

Park Name: Ponderosa		Statute #: 67-4212(11)	First Established: 1906	Acres: 1,462
Classification: Natural		Primary Attraction: Stands of old growth ponderosa pine		
Secondary Attractions: Lakefront on Payette Lake, Upper Payette River, swimming beaches, canoe trail				
Recreation Activities: Camping, picnicking, hiking, cycling, mountain biking, volleyball, horseshoes, swimming, fishing, wildlife and wildflower viewing, snowshoeing, nordic skiing				
History				
Local History: In the 1860s, Packer John Welch established a trail through the area for hauling supplies from Umatilla Landing on the Columbia River to the Idaho City gold fields. In the 1870s, miners and prospectors followed the trail. Tom McCall and his family acquired a cabin site on the south shore of Payette Lake in 1891. A lumber mill was constructed in 1896 and the Town of McCall grew up around it. The Northern Pacific Railroad extended their reach to McCall in 1914. A highway to McCall soon followed.				
Park History: The Legislature passed a resolution to make the land around Payette Lake a state park in 1906. It would be managed like a state park by the Department of Lands for the next six decades. This essentially protected the old ponderosa pines from being logged. In 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed the road to the tip of the peninsula. The first campgrounds were designed and constructed in the late 1930s and early 1940s. The park came under the IDPR in 1965. The recreation facilities were modernized starting in 1967. In 1973, the IDPR formally purchased the 828 acre Peninsula Unit and the 490 acre North Beach Unit lands from the Department of Lands for \$3.2 million. The Silver Sage Girl Scout Camp lease was acquired in 1991. The Nazarene Church Camp lease and Lakeview Village were acquired in 1998.				
Natural Resources				
Types of Ecosystems Present: Ponderosa pine forest, wetlands, pond, lake, river, riparian, montane sagebrush steppe			Environmental Quality: Very good	
Significant Fauna: Mule deer, moose, beaver, bear, fox, red squirrel, osprey, bald eagle, wood duck, mallard, kingfisher, pileated woodpecker, songbirds, kokanee, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, lake trout.				
Significant Flora: Ponderosa pine, Douglas fir, grand fir, lodgepole pine, western larch, Englemann Spruce, mountain maples, huckleberry, black cottonwood, aspen				
Invasive/Noxious Species: Toad flax, Canada thistle, spotted knapweed			Elevation: 5,050	
% Developed: 20%	% Undeveloped: 80%		Non-conforming uses: Inholdings	
Visitation				
Day Use: 376,040	Camping: 86,712	Annual Total: 462,752 (2017) this is the 4 th most popular park		
Economic Impact as provided in 2018 BSU Study: \$ 15,911,000				
Recreation Amenities				
Paved Roads (Miles): 5		Gravel Roads (Miles): 5		Day Use Areas: 6
Paved Parking Lots: 3	Gravel Parking Lots: 9	Boat Ramps: 2	Docks: 6	Group Shelters: 4
Miles of trail (paved/gravel): 1		Miles of Trail (unimproved): 8		Visitor Centers: 2
Entrance Stations: 1	Improved Restrooms: 6	Vault Toilets: 6	Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 40	

Campsites Serviced (W, E, or W&E): 89		Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E,S): 10	Dump Stations: 1
Companion Campsites Serviced (W,E): 23		Campsites Primitive/ Standard: 22	Group sites (including equestrian): 0
Camping Cabins: 1	Deluxe Cabins: 5	Yurts: 0	Cottages: 0
Future Plans			
<p>The Ponderosa State Park General Development Plan was completed in June 1994. The recommended Northwest Passage campground was completed in the North Beach Unit in 2004. Several other recommended improvements such as: a new entrance station, converting Lakeview Village into a day use complex, a new RV campground, a new visitor center, and installing 5 deluxe cabins were completed in 2008.</p>			
Issues and Remarks			
<p>The park consists of two unconnected units: Peninsula and North Beach. The north Beach Unit has a 2.4 mile canoe trail on the Upper Payette River. The North Beach unit also has a fishing pond. The old day use area in the Peninsula unit has 8 picnic tables available for individual day use. The Lakeview day use area has 9 picnic tables available for individual day use and a volleyball court. The North Beach unit has a fishing pond with a day use area with 4 picnic tables. Two of the tables are under a shelter.</p>			