

Angeles National Forest

Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Angeles Crest Recreation Fee Area

Background

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

Within the Angeles National Forest, the national review resulted in a proposal to eliminate the SAF area designation for six areas (Angeles Crest, Elizabeth Lake, Frenchman's Flat, Front Country, Littlerock, and Rowher-Drinkwater); significantly reduce the size of four SAF areas (Big Pines–Big Rock, Big Tujunga, Mt. Baldy, and San Gabriel Canyon); and change the type of recreation fee charged from SAF to special recreation permit (SRP) fee for three winter recreation locations (Big Pines, Mt. Baldy, and Angeles Crest). Based on direction regarding the implementation of the national review, in June 2012, the Angeles 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 Advisory Committee (R-RAC). This proposal addresses the recreation fee changes for the Angeles Crest area.

Description of the Recreation Area

The 21,800-acre Angeles Crest area is located in the mid-section of State Highway 2, the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway, which is the major route through the Angeles National Forest. Located within a one-hour drive from Los Angeles, the Angeles Crest recreation area provides opportunities to experience high elevation recreation opportunities within the San Gabriel mountain range. Popular recreation activities include: scenic driving along the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway; visiting the Chilao Visitor Center, an international bird watching site; hiking along the Pacific Crest Trail, Silver Moccasin and High Desert National Trails; camping; and picnicking. Once snow begins to fall, the Angeles Crest is a major winter recreation destination. Visible from most of the greater Los Angeles basin the snow-covered mountains are impossible to ignore. A multi-agency task force approach is used to prepare for and manage winter recreation visitation.

Angeles Crest Recreation Fee Proposal

The Angeles National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Angeles Crest standard amenity recreation fee area, see enclosed map;
- Retain 12 standard amenity recreation fee sites (see Table 1);
- Retain six expanded amenity recreation fee sites (see Table 2);

Angeles National Forest – Angeles Crest Fee Proposal

- Establish SRP fees for winter recreation at Angeles Crest (see enclosed map);
- Retain the Chilao Visitor Center as a free site;
- Eliminate the recreation fees at three expanded amenity recreation fee sites (Cooper Canyon, Little Jimmy, and Sulphur Springs Trail Camps); and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at the remaining recreation fee sites and areas.

Table 1. Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Sites and Areas (Passes Accepted)

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Buckhorn Station Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Burkhardt Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Charlton Flat Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chilao Day Use Site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Devil's Canyon Day Use Site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Eagle Roost Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Islip Saddle Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jarvi Vista Memorial Day Use Site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Shortcut Saddle Day Use Site	Y	Y(S)*	Y	Y	Y	Y
Three Points Day Use Site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vista Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
6000 Foot Day Use Site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

*Seasonal toilet – recreation fee waived when toilets are not present

Table 2. Expanded Amenity Recreation Fee Sites

Site Name	Tent or Trailer Space	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Fee Collection by FS	Security Services	Trash Receptacle	Toilet	Campfire Devices
Bandido Group Campground ¹	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Buckhorn Campground ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chilao Campground - Little Pines ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Chilao Campground – Manzanita ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Coulter Group Campground ²	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Horse Flat Campground ¹	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Meadow Group Campground ²	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

¹ No change, campground has a separate expanded amenity recreation fee

² Group campground reservations through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS)

Fee Collection and Compliance

If this proposal is implemented, a large portion of the recreation area would be available to the public free of charge. No change is being proposed to the recreation fees charged at recreation sites and areas listed in Tables 1 and 2, or to the recreation fees charged at the SRP location. 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 fee payment mechanism for expanded amenity recreation fees in the Coulter, Meadow, and Bandido Group Campgrounds would continue to be the NRRS. The fee payment mechanism for the Buckhorn, Chilao (Little Pines and Manzanita), and Horse Flat Campgrounds would continue to be through on-site fee tubes.

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 and areas listed in Tables 1 and 2 and at the SRP location. Compliance is verified and would continue to be verified by observing recreation passes displayed on vehicles parked within recreation sites and areas and at the SRP location.

Anticipated Impacts of the Change

The financial impacts of the proposed changes are unknown at this time. Shifts in visitor use patterns may result from the proposed changes. Impacts on recreation facilities, sanitation, public health and safety, and resources are unknown and would be monitored.

Planned Accomplishments

Recreation fee revenue would fund operation and maintenance, including: trash removal, toilet cleaning and pumping, graffiti removal, security patrols, maintenance of information and interpretive signs, and facility repairs. Fee revenue also would support facility enhancements such as restroom replacement, animal-proof trash receptacles, picnic tables, fire rings, grills, and interpretive signs.

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.

The Forest will:

- Post information on the proposed changes at the affected sites;
- Send press release for publication in local newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Daily News*;
- Post information on the proposal on the San Bernardino National Forest's website;
- Brief local and federal elected officials; and
- Present the proposal to the R-RAC

DRAFT

R. 12W

R. 11W

R. 10W

R. 9W

R. 8W

T. 5N

T. 4N

T. 3N

T. 2N

T. 1N

PROPOSED CHANGES ANGELES CREST RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service
Angeles National Forest
Los Angeles River Ranger District

Mt Waterman Ski Area

6000 Ft Day Use

Copper Canyon Trail Camp

Sulphur Springs Trail Camp

Burkhardt Day Use
T, S, G, R, I, P

Three Points Day Use Site
T, S, G, R, I, P

Williamson Rock Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Bandido Group Campground
F, C, X, T, A, G, R, I, S

Islip Saddle Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Horse Flat Campground
X, C, A, T, S, G, R, I, F

Jarvi Vista Memorial Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Meadow Group CG
C, X, D, T, S, G, R, I, A, F

Chilao Visitor Center

Vista Picnic Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Little Jimmy Trail Camp

Eagle Roost Picnic Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Coulter Group Campground
C, X, D, T, S, G, R, I, A, F

Buckhorn Station Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Buckhorn Campground
X, T, S, G, R, I, C, D, A, F

Chilao CG - Manzanita
D, A, X, C, T, S, G, R, I, F

Devil's Canyon Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Chilao Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Shortcut Saddle Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

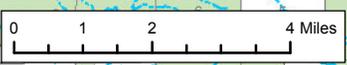
Charlton Flat Day Use Area
T, S, G, R, I, P

Chilao CG - Little Pines
D, A, X, C, T, S, G, R, I, F

Legend

- Recreation Sites - Fee
- Recreation Sites - Free
- Special Recreation Permit - Fee
- ▨ Previous Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Area
- National Forest
- Other Ownership
- Road
- ~ Streams and Rivers

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



12/5/2013

