

# National Forests in Mississippi

## Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2016

### Turkey Fork Recreation Area



*Parking area (left) and campsite (right) at Turkey Fork Recreation Area*



Turkey Fork Recreation area is nestled in tall pines around a 240-acre lake. The lake provides excellent fishing, swimming and boating opportunities, and is stocked with catfish, bass, and bluegill. In 2016, the Chickasawhay National Forest restriped the day-use parking area and the boat ramp parking lot, installed new fire-rings at three campsites, repainted campsite number signs, installed new buoy and line at the day-use area, and replaced several toilets in the day-use bathhouse.

### Floods in the Bottomlands

The Delta National Forest has the only bottomland hardwood forest managed by the Forest Service and is popular for hunters and campers. In 2016, the Forest experienced unusual flooding which required closing the bottomland to ensure public safety and

trailheads suffered significant damage from the floods. Law enforcement enforced the closure, helped prevent vandalism, monitored flood levels, and kept people informed. Approximately \$3,200 in fee revenue helped to repair fencing and re-establish parking areas.



*New fence in the Delta's bottomland forest*

### Recreation Fee Dollars

Recreation fee dollars are an investment in outdoor recreation. They support and enhance:

- Public safety
- Recreation site maintenance and improvements
- Educational experiences
- Informational wayside exhibits
- Youth programs and partnerships
- Interpretive programs

Current and future generations benefit as 80-95% of the funds are reinvested in the facilities and services that visitors enjoy, use, and value.

## Other Accomplishments

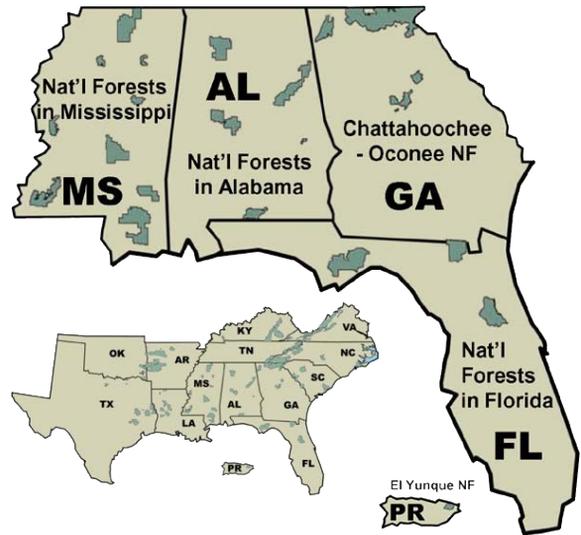
- Transitioned to an on-line reservation system and installed signs at campsites to inform campers on the Delta National Forest.
- Repaired bath house plumbing problems at Clear Springs, Okhissa Lake, Marathon Lake, and Choctaw Lake Recreation Areas.
- Provided Forest Protection Officer oversight at fishing tournaments at Okhissa Lake Recreation Area.
- Upgraded three campsites and painted restrooms at Chewalla Lake Recreation Area.
- Hosted a Kids Fishing Rodeo at Choctaw Lake in partnership with the Choctaw County Chamber of Commerce.
- Partnered with volunteers to maintained the Chickasaw ATV Trail.
- Replaced electrical panel, updated information on the entry kiosk, and repaired shower and bathroom faucets at Big Biloxi Recreation Area.

*Updated information on the entry kiosk at Big Biloxi Recreation Area*



*Chewalla Lake on the Holly Springs National Forest. Photo Credits Heather Stuart 2015 Share the Experience.*

## Southern Region



## Contacts

### National Forests in Mississippi

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## Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$413,511	\$7,512,715
Special Uses	\$10,290	\$136,100
Interagency Passes	\$0	\$1,347,766
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$423,800</b>	<b>\$8,996,581</b>

Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$115,720	\$4,335,947
Visitor Services	\$23,616	\$1,353,224
Law Enforcement	\$49,594	\$238,712
Habitat Restoration	\$21,255	\$31,076
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$1,350
Collections/Overhead	\$25,978	\$822,623
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$236,164</b>	<b>\$6,782,932</b>

\*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and upcoming startup costs.