



Forest Service News Release

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Stanislaus National Forest proposes fee changes to recreation sites for maintenance and infrastructure improvement

SONORA, Ca (September 20, 2021) –The Stanislaus National Forest is proposing to charge new or increased fees at 31 developed recreation sites to conduct deferred maintenance and make improvements to enhance visitor enjoyment (Table 1.). Numerous day-use sites, overnight camping sites, and other recreation sites are managed without user fees on the forest.

“We recognize how important these sites are to our local communities. Fee increases will help us maintain the sites to the level and quality people have come to expect as well as make the fees more consistent throughout the state. During this public input period, we want to hear strategies and other ideas to help cut costs and leverage resources” said Beth Martinez, Stanislaus National Forest Deputy Forest Supervisor.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain, and improve these sites. Ninety-five percent of the revenue from recreation fees remains on the forests to operate, maintain, and improve facilities. Raising the revenue collected through recreation fees would help the forests improve infrastructure at campsites and day-use sites and hire additional recreation staff during the season of operation. The resource derived through collection of fees helps provide quality recreation opportunities and creates a more financial sustainable developed recreation program for the benefit of future generations.

Under REA, all new fees and any fee changes must be proposed and approved by a citizen’s advisory committee. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable new fees and fee changes.

These sites will continue to offer free opportunities and fee free days throughout the year. The full suite of the America the Beautiful Interagency Passes will be honored at these day use sites including the Annual (\$80), Senior (\$20 annual, \$80 lifetime), and Access passes (free for people with permanent disabilities). The forest is considering a forest wide annual pass for \$30 that can be used at these days use sites. The Tuolumne River Permit is proposed for a fee increase to update a fee that has been in place for over 20 years.

Table 1. Stanislaus National Forest recreation sites proposed for new or increased fees			
Calaveras Ranger District			
Site Name	Site Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Sourgrass	Day Use Site	\$0	\$5 per day \$30 Annual Forest Pass
Union East	Boating Site	\$0	\$5 per day \$30 Annual Forest Pass
Hermit Valley	Campground	\$0	\$20
Mosquito Lakes	Campground	\$8	\$20
Pacific Valley	Campground	\$10	\$25
Bloomfield	Campground	\$12	\$25
Black Springs OHV	Campground	\$0	\$20
Big Meadow	Campground	\$19	\$30
Stanislaus River	Campground	\$12	\$30
Rocky Point- Utica Reservoir	Campground	\$16	\$30
Sandy Flat- Utica Reservoir	Campground	\$16	\$30
Union East	Campground	\$16	\$30
Union West	Campground	\$16	\$30
Highland Lakes	Campground	\$12	\$30
Waka Lu Hep Yo	Campground	\$20	\$35
Big Meadow Group	Group Campground	\$50	\$100 per night
Summit Ranger District (HWY 108)			
Site Name	Site Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Beardsley	Day Use Site	\$0	\$5 per day \$30 Annual Forest Pass
Herring Creek	Campground	\$0	\$20
Herring Reservoir	Campground	\$0	\$20
Cascade Creek	Campground	\$8	\$20
Mill Creek	Campground	\$8	\$20
Fence Creek	Campground	\$8	\$20
Niagara Creek	Campground	\$8	\$20
Niagara Creek OHV	Campground	\$12	\$20
TeleLi puLaya	Campground	\$20 per single site \$50 per group site	\$30 per single site \$60 per group site
Beardsley Dan	Campground	\$20	\$30

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Mi Wok Ranger District			
Site Name	Site Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Hull Creek	Campground	\$12	\$25
Sand Bar Flat	Campground	\$12 per single site \$24 per double site	\$25 per single site \$50 per double site
Groveland Ranger District			
Site Name	Site Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Rainbow Pool	Day Use	\$0	\$5 per day \$30 Annual Forest Pass
Carlton Day	Day use	\$0	\$5 per Day \$30 Annual Forest Pass
Special Recreation Permit			
Name	Type	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Tuolumne River Permit	River Permit	\$2	\$10 per Day

More information on the REA Fee Proposal process including maps of the recreation sites included in the proposal package are available here:

<https://usfs.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=f6a8f81baf2843c8bd96c8035d8cc3bc>

The public is invited to comment on the proposed fee changes to the developed recreation program. The comment period is set to end by close of business on November 30, 2021. To ensure that your comments are considered, please send comments no later than the above date to Stanislaus Forest Service, Attention: Casey Jardine, 19777 Greenley Road Sonora, CA 95370, or email comments to: SM.FS.RecreatFees@usda.gov.

Oral comments must be provided in person at any Stanislaus National Forest office or by calling Casey Jardine by 209-813-6011 and indicating you would like to provide comments on the proposed recreation fee changes. For more information on the proposed project, visit our website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recmain/stanislaus/recreation>.

At the close of the public comment period, all comments received will be reviewed. Then, the proposed fee changes will be reviewed by a Recreation Advisory Committee, who will submit their recommendation to the Regional Forester for a final decision.

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