



## News Release

# Monongahela National Forest

For Immediate Release  
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Contact: Eric Sandeno  
304-636-1800 extension 280

### **New Fee Proposed for Island Campground**

(Bartow, WV) Island Campground, located on the Greenbrier Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest in Pocahontas County, is seeking input regarding a proposed new fee of \$10.00 per night for single unit sites and \$20.00 per night for double unit sites. The Forest recently finished reconstruction of Island Campground which included relocating the campsites outside of the 100-year floodplain and providing a safe, fully accessible, 12-unit campground.

In the spring of 2012, Island Campground was completely reconstructed. The original 6-unit primitive campground was located within the 100-year floodplain of the two converging waterways on the site, posing a major safety hazard to visitors in the event of flooding. The campground and bridges which access the campground were also in great disrepair.

The Forest received funding for the relocation/reconstruction of Island Campground from the West Virginia's Secure Rural Schools Advisory Committee and was awarded \$95,500 to complete the required work of moving the campsites and providing the upgrades to the area.

The reconstruction of the campground included:

- Widening and improving Forest Road 36 (FR-36) within the existing foot print of the road.
- Construction of a new turn around at the end of FR-36 with a radius no less than 50' to accommodate trailers up to 45'.
- Construction of 12 campsites including needed culverts and drainage work and adding crusher run gravel to create campsite pads. Ten sites have a parking spur adjacent to the site, while 2 sites are "walk-in" sites with parking available within a short walk of the campsite.
- Construction of 10 parking spurs with crusher run gravel. This included installing culverts off of FR-36 to allow parking for newly constructed campsites.
- Each newly-constructed campsite was furnished with an accessible table, accessible fire ring, lantern post, and accessible tent pad.
- Installation of a fee station and kiosk near the entrance of the campground.
- The installation of 1 single-unit accessible vault toilet building.
- Installation of campsite number posts, directional and site identification signing.
- Removal of existing restroom facilities and rehabilitation of existing campsites.

“Island Campground has been open to the public for about one-year and the support for the new campground has been outstanding” stated Jack Tribble, Greenbrier District Ranger. “People were very disappointed when we had to close the old campground, but have been patient as we completed a design for the new campground and worked on getting the project funded”, said Tribble.

The proposed fee is \$10.00 per night for single unit sites and \$20.00 per night for double unit sites. “The campground has been open for about a year and we are incurring costs related to operation of the area. Pumping toilets, hauling garbage away, and cleaning the sites after people leave the area are just a few of those costs” said Tribble. The new fee for overnight use will help offset the costs associated with running a campground”, said Tribble.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows the Forest Service to keep 95 percent of fees collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain and enhance these sites.

All fee change proposals will be presented before a citizen’s advisory committee, called the Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). Council members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups and ensure public issues and concerns about recreation fees are considered. The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings. The next Eastern Region R-RAC meeting is expected to be held in the spring of 2014. The exact meeting time, location and agenda will be announced through local media.

If you have any comments or questions regarding the proposed fee, contact the Forest Service office in Bartow at 304-456-3335, Elkins at 304-636-1800 or visit the forest website at <http://fs.usda.gov/mnf> for information. Please submit comments to: Eric Sandeno, 200 Sycamore Street, Elkins, WV 26241 by November 1, 2013 so comments can be compiled, analyzed, and shared with the Eastern Region R-RAC during the spring of 2014.

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