



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service, Southern Region
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September 16, 2008 (FMS 0814)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

(Columbia, S.C.) The Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests will waive all day use fees (including motorized trails) at recreation sites and trails on Sept. 27, in celebration of National Public Lands Day, and Sept. 28, a one-time event in honor of new citizens of the United States, as part of the interagency “This Land is Your Land” initiative kicked off on Ellis Island July 7, 2008.

In announcing the fee waivers, Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas said, “We want to thank those who support our national forests. We hope this fee-free day will encourage Americans to take advantage of their public lands for exercise and outdoor recreation pursuits, not only on these fee-free days but also throughout the year.”

The national forests in South Carolina 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, ATV and dirt bike trail riding, boating, hunting, fishing, camping, picnicking, birding – or simply enjoying the scenery.

For more information about recreation opportunities on the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests, visit our website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r8/fms>.

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