

Cleveland National Forest Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Holy Jim Recreation Fee Area

Background

In June 2011, the Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 standard amenity recreation fee areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to remove the fee area designation for 73 standard amenity recreation fee areas, and reduce the size of the remaining 24 standard amenity recreation fee areas.

Within the Cleveland National Forest, the national review resulted in a proposal to eliminate the fee area designation for four standard amenity recreation fee areas (Corral Canyon, Ortega, Tenaja, and Wildomar) and substantially reduce the size of the remaining two (Holy Jim and Mt. Laguna). Based on direction regarding implementation of the national review, in June 2012, the Cleveland National Forest began issuing notices of required fees and enforcing recreation fees consistent with this proposal, while preparing to submit it to the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC).

Description of the Recreation Area

The 1,040-acre Holy Jim standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) area is a very popular year-round water oriented recreation destination. Local visitors from Orange County flock to this riparian destination to swim, picnic, fish, hike, and relax. Streams are stocked regularly by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. This thriving year-round creek is the only fishable creek in Orange County that can be accessed by vehicle. Vegetation consists of Alders, Maples, Sycamores, Walnuts, and Oaks, in addition to the chaparral community. The road meanders closely along the creek, offering visitors a cool and refreshing respite from city life.

Holy Jim Recreation Fee Proposal

The Cleveland National Forest is proposing to:

- Substantially reduce the size of the standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) area, see enclosed map;
- Retain three sites within the boundary of the SAF area boundary;
- Eliminate recreation fee from West Horsethief Trailhead; and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at recreation fee sites and areas.

Table 1. Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Sites in the Holy Jim SAF Area

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash	Interpretive Sign	Tables	Security
Holy Jim Day Use	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Middle Area	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Holy Jim Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Fee Collection and Compliance

If the proposal is implemented, a large portion of the Holy Jim recreation fee area would be available to the public free of charge. No change is being proposed to the recreation fees charged within the much smaller Holy Jim SAF Area. The fee payment mechanism would continue to be recreation passes: the Adventure Pass (\$5 per day, \$30 annually, and \$5 for a second vehicle) or the America the Beautiful-the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes (Annual-\$80; Senior-\$10; and Access, Military, and Volunteer-free).

The Forest Service’s Adventure Pass is available at Forest Service offices, local vendors, or on-line. The use of recreation passes as a fee payment mechanism would continue to enhance efficiencies in fee collection and compliance while providing the customer convenience visitors have come to expect. The Forest Service enforces and would continue to enforce recreation fees and issues notices of required fees within the reduced boundary identified on the enclosed map. Compliance is and would continue to be verified by observing recreation passes displayed on vehicles parked within these recreation sites.

Anticipated Impacts of the Change

Financial

The financial impacts of the proposed changes are unknown at this time.

Resources

The impacts of the proposed changes on natural resources are unknown at this time. There is concern for increased impacts within the sensitive riparian area outside of the fee area boundary; these areas would be carefully monitored.

Visitor Use

Shifts in visitor use pattern may result from the proposed changes. Impacts to recreation facilities, sanitation, public health and safety, traffic flow, and natural resources are unknown and would be monitored.

Planned Accomplishments

Recreation fee revenue would be used to fund operations and maintenance at the recreation sites and areas where recreation fees are collected, including:

- Toilet cleaning;
- Trash and litter removal;
- Graffiti removal;
- Security patrols;
- Replace signing;
- Replacing and adding picnic tables;
- Upgrading interpretive signing;
- Replacing trash receptacles; and
- Removal of hazard trees.

Public Involvement

Planned

The Forest Service is seeking public comment on the proposed changes and plans to submit the proposal to the R-RAC in the winter of 2014. In the interim, the Cleveland National Forest is issuing notices of required fees and enforcing recreation fees only within the recreation sites and areas identified in Table 1, as configured in the proposal for the R-RAC.

