

Angeles National Forest

Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Big Pines–Big Rock 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 Big Pines–Big Rock area.

Description of the Recreation Area

The Big Pines - Big Rock Recreation Areas and the Angeles Crest Scenic Byway are extremely popular recreation destinations. Big Pines Recreation Area was developed by the County of Los Angeles in the 1920's as the County's winter play area. Set in a conifer forest, the recreation area currently offers skiing, snow play, camping, picnicking, fishing and hiking opportunities. The remaining Big Pines Clubhouse information and interpretive site reminds visitors of this areas rich past. The Angeles Crest Scenic Byway traverses a portion of the Big Pines area and is considered one of the most scenic and remarkable scenic drives in California.

Big Rock Canyon offers camping, picnicking, fishing, water play and trail use. Sycamores, oaks, and a year-round stream offer popular overnight and day use opportunities. The High Desert National Recreation Trail is located within Big Rock Canyon.

Big Pines-Big Rock Recreation Fee Proposal

The Angeles National Forest is proposing to:

- Substantially reduce the size of the Big Pines-Big Rock SAF area to include (see enclosed map):

Angeles National Forest – Big Pines -Big Rock Fee Proposal

- A small SAF area encompassing the Jackson Lake Picnic Area and Northshore Fishing Site (see Table 1);
- A small SAF area encompassing the Inspiration Point sites (see Table 1);
- Retain seven SAF sites outside of the SAF areas (see Table 2);
- Retain nine expanded amenity recreation fee (EAF) sites outside of the SAF areas (see Table 3);
- Establish SRP fees for winter recreation at Big Pines (see enclosed map); and
- Retain the Grassy Hollow Visitor Center and Big Pines Clubhouse (interpretive and information center) as free sites;
- Eliminate the recreation fees at two sites (South Fork Trailhead, and Cabin Flat Trailhead); and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at the remaining recreation fee sites and areas.

Table 1. Big Pines SAF Areas (Passes Accepted)

Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Northshore Fishing Site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Jackson Lake Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Inspiration Point (two sites)	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Table 2. Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Sites Outside the Big Pines SAF Areas (Passes Accepted)

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Table Mountain Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Mescal Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Big Pines Clubhouse Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Arch Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Grassy Hollow Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Westgate Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vincent Gap Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Table 3. Expanded Amenity Recreation Fee Sites Outside the Big Pines SAF Areas (Passes Accepted)

Site Name	Tent or Trailer Space	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Fee Collection by FS	Security Services	Trash Receptacle	Toilet	Campfire Devices
Big Rock Campground	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Blue Ridge Campground	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Guffy Campground	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lupine Campground	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
South Fork Group Campground	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
South Fork Campground	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Site Name	Tent or Trailer Space	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Fee Collection by FS	Security Services	Trash Receptacle	Toilet	Campfire Devices
Sycamore Flat Campground	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Appletree Campground	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Peavine Campground	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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 the recreation sites and areas listed in Tables 1, 2 and 3, 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 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 issue notices of required fees at the recreation sites and areas listed in Tables 1, 2, and 3 and at the SRP location, as reconfigured in the proposal for the R-RAC. Compliance is and would continue to be verified by observing recreation passes displayed on vehicles parked within recreation sites and areas.

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 activities including:

- Trash and litter clean-up;
- Traffic management on winter recreation weekends and holidays;
- Graffiti removal;
- Security patrols;
- Facility cleaning, repair and maintenance;
- Hazard trees removal;
- Volunteer coordination;

Additional enhancements such as bear-proof trash containers, metal picnic tables, fire rings and cooking grills would be purchases and installed using recreation fees.

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 and areas;
- Send press release for publication in local newspapers, including the *Daily News*;
- Post information on the proposal on the Angeles National Forest's website;
- Brief local and federal elected officials; and
- Present the proposal to the R-RAC.

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

12/4/2013



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

PROPOSED CHANGES BIG PINES - BIG ROCK RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service
Angeles National Forest
Santa Clara/Mojave Ranger District

T. 4N

T. 3N

Southfork CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F

Southfork Trailhead

Sycamore Flat CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F, P

Southfork GCG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F

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

Big Rock CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F

Jackson Lake Picnic Area
R, G, P, S, T, I

Vincent Gap Trailhead

Peavine CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F, D

Jackson Flat GCG
A, R, G, S, T

Grassy Hollow Visitor Center
and Picnic Area
R, G, P, S, T, I

Inspiration Point
I

Inspiration Point
R, G, P, S, T

Cabin Flat TH

Mountain Oak CG
R, G, P, S, T

Northshore Fishing Site
R, G, P, S, T, I

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

Appletree CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, D, C, F

Table Mtn Picnic Area
R, G, P, S, T, I

Big Pines Highway
Day Use No. 2

Big Pines Highway
Day Use No. 3

Big Pines Clubhouse and Day Use
R, G, P, S, T, I

Big Pines Winter SRP

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

Blue Ridge CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F

Guffy CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F

Lupine CG
A, R, G, S, T, X, C, F

