

# Angeles National Forest

## Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Rowher/Drinkwater 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 Rowher/ Drinkwater area.

### Description of the Recreation Area

The Rowher/ Drinkwater area includes a series of canyons, the Rowher and Drinkwater Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) Staging Areas, a vast system of OHV riding trails, and the heavily used Bouquet Canyon and San Francisquito Canyon OHV riding areas.

### Rowher/Drinkwater Recreation Fee Proposal

The Angeles National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Rowher/Drinkwater SAF area designation (see enclosed map);
- Retain three SAF sites (see Table 1);
- Retain two expanded amenity recreation fee (EAF) sites (see Table 2);
- Eliminate fees at three SAF sites (Bouquet Crossing Trailhead, Los Cantillos Picnic, and Drinkwater OHV Staging Area); 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 Receptacles	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Rowher Flat OHV Staging Area 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rowher Flat OHV Staging Area 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rowher Flat OHV Staging Area 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

**Table 2. Expanded Amenity Recreation Fee Sites (Passes Accepted)**

Site Name	Tent or Trailer Spaces	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Fee Collection	Security Services	Trash Receptacles	Toilet	Campfire Devices
Streamside Campground	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Zuni Campground	Y	Y	Y	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 sites and areas in Table 1 and 2. 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 and 2. 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 removal; toilet cleaning and pumping; graffiti removal; security patrols; maintenance of information and interpretive signs; and facility repairs. Fee revenue would also support facility enhancements such as toilet replacement, bear-proof trash containers, picnic tables, and fire rings or cooking grills.

## Public Involvement

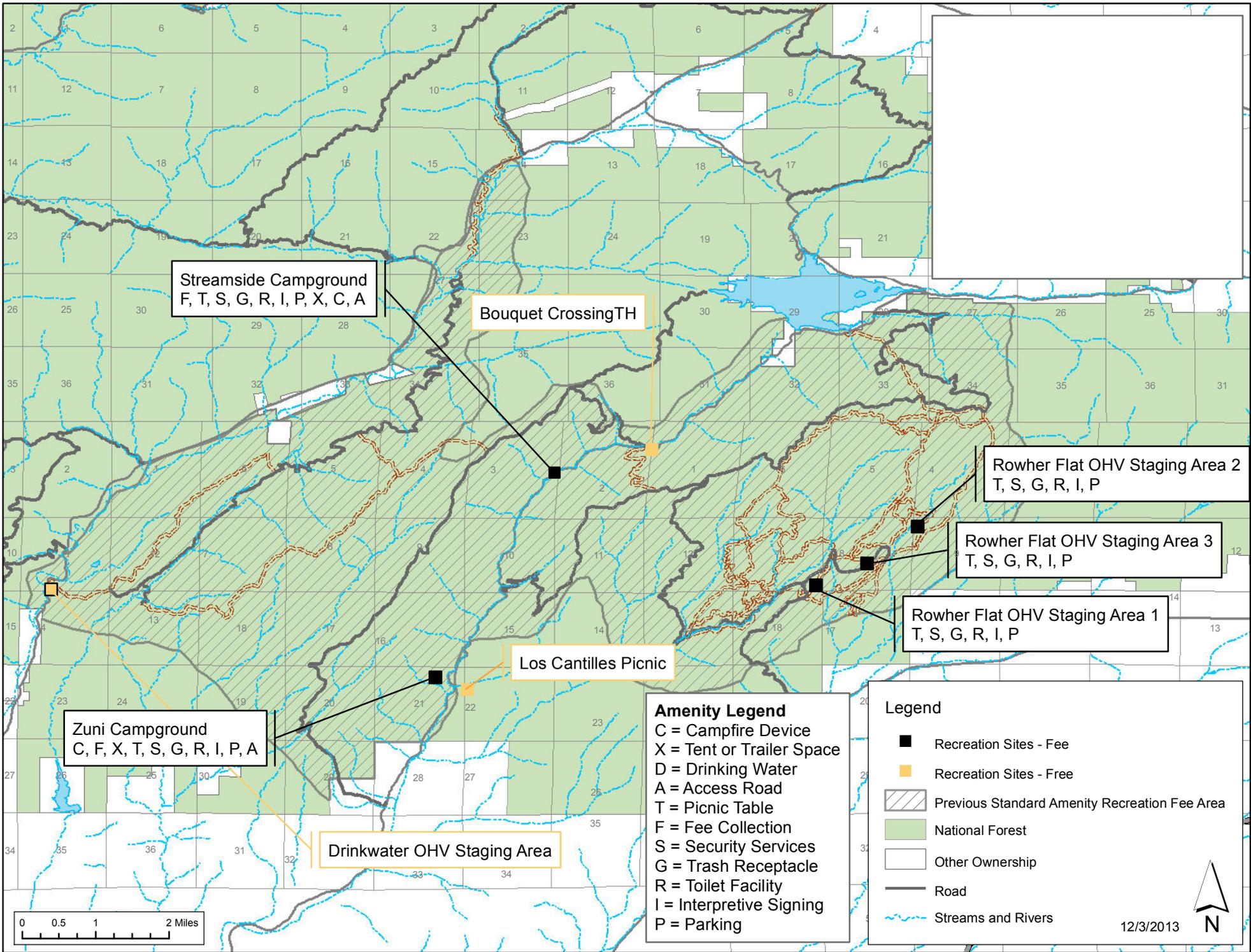
### Planned

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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**Streamside Campground**  
F, T, S, G, R, I, P, X, C, A

**Bouquet Crossing TH**

**Rowher Flat OHV Staging Area 2**  
T, S, G, R, I, P

**Rowher Flat OHV Staging Area 3**  
T, S, G, R, I, P

**Rowher Flat OHV Staging Area 1**  
T, S, G, R, I, P

**Los Cantillos Picnic**

**Zuni Campground**  
C, F, X, T, S, G, R, I, P, A

**Drinkwater OHV Staging Area**

- 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 Signing
  - P = Parking

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

