

Recreation Fee Program Accomplishment Highlights 2014 National Forests in Florida

Forest Service



Accessibility Improvements



In 2014, recreation fees funded substantial accessibility improvements to Olustee Beach, Ocean Pond, and Landing Recreation Areas. Approximately \$43,000 in fee funds were used to install a series of paved walkways and parking pads which now

allow easy access from the parking lots to major facilities at each site. In addition, the new walkways now provide visitors with convenient access to the beach and picnic sites at Olustee Beach and to interpretive information at Landing.

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

Enhancing Bear and Visitor Safety

Despite the loss of habitat due to Florida's growing population, black bear numbers have been rebounding significantly since the 1970s. The increasing potential for bear and human interaction has expanded the forest's need to provide bear-resistant amenities. The Ocala National Forest used fee funds to install several bear-safe food storage units at their campgrounds in 2014.



Forest Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$358,543
Special Uses	\$3,366
Interagency Passes	\$13,210
Total	\$375,119
Expenditures*	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$373,138
Visitor Services	\$32,226
Law Enforcement	\$50,648
Habitat Restoration	\$0
Fee Agreements	\$0
Cost of Collections	\$4,214
Total	\$460,226

*Expenditures can be funded with previous years' revenue.

Additional Accomplishments

- Supported repairing, restoring, painting and regular cleaning of facilities by volunteers.
- Repaired underground water and sewer systems at developed recreation sites.
- Completed plumbing repairs and replaced fixtures at Olustee Beach and Campground.
- Serviced OHV trail maintenance equipment.
- Replaced outdoor lights with more energy-efficient fixtures.
- Purchased tools for repairs, maintenance, and facility enhancement.
- Maintained beach and boat ramp areas using a variety of tools to maintain swimming areas.
- Replaced missing site identification signs at developed sites and updated safety signage on bulletin boards.



Reshaping an OHV trail.



Contacts

National Forests in Florida

Recreation Fee Program Contact

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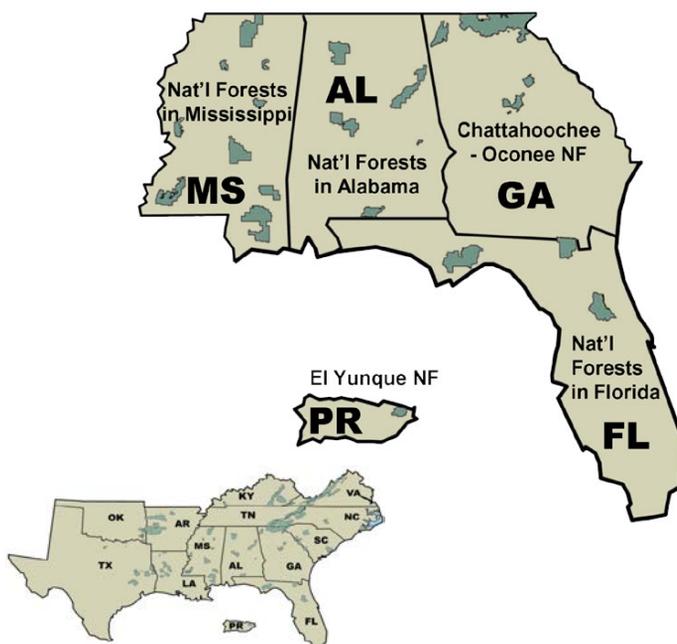
Regional Contact

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Southern Region Maps



Regional Revenue & Expenditures

Revenue*	Amount
Recreation Fees	\$6,373,184
Special Uses	\$1,209,474
Interagency Passes	\$118,320
Total	\$7,700,978
Expenditures	Amount
Repair & Maintenance	\$4,989,435
Visitor Services	\$1,355,389
Law Enforcement	\$213,554
Habitat Restoration	\$4,580
Fee Agreements	\$0
Cost of Collections	\$872,295
Total	\$7,435,253

*Carryover funds will be used for large projects and the following season's startup costs