The Forest will:

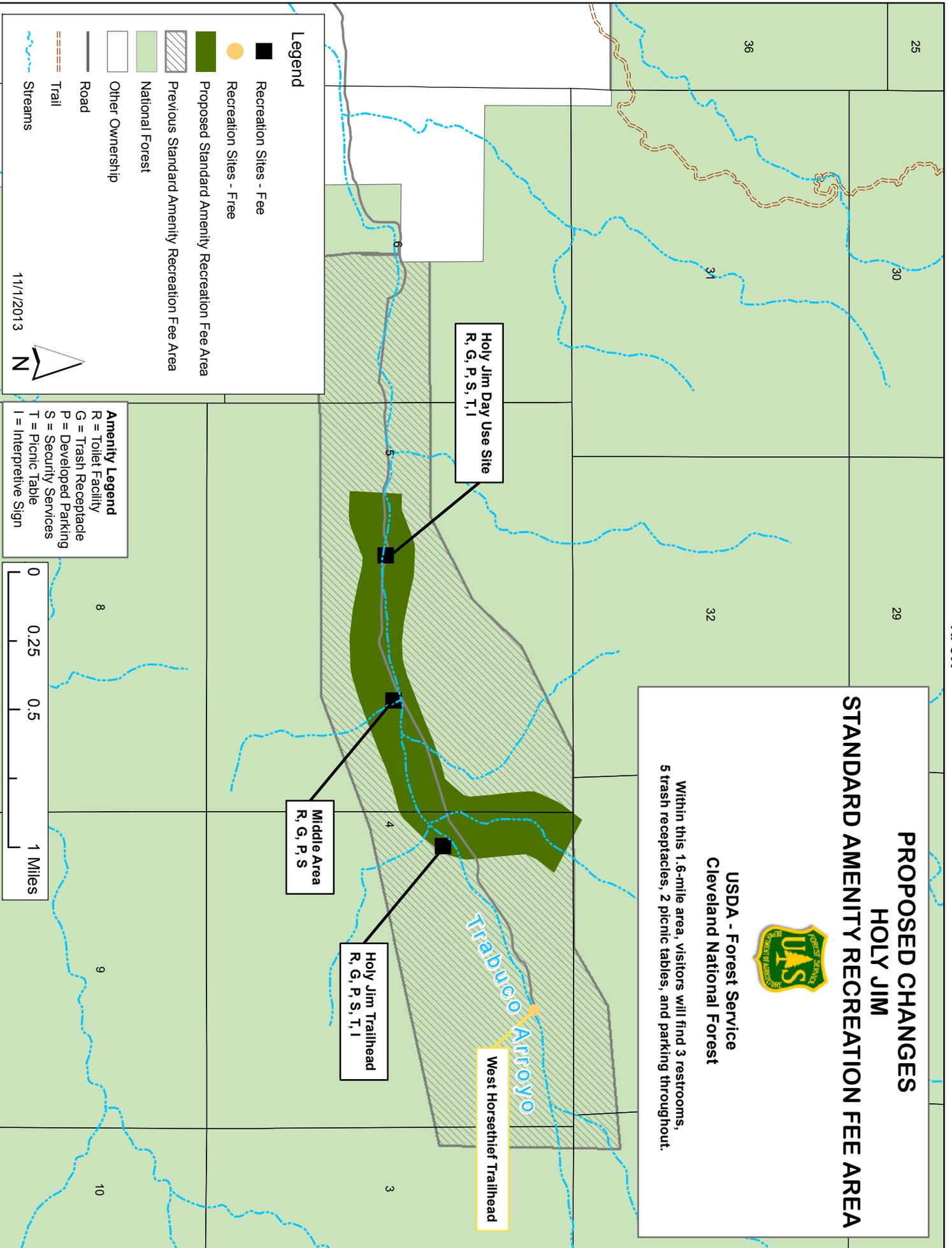
- Post information on proposed changes at the affected area;
- Publish a press release regarding the proposal in the *Press Enterprise and Orange County Register*;
- Post information on the proposal on the Cleveland National Forest website;
- Brief local and federal elected officials; and
- Present proposal to the R-RAC.

PROPOSED CHANGES
HOLY JIM
STANDARD AMENITY RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service
 Cleveland National Forest

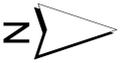
Within this 1.6-mile area, visitors will find 3 restrooms,
 5 trash receptacles, 2 picnic tables, and parking throughout.



Legend

- Recreation Sites - Fee
- Recreation Sites - Free
- Proposed Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Area
- ▨ Previous Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Area
- National Forest
- Other Ownership
- Road
- - - Trail
- ~ Streams

11/1/2013



- Amenity Legend**
- R = Toilet Facility
 - G = Trash Receptacle
 - P = Developed Parking
 - S = Security Services
 - T = Picnic Table
 - I = Interpretive Sign

