

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

San Bernardino National Forest



Date: May 24, 2006

San Bernardino National Forest
1824 S. Commercenter Circle
San Bernardino, CA 92408

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Pam Bierce
(909) 382-2711

MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND AT THE SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST

San Bernardino, CA... Visitors to the forest will find most campgrounds and trails open for the Memorial Day weekend. Summer is a great time to visit backcountry and wilderness areas. Residents and visitors can take advantage of the recreation opportunities available on the San Bernardino National Forest, which is within a short drive of urban population centers. This weekend will be busy. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early and make camping and hiking plans in advance.

To ensure that everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday weekend, Forest Service officials advise visitors to contact the local Ranger Stations prior to their visit to determine local conditions and use guidelines. There is still snow and ice on certain trails in the San Gorgonio Wilderness and special safety requirements are recommended.

Officials also stress fire safety this weekend. During fire season, a campfire permit is required for any campfire or cooking stove outside of a designated campground. Free permits can be obtained at any Forest Service office. The public should adhere to the following fire safety rules:

- Clear all flammable material away from the fire to prevent escape of the fire.

- Have a shovel available at the campfire site for preparing and extinguishing campfires.
- Extinguish campfire with water, using the ‘drown, stir, and check method.’

A recreation fee has been required on portions of the Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres and San Bernardino National Forests since 1997, when the fee program began. The Forest Service has issued Notices of Non-compliance (a warning) to persons who do not display a valid Adventure Pass or Golden Passport on their vehicles when parked in fee areas. The Forest Service continues to use Notices of Non-compliance to inform and educate visitors who are new to the forest about fee requirements.

Those who do not display the Adventure Pass or Golden Pass on more than one visit to “Recreation Fee Areas” violate 36CFR261.17. Beginning in June 2006, persons who repeatedly fail to pay the recreation fee may receive citations. The fine for the first conviction is \$100.00. A second conviction for the same offense could result in more serious penalties. Registered owners of vehicles can also be held responsible. Visitors can find out more about the recreational areas where a pass is required by calling the Ranger Station on visiting

www.fs.fed.us/sanbernardino/ap.

For more information visit the San Bernardino National Forest website at www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino or call your nearest Forest Service Station:

- Big Bear Discovery Center (909) 382-2790
- Lytle Creek Ranger Station (909) 382-2850
- Mill Creek Ranger Station (909) 382-2881
- Idlywild Ranger Station (909) 382-2921
- Arrowhead Ranger Station (909) 382-2782

###