



News Release

Monongahela National Forest

For Immediate Release
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New Fee Proposed for RV Wastewater Dump Station at Cranberry Campground

(Richwood, WV) The Monongahela National Forest is seeking input regarding a proposed new fee of \$5.00 for the use of a recently installed RV wastewater dump station at the Cranberry Campground, located along the Cranberry River on the Gauley Ranger District.

Cranberry Campground is a very popular 30-unit family campground. The campground serves as a gateway to the Cranberry Wilderness and Cranberry Backcountry as well as for people who fish the Cranberry River .

A major renovation was completed in 2011 at Cranberry Campground. The renovation included all new accessible picnic tables and fire rings at each campsite, removing the toilet facilities and replacing them with accessible precast toilet buildings, a new fee station, drainage improvements, gate installation, planting vegetation to improve screening between campsites, road resurfacing, and expansion of the day-use parking area. One new facility was added during the renovation, a RV wastewater dump station. The wastewater dump station was added in response to a long standing request from the public for this service. This is now the only wastewater dump station facility within an hour drive of the campground. This dump station will serve campers in Cranberry Campground, as well as numerous campers from other Forest campsites nearby.

“I’m thrilled we were able to install the RV wastewater dump station during the reconstruction of Cranberry Campground” stated William Schiffer, Gauley District Ranger. “We have heard from the public for some time that a RV wastewater dump station was needed in this area since so many people who come here like to stay for extended periods”, said Schiffer.

All other fees at Cranberry Campground will remain the same. “Even though we made a tremendous amount of improvements at Cranberry Campground, we don’t plan to increase camping fees. A modest \$5.00 fee for use of the RV wastewater dump station is all we are proposing to change. The new fee for use of the RV wastewater dump station is to offset the costs of pumping the vault at the RV wastewater dump station and hauling the contents off the site”, said Schiffer.

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 Richwood at 304-846-2122, 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 October 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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