

FS selects former Pine Nursery site for new offices

by Bend Weekly News Sources

Forest Supervisor Leslie Weldon has selected the intended site for construction of the Supervisor's Office (SO) and Bend-Fort Rock (BFR) Ranger District office of the Deschutes National Forest. Pending appropriate environmental analysis, the selected site will be the Bend-Pine Work Center at the corner of Deschutes Market and Butler Market Roads in Bend, formerly the Pine Nursery.

Among several sites considered, the Bend-Pine site is the simplest to develop because it is Federal property, said Weldon. All of the administrative functions of the SO and the BFR Ranger District will be placed on this one site. The initial construction cost is the lowest among those considered, she said, and the property is large enough to meet current and future site needs.

Maximizing efficiency and minimizing the energy "footprint" is a Forest Service goal for new construction. The new facility will be a "green building," and will thus meet sustainable site standards such as pollution prevention, community connectivity, public transportation access, and wildlife habitat protection or restoration.

This is just the first of many steps in the processes ahead, said Weldon, adding that the timeline for construction and occupancy is only an estimate at this point. However, if all goes smoothly, Supervisor Weldon hopes to break ground sometime in 2008. "We would like to be ready for Ranger District occupancy in late summer of 2009, and the Supervisor's Office employees would follow shortly after that," she said.

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