

# Angeles National Forest

## Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Front Country Recreation Fee Area

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### 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 Front Country area.

### Description of the Recreation Area

The 23,700-acre Front Country standard amenity recreation fee area includes a series of popular canyons and the notable Mt. Wilson. Popular recreation activities include hiking, mountain biking, horseback riding, picnicking, water play, and scenic driving. This area is especially popular with equestrian visitors due to the dense network of trails, trailheads, and trail camps. The Angeles Crest Scenic Byway provides numerous views of downtown Los Angeles and the ocean. Historic attractions include the privately owned Mt. Wilson Observatory and visitor center.

### Front Country Recreation Fee Proposal

The Angeles National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Front Country SAF area, see enclosed map.
- Retain five SAF sites and areas (see Table 1);
- Eliminate the recreation fees at seven SAF sites (Cascade Picnic Area, Eaton Saddle Trailhead, Echo Mountain Picnic Area, Georges Gap Trailhead, Inspiration Point, Sunset Ridge Trailhead, and The Pines Picnic Area) and eight EAF sites (Bear Canyon, Devore, Hoeges, Idlehour, Mt. Lowe, Spruce Grove, Valley Forge, and West Fork Trail Camps);
- Retain the Clear Creek Visitor Interpretive Site as free; and

- Continue to accept local and national passes at the remaining recreation fee sites and areas.

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

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Chantry Flats Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Millard Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Red Box Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Skyline Park Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Switzers Picnic Area	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 recreation fee sites listed in Table 1. 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

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 and areas;
- Send press release for publication in local newspapers, including the *Los Angeles 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. 13W

R. 12W

R. 11W

R. 10W

# PROPOSED CHANGES FRONT COUNTRY RECREATION FEE AREA



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

T. 3N

T. 2N

T. 1N

Mt. Lowe Trail Camp

Clear Creek Visitor Interpretive Site

Red Box Day Use Area  
T, S, G, R, I, P

The Pines Picnic Area

Eaton Saddle Trailhead

Valley Forge Trail Camp

West Fork Trail Camp

Georges Gap Trailhead

Devore Trail Camp

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

Spruce Grove Trail Camp

Bear Canyon Trail Camp

Cascade Picnic Area

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

Sunset Ridge Trailhead

Echo Mountain Picnic Area

Chantry Flats Day Use Area  
T, S, G, R, I, P

Inspiration Point  
S, I, P

Idlehour Trail Camp

Hoeges Trail Camp

Skyline Park Picnic Area  
T, S, G, R, I, P

### Legend

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

### Amenity Legend

- T = Picnic Table
- S = Security Services
- G = Trash Receptacle
- R = Toilet Facility
- I = Interpretive Signing
- P = Parking

12/4/2013

