

PowerPoint Narrative: State Forest Campground Evaluation Process

Slide 1:

This PowerPoint presentation will review the process that the DNR will use in evaluating the state forest campground program for future reductions.

Slide 2:

The campground evaluation process includes an opportunity for the public to provide their thoughts on what criteria should be considered when evaluating the state forest's 145 campgrounds and 2 cabin facilities for downsizing. The public will then be asked to rank each criteria in their importance for making this evaluation.

The DNR has identified six criteria to be used in this effort as outlined on this questionnaire. The details of these criteria are described in the next series of slides.

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Campground Quality will consider the general conditions of the campground, including all natural and man-made features. Even though the structures may be old, many are in good working condition. Others are not. The impacts of weather and human use can cause degradation to the campground elements, such as picnic tables, building structures, ground surfaces and vegetation. This category will assess these elements for consideration.

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Renovation Needs will consider if the campground needs funding for upgrades or improvements to meet recreation standards and building codes. As user expectations have changed over time, so has the design standards that impact campground development. Although the campground may be in good condition, it may not meet current day standards for this type of facility. This category will assess this element.

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Associated Recreation Activities will identify those facilities where use is generated because it provides access to unique recreational opportunities such as long distance trail activities, unique hunting or fishing opportunities, and access to high use lakes or streams. A campground may also be in an area of unique use, such as a hike-in or canoe-in area.

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Proximity to other campgrounds will consider if other overnight camping opportunities exist within the region. The number of federal, state park, county, township, and private campgrounds will be identified for each state forest campground. A 15 mile radius distance will be used in the more densely developed L.P. and a 40 mile radius distance will be used in the U.P.

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Use and Occupancy will identify those campgrounds that are often filled to capacity throughout the use season. Unlike revenue data, this information will recognize those smaller campgrounds that are consistently used, but because of their smaller number of sites will not be valued highly as a larger campground that generates more revenue.

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Financial Sustainability will identify those campgrounds that collect more user fees than it costs to maintain them. It is these campgrounds that help sustain the system on a whole and allows the lower revenue generating campgrounds to remain open.

Slide 9:

Have we missed any criteria that should be considered in our evaluation? The questionnaire allows space for you to add up to three (3) additional criteria and space to describe how your criteria is to be used to evaluate the campgrounds.

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Your input on the ranking of each criteria is very important. This information will guide us in determining which parameter should be valued more highly than the others.

Slide 11:

All responses are due to the DNR by close of business on September 14, 2009. This provides a 31-day window for individuals to send us their input.

Slide 12:

There will be two ways in which responses can be received. Questionnaires can be filled in on the DNR website, printed, and sent via U.S. Postal Service or e-mailed as an attachment. To send electronically, the questionnaire must be printed and scanned as an attachment. It cannot be saved directly as a document into your computer.

Slide 13:

The results will be consolidated, and the final criteria defined and ranked into their priority. This information will be used to identify campgrounds that should be considered for closure, if and when further general fund reductions are implemented. Thank you for your time and input.