

GOAL VIII
RECREATIONAL NEEDS

BAKER COUNTY
COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

**GOAL VIII
RECREATIONAL NEEDS**

RECREATIONAL NEEDS GOAL: To satisfy the recreational needs of the residents of the County and visitors.

I. INVENTORY OF RECREATION AREAS

A. City Parks

1. Haines - approximately 2 lots leased by city from Union Pacific Railroad between business section and tracts.
2. Halfway - 2½ acres owned by Lions Club
3. Huntington - approximately ½ block
4. Sumpter - approximately 3 city blocks owned by Sumpter Valley Days Association
5. Baker
 - a. golf course: 60 acres
 - b. undeveloped park areas (3): 5.88 acres
 - c. developed parks (4): 5.9 acres

B. County Parks

1. Hewitt Park (Richland): 27.07 acres; 2 boat ramps
2. John Noble Holcomb Park (Richland): 12.42 acres
3. Leo Adler Ball Park: 6.76 acres
4. Fizz Springs: 121.18 acres
5. Shanghai Creek: 120.94 acres
6. Tim Goodell Scenic Wayside: 2.67 acres
7. Sumpter Valley Railroad Park: 1,588.44 acres

C. State Parks

1. Rest Areas

- a. Baker Valley: Total of 23.2 acres in both sections
- b. Weatherby: 10.2 acres

2. Camp Sites

- a. Unity Lake: 39 acres; 1 boat ramp; utility building, irrigated grounds
- b. Unity Forest Wayside Park; 85.27 acres
- c. Farewell Bend: 72.30 acres; 1 boat ramp; 1 boat dock, play area, picnic shelter, riverbank protection
Scheduled additions: Riverside trail during 1979-1985 plan.

3. Sumpter Valley Dredge State Park: 71.88 acres

D. Federal Recreation Sites

1. BLM Areas

- a. Spring Recreation Site: near Huntington on Brownlee Pool; 1 boat ramp
- b. Bassar Diggings: near Lookout Mountain
- c. Flagstaff Hill Site

2. Forest Service Areas

- a. Campgrounds (16) 111 acres
- b. Picnic Sites (9) 27 acres
- c. Overlook Sites (2) 2 acres
- d. Boat docks (4) 15 acres
- e. Swimming Sites (1) 1 acre

3. Private developments on Federal Lands

- a. Resorts (2) 7 acres
- b. Cabin Sites (2) 30 acres
- c. Ski Area (1) 94 acres

E. Privately Owned Recreation Sites on Private Land

1. Wade Williams Ball Park (Baker), Baker Elks Lodge; 4.04 acres
2. Radium Hot Springs (near Haines); 14.13 acres; camping, picnicking, and swimming; owner of record - Stevens
3. Copperfield Park (on Snake River at Oxbow Dam); boating and camping; 7.75 acres; owner - Idaho Power Co.
4. Fair and Rodeo Associations (2): 14 acres

F. Water Bodies (stocked with fish by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife)

1. 24 Lakes, Reservoirs and Ponds
2. 7 Rivers and Creeks

G. Hells Canyon National Recreation Area A small portion of this area extends into the northeast portion of Baker County. The size of the Baker County portion is roughly approximated as follows.

1. USFS Land: 14,600 acres
2. BLM Land: 2,100 acres
3. Private Land: 2,900 acres

The Baker County portion contains no Wild and Scenic Rivers, nor does it contain any new Wilderness Study Areas. The total recreation area has 662,000 acres in Oregon and Idaho. This includes 30,000 acres of Wild and Scenic Rivers and 110,000 acres of Wilderness Area and 22.66 acres of Hells Canyon Wilderness area.

H. Limitations on Recreation Areas

The bulk of Forest Service and all of the BLM land is available for open land recreation. Off-road vehicle limitations are in effect on some federal lands. Policies regarding off-road vehicles vary between the two agencies.

II. Sources of Information

1. U.S. Forest Service
2. State Parks and Recreation Branch, Department of Transportation
3. Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission
4. Bureau of Land Management
5. Idaho Power Company

III. **GOAL VIII RECREATIONAL NEEDS FINDINGS and POLICIES**

A. Goal VIII Recreational Needs Findings

In relation to the recreational inventory, the Baker County Governing Body finds that:

1. "Recreation areas, facilities and opportunities" provide for human development and enrichment, and include but are not limited to: open space and scenic landscapes; recreational lands; historic, archaeological and natural science resources; scenic roads and travel ways; sports and cultural events camping, picnicking and recreational lodging; tourist facilities and accommodations; trails; waterway use facilities; hunting; angling; winter sports mineral resources active and passive games and activities. In addition, the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) lists the specified facilities that need to be considered in Table I.

Of the facilities listed in Table I, some are not included in this analysis of County needs. Those would include ball fields, tennis courts, all purpose courts, golf courses and neighborhood and community parks. While in some cases, these facilities do serve regional needs, their planning and administration are under municipal jurisdiction. The presence and numbers of municipal facilities are inventoried within the comprehensive plans of the cities of Baker County.

Of the non-municipal facilities, a statistically derived unmet need is inventoried for campsites, off-road vehicle trails, district and regional parks. An assessment of need derived from public hearings inventories all those plus a specific reference to water-oriented activities including a swimming pool.

It should be noted that in addition to a private, commercial geothermally heated swimming pool operating in the County, that the City of Baker has constructed a geothermally augmented public pool.

