

Los Padres National Forest

Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Santa Ynez 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 changes for the Santa Ynez SAF area.

Description of the Recreation Area

The Lower Santa Ynez standard amenity recreation fee area is located approximately 18 miles from Santa Barbara and 21 miles from Solvang, California. Thousands of visitors come to enjoy the unique oak-lined river canyon ecosystem. Recreation opportunities include: camping, picnicking, water play, fishing, hiking, biking, horseback riding, and off-highway vehicle travel. Many people come to the Lower Santa Ynez Canyon to find relief from the heat and urban congestion.

Santa Ynez Recreation Fee Proposal

The Los Padres National Forest is proposing to:

- Substantially reduce the size of the Santa Ynez SAF area to include (see enclosed map):
 - A small SAF area encompassing the Sage Hill Group Campground/Aliso Trailhead (see Table 1);
 - A small SAF area encompassing the Upper Oso Campground/ Upper Oso Trailhead (see Table 1);
 - A small SAF area encompassing the First Crossing Day Use Area and Lower Oso Day Use Area (see Table 1);
 - A small SAF area encompassing the Falls Day Use Area (see Table 1);

- A small SAF area encompassing the Live Oak Day Use Area, Red Rock Day Use Area, Sandstone Day Use Area and Red Rock Trailhead (see Table 1);
- Retain one SAF site outside of the SAF areas (see Table 2); and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at the recreation fee sites and areas.

Table 1. Santa Ynez SAF Areas (Passes Accepted)

Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Aliso Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Upper Oso Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
First Crossing Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Lower Oso Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Falls Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Red Rock Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	N	Y	Y
Sandstone Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	N	N	Y
Live Oak Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Red Rock Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	Y

Table 2. Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Site Outside the Santa Ynez SAF Areas (Passes Accepted)

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
White Rock Day Use Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

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 areas (Tables 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 issues notices of required fees at the recreation sites and areas identified in Tables 1 and 2. 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

Recreation fee revenue would be used to fund operation and maintenance activities at the recreation sites and areas where recreation fees are collected, including: traffic management, litter and trash clean up, graffiti removal, security patrols, facility cleaning, repair and maintenance, replace information and interpretive signing, road and trail maintenance, and hazard tree removal.

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 *Santa Barbara News Press*;
- 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.

Legend

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

11/5/2013



**PROPOSED CHANGES
SANTA YNEZ
RECREATION FEE AREA**



**USDA - Forest Service
Los Padres National Forest**

Within this 9.25-mile canyon,
visitors will find 33 restrooms,
33 trash receptacles, 304 picnic
tables, and parking throughout.

Amenity Legend

- R = Toilet Facility
- G = Trash Receptacle
- P = Developed Parking
- S = Security Services
- T = Picnic Table
- I = Interpretative Sign

**Sage Hill GCG
R, G, P, S, T**

**Aliso Trailhead
R, G, P, S, T, I**

**Upper Oso Trailhead
R, G, P, S, T, I**

**Upper Oso CG
R, G, P, S, T**

**Lower Oso Day Use Area
R, G, P, S, T, I**

**Parking Area 2
P, S**

**Live Oak Day Use Area
R, G, P, S, T, I**

**Ranger Station
P, S, I**

**First Crossing Day Use Area
R, G, P, S, T, I**

**Parking Area 3
P, S**

**Falls Day Use Area
R, G, P, S, T, I**

**Parking Area 4
P, S**

**Parking Area 6
P, S**

**Red Rock Day Use Area
R, G, P, S, T**

**Sandstone Day Use Area
R, G, P, S**

**White Rock Day Use Area
R, G, P, S, T, I**

**Red Rock Trailhead
R, G, P, S, I**

Santa Ynez River



T. 6N

T. 5N