



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Southern Region
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**US FOREST SERVICE GRANTS FEE-FREE WEEKEND TO
VETERANS AND U.S. ARMED FORCES MEMBERS**

(Columbia, S.C.) - In celebration of Veterans Day, the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests in South Carolina will waive fees charged at recreation sites and trails on Nov. 11-13, 2011 announced Forest Supervisor Paul Bradley. Fees at all day use (including motorized trail fees) and overnight camping sites will be waived, except for camping facilities included in the National Reservation System (Buck Hall Recreation Area on the coast and Whetstone Camp in the mountains).

When announcing the Veterans Day fee waiver, Bradley said, "We want to thank those veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have, and continue to, protect our Nation. We hope this fee-free day will encourage veterans, members of the U.S. Armed Forces and their families to take advantage of their public lands for outdoor recreation pursuits on this day and throughout the year."

The forests stretch across the state from Walhalla to McClellanville and offer a variety of nature-based recreational opportunities such as hiking, backpacking, mountain biking, horseback riding, off-highway vehicle and motorcycle trail riding, boating, hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, birding – or just enjoying the scenery.

For more information about recreation opportunities on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, visit our Web site at <http://fs.usda.gov/scnfs> or call (803) 561-4000.

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For more information on the national forests in South Carolina, please visit <http://www.fs.usda.gov/scnfs>.

For more information on the Weeks Act Centennial Celebration, please visit <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/weeksact>.

South Carolina's National Forests

Celebrating 75 Years of Restoring Forests, Protecting Water and Reducing Catastrophic Wildfires.