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bcc

Subject Illinois River Recreation Improvements

The Forest Service has invested over \$1 million in recreation facility and road improvements in the Scenic Section of the Illinois Wild and Scenic River Corridor in the past two years. Facilities have been constructed along the Eight Dollar Road and the Illinois River Road to enhance recreation opportunities and protect the environment.

The Forest Service expects to invest another quarter of a million (\$250,000) in 2007 to continue the recreation facility improvements, and \$50,000 to close user created roads that access the river.

To date, the following list of facilities have been constructed:

- 2 campgrounds (Snailback and River Bench)
- 5 day use areas (Eight Dollar Bridge River Access, Eight Dollar Bridge Info Site, Kerby Flat Overlook, Six Mile, Diver's Hole River Access)
- 1 Boat Ramp (Miami Bar)
- 1 amphitheater (Little Falls)
- 4 Trailheads (Deep Gorge Trail (2 sites), Hornbend and Illinois River Trail),
- 3 trails (Snailback, River Bench, and Deep Gorge)

Road access to the river has been blocked or decommissioned at Star Flat, Snailback and Hornbend. Undersized culverts have been replaced on the Illinois River Road, and the Eight Dollar Road has received patch surface replacement.

By summertime in 2007 the Forest Service expects to have completed construction on 5 more campgrounds (Josephine Creek, Sandy Beach (near 8 Dollar), Little Falls, Hornbend, Six Mile) and expects to close river access to vehicles at Ring Beach Day Use Site.

By summertime in 2008, construction on 3 more campgrounds (Store Gulch, Echo, and Cedar), 1 trailhead (Fall Creek/Rancheria), and 1 trail (Hornbend) should be completed, including construction of a toilet at each site. The Boy Scouts are constructing a toilet at their property at McCaleb's Ranch that will be available for public use and maintained by the Forest Service.

These improvements are intended to provide the appropriate amount of constructed facilities to accommodate and enhance recreation opportunities in appropriate locations along this Scenic Corridor. This project is also intended to restrict recreation use in inappropriate locations, reduce resource impacts, reduce user conflicts, and improve public health and safety.

Along the section of the Illinois River Road from the Forest Boundary near Selma to the Boy Scout property at McCaleb's Ranch, parking will be restricted to safe locations and camping will be limited to designated sites only. Beyond McCaleb's Ranch on the Illinois River road and on the Eight Dollar Road parking and camping will not be restricted except at sites designated for day use only. The campground near the Green Bridge on the Eight Dollar Road has been changed to day use only to allow more opportunity for day users to find a convenient place to swim and picnic.

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