

# Background Information on Campground Fees

## *WNF Develop Recreation Opportunities*

- The Wayne manages almost 300 recreation sites (i.e. campsites, picnic sites, interpretive sites, etc.). The level of development among these recreation areas vary from primitive to highly developed.

## *Operation/Maintenance Costs*

- It requires just over \$1 million to properly operate and maintain the Wayne's developed recreation areas. This total also includes deferred maintenance and capital improvement (CIP) costs.
- Of the \$1 million total, campground operation and maintenance cost approx. \$580,000. Day-use facilities (i.e. picnic areas, beach, boat-launches, etc.) make-up the remaining costs.

## *Current Budget and Fee Issues*

- In 2005, the Wayne received approx. \$550,000 in appropriation and \$50,000 in user fees to operate and maintain all of its recreation areas (including campgrounds).
- Campground fees have not been updated since 1996. Facilities are in much need of updating to meet public demand (i.e. install electrical hook-ups, new water and sewer systems, etc.)
- The Wayne's current fee levels are the lowest when compared to other providers in the region. (see below)

### **2005 Average Price Comparison of Recreation Facilities**

| <b>Recreation Areas</b>             | <b>Family Camp<br/>Single Non-Electric</b> | <b>Family Camp<br/>Single<br/>w/Electric</b> | <b>Group Camp Single</b> |
|-------------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------|
| <b>Wayne National<br/>Forest OH</b> | \$9.80                                     | \$16.00                                      | \$15.00                  |
|                                     | WNF Range: \$5 -<br>\$12                   | WNF Range \$13<br>- \$20                     | No Range                 |
| <b>Ohio Private<br/>Campgrounds</b> | \$16.50                                    | \$22.50                                      | N/A                      |
| <b>Daniel Boone NF<br/>(KY)</b>     | \$16.50                                    | \$19.25                                      | \$50.00                  |
| <b>Ohio Corp of<br/>Engineers</b>   | \$13.00                                    | \$18.00                                      | N/A                      |
| <b>Ohio State Parks</b>             | \$15.93                                    | \$20.31                                      | \$35.00                  |

### ***Benefits of Fee Increase***

- As revenue increases, deferred maintenance can be more quickly reduced which could free up more funds to enhance existing facilities (i.e. add electricity to non-electric campsites) and add more campsites, expand parking areas, etc.

### ***Drawbacks of No Fee Increase***

- Unless fees are raised or other sources of funding increases, inflation and the rising cost of operation and maintenance will eventually erode current funding level to the point that campgrounds cannot be maintained to standard and they are forced to operate at a reduced level of service or be closed.