

Angeles National Forest

Change in Recreation Fee Structure: San Gabriel Canyon 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 San Gabriel Canyon.

Description of the Recreation Area

The San Gabriel Canyon standard amenity recreation fee area provides year-round recreational opportunities along nearly 14 miles of the San Gabriel River. The San Gabriel Canyon is the recreation destination for hundreds of thousands of visitors, especially during the warm spring, summer, and fall. Popular activities include picnicking, swimming, hiking, and fishing. The popular San Gabriel Canyon Off-Highway Vehicle Area is located within the area. The San Gabriel Education Center provides interpretation and classroom conservation education to thousands of school-aged children each year.

On a typical summer Sunday afternoon visitation can average 12,000 to 15,000 people. Due to the very heavy visitation, the California Highway Patrol must closely manage the traffic into the Canyon and it is not unusual to see road closures by late morning on weekends and holidays.

Recreation fees have been within the San Gabriel Canyon since 1988, first by the Los Angeles County Park and Recreation Division, then by the Forest Service beginning in 1997 under first the Recreation Fee Demonstration authority, and beginning in December 2004 under the Federal Lands and Recreation Enhancement Act.

San Gabriel Canyon Recreation Fee Proposal

The Angeles National Forest is proposing to:

- Significantly reduce the size of the San Gabriel Canyon SAF fee area (see Table 1 and attached map);
- Retain two expanded amenity fee sites outside of the SAF area (see Table 2);
- Eliminate recreation fees at one site (OHV Overlook); and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at the recreation sites and areas.

Table 1. San Gabriel Canyon SAF Area (Passes Accepted)

Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Upper Bear Creek Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Upper Bichota Day Use Areas	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
Lower Bichota Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 6	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 4	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
San Gabriel River OHV Staging Area ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Heaton Flat Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
East Fork Day Use Area No. 7	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
East Fork Day Use Area No. 6	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Cattle Canyon Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Glendora Mtn. Road Day Use Area	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
East Fork Day Use Area No. 5	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
East Fork Day Use Area No. 4	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Oaks Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
East Fork Day Use Area No. 3	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
East Fork Day Use Area No. 2	Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y
East Fork Day Use Area No. 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Telephone Point	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
OHV Oak Bench	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Rincon Shortcut Trailhead	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
Cottontail Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Westfork Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Westfork Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 1	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 2	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 3	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 5	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 7	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y

Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 8	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y
San Gabriel River Day Use Area No. 9	Y	N	Y	N	N	Y

¹ Amenities are available to visitors to San Gabriel Canyon SAF Area

Table 2. Expanded Amenity Recreation Fee Sites Outside the San Gabriel Canyon SAF Area

Site Name	Tent or Trailer Space	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Fee Collection by FS	Security Services	Trash Receptacle	Toilet	Campfire Devices
Coldbrook Campground ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Crystal Lake Campground/Day Use Area (Windy Gap TH) ¹	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

¹ No change, campground has a separate expanded amenity recreation fee of \$12/night, Adventure Pass accepted for day use

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 within the smaller SAF area (Table 1 and enclosed map) or to the recreation fees at recreation sites and areas listed in Table 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). Visitors may also pay recreation fees at EAF sites by 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 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;
- Traffic management along roads;
- Graffiti removal;
- Security patrols;
- Facility cleaning, repair and maintenance;
- Repair and replacement of interpretive signing;
- Trail maintenance;
- Hazard tree and limb removal;
- Law enforcement and crowd management; and
- Volunteer program management (supplies, training, scheduling).

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 *Inland Valley Bulletin*;
- 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.

PROPOSED CHANGES SAN GABRIEL CANYON RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service
Angeles National Forest
San Gabriel River Ranger District

Within this 14.5-mile area
visitors will find 27 restrooms,
75 trash receptacles, 50 picnic tables,
and parking throughout.

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

- Legend**
- Recreation Sites - Fee
 - Recreation Sites - Free
 - Proposed Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Area
 - ▨ Previous Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Area
 - National Forest
 - Other Ownership
 - Road
 - ~ Streams and Rivers
- 12/3/2013
-

Crystal Basin Campground
Day Use Area
X, D, A, F, C, R, G, S, T

Coldbrook CG
R, G, P, S, T

Upper Bear Creek Trailhead
R, G, P, S, T

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 9
G, P, S

Upper Bichota Day Use
G, P, S, T

Lower Bichota Day Use
R, G, P, S, T

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 7
G, P, S

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 8
G, P, S

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 6
R, G, P, S, T, I

Heaton Flat Trailhead
R, G, P, S, T, I

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 5
G, P, S

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 4
G, P, S

East Fork Day
Use Area No. 7
R, G, P, S, T, I

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 2
R, G, P, S, T, I

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 3
G, P, S

San Gabriel OHV Staging Area
R, G, P, S, T, I

East Fork Day
Use Area No. 6
G, P, S

San Gabriel River
Day Use Area No. 1
R, G, P, S, T, I

West Fork Day Use
R, G, P, S, T, I

Cattle Canyon
Day Use
R, P, G, S, T, I

Glendora Mtn
Road Day Use
G, P, S

West Fork Trailhead
R, G, P, S, T, I

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

East Fork Day
Use Area No. 1
R, G, P, S, T, I

East Fork Day
Use Area No. 5
R, G, P, S, T, I

Ricon Shortcut Trailhead
G, P, S

OHV Oak Bench
R, G, P, S, T, I

East Fork Day
Use Area No. 2
G, P, S, T

San Gabriel Education
Center
R, G, P, S, T, I

Telephone Point
R, G, P, S, T, I

East Fork Day
Use Area No. 3
R, G, P, S, T, I

East Fork Day
Use Area No. 4
G, P, S

OHV Overlook

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



T. 4N
T. 3N
T. 2N
T. 1N