

ATTACHMENT C: PARK DESCRIPTIONS

Baker County currently has eight (8) parks properties that require creative management as each park is unique. Below is a brief description of each park.

Hewitt and Holcomb Parks (two adjacent park properties)

These two parks are adjacent to each other on the arm of the Powder River just beyond the City of Richland. They are the only county parks that are fee-based via overnight RV and tent camping and day use fees. These parks also require the highest level of management and operations effort relative to the County's other park properties. Here there are boat ramps, campgrounds, bathrooms, showers, a vault toilet, docks, fish cleaning stations, fire pits, picnic tables. There are also irrigation and domestic water systems, which require regular testing. These parks include intensive landscaping, and equipment and structural maintenance. These parks also serve as the location for community and camper events, and are very busy during the spring, summer and fall seasons. They are heavily used by out-of-town visitors, as well as local residents.

Bishop Spring Rest Area

This is a vault toilet wayside on Hwy 86, which has historically been maintained by the Hewitt & Holcomb maintenance staff weekly, with higher maintenance frequency during the high-tourism season.

The Hells Canyon Wayside and Wigwam (two adjacent park properties)

This park property is currently maintained in cooperation with the Hells Canyon Chamber. It has informational kiosks and the Historical Wigwam. This is an important area that is highly regarded by the community of Halfway who embrace their history and culture, which is reflected in this property. Baker County and the Parks Board see events, "Dark Sky" status and learning opportunities as the future of the Wigwam area. The kiosk area is in need of maintenance on the wood structure as well as some landscape work. The Hells Canyon Chamber is currently updating the information contained within the kiosk. This park is available for day use only unless an event in the Wigwam area is approved for overnight or Dark Sky events.

Fizz Spring

Nestled within the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, above the community of New Bridge is Fizz Spring. This site is home to an historic, naturally carbonated spring that still flows from the mountain side. After a multiple agency project to upgrade the spring years ago, the spring is again, in need of some attention. Fence, riparian and water tank system work has been identified by the Park Board as near-future needs. Title II funding of approximately \$40K was granted in 2024 for this work, but Baker County has not received it to date. Both the upper and lower side of this park (along Eagle Creek) allows dispersed camping and multiple

recreational opportunities. In 2025, some funding from the Parks budget went toward removing dangerous trees.

Wingville Cemetery

This cemetery is due west of the Wingville intersection, in Baker County. Families of those laid to rest in this cemetery are still present in our county, many within the historic area of Wingville. The cemetery is in need of some maintenance but should be left to its wildflowers and natural landscape. Maintenance here has historically included two to four days annually, for weed/grass whacking along the fence line and clearing pathways to historic headstones and monuments.

Sumpter Dredge Tailings

The tailings directly above Phillips Reservoir belong to the county and run in between Highway 7 and Huckleberry Loop Rd, private property and Wallowa-Whitman Nation Forest lands. A Baker County Road Department rock pit is at the upper end where Highway 7 continues past the railroad crossing. Dispersed camping is allowed as is multiple recreation and non-mechanized pan and shovel gold prospecting. There is no maintenance expected on this property at this time. The Parks Board is working on several plans to increase user-ship and acquire Dark Sky Status but most work is expected to be done by grant funding and volunteers.