



**Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service, Southern Region  
4931 Broad River Road Columbia, SC 29212**

**Contact: Joe Robles (803) 561-4067**

---

**November 7, 2008** (FMS 0815)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

---

### **Veterans and U.S. Armed Forces Members Granted Fee-Free Day Nov. 11**

(Columbia, SC) In celebration of Veterans Day, the Francis Marion and Sumter National Forests will waive fees charged at recreation sites and trails on Nov. 11, announced Forest Supervisor Jerome Thomas. Fees at all day use (including motorized trail fees) and overnight camping sites will be waived, except for camping facilities included in the National Reservation System (Buck Hall Recreation Area on the Francis Marion National Forest and Whetstone Camp on the Andrew Pickens Ranger District).

In announcing the Veterans Day fee waiver, Thomas said, “We want to thank those veterans and members of the U.S. Armed Force who have, and continue to, protect our nation. We hope this fee-free day will encourage them and their families to take advantage of their public lands for exercise and outdoor recreation pursuits, not only on these fee-free days but 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, off-highway vehicle and motorcycle 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> or call (803) 561-4000.

###