



National Forests in Mississippi

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2017

Helping Kids Catch the Big One

The Forest sponsored a Kids Fishing Day in April at Clear Springs Recreation Area with 64 kids in attendance. Each child received a t-shirt and a rod and reel. The event was a success due to the support and contributions of several partners. Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks donated catfish, Cap Co donated T-shirts, and Home Hardware Center donated the rod and reels. Franklin County Sheriff's Department provided law enforcement support and Rural Rapid Response provided EMT services. Recreation fee dollars assisted with site maintenance.

Clear Springs Recreation Area is a 12 acre spring-fed lake offering opportunities for everyone including, camping, swimming, fishing, picnicking, mountain biking and hiking.



Choctaw Full of Improvements



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.

Choctaw Lake Recreation Area is a popular destination for fishing, mountain biking, hiking, camping, swimming, picnicking, and boating. The campground has 18 campsites with utility hookups, 35 picnic sites, three picnic pavilions, a swimming area, shower houses, flush toilets, boat ramps, and an accessible fishing pier.

The forest invested \$22,050 of recreation fee dollars in the site by enlarging three campsites to accommodate recreational vehicles and installing new fire rings, grills, and lantern holders.



Other Accomplishments

- Repaired water system and an electrical box at Turkey Fork Recreation Area.
- Rehabilitated and improved Little Tiger ATV Trail and painted the vault toilet building at the trailhead.
- Planted grass at Chewalla Lake Campground to eliminate erosion problems, and thinned trees to improve visitor's view of the lake.
- Hosted fishing tournaments at Okhissa Lake, Marathon Lake, and Choctaw Lake recreation areas.
- Repaired broken shower and bathroom faucets at Cypress Creek Campground.
- Installed concrete pre-cast fencing at Spanish Fort Trailhead.
- Improved parking areas at Big Sunflower and Spanish Fort trailheads in collaboration with Sharkey County.
- Partnered with the Mississippi Lower Delta Partnership to host Earth Day and National Public Lands Day events. Volunteers contributed 200 hours.
- Installed a volleyball court at Marathon Lake Recreation Area.
- Repaired and replaced sewage pumps at Marathon Lake Recreation Area.



Potato Creek Waterfall



Little Tiger
ATV trail

Contacts

**National Forests in Mississippi
Recreation Fee Program Contact**
601-965-1660

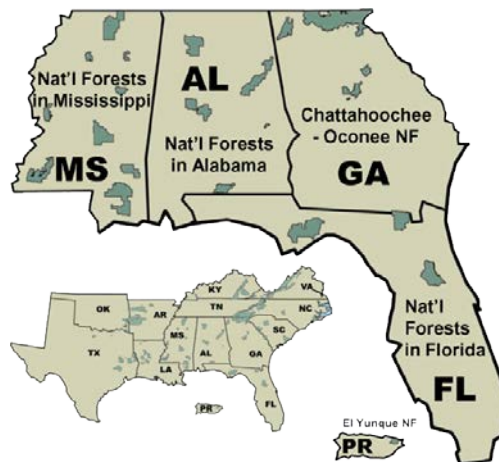
Email: dawright@fs.fed.us

Online: www.fs.usda.gov/mississippi

Regional Contact
404-347-2769

Email: tiffanywilliams@fs.fed.us

Regional Map



Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Forest	Region
Recreation Fees	\$419,503	\$7,790,073
Special Uses	\$2,945	\$1,704,464
Interagency Passes	\$21,207	\$528,471
Total	\$443,655	\$10,023,008
Expenditures	Forest	Region
Repair & Maintenance	\$124,641	\$4,625,554
Visitor Services	\$18,389	\$1,400,284
Law Enforcement	\$23,497	\$180,257
Habitat Restoration	\$12,259	\$304,256
Fee Agreements	\$0	\$55,183
Collections/Overhead	\$25,541	\$1,272,180
Total	\$204,327	\$7,837,714