

NATIONAL FOREST HOMEOWNERS NOTIFICATION
RE: FEE DISTRIBUTION & CABIN OWNER INPUT

Routinely, we hear the question, “Where do my fees go?!” – typically, right after, “Why can’t I get anyone from the Forest Service to return my call?!” It’s a fair question, and most cabin owners are usually surprised by the answer - Your Special Use Permit Fees don’t go to the Forest Service.

Since the inception of the cabin program, our permit fees have gone into the US Treasury General Fund. For decades, USFS has seen a continuing decline in appropriations. But starting in 2025, as a provision of the Cabin Fee Act (CFA), the recreation residence permit fees and transfer fees will be retained by the Forest Service to administer the recreational residence program and other recreation programs carried out on the National Forest System lands.

How would you like to see those funds used in your forest? Road maintenance or a dedicated special use permit administrator? Maybe a reduction in excess fuels built up around your cabin tract? A favorite trail that needs work or a boat ramp that’s a little worn?

NFH is drafting our list of suggestions to share with the Forest Service. Over the next few months we will be collaborating with cabin tract leaders and others to refine the suggestions for how funds derived from our permit fees can be re-invested in the forest from which they came. Subsequently, we will be sharing our recommendations with the Forest Service and key members of Congress in an attempt to influence Forest Service guidelines.

As cabin owners, we see firsthand the impacts of increased recreation demand in our National Forests. Innovative solutions like fee retention are a step in the right direction in managing our lands to handle the increased use. Supporting the Fee Retention provision within the CFA will continue to be a focus for NFH leading up to 2025. Your voice is important in these efforts.

We have opened a discussion for NFH Members on the [NFH Ask the Community Forum](#) - take a moment to share with us what you feel the priorities are in your forest.

All the Best,

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