

Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

US Forest Service Eastern Region

National Forest, State: Ottawa National Forest, Michigan

Site Type: Pavilion

FLREA Fee Type: Expanded amenity

Type of Proposal: New Fee

Site Description: Black River Harbor is located along the south shore of Lake Superior. The pavilion building, located within the day use area, features an enclosed building with picnic tables, fireplace, electrical outlets, and restrooms.

Proposed Action: A new fee of \$40 for the Black River Harbor pavilion. Pavilion may be reserved through the National Recreation Reservation Service for an additional fee.

Current Fee: This is a new fee.

Proposed Fee: \$40 for any part of the day.

Amount Increase: \$40

Date Last Increase: This is a new fee.

Reason for New Fee or Fee Change: There has been a notable increase in the demand for reservations of the pavilion by large groups. Examples include church picnics, weddings, family reunions, schools and various clubs. Appropriated funds have not been sufficient to address the impacts of this intense use. Funds are needed to supplement existing operations and maintenance.

If recommended, the fee increase will be used for: Operation and maintenance of the pavilion associated with group use

If recommended, the proposal will be implemented: May 15, 2008.

Benchmark Price Comparisons for Similar Facilities & Services:

- **Forest Service:** Across the Eastern Region, the price for reservations of similar type picnic shelters ranges from \$25 - \$35.
- **Local Private and Public Providers:** The fee use for similar type shelters in the immediate area along Lake Superior include Saxon Harbor (\$30 to \$35) and Little Girls Point (\$25/family; \$50 for groups over 100 persons). Both facilities are managed by county governments. A city-owned picnic pavilion in Bessemer charges \$25.

Public Participation:

Method	Date(s)	Comments/Results
Posted notice at recreation site inviting comments on the proposal (2 months minimum during visitor season)	July 2007	No comments received.
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)	8/17/2007	
Briefed local elected officials on the proposal. List names of officials.	8/8/2007: Gogebic Co. Commissioners (9)	Support. Had discussed informally with most of the Commissioners several times previously.
Met with affected stakeholder groups to get input on the proposal	All persons making reservations for 2007 were advised a fee might be charged in the future.	For the past several years, most individuals making reservations assumed there WAS a fee and have expressed surprise when told it was free.
Posted Federal Register Notice.	8/17/2007	
Posted proposal on Forest Website	8/16/2007	
Other methods		

Analysis: There is support from the public and local officials for the proposed fee.