

Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

US Forest Service Eastern Region

Fee Proposal

National Forest, State: Monongahela NF, West Virginia

Site Type: Group Campsite

FLREA Fee Type: Expanded Amenity

Type of proposal: Group Campsite fee increase

Site Description: Group Campsite in the Lake Sherwood Recreation Area. Site may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service for an additional fee.

Proposed Action:

RECREATION AREA	CURRENT FEE	PROPOSED FEE	AMOUNT INCREASE
Lake Sherwood Group Campsite	\$50.00	\$75.00	\$25.00

Date of Last Increase: 2000.

Reason for Fee Change: Loss of the Department of Labor Senior Employment Program (SCSEP) has led to increased operation and maintenance costs. Also, inflation has increased the cost of basic supplies and contracts.

If recommended, the fee increase will be used for: 1) operations and maintenance 2) continue high standard of cleanliness and comfort that Forest visitors expect; 3) address backlog maintenance needs.

If recommended, the proposal will be implemented: March, 2008

Price Comparisons for Similar Facilities & Services:

Forest Service: Group Campsites at similar facilities on the north zone of the Monongahela NF range from \$35.00 to \$50.00. Fees on the adjacent George Washington NF are \$35.00 for group camping

Local Private and Public Providers: There are no comparable private facilities in the area;

Public Participation

Method	Date(s)	Comments/Results
Posted notice at recreation site inviting comments on the proposal (2 months minimum during visitor season)	June 21, 2007	Forest Service officers had many conversations with campers: most comments were supportive, all comments showed an understanding of the need for fee increases
News release and/or notice in local papers inviting comments on the proposal (if news release is not printed, place a paid notice in the newspaper)	July, 2007, news releases in three local papers	No comments were received that could be directly tied to the news releases.
Briefed local elected officials on the proposal. List names of officials.	August 15-16, 2007 Pocahontas County Commissioner, James Carpenter, Greenbrier County commissioner, Loweel Rose, Congressman Rahall's office (Kim McMillion, Paul Gay from Senator Byrd's office and John	Informal conversations between Forest and Congressional Staffers generally supported the fee increases, no concerns were expressed. In some cases where detailed voice mail messages about the proposals and asking for a return call if they had any issues or concerns, no returned calls were received.

	Richards from Senator Rockefeller's office.	
Met with affected stakeholder groups to get input on the proposal	Contacts made with local service clubs, CVB, Chamber Of Commerce	Informal conversations resulted in support
Posted proposal on Forest Website	June 25, 2007	One e-mail received, in support of the proposal
Other methods		

Analysis: There is public support. A common theme of comments received was that increased fees were acceptable, as long as the money collected was being used to operate the facilities.