

BLM News

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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BLM CAMPGROUNDS OPEN MAY 17

The BLM Elko Field Office today announced that campgrounds and recreation facilities in Elko County will open May 17, 2003. Wilson Reservoir Recreation Site, located 83 miles northwest of Elko, offers 15 camping units with tables and fire rings, vault toilets, central garbage service, water, and a double lane boat ramp. Fees for camping are \$4.00 per vehicle per day, and the boat ramp fee is \$2.00 per visit. The campground will open May 17th for fee collection. There will be a \$2.00 per vehicle fee for day use.

North Wildhorse Campground, located 70 miles north of Elko and just north of Wildhorse Reservoir, is open for use and fees will be charged beginning May 17th. There are 18 campsites available with tables, fire rings, grills, and shade cabanas. Drinking water, central garbage service, and vault toilets are available. The campground overlooks Wildhorse Reservoir and features three large group sites that are popular for family reunions and large group gatherings. In addition to the shade cabanas at each site, many also have mature aspen trees for additional shade. Fees are \$6.00 per vehicle per day for camping and \$2.00 per vehicle fee for day use.

Zunino/Jiggs Reservoir is located 30 miles south of Elko with a limited number of tables and grills available. There are no designated camping areas and visitors are welcome to camp or picnic along the north and south shores. Vault toilets and central garbage collection are available, but there is no drinking water provided. Zunino Reservoir is currently dry. Use fees are \$2.00 per vehicle per day.

Tabor Creek Recreation Area is located 30 miles north of Wells on the west side of the Snake Mountains. There are 10 campsites available with tables and fire rings, and vault toilets are available. Drinking water is not provided, however water out of Tabor Creek is clear and suitable for drinking if it is properly boiled or filter purified before use. No garbage service is provided so visitors will need to follow the "Pack In - Pack Out" outdoor ethics by taking out what you brought in, plus a little extra that you might find laying around. Tabor Creek offers

good stream fishing for trout, and the nearby Snake Range is popular for mountain biking, hiking, and wildlife viewing. The use fee is \$2.00 per vehicle per day.

According to Steve Dondero, Recreation Team Leader for the Elko BLM, all of these recreation areas are managed under the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program which was created by Congress in 1996. The BLM Elko Field Office began the Fee Demonstration Program in May 1998 at the two existing fee campgrounds - Wilson Reservoir and North Wildhorse Campgrounds. The program was implemented to insure a reliable source of funding so that the recreation sites could be properly maintained and kept safe for the visiting public.

Under the Fee Demonstration Program, 100% of the fees collected at the recreation sites must be reinvested back into the sites where they were collected. The fees must be used to perform deferred maintenance projects, recurring maintenance, as well as upgrades to the sites. "Most of our visitors understand that maintaining and improving a recreation site isn't free; that 100% of the fees they are depositing will be returned directly to the area they are using; and monies remaining after covering maintenance costs will be reinvested back into the sites for additional improvements," said Dondero.

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