal license to operate these hydroelectric projects, PacifiCorp also maintains 14 public parks and day-use facilities along the three Lewis River reservoirs as well as sites downstream of Merwin Dam.

Facilities include 304 campsites and 268 picnic sites, fresh drinking water, hot showers, swimming beaches, boat ramps, restrooms and RV sanitation stations. These parks can be found on State Highway 503 starting approximately 10 miles east of Woodland, Wash., continuing 40 miles upstream to Swift Forest Camp.

Keeping facilities ready for visitors means constant investment and fees are dedicated to maintaining and operating the parks.

PacifiCorp charges recreation fees to offset the costs of providing the following visitor services:

- Safety. PacifiCorp contracts with the Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania county sheriffs' offices, Clark County Marine Board and a private security company for security patrols
- On-site Park Host staff available 7 days a week during the summer season to ensure a well-maintained, safe, and enjoyable experience for all customers
- Year-round availability of the online reservation system
- Year-round reservation and customer support staff to assist guests with their recreation planning and customer service needs
- Off-season park maintenance staff to ensure the parks are well maintained and available for the public's enjoyment.

Fee increases are as follows:

- **Cresap Bay, Cougar and Beaver Bay.** Camping fee per night will increase from \$23 to \$25. Group camping fees will also increase from \$345 to \$375 a night.
- **Swift Forest Camp.** Camping fee per night from \$20 to \$22
- A \$1 increase for day use parking will be implemented at all Lewis River Parks. New per day, per vehicle fees are:
  - Merwin Park: \$3
  - Speelyai Bay Park: \$5
  - Cresap Bay Park: \$5
  - Saddle Dam Park: \$5
  - Yale Park: \$5
  - Beaver Bay Park: \$5
  - Swift Forest Camp: \$5
  - Cougar Park: \$4
- A \$2 per vehicle per night increase for the PacifiCorp managed dispersed camping sites on Yale and Swift Reservoirs, bringing the overnight parking fee up to \$9 per vehicle, per night.
- The Annual Peak Season Day Use Parking Pass will be raised from \$30 to \$35.

"We wanted to let our guests know about these necessary fee increases as soon as possible so they can make their recreation plans with all the information available," said Jessica Kimmick, recreation manager at PacifiCorp. "Increasing costs is always a difficult choice for us, but in order to maintain the facilities at their current high level, we need to keep the fees linked to the cost of maintaining the facilities."