



Rehabilitate Cleetwood Cove Trail and Marina



Figure 1. Undercut retaining wall and trail tread loss.



Figure 2. Marina area with failed bulkhead and temporary dock.

Background

The Cleetwood Cove Trail is the most heavily used trail in the park and the only permitted access to the shore of Crater Lake. Every year, thousands of park visitors hike this trail to swim, fish, sunbathe, take a concessioner-led boat tour, or otherwise enjoy the deep-blue waters of the lake. This project proposes to rehabilitate the trail and related infrastructure to ensure safe access to the lake, provide needed visitor services, and to protect the environment.

Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to address critical safety issues with the Cleetwood Cove Trail and Marina while ensuring continued protection of the lake and surrounding environment.

The focus is on four areas:

- (1) rockfall scaling and mitigation
- (2) rehabilitation of the trail
- (3) removal and replacement of the failed bulkhead/dock with a structurally stable marina
- (4) replacing the outdated and undersized composting toilets.

Project Need

The Crater Lake caldera is a dynamic environment with highly erosive soils. Over the years, the trail has experienced severe tread loss and retaining walls have been undermined. A recent geotechnical study identified rockfall hazard zones along the trail and recommended slope scaling (manually dislodging rocks that could

fall) and other protection measures. The marina bulkhead and dock system failed in 2016 due to unstable slopes at the marina, rockfall damage, and high energy waves. This facility needs to be redesigned and replaced. Additionally, the marina restroom at the lakeshore has composting toilets that cannot keep pace with current levels of use.

Project Considerations	<p>The Cleetwood Cove trail is a 1.1 mile “out and back” trail that descends 651 feet from the caldera rim to the lake. The hike is considered an essential park experience by many visitors. The marina serves as the launch point for the concessions-operated boats that offer lake tours and shuttle trips to Wizard Island during the summer. These facilities are also used by the park staff to support lake-based operations and research.</p> <p>Potential impacts to natural resources from this project include vegetation disturbed during construction and rock scaling. A revegetation plan will be implemented to restore areas that may be disturbed as a result of this project, although it is anticipated that revegetation efforts will be limited by steep slopes and vegetation cover may be slow to reestablish. There are whitebark pine (<i>Pinus albicaulis</i>) present in the project area that may experience impacts from this project. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposed to list the species as threatened under the Endangered Species Act in December 2020. Whitebark pine and other mature trees will be protected from impacts whenever possible. It is not anticipated that project impacts will jeopardize the continued existence of whitebark pine at Crater Lake. Off-park earthen materials (e.g., gravel, fill, rock) and off-park equipment will be needed to support trail and marina rehabilitation work; however, efforts will be made to prevent the introduction of nonnative, invasive plant species in these endeavors.</p> <p>The caldera is a dynamic environment and rock scaling is intended to accelerate a natural process to provide for enhanced safety for individuals using the trail and marina. A large amount of dislodged rock debris from scaling is anticipated to enter the lake. During the construction process, material from the failing bulkhead/dock will also fall into the lake, though mitigations will be put in place to try to capture as much of this material as possible. This material is not expected to alter the shoreline or have any long-term impact on water quality. Due to the steep caldera slopes there is no reasonable way to capture or recover this material, though where possible dislodged rock will be used in trail construction.</p> <p>The entire Cleetwood Trail was surveyed for cultural resources, as was the shoreline except where precipitous rock faces were present. No prehistoric or historic archaeological resources were encountered during the survey. The Cleetwood Cove Trail and Marina were evaluated for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility, per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The trail and marina were found to likely not be eligible for NRHP-listing. Consultation with the park’s traditionally associated tribes and groups will be ongoing to address potential impacts to culturally significant resources.</p>
Project Schedule	<p>The park is engaged in design and plans to complete compliance for the project in late summer 2022. A categorical exclusion is being considered per the National Environmental Policy Act. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2024. The project may take two years to complete due to the very short construction season at Crater Lake. It is anticipated that the Cleetwood Cove Trail will be closed during construction due to limited access and rockfall hazards. Park staff will provide frequent updates on closures and attempt to maintain as much public access as possible.</p>
Your part in the process	<p>Comment online: The project is open for comment from January 17, 2022 to February 15, 2022 at: http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CleetwoodCoveRehabilitation</p> <p>The public is encouraged to submit comments electronically through this website. Click on the “Open for Comment” link on the left side of the screen to submit a comment.</p> <p>Written comments can be submitted by mail and must be postmarked by February 15 2022, to:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Superintendent Attn: Rehabilitate Cleetwood Cove Trail and Marina P.O. Box 7 Crater Lake, OR 97604</p>