

Cleveland National Forest Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Tenaja 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 1,020-acre Tenaja standard amenity recreation fee area includes three trailheads providing access to an extensive trail system within the San Mateo Canyon Wilderness Area. These trailheads are popular day use and picnic sites and provide a unique recreational opportunity to the residents of Riverside and Orange Counties.

Tenaja Recreation Fee Proposal

The Cleveland National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Tenaja standard amenity recreation fee area designation, see enclosed map.
- Retain one standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) site at Tenaja Trailhead (see Table 1);
- Eliminate the recreation fee at two SAF sites: Fisherman's Camp and Tenaja Falls Trailheads;
and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at the standard amenity recreation fee site.

Table 1. Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Site (Passes Accepted)

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Tenaja Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Note: Tenaja Trailhead also has potable water.

Fee Collection and Compliance

If the proposal is implemented the recreation fee area would be available to the public free of charge. No change is being proposed to the recreation fees charged at the Tenaja Trailhead. The fee payment mechanism would continue to be through 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, and 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 at the recreation sites listed in Table 1. Compliance is and would continue to be verified by observing recreation passes displayed on vehicles parked within this recreation site.

Anticipated Impacts of the Change

Financial

The financial impacts of the proposed changes are unknown at this time. Fee revenue may decrease slightly or remain relatively stable.

Resources

The impacts of the proposed changes on natural resources are unknown at this time and would be monitored.

Visitor Use

Shifts in visitor use patterns may result from the proposed change. Impacts on recreation facilities, sanitation, public health and safety, and resources are unknown and would be monitored.

Planned Accomplishments

Fee revenue would fund operation and maintenance activities including: trash removal; toilet pumping; graffiti removal; security patrols; maintenance of information and interpretive signs; and facility repairs. Fee revenue would also be used for facility enhancements such as replacing picnic tables, interpretive signs, and information boards.

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 at the Tenaja Trailhead standard amenity recreation fee site.

The Forest will:

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

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PROPOSED CHANGES TENAJA RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service
Cleveland National Forest
Trabuco Ranger District

Tenaja Falls

Fisherman's Camp

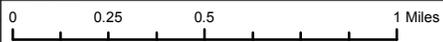
Tenaja Trailhead
T, D, S, G, R, I, P

T. 7S

Amenity Legend

- X = Tent or Trailer Space
- T = Picnic Table
- D = Drinking Water
- A = Access Road
- F = Fee Collection
- S = Security Services
- G = Trash Receptacle
- R = Toilet Facility
- C = Campfire Device
- I = Interpretive Signing
- P = Parking

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



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