

# Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

## USDA Forest Service Eastern Region Fee Proposal

**National Forest, State:** Superior National Forest, Minnesota

**Site Type:** Designated Wilderness - Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW)

**FLREA Fee Type:** special recreation permit.

**Type of proposal:** Fee Increase

**Proposed Action:** Initiate increase, based on Consumer Price Index, for BWCAW overnight user fees to be implemented for 2008 season.

**Current Overnight Fee:** \$10 per adult, \$5 youth, \$20 youth season, \$40 adult season

**Proposed Fee:** \$16 adult, \$8 youth, \$32 youth season, \$64 for adult season.

**Amount Increase:** 60%

**Date of Last Increase:** 1997

**Reason for New Fee or Fee Change:** Adjustment for inflation rate has not been changed in 10 years. This proposal is based on the Consumer Price Index Increases over the last 10 years and projecting forward for the next 5-10 years. Appropriated funds and the current fee can't address the impacts of a high-use wilderness and allow the Superior National Forest to meet the 10 Year Wilderness Stewardship Challenge elements of managing the BWCAW to standard.

**Price Comparisons for Similar Facilities & Services: NOTE:** There really are no comparable situations within the United States. Canada has a similar situation which we have noted below. We have also listed other somewhat comparable situations.

- **Forest Service:** Chequamegon-Nicolet NF - \$3 per day for wilderness trail head parking. White Mountain NF - \$5 for 7 parking days and \$3 to enter. Huron-Manistee NF - \$3 a day to enter. Ottawa NF - \$5 to park and \$10 a night to wilderness camp. All the above example acreage doesn't compare to the BWCAW.
- **Park Service:** Isle Royale National Park - \$4 per person per day. Apostle Islands National Lakeshore - \$10 per person per night, \$10 to dock your boat, \$3 for interpretation programs, and \$5 for parking a car per night. All the above example acreage doesn't compare to the BWCAW.
- **Local Private and Public Providers:** Porcupine State Wilderness charges \$5 to enter - all Minnesota state parks charge an entrance fee.
- **Ontario Parks:** Quetico Provincial Park charges \$20 per person per night w/ \$100 deposit, and their acreage is comparable to the BWCAW.
- **Supporting Research:** 1. *BWCAW User Fee Evaluation 1998, Lime, University of Minnesota* - 78% of respondents supported use fees, and 90% said that those who visited the BWCAW should help pay for its management. 2. *Support for Wilderness Recreation Fees: The influence of Fee Purpose and Day Versus Overnight Use, Vogt and Williams 1999* - Results suggest general support for wilderness use fees, with strongest support for restoration of human damaged sites, litter removal, and related degradation. Unlike most visitors, the wilderness users surveyed, gave more support for using fees to maintain or provide the current level of service rather than to improve service. 3. *Assessing the Publics Attitudes Towards Fees at Wildland Recreation Sites, 2005, Riley and Ramthun, Concord University* - The sample population was not supportive of fees in general, but supportive towards fees dedicated to specific wilderness projects. Demographic variables such as age, proximity to the site, years of participation and income were not good predictors of the publics' response towards fees.