



United States Department of Agriculture

Forest Service

Green Mountain National Forest
231 North Main Street
Rutland, Vermont 05701

News Release

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GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST PROPOSES FEE CHANGES AT GROUT POND AND HAPGOOD POND RECREATION AREAS

MANCHESTER, VT – (August 17, 2017) The Green Mountain National Forest is interested in hearing your comments on its proposed new fee at Grout Pond Campground and proposed fee increases at Hapgood Pond Campground, Hapgood Pond Day Use, and Hapgood Pond Group Picnic sites. Recreation fee revenue would be used to provide services and improve these sites.

"We are experiencing tremendous increases in recreation uses on the Green Mountain National Forest. These new fees and fee increases will help us provide quality recreation facilities to meet this growing demand," said John Sinclair, Forest Supervisor.

Grout Pond Recreation Area has 17 lakefront campsites located around a beautiful large lake. The Forest is proposing a new fee of \$16.00 per night per site per vehicle with a \$5.00 additional fee for a second vehicle. The Forest has implemented several recent improvements to the Grout Pond Recreation Area such as fire rings; more frequent mowing and restroom maintenance; bridge work, and repairs to the trail network. The campground experiences numerous erosion issues due to extremely wet areas in trails and at campsites.

The proposed new fee would help to improve the services and facilities. Planned improvements include adding trash containers along with bear proof dumpsters, new toilets, a new access road, new boat launch, two new group use sites, new picnic tables, informational kiosks, new compost boardwalks to improve the surrounding trail network, and interpretive signing.

Grout Pond would be made available under the reservation system. People wanting to use the campsites or group use areas must make reservations via toll free number (877) 444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.

Hapgood Pond Recreation Area is an accessible campground with 28 sites located around a wooded loop. The Forest is proposing to change the current \$10 fee to \$20; and the extra vehicle fee from \$4 to

\$5. The Forest has implemented several improvements to the Hapgood Pond Campgrounds such as water system repairs, new informational kiosk, and interpretive signing.

The day use area has a beach for swimming, picnic tables, water fountains, and a bathhouses along with a non-motorized boat launch, and accessible fishing dock. The Forest is proposing to increase the current fee from \$4 to \$5. Additional revenue would help support several improvements such as repairing the bathhouse, new interpretive signing, beach and day use site updates, electrical work, and interpretive trail maintenance.

Hapgood Pond Recreation Area also has two group picnic pavilions. The Forest is proposing to combine the two sites to meet the demand for larger group sites and raise the fee from \$25 to \$50. The pavilion has also received upgrades such as log replacement, and accessibility improvements.

The proposed fee increases would help the Forest to add new interpretive signage, dredge the pond, install a new water system sedimentation filter, and repair the water tank. Hapgood Pond pavilions are currently reservable by calling toll free (877) 444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.

Both Grout and Hapgood Pond Recreation Areas are maintained by the Forest Service employees and volunteers. The proposed new fee and fee increases reflect the services and amenities offered, and are more comparable to similar public and private sites in their respective areas.

Eighty to 95 percent of the revenue collected at recreation fee sites remains on the Forest to operate, maintain, and improve the facilities.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites.

All new fees and fee change proposals will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee, called the Forest Service Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, (RRAC). Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable new fees and fee changes.

The public meeting will be held from 6:30-8:00pm on August 30, 2017, at Manchester District Office to gather comments on the proposed new and increased fees. The public is welcome to attend.

Please send your comments on these fee proposals to Emily Lauderdale, Green Mountain National Forest, 2538 Depot Street, Manchester, Vermont 05255. Comments will be taken until October 11, 2017.

For more information on the above sites or the Green Mountain National Forest, visit the Green Mountain National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl> or please contact the Manchester Ranger District at (802) 362-2307.

