

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Jan. 24, 2011

Ready, set, camp!*PacifiCorp's popular Lewis River public camping reservation line opens
March 5*

ARIEL, Wash. — Even with winter only slowly rolling into spring, outdoor enthusiasts are already planning their summer jaunts in the beautiful Northwest. To help them along, beginning Saturday, March 5, campground reservations at PacifiCorp's Cresap Bay and Cougar Camp parks along the Lewis River in southwest Washington can be requested by calling the company's recreation line at 503-813-6666.

When to call

The recreation phone line will be open between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. March 5 and 6, but afterwards, only on weekdays during the same hours. Other PacifiCorp-owned parks with campgrounds will continue to be available only on a first-come, first-served basis.

PacifiCorp, which serves electric customers as Pacific Power in Oregon, Washington and California, operates 14 parks and day-use facilities along three Lewis River reservoirs and below Merwin Dam. Facilities include 318 campsites and 268 picnic sites, fresh water, hot showers, swimming beaches, boat ramps, restrooms and RV stations. Recreation sites begin below Merwin Dam, located 10 miles east of Woodland, Wash., on state highway 503, and continue 40 miles upstream to Swift Camp.

Half-million visitors

Immensely popular in the region, about a half-million people used these public camping, fishing and day-use facilities during 2010 and the company expects another busy year in 2011.

Campground fees vary depending on the campground and the type of site: Individual sites at Cresap Bay, Cougar and Beaver Bay campgrounds are now \$20 per night; Swift Forest Campground sites are \$17 per night. At Merwin Park, fees for group day-use picnic sites remain at \$15 plus extra vehicle parking costs.

Vehicle parking

No parking fees are collected during the current off-season. However, during the peak recreation season -- Memorial Day weekend to Sept. 15 -- a \$3 parking fee is

charged on Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at reservoir day-use parks. The exception is Merwin Park where the parking fee is always \$1.

River access sites below Merwin Dam and at Eagle Cliff Park above Swift Reservoir do not have parking fees.

Parking passes for the summer season are available for \$20. Passes can be purchased at the Woodland Information Center and at fee booths located at parks during hours they are staffed. Parties wishing to purchase parking passes by mail can send applications to: Recreation Department, PacifiCorp, 105 Merwin Village Court, Ariel, Wash. 98603. An application form can be obtained at www.lewisriver.com or by calling the recreation line at 503-813-6666.

Safety

Safety is the top priority in the Lewis River recreation area. The company is pleased to make these areas available to the public and stresses safety at all times. To that end, PacifiCorp contracts with the Clark, Cowlitz and Skamania county s sheriffs’ offices, Clark County Marine Board and a private security company for additional security measures. Experienced third-party vendors chosen by PacifiCorp operate the recreational areas.

“PacifiCorp has a no-alcohol policy at our campgrounds and reservoirs,” said Dave Moore, PacifiCorp recreation analyst. “Alcohol use causes more complaints and problems for families using our facilities. It’s in everyone’s interest to maintain our parks so they are compatible for family use.” He also asked that all people entering PacifiCorp parks become familiar with other posted rules so that everyone’s enjoyment of the facilities is enhanced.

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Campground Season and Hours

Campground Gate Hours: 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Cresap Bay Campground: Friday before Memorial Day through Sept. 30.

Cougar Campground and Park Season: Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day.

Beaver Bay Campground: Last Saturday of April through Sept. 30.

Swift Forest Camp and Day-Use Season: Last Saturday of April through end of hunting season in November.

Campground Fees

Camping	\$17 - \$20
Extra Occupants	\$2
Extra Vehicle	\$5
Overnight Moorage	\$5 (Cresap Bay Campground only)
Group Area	\$300 (120 people maximum, 15 sites.)

Recreation Site	Season/Hours of operations
Island River Access	Year-round, 24 hours
Cedar Creek River Access	Year-round, 24 hours
Lewis River Fish Hatchery River Access	Year-round, 24 hours
Johnson Creek Fishing Access	Year-round, 24 hours
Merwin River Access	Year-round, 24 hours
Merwin Park	April 1 – Sept. 30, 5 a.m. – 9 p.m., Oct. 1 – March 31, 7:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Speelyai Bay Park	April 1 – through Thursday before Memorial Day, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday before Memorial Day through Sept. 30, 5 a.m. – 10 p.m., Oct. 1 – March 31, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Cresap Bay Campground and Day-Use	Friday before Memorial Day through Sept. 30, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Saddle Dam	Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day, 5 a.m.– 10 p.m.
Yale Park	April 1 – through Thursday before Memorial Day, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m., Friday before Memorial Day through Sept. 30, 5 a.m. – 10 p.m., Oct. 1 – March 31, 7 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Cougar Campground and Park	Friday before Memorial Day through Labor Day, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Beaver Bay	Last Friday of April through Sept. 30, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Swift Camp	Last Friday of April through end of hunting season in November, 6 a.m. – 9 p.m.
Eagle Cliff	Year-round, 24 hours

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