



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## RECREATION FEE INCREASES

**Harrisburg, IL, March 2, 2009** - Shawnee National Forest Supervisor, Allen Nicholas, announces an increase of fees for five Forest campgrounds. This increase will become effective on March 15, 2009. The fees for Pine Ridge, Pharaoh, Camp Cadiz and Pine Hills Campgrounds will increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per night.

Fees for single family campsites at Johnson Creek will increase from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per night, with double sites increasing from \$9.00 to \$12.00 and triple sites from \$12.00 to \$15.00.

The fee increase was authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004. This Act allows 95% of the fees collected to be spent on the Forest where it is collected. Prior to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act fees collected at these sites were sent to the United States Treasury.

The fees collected on the Shawnee National Forest will be used in campgrounds on the Forest to take care of deferred maintenance items such as replacing split-rail fences, replacing picnic tables with accessible versions, repairing potholes or installing ramps to ensure full accessibility to toilets. As fees accumulate, future plans will include larger projects such as replacing old toilets with larger, more accommodating buildings. The Shawnee National Forest website ([www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee](http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/forests/shawnee)) will highlight projects completed with fee money for public information.

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For additional information contact the Forest Supervisor's Office at (618) 253-7114, the Hidden Springs Ranger District at (618) 658-2111 or the Mississippi Bluffs Ranger District at (618) 833-8576.

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