



NEWS RELEASE

U.S. Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

For Immediate Release

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Forest Service seeks public comments on proposed changes to Recreation Fee Areas in the San Bernardino National Forest

VALLEJO, Calif., December 5, 2013 – San Bernardino National Forest officials are seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Arrowhead, Barton Flats, Big Bear North, Big Bear South, Black Mountain, Falls, Lytle Creek and Thomas Mountain standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) areas. The forest is proposing to substantially reduce the size of the Lytle Creek SAF area, eliminate the remaining seven, and establish special recreation permit (SRP) fees in eight locations. These proposed changes would result in more than 120,000 acres becoming available to the public free of charge.

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 SAF areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to eliminate the SAF area designation for 73 recreation areas and reduce the size for the remaining 24 areas nationally. The proposed changes for the eight San Bernardino National Forest SAF areas are consistent with the results of the national review. Consistent with direction on implementation of the national fee area review, the San Bernardino National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the sites and reduced areas listed below.

Comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by Jan. 6, 2014, to be considered by a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). Comments may be submitted to the attention of Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, California 94592 or twilton@fs.fed.us

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all R-RAC meetings. The next R-RAC meeting is planned for Jan. 15-16, 2014. More information about the R-RAC and upcoming meeting can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>

The Adventure Pass and the America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass would be accepted as payment for recreation fees at the following sites and areas:

Lytle Creek SAF Area, Applewhite Picnic Area, Big Falls Trailhead, Aspen Glen Picnic, Baylis Park Picnic, Children's Forest Trailhead, Falls Picnic Area, Crest Park Picnic, Vivian Trailhead, Heaps Peak Arboretum, Momyer Trailhead, Miller Canyon OHV Staging Area, Cactus Flats OHV Staging Area, Pinnacles OHV Staging Area, Cougar Crest Trailhead, Lake Fulmor Picnic Area, Gray's Peak Trailhead, Switzer Park Picnic Area, Grout Bay Picnic, South Fork Trailhead, Juniper Point Picnic, Fuller Mill Creek Picnic Area, Meadows Edge Picnic, Woodland Trailhead, Splinters Cabin Trailhead/Picnic Area,

recreational target shooting SRP locations (Arrastre, Big Pine Flat, 1N09, and Lightning Gulch), and winter recreation SRP locations (Aspen Glen, Rim, Snow Valley, and Barton Flats).

These recreation sites and areas will continue to have a separate expanded amenity fee:

Applewhite Campground, Black Mountain Group Campground, Boulder Basin Campground, Dark Canyon Campground, Fern Basin Campground, Marion Mountain Campground, and Fisherman's Group Campground.

These recreation sites and areas are free:

Aspen Grove Trailhead, Coon Creek Camping Area, Fish Creek Trailhead, Greyback Amphitheater, Forsee Trailhead, Jenks Lake Trailhead, Lost Creek Trailhead, Middle Control Road Day Use Area, Mission Springs Trail Camp, Rio Monte Vista Picnic Area, San Bernardino Peak Trailhead, Santa Ana River Trailheads, Wildhorse Trailhead, Holcomb Valley Trailhead, Chaparral Neighborhood Native Plant Garden, Black Mountain Trailhead, Seven Pines Trailhead, Keller Peak Camping Area, Fuller ridge Trailhead, Marion Mountain Trailhead, Seven Pines Camps, Black Mountain Camps, Big Bear South Camping Area, Bluff Mesa Trailhead, Castle Rock Trailhead North, Castle Rock Trailhead South, Champion Lodgepole Pine Interpretive Site, Seven Oaks Trailhead, Black Mountain Lookout, Toolbox Springs Camping Area, Thomas Mountain Camping Area, Belleville Interpretive Site, Big Bear North Camping Area, Butler Peak Fire Lookout, Clark's Ranch Trail Camps, Doble Trail Camp, Gold Fever Interpretive Trailheads, Little Bear Springs Trail Camp, Keller Peak Fire Lookout, Camp Creek NRT Trailhead, Pacific Crest Trailhead (3 locations), Little Green Valley Trailhead, Exploration Trailhead, Tunnel II Trailhead, Fisherman's Trailhead, North Shore NRT Trailhead, T6 Crossing Trailhead, Rock Camp/Metate Trailhead, Holcomb Crossing Trail Camp, and Strawberry Peak Fire Lookout.

Recreation fee revenue is used for operation and maintenance and future enhancements of recreation sites. More information about recreation fees and the San Bernardino National Forest Recreation Program can be found in the Forest's Annual Fee Program Accomplishment Reports at:

http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_048946

For more information about this recreation fee proposal, please contact Tamara Wilton at (707) 562-8965 or twilton@fs.fed.us Further information about this proposal can also be found on the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>

About the U.S. Forest Service:

The mission of the Forest Service is to sustain the health, diversity and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations. The agency manages 193 million acres of public land, provides assistance to state and private landowners, and maintains the largest forestry research organization in the world. Public lands the Forest Service manages contribute more than \$13 billion to the economy each year through visitor spending alone. Those same lands provide 20 percent of the nation's clean water supply, a value estimated at \$7.2 billion per year. The agency has either a direct or indirect role in stewardship of about 80 percent of the 850 million forested acres within the U.S., of which 100 million acres are urban forests where most Americans live. Learn more at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>

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