



File Code: 2790

Date: January 18, 2012

Route To:

Subject: Response to Region 5 Submission for the National Standard Amenity Fee Area Review

To: Regional Forester, R-5

This letter responds to the proposals submitted by Region 5 (R5) for the National Standard Amenity Fee Area Review. First, I want to thank you and your staff for closely reviewing the 33 areas in your Region and proposing changes that would better align these fees with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). I concur with the changes being proposed. With the areas you are proposing to drop, and the splits you are proposing to make, you will now have 13 areas.

Staff from the Regional Office as well as from the six affected Forests worked closely with the Washington Office (WO) to arrive at mutually agreed-upon proposals. The proposals are summarized below:

Angeles National Forest *(7 areas will remain if proposals are recommended and accepted)*

Area	Proposal Summary	WO Concurrence
Angeles Crest	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF or SAF sites or fees will be eliminated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposal for winter SRP. • Chilao Visitor Center is a free site, the associated parking area is a heavily used snow play area and will be included within the winter SRP. 	Yes
Big Pines-Big Rock	Reduce and split into two separate areas. Sites outside the boundaries will be either stand alone SAF or EAF sites or fees will be eliminated. <p>Big Pines</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce area boundary to include concentration of standard amenity sites clustered together. • Develop a proposal for a winter SRP to the east of the area. <p>Big Rock</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce area boundary to cover the intense use along the stream. Forest will add amenities to address amenity gap where needed. 	Yes



Big Tujunga	Reduce area boundary to cover the intense use along the stream. Fees at sites outside the boundary will be eliminated. Forest will add amenities to address amenity gap where needed.	Yes
Elizabeth Lake	Remove area designation; convert to a stand-alone SAF site.	Yes
Frenchmans Flat	Remove area designation; convert to a stand-alone SAF site.	Yes
Front Country	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone SAF sites or eliminate fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chantry Flats will be a stand-alone SAF site with additional designated roadside parking to accommodate the large crowds. 	Yes
Little Rock	Remove area designation; move sites to concession operation.	Yes
Mt. Baldy	Modify area boundary to include two SAF sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites outside the boundary will either be stand alone SAF or EAF sites. Develop proposal for winter SRP at Mt. Baldy 	Yes
Rowher/Drinkwater	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF or SAF sites. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop proposal for OHV SRP. 	Yes
San Gabriel Canyon	Split into two areas: Crystal Lake & San Gabriel Canyon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites outside the boundary will be stand alone EAF sites or fees will be eliminated. San Gabriel Canyon OHV Area will remain an SRP within the area boundary. 	Yes

Cleveland National Forest (2 areas will remain if proposals are recommended and accepted)

Area	Proposal Summary	WO Concurrency
Corral Canyon	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF and SAF sites or fees will be eliminated.	Yes
Holy Jim	Reduce area boundary to include Holy Jim Trailhead and cover the intense use along the stream. Fees outside the boundary will be eliminated. Forest will add amenities within the boundary to address amenity gap where needed.	Yes
Mt. Laguna	Modify area boundary to a tight corridor along the Sunset Scenic Highway; convert one site to stand-alone SAF fee or fees will be eliminated.	Yes

Ortega	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF and SAF sites or eliminate fees.	Yes
Tenaja	Remove area designation; convert to one stand alone SAF site and eliminate fees at other sites.	Yes
Wildomar	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF and SAF sites.	Yes

Inyo National Forest (*1 area will remain*)

Area	Proposal Summary	WO Concurrence
Reds Meadows	<p>Continue to manage as a SAF area with no changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This area was presented to the California Recreation RAC and received a recommendation to implement on June 24, 2010. The Regional Forester approved the implementation on July 20, 2010. 	Yes

Los Padres National Forest (*2 areas will remain if proposals are recommended and accepted*)

Area	Proposal Summary	WO Concurrence
Ballinger	Remove area designation; convert to one stand alone EAF site, and eliminate fees for OHV area.	Yes
Figueroa Mountain	<p>Modify area boundary to road corridor to include small defined area on Figueroa Mountain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain stand alone EAF & SAF sites outside of SAF area corridor Eliminate fees from sites outside of corridor that are not stand alone. Develop proposal for winter SRP east of SAF area boundary. 	Yes
Goldhill	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF sites, and eliminate fees for OHV area.	Yes
Mt. Pinos	Remove area designation; convert to winter SRP for snow play.	Yes
Pozo-LaPanza	Remove area designation; convert to OHV SRP.	Yes
Rose Valley	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone SAF and EAF sites or eliminate fees.	Yes
Santa Ynez	<p>Modify area to encompass tight boundary along the Paradise road/river corridor.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites outside of area boundary are under currently under concession operation. 	Yes

San Bernardino National Forest (*1 area will remain if proposals are recommended and accepted*)

Area	Proposal Summary	WO Concurrency
Arrowhead	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF or SAF sites or eliminate fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposal for shooting area SRP. • Develop proposal for two winter SRPs. 	Yes
Barton Flats	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF sites; or eliminate fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposal for one shooting area SRP. • Develop proposal for one winter SRP. 	Yes
Big Bear North	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone SAF sites; or eliminate fees. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop proposal for two shooting area SRPs. 	Yes
Big Bear South	Remove area designation and develop proposal for winter SRP, eliminate fees outside of SRP.	Yes
Black Mountain	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF or SAF sites; or eliminate fees.	Yes
Falls	Remove area designation; convert to stand alone SAF sites; or eliminate fees	Yes
Lytle Creek	Modify area to encompass tight boundary along the road/riparian corridor. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain stand alone SAF or EAF sites outside boundary. 	Yes
Thomas Mountain	Remove area designation; convert to one stand alone EAF site; or eliminate fees	Yes

Sequoia National Forest (*no areas will remain if proposals are recommended and accepted*)

Area	Proposal Summary	WO Concurrency
Lake Isabella	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove area designation; convert to stand alone EAF sites. 	Yes

The WO recognizes that its support of these proposals does not mean they will be implemented as proposed. The next step in the Area Review process is public involvement, culminating with a presentation to the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) for a recommendation. Since each of the R5 proposals is different, the public involvement process must be adjusted accordingly.

As you move forward please work with the national Recreation RAC coordinator to prepare your public involvement tools and your RAC presentations. Templates are available which can be adjusted to individual situations. Presentations may be combined as appropriate.

I understand that new management challenges may present themselves if/when fee changes are implemented. Please keep this office informed of issues that arise. We will try to address what we can, using other tools for sustainable recreation.

/s/ James M. Pena, for
LESLIE A. C. WELDON
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

cc: Ramiro Villalvazo
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