

# Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

US Forest Service- Eastern Region

Fee Proposal

**National Forest, State:** Huron-Manistee National Forests, Michigan

**Site Type:** Guided Tour

**FLREA Fee Type:** Special Recreation Permit

**Type of proposal:** Fee Increase



**Site Description:** Kirtland's Warbler Guided Tour

The guided tour starts and ends at the Mio Ranger District Office. A trained Forest Service guide leads the tour, providing the opportunity to learn about and view the endangered Kirtland's Warbler. Northern Michigan's jack pine habitat is the only place in the world where the Kirtland's Warblers nest. These guided tours are an international tourist destination. In the last fifteen years, demand has increased from 200 to 1,800 visitors a year. Ten amenities are available including designated parking, interpretive signs, trash can, tour guide, permanent toilet, picnic table, reasonable security, fee collection, access road, and drinking water.

**Proposed Action:**

	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Amount Increase
Kirtland's Warbler Guided Tour - Adults	\$5.00	\$10.00	\$5.00
Children age 17 and under	Free	Free	Free

**Date of Last Increase:** 1995

**If approved, the proposal will be implemented:** January 1, 2009

**Reason for Proposed Fee Increase:** inflation, increased costs, increased use, improved facilities, and alignment with local market, (see summary).

**If approved, the fee change will be used for** improving service and accommodating the increased demand. Improved services will include additional trained guides, interpretive sign, and brochures.

**Price Comparisons for Similar Facilities & Services:**

- **Local Private and Public Providers:**

Twenty-eight guided tour fees were reviewed for comparison. Private and public guided tours were considered. The subject of the tours included birds, wildlife, nature, art, and history. The guided tour average fee was \$11.75 per adult and \$9.54 per child. The median fee was \$8.00 per adult and 7.50 per child. The cost range, for 28 guided tours were from \$2 to \$45.00 per person. The Huron-Manistee proposes to charge \$10.00 per person. The Fish & Wildlife Service in Grayling offers a Kirtland's Warbler tour at no charge.