

Rio Grande National Forest Seeks Comments on Campground Fees

Background:

The Recreation Enhancement Act authorizes the Forest Service to charge fees at developed recreation sites. These fees are known as expanded amenity fees. Expanded Amenity Fees are fees for facilities or services that provide direct benefits to people. The Rio Grande National Forest currently charges an expanded amenity fee for use of developed campgrounds that provide at least a majority of the following:

- Tent or trailer spaces
- Picnic tables
- Drinking water
- Access roads
- Reasonable visitor protection
- Refuse containers
- Toilet facilities
- Simple devices for containing a campfire
- The collection of the fee by an employee or agent of the Federal land management agency

Fees charged for these expanded amenities are used for:

- repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety;
- interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments, and signs;
- law enforcement related to public use and recreation;
- direct operating or capital costs associated with the recreation fee program; and
- a fee management agreement established under section 6805(a) of this title or a visitor reservation service.

The Rio Grande National Forest is seeking comments on potentially:

- Charging a \$10.00 expanded amenity fees on the Divide Ranger District at:

[Cathedral Campground](#)
[Comstock Campground](#)
[Ivy Creek Campground](#)
[Lost Trail Campground](#)

[Rio Grande Campground](#)
[Road Canyon Campground](#)
[Rock Creek Campground](#)

- Charging a \$10.00 shoulder season (before/after the concessionaire season) expanded amenity fee at:

[Big Meadows Campground](#)
[Cross Creek Campground](#)
[Lower Beaver Campground](#)

[Palisade Campground](#)
[Silver thread Campground](#)
[Thirty Mile Campground](#)

- Increasing the existing expanded amenity fees on the Saguache Ranger District to \$10.00 at:

[Buffalo Pass Campground](#)
[Luders Creek Campground](#)
[North Crestone Creek Campground](#)

[Poso Campground](#)
[Stone Cellar Campground](#)
[Storm King Campground](#)

The Rio Grande National Forest would also like to know:

- Are there any campgrounds that you would like to have open earlier or later in the season? (Possibly for hunting season, fall leaf change, early spring season)
- Are there any campgrounds that you feel need additional amenities (water, trash service, etc.)?
- What would you expect in a fee campground?

Send comments to: Rio Grande National Forest
Attn: Campground Fees
1803 West Highway 160
Monte Vista, CO 81144

Or email comments to:
comments-rocky-mountain-rio-grande@fs.fed.us
Subject Line: "Campground Fees"