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GREEN MOUNTAIN NATIONAL FOREST PROPOSES FEE CHANGES AT SILVER LAKE, CHITTENDEN BROOK, AND MOOSALAMOO CAMPGROUND; AND TEXAS FALLS DAY USE AREA PAVILION

ROCHESTER, VT – (August 17, 2017) The Green Mountain National Forest is interested in hearing your comments on its proposed new fee at Silver Lake Campgrounds and Texas Falls Day Use Area Pavilion, and fee increases at Chittenden Brook and Moosalamoo Campground. Recreation fee revenue would be used to provide services and improve these sites.

"We are experiencing tremendous increases in recreation uses on the Green Mountain National Forest. These new fees and fee increases will help us provide quality recreation facilities to meet this growing demand," said John Sinclair, Forest Supervisor.

Silver Lake Campground is accessible by foot only. There are 15 campsites located around a mountain lake. The Forest is proposing a new fee of \$10.00 per night per site per vehicle with a \$5.00 additional fee for a second vehicle. The Forest has implemented several recent improvements to the Silver Lake Campground such as new accessible fire rings; a campground host providing security; a mowing contract has been implemented, and trail network improvements have been made.

The proposed new fee would help to improve the services and facilities. Planned improvements include adding trash containers, new picnic tables, informational kiosks, and interpretive signing.

Texas Falls Day Use Area Pavilion is an accessible group use area that is currently open to general public use. The Forest is proposing a new fee based on the number of people using the pavilion. People from 1-20 will pay a \$20.00 flat fee/day and a group of 21-40 will pay a \$40.00 flat fee/day with only one group per day.

The Forest has recently implemented several improvements to the Texas Falls Day Use Area Pavilion such as a new roof, new landscaping, new kiosk and interpretive signing, and improvements to the surrounding trail network.

The proposed new fee would help to improve the services and facilities. Planned improvements include adding new grills and improve accessibility throughout the area.

Texas Falls Day Use Area Pavilion would be made available under the reservation system. People wanting to use the group use area must make reservations via toll free number (877) 444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.

Chittenden Brook Campground has 17 campsites along a wooded campground loop. The Forest is proposing to change the current \$10.00 fee to \$15.00 per night per site per vehicle with a \$5.00 additional fee for a second vehicle. The Forest has implemented several recent improvements to Chittenden Brook Campground such as adding a host for security, new accessible fire rings, and improving the surrounding trail network.

The proposed fee increase would help to improve the services and facilities. Planned improvements include developing a new group site, adding new picnic tables, an informational kiosk, and interpretive signage.

Moosalamoo Campground has 19 campsites along a wooded campground loop. The Forest is proposing to change the current \$10.00 fee to \$15.00 per night per site per vehicle with a \$5.00 additional fee for a second vehicle. The Forest has implemented several recent improvements to the Moosalamoo Campground such as new picnic tables, a host for security, new accessible fire rings, new landscaping, and timber steps.

The proposed fee increase would help to improve the services and facilities. Planned improvements include a new group use site, add improvements to the surrounding trail network, and expand amenities to include a playground.

All four areas are maintained by the Forest Service employees and volunteers. The proposed new fees and fee increases reflect the services and amenities offered, and are more comparable to similar public and private sites in their respective areas.

Eighty to 95 percent of the revenue collected at recreation fee sites remains on the Forest to operate, maintain, and improve the facilities.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites.

All new fees and fee change proposals will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee, called the Forest Service Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, (RRAC). Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable new fees and fee changes.

The public meeting will be held from 6:30-8:00pm on August 31, 2017, at Ilsley Public Library to gather comments on the proposed new and increased fees. The public is welcome to attend.

Please send your comments on these fee proposals to Holly Knox, Green Mountain National Forest, 99 Ranger Road, Rochester, Vermont 05767. Comments will be taken until October 11, 2017.

For more information on the above sites or the Green Mountain National Forest, visit the Green Mountain National Forest website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/gmfl> or please contact the Rochester Ranger District at (802) 767-4261.

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