

Angeles National Forest

Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Frenchman's Flat Recreation 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 Frenchman's Flat area.

Description of the Recreation Area

The 2,200-acre Frenchman's Flat standard amenity recreation fee area is a popular riparian area most well-known for the Wild and Scenic River designation, and its native trout fishery. Recreation activities include wildlife viewing, swimming, hiking, and picnicking.

Frenchman's Flat Recreation Fee Proposal

The Angeles National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Frenchman's Flat SAF area designation, see enclosed map;
- Retain the Frenchman's Flat Day Use Area and Piru Ponds Interpretive SAF site (Table 1); and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at recreation sites and areas.

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

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Frenchman's Flat Day Use Area and Piru Ponds Interpretive Site	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Fee Collection and Compliance

If this 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 Frenchman’s Flat Day Use Area and Piru Ponds Interpretive Site. 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 and areas listed in Table 1. 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

Fee revenue would fund operation and maintenance activities including:

- Trash and litter clean-up;
- Toilet cleaning and pumping;
- Graffiti removal;
- Security patrols;
- Facility cleaning, repair and maintenance;
- Trail maintenance; and
- Interpretive sign maintenance and replacement.

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.

DRAFT

R. 18W

R. 17W

T. 7N

T. 6N

PROPOSED CHANGES FRENCHMAN'S FLAT RECREATION FEE AREA



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

- Amenity Legend**
- T = Picnic Table
 - F = Fee Collection
 - S = Security Services
 - G = Trash Receptacle
 - R = Toilet Facility
 - I = Interpretive Signing
 - P = Parking

**Frenchman's Flat Trailhead and
Piru Ponds Interpretive Site**
T, S, G, R, I, P

- Recreation Sites - Fee
- ▨ Previous Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Area
- National Forest
- Other Ownership
- Road
- - - Trails
- ~ Rivers

