

Monongahela National Forest Recreation Facility Analysis

Recreation Facility Analysis is a process of national scope with local forest emphasis. Each national forest is using this process to develop a 5-year proposed “Program of Work” to better manage and improve the quality of recreation sites. All forests are scheduled to complete this initial phase of the Recreation Facility Analysis process by the end of 2008.

For more information about the Recreation Facility Analysis process click on the attached link. <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/rfa/index.shtml>

The purpose of the analysis and program of work is to provide direction so that developed recreation sites can be brought up to standard and maintained over the long term within expected budgets. The process allows us to look at each site and determine what actions or changes are needed to reduce maintenance costs, bring the facility up to standard and appropriately meet demand. Some examples of needs we are considering, are upgrading water and sewer systems instead of continuing to patch these systems that are reaching the end of their useful life. Some facilities may need altered or even decommissioned to better meet current and expected visitor use patterns, needs, and demands. We are considering changing the length of time facilities are open and offering more services such as electricity or showers where demand and future use would increase income or reducing services such as garbage collection in lesser used areas. We will examine revenues and how increased revenues could help reduce backlog maintenance issues. We will examine the continual need to make more of our recreation facilities accessible to persons with disabilities. This can mean the simple replacement of a table or the total replacement of a building.

How can you help? Take a look at the draft niche statement (http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/rec/draft_niche_statement.pdf) and let us know what you think. Email comments to comments-eastern-monongahela@fs.fed.us with **Recreation Facility Analysis in the subject line** or write/call

Recreation, Trails, and Wilderness Program Manager
Monongahela National Forest
200 Sycamore Street
Elkins, WV 26241
(304) 636-1800, ext 280
Fax (304) 636-1875

The Monongahela National Forest has developed a Proposed 5-Year Program of Work. Each developed recreation site was ranked using a process that considers current and expected use, condition of facilities, costs, revenue, and how that facility fits into the overall recreation situation in the local area. Proposed actions to address the needs of each site were determined and summarized into a 5-year Proposed Program of Work. Please review the Proposed 5-Year Program of Work at http://www.fs.fed.us/r9/mnf/rec/public_RFA_PPoW_2008_05_20.pdf.

What's next? The Monongahela National Forest is looking for comments on the Proposed 5-Year Program of Work. If you have any comments please contact us as described above by June 30, 2008.

The Proposed 5-Year Program of Work will be reviewed annually and implementation of the program of work will be dependent upon funding, partners, and other requirements such as the National Environmental Policy Act.