



# NATIONAL FORESTS IN NORTH • CAROLINA

USDA FOREST SERVICE, 160A ZILICOA STREET, ASHEVILLE, NC 28801

## NEWS • RELEASE

Contact: Dave Wright 828-257-4256  
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For Immediate Release

### **National Forests in North Carolina Proposes Fee Increases at Several Recreation Sites**

ASHEVILLE, NC.....The National Forests in North Carolina is proposing to increase fees at several recreation sites on the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests. Fees typically have not been increased during the previous two years. Eighty to ninety-five percent of the fees collected at the sites would remain on the forest to operate, maintain and improve the facilities and programs at the recreation sites. Following are the proposed fee increases:

#### **Tellico OHV Area** (Tusquitee Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, Cherokee County)

Fees are proposed to increase from \$5 per day per person and \$30 per season pass per person to \$10 per day and \$60 per season pass per person.

#### **Cheoah Point Campground** (Cheoah Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, Graham County)

The current fee of \$8 per site per night would increase to \$15 per site per night. Cheoah Point CG has been completely reconstructed during the past two years with showers and two new camping cabins added. The proposed fee for the camping cabins is \$35 per night per cabin.

#### **Jackrabbit Campground** (Tusquitee Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, Clay County)

The current fee of \$15 per site per night for all sites is proposed to increase to \$20 per site per night for lakefront sites. The fee for all remaining sites would remain at \$15 at Jackrabbit. There is a \$5 surcharge for all sites with electricity throughout the forest.

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**Cradle of Forestry in America** (Pisgah Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest, Transylvania County)

Fees for Special Events and for Educational Workshops are proposed to increase as follows:  
Special Events – The current fee is \$5 per adult per event and \$2.50 for youth. The proposed fee is \$6 per adult per event and \$3 for youth.

Educational Workshops – The current fee is \$6 to \$35 per person for a single day workshop. The proposed fee is \$6 to \$45 per person for a single day workshop and a six workshop series for \$200 per couple.

**Picnic Shelter Reservation Fees** (Multiple Districts, Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests)

The forest proposes to charge a fee for reserving the use of several picnic shelters on the Pisgah, Grandfather, Appalachian, Cheoah and Tusquitee Ranger Districts. Fees would be used for operating and maintaining the sites. *No fee would be charged for use of the shelters during times they are not reserved.* The shelters and the proposed fees include Sycamore Flats, Pink Beds, Mortimer, Murray Branch, Cherokee Lake, Jackrabbit, Hanging Dog, and Cheoah Point shelters (\$34 per half day/ \$49 per whole day). Picnic shelter use fees are currently charged at the Cliffside Lake and Standing Indian day use areas on the Highlands and Wayah Ranger Districts.

The shelters will seat from 24 to 32 people. On-site amenities typically include potable water, toilets, parking, lakefront or riverfront access for fishing or swimming, trash collection and information board. Users wanting to reserve the shelters would make reservations via toll free number (877) 444-6777 or internet at [www.reserveusa.com](http://www.reserveusa.com). The fees quoted above include the reservation fee charged by ReserveUSA.

According to developed recreation program manager Dave Wright, “We are experiencing tremendous increases in recreation uses on the National Forests in North Carolina. We are one of the most visited national forest units in the country. We want to be able to provide quality recreation facilities to meet this demand. In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows us to keep ninety-five percent of fees collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate and maintain and improve these sites.

Requests for additional information can be made to the National Forests in North Carolina at (828) 257-4202 or at 160 Zillicoa Street, Suite A, Asheville, NC 28801. Comments on the proposed fee increases should be submitted no later than March 9, 2007 to:

**National Forests in North Carolina**

Attn: Dave Wright, Developed Recreation Program Manager  
160 Zillicoa Street, Suite A  
Asheville, NC 28801

E-mail comments can be sent to:

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