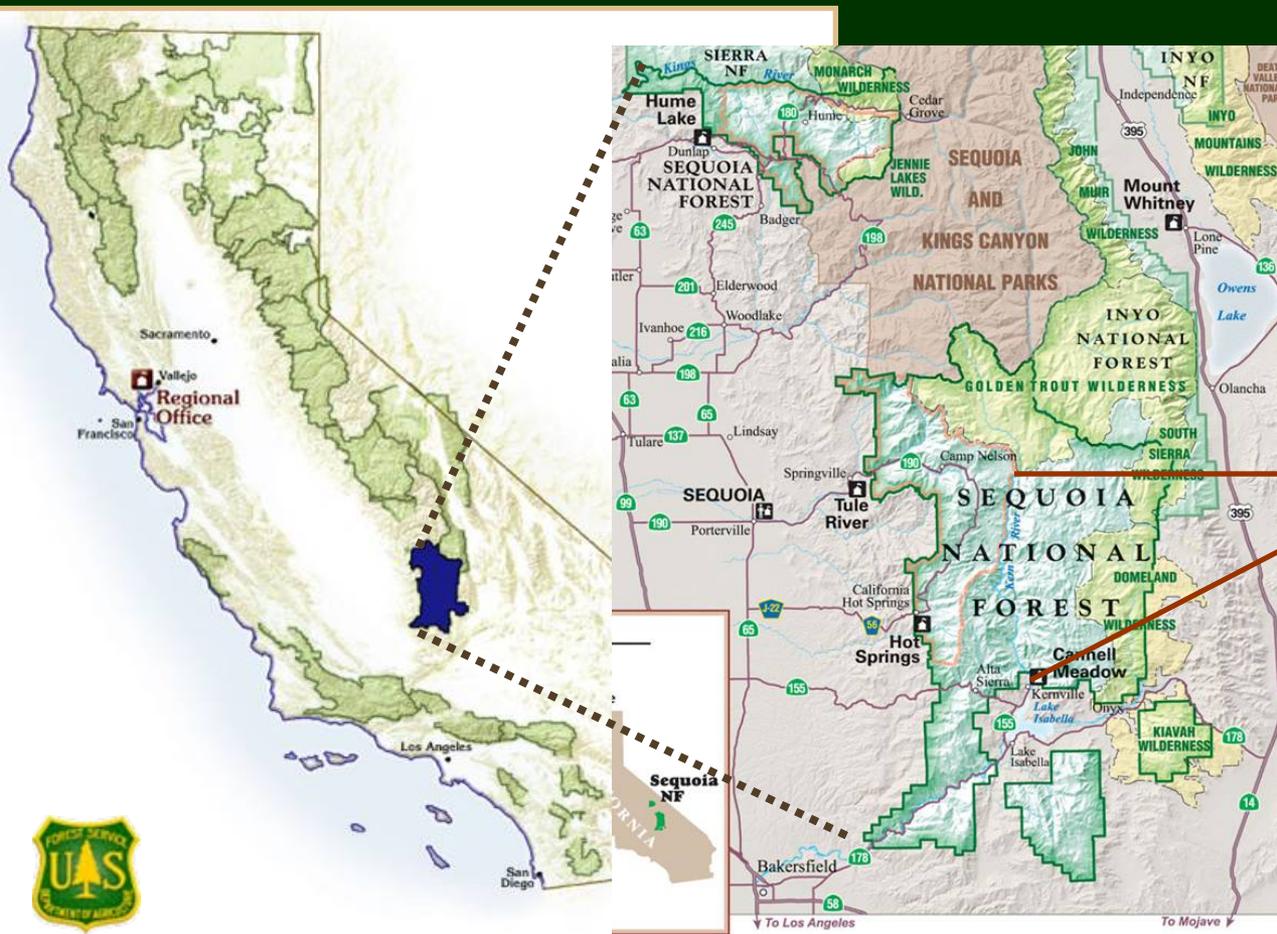


California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

Sequoia National Forest Special Recreation Permit Fee Increase Proposal

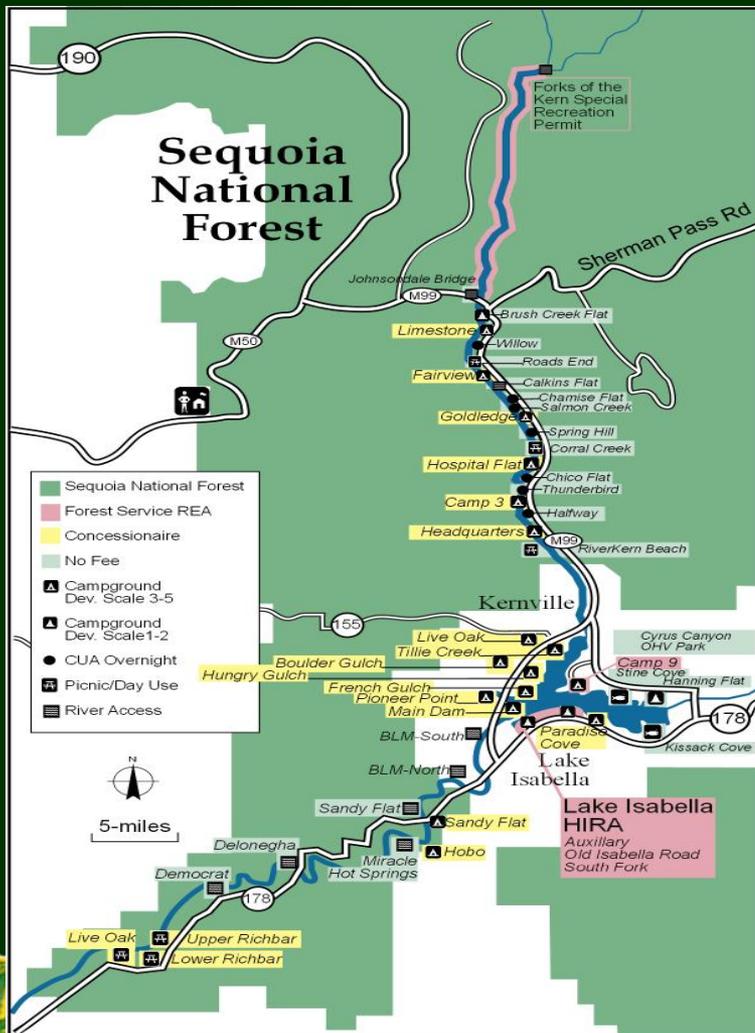


**Kern River - Private
Boater Permit Drawing**



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work



Opportunities in the Kern River Canyon:

- No Fee Concentrated Use Areas
- REA Sites
- Concessionaire Campgrounds and Day Use Sites
- Recreation Special Use Permits (Marinas and Outfitter Guides)



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

Forks of the Kern River Private Boater Permit Drawing

- Propose a \$10, non-refundable permit application fee.
- 1994 Comprehensive Management Plan for the Kern River set a quota for commercial and private white water allocations for the Forks Run.
 - 15 private boats & 15 commercial boats allowed first-time launch daily.
- Pre-season selection process allows equal chance for all applicants.



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work



Site	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	% Increase	Annual O & M	Deferred Maintenance	Last Increase
Forks of the Kern River Permit Drawing	\$2 per application for permit	\$10 per application for permit	400	\$1,319	\$0	4/1998



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

How recreation fees are used:

- To cover a portion of the costs associated with administering the drawing.

Why increase fees?

- To align fee with similar services offered by other National Forests
- To cover more of the expense of operating the pre-season selection process.
(Private boaters do not contribute use fees to maintain sites and services associated with white water boating.)



Before



After trash pickup



**US Forest Service - Region 5
Recreation Fee Proposal - Fee Increases
Summary of Public Involvement**

Sequoia National Forest: Fee Increases Proposals

Includes public involvement efforts & comments as of December 15, 2007

Summary of Fee Proposal:

Site/Service	Current Price	Proposed Price
Oak Flat Lookout	\$35/night	\$50/night (2008) \$75/night (2010)
Camp 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cabin	\$75/night	\$100/night (2008) \$125/night (2010)
Big Meadow Cabin	\$100/night	\$125/night (2008) \$150/night (2010)
Forks of the Kern River Private Boater Permit Drawing	\$2/application for permit	\$10/application for permit

Public Participation Activities:

Public Participation Tasks	Date(s)
Posted notice at recreation sites inviting comments on proposed fee changes.	June 11, 2007 - present
Ran press release announcing proposed fee changes in Fresno Bee, Bakersfield California, and Kern Valley Sun.	May 30, 2007
Ran press release announcing series of open houses to discuss proposed fee changes.	July 16, 2007
Posted information on proposed fee changes on forest web site.	August 1, 2007
Briefed local elected officials on proposed fee changes.	June 2007
Article about fee increases and open houses on front page of the Kern Valley Sun.	August 22, 2007
