



NEWS RELEASE

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Forest Service Celebrates Public Lands Day with “Fee Free” Days

(Montgomery, AL) September 12, 2008 ---- The National Forests in Alabama will waive entry fees at all day-use sites in the Bankhead, Conecuh, Talladega, and Tuskegee National Forests on September 27-28 in celebration of National Public Lands Day. According to Miera C. Nagy, forest supervisor for the National Forests in Alabama, the Forest Service is encouraging the public to spend the “fee free” days in a 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 their environment,” said Nagy. “National Forest volunteers have made contributions to keep the national forests healthy, and we’re grateful for their service and dedication.” There are 23 fee areas throughout the National Forests in Alabama. During fiscal year 2007, the public made more than 1.3 million visits to various recreation sites in Alabama’s national forests. Approximately \$225,000 in recreation fees were collected and used towards maintenance and upkeep of facilities.

On September 27-28, the public can enjoy “fee free” days at the following sites:

Bankhead National Forest -Clear Creek and Corinth Day-Use Areas, Houston Recreation Area Day Use Area, Brushy Lake Recreation Area Day-Use, Flint Creek

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Multiple-Use Trail, Pine torch Trailhead, and Hurricane Creek Shooting Range. Picnic shelter rentals are not included in the fee waiver. For more information contact District Ranger Glen Gaines at 205-489-5111.

Conecuh National Forest - Open Pond Day Use-Area and Blue Lake Day-use Area. For more information contact District Ranger Steve Lee at 334-222-2555.

Talladega National Forest, Talladega District – Lake Chinnabee Day-Use area, Kentuck ORV Trailhead, Turnipseed Day-use area, Shepard Branch Shooting Range. For more information contact District Ranger Kent Evans at 256-362-2909.

Talladega National Forest, Shoal Creek District – Coleman Lake Day-Use Area, Pine Glen Day-Use Area, Warden Station Horse Camp Day-Use, Henry Creek Shooting Range. For more information contact District Ranger Kim Bittle at 256-463-2272.

Talladega National Forest, Oakmulgee District – Payne Lake Day-Use area, Vick Firing Range For more information contact District Ranger Cynthia Ragland at 205-926-9765.

Tuskegee National Forest – Uchee Shooting Range. For more information contact District Ranger Jorge Hersel at 334-727-2652.