

## Backcountry Fees Will Not:

Provide an enhanced backcountry presence with the hiring of two additional rangers

Eliminate overcrowding at shelters on the AT, as concessionaires are reserving over 300 nights per year.

Provide a solution to an issue that is not a problem.

## The Facts Have Not Been Shared With the Public:

There have been misrepresentations and manipulation of data from public forums and communications to congressional representatives and federal agencies by concerned citizens from the GSMNP Superintendent.

Elected, not appointed, Swain County NC Commissioners have formally protested these fees, as well as the Appalachian Long Distance Hikers Association, The Appalachian Trail Conservancy, and the Southern Appalachian Back Country Horsemen.

The most ardent supporters of this fee are from concessionaires who will pass along the fee to their clientele. They are profiting from a resource that has been donated to our nation!

# KEEP THE SMOKIES FREE AXE THE ENTRANCE TAX



**A FEE FOR BACKPACKERS TODAY  
EQUALS  
A FEE FOR YOUR FAMILY TOMORROW**  
HELP STOP SMOKIES ENTRANCE FEES  
BEFORE THEY START  
WWW.SOUTHERNFORRESTWATCH.ORG

### WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Contact Your Local, State, and Federal Representatives And:  
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, & Public Lands Members:

Congressman John J. Duncan  
(202) 225-5435

Congressman Chuck Fleischmann  
(202) 225-3271

Senator Mark Udall, Chair Subcommittee on National Parks  
(202) 224-5941

John Jarvis, NPS Director

nps\_director@nps.gov

David Vela, NPS Regional Director  
david\_vela@nps.gov

Ken Salazar, Interior Secretary  
feedback@ios.doi.gov

Doc Hastings, Natural Resources Committee Chair  
(202) 225-3251

For More Information Contact:

Southern Forest Watch  
3701 Lancaster Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37920  
john@southernhighlanders.com



Axe The  
Entrance Tax

**Our Purpose Is  
To Provide True  
Information  
Regarding The  
Approved Back  
Country Use Fee**

Southern Forest Watch was formed in response to the proposed back country use fee in 2011.

After being censored on more popular internet forums/blogs, the need arose for a forum for those concerned about the process to approve this unprecedented user fee.

There are two websites available, which share information obtained through multiple Freedom of Information Act requests (www.southernforestwatch.org) and a social networking site that is uncensored and does not allow anonymous postings, (www.gotsmokies.ning.com)

**Southern Forest  
Watch**

## NO TAX ON OUR BACKS!



Those of us who use the back country of the Great Smoky National Park are the most responsible, environmentally conscious folks who trod the trails.

We take our children and families into the park to enjoy the wonders of creation, and to teach future generations to care for and preserve this national treasure.

While a nominal fee may not seem like a big issue at this time, how can we place a monetary figure on what it may cost future generations if they are never exposed to the wonders of our region?

It is because of the sacrifices and generosity of our ancestors in North Carolina and Tennessee that the GSMNP exists. Do not charge people to enjoy what has been given to the nation.

A fee for back country use today could mean a fee to day hike tomorrow! STOP THIS NOW!



## Front Country versus Back Country



If you do not take it in, you will not have it!

Back Country sites are maintained by volunteers and those who use them.

Front Country camping is a great way to introduce people to camping.

There are amenities such as tent pads, grills, fire rings,, garbage collection, picnic tables, stores and heated restrooms.



## DOWN THE RABBIT HOLE!

While fees generated from the use of front country sites are used for the maintenance of campgrounds, the back country fees that have been proposed WILL NOT be dedicated for the sole purpose of maintaining sites in the back country. Those fees will be placed in the general coffers and will be available to be used at the discretion of the National Park Service and their appointed personnel.

Based upon correspondence obtained through multiple Freedom of Information Act Requests, we do not believe in the integrity of the current administration of the GSMNP.

If you want more information concerning the misrepresentations surrounding the back country use fee, please visit us at [www.southernforestwatch.org](http://www.southernforestwatch.org)



## Getting The Message Out

We would like to hear from you concerning the approved fee for back country use. We invite you to follow what is happening by visiting [southernforestwatch.org](http://southernforestwatch.org)

How often do you visit the GSMNP

- 1-10 times per year  
 11-25 times per year  
 25 or more times per year

How often do you visit the back country

- 1-10 times per year  
 10 or more times per year  
 Never

Were you aware of the proposed fee? If so, how?

- No I was not aware  
 Yes through National Park Service Information  
 Yes through other media

Would you like to be included in future releases regarding this issue?

- Yes via E-Mail  
 Yes via mail

Comments

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Name

Address

Phone

E-Mail



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 Knoxville, TN 37920  
[john@southernhighlanders.com](mailto:john@southernhighlanders.com)

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