

---

P.O. Box 1270  
Hot Springs, AR 71901  
(501) 321-5202

---



---

605 W. Main  
Russellville, AR 72801  
(479) 964-7200

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 21, 2009

CONTACT: Debbie Ugbade  
(501) 321-5202

**National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma Celebrate  
Public Lands Day with “Fee Free” Day**

**HOT SPRINGS, AR**—In recognition of National Public Lands Day, the National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma will waive entrance fees for most day-use sites on Saturday, September 26, 2009. National Public Lands Day serves as the nation’s largest volunteer undertaking: an opportunity for individuals and communities to improve the natural and cultural treasures that Americans enjoy and value.

According to Ouachita National Forest Recreation Program Manager Tim Oosterhous, the Forest Service is encouraging the public to spend the “fee-free” day in the national forest volunteering or enjoying outdoor recreation activities. National Public Lands Day is a national celebration that brings thousands of people together to enhance and beautify the country’s public lands.

“Public Lands Day is a wonderful opportunity to connect people with the environment,” said Oosterhous. “National Forest volunteers have made significant contributions to keep the national forest healthy, and we are grateful for their service and dedication.”

Day-use fees will also be waived on the Big Piney, Sylamore, and Pleasant Hill Ranger Districts of the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. The exceptions to the fee waiver are areas operated by private concessionaires, State Parks, Blanchard Springs Caverns and the Mt. Magazine, Boston Mountain and St. Francis Ranger Districts on the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests.

For more information about fee-free areas, contact a Forest Service District Office near you or call (501) 321-5202 for the Ouachita National Forest or (479) 964-7200 for the Ozark-St. Francis National Forests. Log on to [www.aokforests.com](http://www.aokforests.com) for information about National Forests in Arkansas and Oklahoma.

###