



NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

NEWS • RELEASE

Contact: Terry Savery, 910-576-6391
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For Immediate Release

U.S. Forest Service Solicits Public Input on Proposed Recreation Fee Increases

ASHEVILLE, NCThe US Forest Service is proposing to raise or establish user fees at some recreation areas on the Uwharrie National Forest. Public input is welcomed, and will be evaluated by a regional advisory board this fall before any changes are approved by the Regional Forester. Fee changes are being considered due to the increasing costs of operating and maintaining recreation facilities, and to enable the Forest Service to add amenities requested by forest visitors at various recreation sites.

Sites on the Uwharrie National Forest being considered for fee increases include Badin Lake OHV Trail Complex and Canebrake Horse Camp. Some trails at Badin Lake OHV Trail Complex are being improved with Recovery Act funds, but will still have significant and recurring maintenance needs to provide safe, enjoyable experiences for forest visitors.

The agency is also proposing a change in the seasonal passes for OHV trail complexes on all national forests within North Carolina. Details on the proposed changes are shown on the attached table. Please note that the fee for camping at Canebrake Horse Camp is eligible for America the Beautiful Interagency Pass discounts, but the surcharge for electrical use is not. The fees in the table reflect this difference.

The Forest Service is authorized to charge fees for use of recreation sites through the Recreation Enhancement Act of 2005. 80% of the fees paid by users are reinvested in the recreation sites on the national forest where they are collected. Fee increase proposals are rigorously reviewed by a regional board comprised of non-agency individuals, who

then provide their recommendations to the Regional Forester for final approval.

Approved changes would go into effect for the 2011 recreation season. The sites referenced in this proposal have either never had a fee, or have not had a fee increase at least since 2002.

Comments should be mailed by July 30, 2010 to USDA Forest Service, National Forests in North Carolina, ATTN: Recreation Fee Proposals, 160A Zillicoa Street, Asheville NC 28801, or mailed electronically to comments-southern-north-carolina@fs.fed.us and should include "Recreation Fees" in the subject line. For further information on this proposal, please contact Deborah Walker, District Ranger, at (910) 576-6391.

Proposed Recreation Fee Increases- Uwharrie National Forest					
Recreation Site or Complex	Location	Current fee	Year of last fee incr.	Proposed fee, 2011	Proposed fee, 2013
OHV Trail Complexes, Forest-wide seasonal pass	NFsNC	(Seasonal passes currently available for individual trail systems)	N/A	\$45/operator/season	\$60/operator/season
Badin Lake OHV Trail Complex, Uwharrie NF	Uwharrie NF	\$5/operator	2002	\$7/operator (See additional Forest-wide seasonal pass)	\$10/operator (See additional Forest-wide seasonal pass)
Canebrake Horse Camp, Uwharrie NF	Uwharrie NF	\$12 single; \$24 double	2002	Single site, \$15 + electrical surcharge, \$5= \$20 total; Double site, \$30 + electrical surcharge, \$10= \$40 total (ATB pass rate single=\$12.50, double=\$25)	Single, \$18 + electrical surcharge, \$7 = \$25 total; Double site, \$36 + electrical surcharge, \$14 = \$50 total (ATB pass rate single= \$16, double= \$32)