PUBLIC SCOPING LETTER
GULL POINT BOAT RAMPS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
Deschutes National Forest
Bend/Fort Rock Ranger District
Deschutes County Oregon

You are invited to review and comment on this proposal. For your comments to be most helpful, please respond by June 30, 2007. We would like to hear from you.

The Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District of the Deschutes National Forest has developed a proposal (Proposed Action) and initiated an environmental analysis that will assess the effects of improvements to facilities at Gull Point Campground and North Wickiup boat ramps. The project area is in and adjacent to Gull Point Campground on Wickiup Reservoir; is entirely in the Intensive Recreation management area of the Deschutes Land and Resources Management Plan, and is located outside of the Northwest Forest Plan boundaries.

The project area will be analyzed to improve recreation facilities and experiences at these two boat ramps. Implementation will include the removal of less than an approximate acre of vegetation, new pavement and ramp ways and fill at the Gull Point boat ramp to meet specification for boat launching.

The project area is approximately 5 acres (Figures 1-4). The planning area is located southwest of the urban growth boundary of Bend, Oregon adjacent to Wickiup Reservoir in T. 21 S., R. 8 E. The boat ramps are within and adjacent to Gull Point Campground. There are no inventoried (RARE II) roadless areas or known Threatened or Endangered species in the project area. There is a bald eagle nesting site approximately 0.5 miles from the project site.

PURPOSE AND NEED FOR ACTION
The purpose of this project is to improve recreation infrastructure, public safety and satisfaction. The existing ramps do not meet current design standards for safety and usability. Presently only one of the ramps is useable during the low water level portions of the summer season. Neither ramp meets ADA accessible standards. Also, the condition of the ramps is poor and poses a safety concern to the recreating public. Additionally, parking is inadequate for current levels of use, especially during weekends and holidays. As such, during busy times, the public has to park on the access road (Forest Road 4260), which creates additional safety issues.

Wickiup Reservoir had the 9th highest level of usage among Oregon’s reservoirs and lakes in 2001 according to State Marine Board records. The Gull Point boat ramp supported 50% of the known use at the reservoir in 2001. (Oregon State Marine Board 2002 Triennial Survey)

This project would provide additional parking and replace the existing ramps with ramps designed to provide safe boat launching facilities to area boaters through a wide range of reservoir water elevations. The new ramps will have boarding floats for safer accessibility. Upgrades to North Wickiup boat ramp will help disperse the use more evenly while increasing boater safety.
PROPOSED ACTION

The proposed actions are intended to improve the boat ramps at Gull Point and North Wickiup boat ramps.

Gull Point Boat Ramp  The existing boat ramp at Gull Point (approximately 12.5” x 150’) will be replaced with large fill with dimensions of approximately 50’ x 100’ (paved jetty), and construction at the end of the jetty of a single lane concrete ramp.

Removal of the existing boat ramp will require excavation of 31 cubic yards (CY) of concrete below the high water mark. An additional 75 CY of native material will be removed above the high water mark. Fill activities occurring for this boat ramp include the placement of 1,500 CY of borrow material below the high water mark, over the existing location to construct a jetty for the purpose of meeting slope requirements of the new ramp. Also, 700 CY of riprap will be placed around the jetty and edges of the ramp for erosion control. Another 40 CY of aggregate will be placed to a depth of 6 inches to establish the proper slope of the replacement ramp below the high water mark. An additional 95 CY of rock, 2 CY of cast-in-place concrete and 120 CY of riprap will be placed above the high water mark to complete the toe of the ramp and protection around the top of the jetty. Another 30 CY of asphalt will be placed on top of the jetty, above the high water mark, for safer and easier access to the ramp. All concrete poured below the high water mark will occur during the period when the reservoir is drawn down, or be pre-cast to ensure the concrete is fully cured before it comes in contact with the water.

North Wickiup Boat Ramp  The existing two boat ramps (approximately 32’ x 190’ and 28’ x 85’) will be replaced with a 45.5’ x 200’ two lane public boat ramp, 129 lineal feet of which occurs below the high water mark.

Removal of the existing boat ramps will require excavation of 76 CY of asphalt concrete, 33 CY of concrete and 50 CY of material below the high water mark. An additional 36 CY of asphalt and 11 CY of concrete and 50 CY of material below the high water mark. Fill involved is 170 CY of concrete, 154 CY of riprap and 140 CY of crushed rock will be below the high water mark. There will also be 60 CY of concrete, 68 CY of riprap and 48 CY of crushed rock to be used as fill above the high water mark.

Construction activity is not anticipated to have temporary or permanent impact on eagles due to timing of construction activity outside of the eagle fledging period.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

An interdisciplinary planning team will be developing the analysis to this proposed action based on your review and public comment. If you have concerns, believe that there are alternative methods to satisfy the purpose and need, or desire to express support, please direct your comments to Phil Cruz., District Ranger, Bend-Fort Rock Ranger District, 1230 NE Third Street Suite A-262, Bend, OR 97701, or on the forest website at http://www.fs.fed.us/r6/centraloregon/index.shtml. Navigate to “Project Info”, then “Project Planning (NEPA documents)”, and “Bend-Ft. Rock Ranger District”. Comments can be received throughout the process, but are most helpful if received by June 30, 2007. You will have another opportunity for comment when other alternatives have been developed (estimated for late summer, 2007). For additional information, contact Les Moscoso at (541) 383-4712.
Wickiup Reservoir – Gull Point C.G.
Existing Boat Launch & Parking Area
Figure 3

North Wickiup Existing Boat Launch Layout & Parking Area
Figure 4

North Wickiup Proposed Boat Launch Layout & Parking Area