

# San Bernardino National Forest Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Barton Flats 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 San Bernardino National Forest, the national fee area review resulted in a proposal to eliminate the SAF area designation for seven areas (Arrowhead, Barton Flats, Big Bear North, Big Bear South, Black Mountain, Falls and Thomas Mountain), substantially reduce the size of the Lytle Creek SAF area, and change the type of recreation fee changed from SAF to special recreation permit (SRP) fee for four winter recreation locations (Barton Flats, Snow Valley, Aspen Glen, and Rim), and three recreational target shooting locations (Lightening Gulch, 1N09, Arrastre, and Big Pine Flat).

Based on direction regarding implementation of the national fee area review, in June 2012, the San Bernardino 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 Barton Flats area.

## Description of the Recreation Area

The 22,159-acre Barton Flats standard amenity recreation fee area is dominated by the presence of Mt. San Gorgonio, the tallest peak in the Transverse Range, often referred to as the “Alps of southern California”. Visitors flock to the Barton Flats area to camp, picnic, swim, fish, hike, mountain bike, horseback ride, and backpack. When snow covers the mountains of southern California, the Barton Flats area is a favorite destination for thousands of visitors looking for a place to recreate in the snow. The Lightening Gulch recreational target shooting area is a popular destination year-round. The Santa Ana River is the largest and most heavily visited fishing stream on the forest.

## Barton Flats Recreation Fee Proposal

The San Bernardino National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Barton Flats SAF area designation, see enclosed map;
- Retain one SAF site (Table 1);

- Establish SRP fees for winter recreation at Barton Flats location (see enclosed map);
- Establish SRP fees for recreational target shooting at Lightning Gulch location (see enclosed map);
- Eliminate recreation fees at 13 SAF sites and areas: Aspen Grove Trailhead, Coon Creek Camping Area, Fish Creek Trailhead, Greyback Amphitheater, Forsee Trailhead, Jenks Lake Trailhead, Lost Creek Trailhead, Middle Control Road Day Use Area, Mission Springs Trail Camp, Rio Monte Vista Picnic Area, San Bernardino Peak Trailhead, Santa Ana River Trailheads, and Wildhorse Trailhead; and
- Continue to accept local and national passes at the remaining recreation fee sites, areas.

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

Site Name	Parking	Toilet	Trash Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
South Fork Trailhead	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 South Fork Trailhead or to the recreation fees charged at the SRP locations. 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 site listed in Table 1 and at the SRP locations. 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 change. 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 bear-proof trash containers, picnic tables, and fire rings.

## Public Involvement

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 sties and areas;
- Send press release for publication in the local newspapers, including the *San Bernardino Sun*;
- Post information on the proposal on the San Bernardino National Forest's website;
- Brief local and federal elected officials; and
- Present the proposal to the R-RAC

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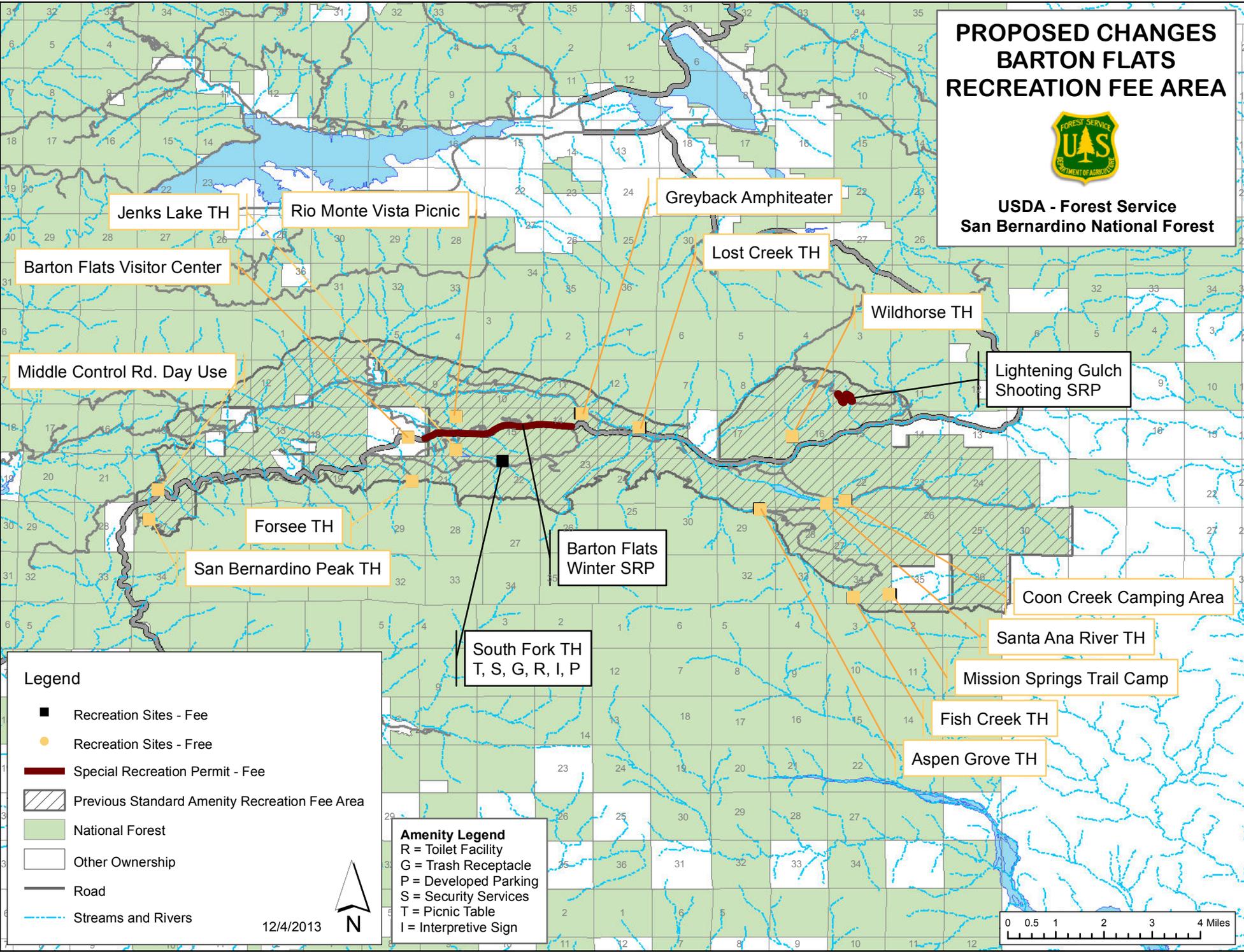
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# PROPOSED CHANGES BARTON FLATS RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service  
San Bernardino National Forest



### Legend

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

### Amenity Legend

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

12/4/2013

