



## News Release

**Contact:** Carlene Yocum, Operations Group Leader

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NELSONVILLE, Ohio –

The Wayne National Forest was recently granted permission from the Forest Service's Regional Recreational Advisory Committee (RRAC) to increase certain recreation fees for facilities and trails on the 238,000-acre Forest in Southeastern Ohio.

Fees for various camping and trail use permits on the Wayne National Forest will increase beginning January 1, 2008. Any 2008 camping and group picnicking reservations made after August 10, 2007 will be subject to the new fees. Trail use permits will show the largest increase, with seasonal permits going from \$25 to \$45 per year. Daily passes will increase to \$12 from \$5, while the Forest's two-day trail pass has been replaced with a 3-day pass priced at \$24. Camping area and picnic shelter fees will increase in most areas of the Forest's three management units in Athens, Marietta and Ironton. Information on site-specific increases will be available August 7, 2007.

According to Carleen Yocum, Group Leader for the Forests Recreation program, "Fee revenue remains on the forest to maintain and improve sites, and can be used with other funds, including grants, for construction and maintenance of trails, campground operation, creation and purchase of maps and brochures for visitor use, user education, and provide patrol and security at recreation sites." The Forest has not raised prices on any of the recreation fee areas or trails in 10 years, Yocum added.

The Forest has considered public feedback to determine what level of increase would be acceptable to Forest visitors. Results indicated a moderate increase would be acceptable to more than 80% of visitors, as long as there was a reasonable expectation of an increase in services or amenities for the recreation areas and trails.

For further information on the specific camping area increases, check the Forest's website at [www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/wayne), or call 740-753-0101.

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