Conducted public open houses (workshop format) at various locations to discuss proposed fee changes.	May 29, August 1, 8, 16, 18, & 28, 2007
Met with Kern River Valley Revitalization (KRVR) & Kern River Valley Chamber members to discuss proposed fee changes.	March 2, 2007, March 7, 2007, and March 8, 2007,
Met with Kern Valley Exchange Club members to discuss proposed fee changes.	March 8, 2007
Met with Kernville Chamber members to discuss	March 12, 2007 and March 26, 2007

proposed fee changes.	
Met with Lake Isabella & Bodfish Homeowners Association members to discuss proposed fee changes.	May 8, 2007
KCNQ Dam Talk Show (call in show).	March 9, 2007
Letters sent to holders of the Forks of the Kern River Private Boaters Permit over the past three years.	September 2007

Public Participation Results:

Method of Communication	Summary of Comments- as of 12/15/07
Posted On-site Notices	One response suggested implementing an "Adventure Pass" approach to fees.
Press Releases & News Story	One letter to the editor of the Kern River Courier, August 10, 2007 supporting fee increases. Two letters to the editor (written by same person) opposing REA in general and specifically fees associated with private white water boating. Individual also wrote four letters to the forest requesting more information and opposing fees associated with white water boating. Three e-mails received supporting fee increase to maintain facilities.
Forest Web Site Posting	None received
Public Meetings and Call in Radio Show	Over 130 attendees at various open houses, community and stakeholder meetings. All expressed support for fee increases and want Forest Service to use fees to operate & maintain sites. Some felt sites were priced too low. Most expressed support for fee increases as long as recreation sites remain open. Many like the idea that forest retains 95% of fees collected and want that to remain. Some expressed desire to continue to meet with FS to discuss fee changes.
Open Houses (Workshops)	Over 50 attendees at six open houses across the forest. Written comments received: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-suggestions on how to improve services & communications • 1-opposing day use fees & increasing fees for campgrounds but supporting fee increases for dump station and cabin rentals • 1-Supported all fee increase proposals, made specific suggestion to increase fee at Troy CG to \$22/night based on recent renovations. One person attended 2 of the workshops trying to rally support to oppose fees (same individual who wrote letters detailed above). One comment received opposing fee increase at Fish Creek CG.

Elected Officials Briefing	None received
General Customer Feedback	Many visitors to recreation rental cabins and lookouts comment on their enjoyment of the experience and many are return guests.
Responses to Letters Sent to Permit Holders	Kern River Private Boater Permit Drawing - Three responses, two in support of the fee increase and one felt amount was excessive.