

National Forests in Alabama

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News

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For Immediate Release

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Forest Service Assists Displaced Persons Resulting from Hurricane Katrina

Montgomery, AL – September 6, 2005. Effective immediately, the Forest Service is waiving fees and length of stay in Alabama's national forest campgrounds to aid displaced individuals caused by the storm.

"This is in response to the tragic events affecting all of us as a result of Hurricane Katrina. The decision to waive fees and length of stay will remain in effect until further notice", said Stephen R. Rickerson, supervisor for the National Forests in Alabama.

Normally, campers would pay a required fee to camp and could stay a maximum of 14 days in developed and dispersed campsites. A large number of campsites have electrical hookups and bathhouses with hot and cold water.

"We think this is the right thing to do and we are willing and glad to do our part to help all of us who have been affected by the storm", Rickerson said.

The use of these sites will be on a first come first serve basis. Forest Service officials are urging individuals who may have reserved campsites through the National Recreation Reservation Service to double check the status of their reservation before traveling to the forest.

“Due to our efforts to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina all campsites may be filled and we want to avoid the inconvenience this could cause”, said Rickerson.

Day use areas and other recreational activities requiring a fee will remain in effect. Those include areas such as picnicking, OHV trails, boat ramps and swimming areas. For more information about other recreational activities and fees, visit our website at: www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/alabama.

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NOTE: To check the availability of campsites, call the following locations:

Bankhead National Forest	205-489-5111
Conecuh National Forest	334-222-2555
Talladega National Forest	
Oakmulgee District	205-926-9765
Shoal Creek District	256-463-2272
Talladega District	256-362-2909