USFS increases fees on Umpqua Forest

Responding to visitors’ demands for maintaining recreation sites, the Umpqua National Forest will increase recreation fees at 38 campgrounds across the forest as the sites open this summer.

Recreation managers will also begin charging new fees at five recreation sites and will raise the rental fee at a lookout and guard station.

The new fee structure will help offset the costs of operating and maintaining campgrounds, trailheads, rental cabins, and other recreation sites.

“Camping and hiking are popular, and we have aging campgrounds, rental cabins and trails,” said Cliff Dils, Umpqua National Forest Supervisor. “Raising the fees will help us keep the campgrounds open and water systems running.”

Ninety-five percent of the funds collected at recreation fee sites remain on the Umpqua National Forest.

“With the increase in fees, we anticipate our recreation revenues will increase $223,000 per year, which will offset losing the Title II funds in 2012 that we’ve received yearly from the Secure Rural Schools Act,” Dils said. The act is also known as the timber safety net, set to expire next year.

“We did a market analysis and are confident that our fees are reasonable compared to similar facilities,” Dils said.

The Umpqua National Forest began updating the fee structure as an outcome of the Recreation Facility Analysis process completed in 2006.

The agency evaluated future management of 122 developed recreation sites, including campgrounds, trailheads, and cabin rentals.

Through the process and with public input, the forest developed a “program of work” outlining the management of these sites over the next five years.

The Recreation Resource Advisory Committee reviewed the fee proposal before recommending the changes to the regional forester.

To see the updated fees for campgrounds, group sites, lookouts and cabins on the Umpqua National Forest visit, www.fs.fed.us/r6/umpqua.

Information: 541-957-3200.