

San Bernardino National Forest

Change in Recreation Fee Structure: Falls 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 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 Falls area.

Description of the Recreation Area

The 1,050-acre Falls standard amenity recreation fee area is a rugged, scenic backdrop to an urban, growing San Bernardino Valley. Steep canyons shelter important riparian habitat. The heavily traveled California State Highway 38 (Rim of the World Scenic Byway) and Valley of the Falls Road provides a visitor portal into the communities and recreation opportunities of this high country recreation area. The Falls recreation area includes opportunities for water play along Mill Creek, picnicking, and hiking.

Falls Recreation Fee Proposal

The San Bernardino National Forest is proposing to:

- Eliminate the Falls SAF area designation, see enclosed map;
- Retain four SAF sites (see Table 1); 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 Receptacle	Interpretive Sign	Picnic Tables	Security Services
Big Falls Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Falls Picnic Area	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vivian Trailhead	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Momyer Trailhead	Y	Y(S)*	Y	Y	Y	Y

*Toilet is seasonal; recreation fee is waived with toilet is not present

Fee Collection and Compliance

If this proposal is implemented, a large portion of 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 sites and areas listed 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 issue notices of required fees at the recreation sites and area identified in Table 1, as reconfigured in the proposal for the R-RAC. 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 fund operation and maintenance activities, including: trash removal, toilet pumping, graffiti removal, security patrols, maintenance of information and interpretive signs, water play area cleanup, and facility repairs. Fee revenue would support volunteers who staff visitor information stations.

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 *San Bernardino Sun*;
- Post information on the proposal on the San Bernardino National Forest website;
- Brief local and federal elected officials; and
- Present the proposal to the R-RAC

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PROPOSED CHANGES FALLS RECREATION FEE AREA



USDA - Forest Service
San Bernardino National Forest
Front Country Ranger District

T. 1S

Momyer Trailhead
T, S, G, R, I, P

Big Falls Trailhead
T, S, G, R, I, P

Vivian Trailhead
T, S, G, R, I, P

Falls Picnic
T, S, G, R, I, P

Legend

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

12/4/2013



Amenity Legend

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

