

Los Padres National Forest Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Goldhill 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 Los Padres National Forest, the national review resulted in a proposal to eliminate the SAF area designation for four areas (Ballinger, Figueroa Mountain, Goldhill, and Rose Valley); change the type of recreation fee charged from an SAF to a special recreation permit (SRP) fee for winter recreation at Mt. Pinos and OHV use at Pozo–La Panza; and significantly reduce the size of the remaining Santa Ynez SAF area. Based on direction regarding implementation of the national review, in June 2012, the Los Padres 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 Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). This proposal addresses the recreation fee proposal for the Goldhill area.

Description of the Recreation Area

The 5,480-acre Goldhill standard amenity recreation fee area offers a wide variety of recreation opportunities within a two hour drive of the southern San Joaquin Valley and the metropolitan Los Angeles Basin. Popular recreation activities include camping and off-highway vehicle riding.

Goldhill Recreation Fee Proposal

The Los Padres National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Goldhill standard amenity recreation fee area designation (see enclosed map);
- Retain two expanded amenity recreation fee sites (see Table 1); and
- Continue to accept local and national passes for payment of recreation fees.

Table 1. Expanded Amenity Recreation Sites (Passes Accepted)

Site Name	Tent or Trailer Space	Picnic Tables	Drinking Water	Access Roads	Fee Collection by FS	Security Services	Trash Receptacles	Toilet	Campfire Devices
Kings Campground (includes Snowy OHV Staging Area)	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Goldhill Camping Area	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

Fee Collection and Compliance

If the 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 EAF sites 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 EAF sites in Table 1. Compliance is verified and would continue to be verified by observing recreation passes displayed on vehicles parked within the 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, in partnership with the California OHV Division, operation and maintenance of the Kings Campground and Goldhill Camping Area, including: trash and litter removal, toilet pumping, graffiti removal, security patrols, OHV compliance checks, and maintaining information 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;
- Send press release for publication in local newspapers, including the *Bakersfield Californian*;
- Post information on the proposal on the Los Padres National Forest's website;
- Brief local and federal elected officials; and
- Present the proposal to the R-RAC.

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PROPOSED CHANGES GOLD HILL RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest
Mt. Pinos Ranger District

**Kings Campground/
Snowy OHV Staging Area**
X, T, A, F, S, G, R, C

Goldhill Camping Area
X, T, A, F, S, G, R, C

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
 P = Parking

Legend

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



12/4/2013