TABLE I

FACILITY	UNIT	SUPPLY	GROSS NEED	1975	1980	1990
Campsite	SITE	488	485	(3)	57	180
Picnic Tables	TABLE	490	110	(380)	(370)	(384)
Swimming Pools	POOL	2	1	(1)	(1)	(1)
Boat Launch Lanes	LANE	14	7	(7)	(5)	(3)
Swim Beach	FEET	8,300	251	(8,049)	(8,038)	(8,003)
Walking & Hiking Trails	MILE	51	30	(21)	(17)	(10)
Biking Trails	MILE	141	7	(134)	(133)	(132)
Bridle Trails	MILE	41	7	(34)	(33)	(32)
Ball Fields	FIELD	9	6	(3)	(3)	(2)
Tennis Courts	COURT	3	6	3	3	4
All Purpose Courts	COURT	2	6	4	4	5
ORV Trails	MILE	0	16	16	16	13
Golf	HOLES	9	9	0	0	0
Neighborhood Parks	ACRES	7.0	78.5	71.5	72.5	80.5
Community Parks	ACRES	0.0	157.0	157.0	160.0	175.0
District Parks	ACRES	73.0	235.5	162.5	167.0	189.5
Regional Parks	ACRES	72.0	393.0	321.0	328.0	366.0

- The United States Forest Service, (USFS) through its recreational facilities, answers a large part of the recreational demand in Baker County.

Union Creek Campground at Phillips Lake has the greatest capacity for campers and picnickers on the Wallowa Whitman National Forest and has the highest level of development of any USFS Campground in Oregon or Washington. It is designed to be expanded as demand and funding warrant. An overflow camping area of lesser development exists at the southwest corner of Phillips Lake and a limited number of campsites are being developed along the south edge of the lake accessible only by foot or boat.

Another USFS Campground at Anthony Lake on the Baker County/Union County boundary is being upgraded and relocated to the east end of the lake. The change is not an expansion of facilities but rather is for the purpose of making the lake more accessible to non-campers.

Awaiting construction funding is a new visitor's center, boat ramp, commercial power boat dock and picnic sites at the Hells Canyon launch site below Oxbow on the Snake River.

3. Anthony Lakes Ski Area -- a significant recreational and economic resource, this facility is partly within Baker County and is wholly on land leased from the United States Forest Service. The Anthony Lakes Corporation has conducted a market study to assess demand and is underway with a long range expansion program to meet the local, regional and out-of-region recreational demand for its services.
4. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) also has plans to upgrade both their Spring Recreation Site on the Snake River and the Bassard Digging Site on Lookout Mountain. Recreation trail construction and expansion is scheduled for the Fox Creek area on the breaks of the Snake River and at Sheep Mountain near Oxbow. Two Wilderness Study Areas are proposed by BLM in Baker County: one at Sheep Mountain and one at Homestead. ORV facilities are located on BLM land east of Baker Valley in an area known as Virtue Flat.
5. "Recreation needs" refers to existing and future demand by residents and visitors for recreation areas, facilities and opportunities.
6. The existing demand, and future demand, for recreation facilities and opportunities is making, and will make, a major contribution both to the social well-being and the economic well-being of the residents of the County. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife estimates that 178,962 recreational days are spent annually in the County hunting and/or fishing. Verifiable statistics are not available to define the economic significance of these recreational activities.
7. The existing facilities and services at Hewitt Park (County Park) have been improved and regulated to more adequately meet the demand for use.
8. Improved and expanded facilities for overnight parking, camping, picnicking, boat launching/docking, and sewage disposal on the Snake River and other waterfront areas are needed to accommodate the existing use and future demand.
9. Appropriate zoning and justification for recreational development upon safe, buildable private lands close to the Snake and Powder Rivers is reflected in the Exception Element found elsewhere in this Plan. Such development is consistent with the expressed needs described in SCORP.
10. Increased interest in RV parks has been noted in Baker County. Accommodating these requests is conditionally allowed by statute in the Farm zone. RV parks in the Timber/grazing zone can be accommodated either of two ways: through a showing that

other forest uses would not be jeopardized or by taking an exception to Goal 4.

11. The County Park in Sumpter Valley near the Sumpter Valley Railroad Restoration project had been developed and is being maintained to serve a part of the recreational demand of our people and our visitors.
12. It should be noted that minor betterment projects to maintain state parks are not considered as being under Baker County's jurisdiction.

B. Goal VIII Recreational Needs Policies

The County governing body declares that:

1. It shall continue to assess the recreational needs of the County, including those inventoried by the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Program, and to serve those needs that befit the public interest.
2. It shall serve the public interest for the County to work cooperatively with Idaho Power Company, the BLM, and volunteer citizen advocates of, at least, minimal sanitation facilities along the Snake River Road.
3. Continued support for the Sumpter Valley Recreational Railroad shall be encouraged.
4. Whenever the promotion of a recreational facility is not allowed by a resource goal, Baker County will require an exception from the applicable goal.
5. Uses of private lands within the boundaries of the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and within interim or designated Wilderness Areas shall be regulated by the applicable resource goal, either Goal 3 or 4, depending on vegetative cover, and through the federal regulations that pertain.
6. Based on findings regarding the need for planned recreational areas along the Snake River, slack waters of the Powder River, and Unity Lake, the County supports the development of water-based recreational opportunities.