

NEWS RELEASE
Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest
Salt Lake Ranger District
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Visitor Fee Schedule Change in Mill Creek Canyon

Salt Lake City, Utah, December 17, 2008 - Beginning January 1, 2009, the U.S. Forest Service and Salt Lake County will be implementing a change to the Mill Creek Canyon visitor fee schedule. The increase was requested by the Forest Service to meet rising costs of labor and supplies since 1991. The daily fee will be \$3.00 and an annual pass is available for \$40.00. For senior citizens the daily fee is \$2.00 or \$20.00 for an annual pass.

Because it's adjacent to the Salt Lake City Metropolitan Area, the canyon is heavily used by hikers, cyclists, equestrians, dog enthusiasts, and picnickers. The Forest Service will utilize additional funding to add 1-2 temporary summer season positions, and gradually replace picnic tables and fire rings, improve snow removal in parking lots, implement security measures to decrease car break-ins, repave parking lots, conduct resource restoration work, maintain trails, replace the accessible boardwalk, and cover increased costs of restroom vault pumping, services, and supplies. In addition, the Mill Creek Canyon fund has provided a source of matching funds for grant opportunities which further extends visitor amenities. "The Forest Service has also funded several site renovation and water system projects and will continue to contribute improvements to the canyon as funds permit. However, our biggest challenge is in sustaining resource conditions and meeting operations and maintenance demands for this popular canyon," said Salt Lake District Ranger, Cathy Kahlow.

The Mill Creek Canyon Protection and Maintenance Program is a unique partnership between the Forest Service and County that has achieved national recognition. It was implemented in 1991 to improve resource conditions in the canyon which had deteriorated due to estimated annual visitation of over 500,000 visitors.

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