

**US Forest Service - Region 5  
Recreation Fee Proposals - Fee Change  
Summary of Public Involvement**

**Angeles National Forest:** Change in recreation fees at Angeles Crest, Big Pines-Big Rock, Big Tujunga, Elizabeth Lake, Frenchman's Flat, Front Country, Littlerock, Mt. Baldy, Rowher/Drinkwater, and San Gabriel Canyon standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) areas.

**Cleveland National Forest:** Change in recreation fees at Corral Canyon, Holy Jim, Mt. Laguna, Ortega, Tenaja, and Wildomar SAF areas.

**Los Padres National Forest:** Change in recreation fees at Ballinger, Mt. Pinos, Figueroa Mountain, Goldhill, Santa Ynez, Pozo-La Panza, and Rose Valley SAF areas.

**San Bernardino National Forest:** Change in recreation fee at Arrowhead, Barton Flats, Big Bear North, Big Bear South, Black Mountain, Falls, Lytle Creek, and Thomas Mountain SAF areas.

**Summary includes public involvement efforts & comments as of January 9, 2014**

**Summary of Proposals:**

**The Angeles National Forest is proposing to:**

- Reduce the size of the Big Pines, Big Tujunga, Mt. Baldy, and San Gabriel Canyon SAF areas.
- Eliminate the SAF area designation for Angeles Crest, Elizabeth Lake, Frenchman's Flat, Front Country, Little Rock, and Rowher/Drinkwater.
- Change the fee type from SAF to special recreation permit (SRP) fee for three winter recreation locations (Mt. Baldy, Big Pines, and Angeles Crest).
- Retain recreation fees and continue to accept the Adventure Pass and America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes as payment for recreation fees at the sites and areas specified in the fee proposals.
- The proposed changes would result in over 160,000 acres of the forest becoming available to the public free of charge.

**The Cleveland National Forest is proposing to:**

- Reduce the size of Holy Jim and Mt. Laguna SAF areas.
- Eliminate the SAF area designation for Corral Canyon, Ortega, Tenaja, and Wildomar.
- Retain recreation fees and continue to accept the Adventure Pass and America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes as payment for recreation fees at the sites and areas specified in the fee proposals.
- The proposed changes would result in over 37,000 acres of the forest becoming available to the public free of charge.

**The Los Padres National Forest is proposing to:**

- Reduce the size of the Santa Ynez SAF area;
- Eliminate the SAF area designation for Ballinger, Figueroa Mountain, Goldhill, and Rose Valley.
- Change the recreation fee type from SAF to an SRP fee in two locations (Pozo-La Panza and Mt. Pinos).
- Retain recreation fees and continue to accept the Adventure Pass and America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes as payment for recreation fees at the sites and areas specified in the fee proposals.
- The proposed changes would result in over 40,000 acres of the forest becoming available to the public free of charge.

**The San Bernardino National Forest is proposing to:**

- Reduce the size of the Lytle Creek SAF area;
- Eliminate the SAF area designation for Arrowhead, Barton Flats, Big Bear North, Big Bear South, Black Mountain, Falls, and Thomas Mountain.
- Change the recreation fee type from SAF to SRP fee in four recreational target shooting locations (Arrastre, Big Pine Flat, 1N09, and Lightning Gulch) and four winter recreation locations (Aspen Glen, Rim, Snow Valley, and Barton Flats).

- Retain recreation fees and continue to accept the Adventure Pass and America the Beautiful-National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes as payment for recreation fees at the sites and areas specified in the fee proposals.
- The proposed changes would result in over 124,000 acres of the forest becoming available to the public free of charge.

## Public Participation Activities:

Public Participation Tasks	Date(s)
<b>Angeles National Forest</b>	
Press release sent to local media <attached>	December 5, 2013
Posted notice on Angeles NF web site	December 5, 2013
Local Elected Official/Congressional Briefing - Phone calls and follow up email	November, 2013 (phone calls); January 7, 2014 (email) No Comments Received
Posted notices in affected sites/areas	Week of January 6, 2014
<b>Cleveland National Forest</b>	
Press release sent to local media <attached>	November 4, 2013
Posted notice on Cleveland NF web site	November 4, 2013
Local Elected Official/Congressional Briefing - Letters mailed	November 14, 2013, No Comments Received
Posted notices in affected sites/areas	November 18, 2013
<b>Los Padres National Forest</b>	
Press release sent to local media <attached>	December 6, 2013
Posted notice on Los Padres NF web site	December 6, 2013
Local Elected Official/Congressional Briefing - Email with press release, letters, phone calls	December 6, 2013 (emailed news release); January 7, 2014 (letters and emailed news release); January 9, 2014 (phone calls) No Comments Received
Posted notices in affected sites/areas	12/10/13 - 1/8/14
Notified interested stakeholder (Rocky Mountain Recreation Company) via email.	December 6, 2013
<b>San Bernardino National Forest</b>	
Press release sent to local media <attached>	December 5, 2013
Posted notice on San Bernardino NF web site	December 5, 2013
Local Elected Official/Congressional Briefing - Email with press release	December 5, 2013 No Comments Received
Posted notices in affected sites/areas	Week of January 6, 2014
Notified various state, county, and city departments (Cal Trans, Public Works, Parks, etc.) via email with press release.	December 5, 2013

## **News & Web Articles (attached):**

- **December 1, 2013, Orange County Register:** *Cleveland National Forest fees may get chopped*
- **December 5, 2013, Modern Hiker:** *Forest Service Fee Update for the Angeles National Forest*
- **December 6, 2013, ?:** *Los Padres Forest Proposes Changes in Recreation Fees*
- **December 8, 2013, San Gabriel Valley Tribune:** *Forest Service scales back Adventure Pass*
- **December 8, 2013, Santa Barbara Independent:** *Changes possible for Los Padres, 40,000 acres in forest could become fee-free*
- **December 9, 2013, The Press-Enterprise:** *\$5 forest fee may be dropped*
- **December 9, 2013, The Press-Enterprise:** *REGION: Forest Service plans to ditch fee*
- **December 10, 2013, The Press-Enterprise, Facebook post:** *The U.S. Forest Service plans to drop its unpopular recreation fees...*
- **December 12, 2013, The Press-Enterprise:** *EDITORIAL: Scale back forest fees? Yes*
- **December 13, 2013, The Press-Enterprise:** *Trim forest fees*
- **December 24, 2013, Ventura Star:** *Wild and Free, Plan ends some Los Padres fees*
- **December 30, 2013, The Press-Enterprise:** *REGION: Forest Service seeks comments on proposed changes*

## **Public Comment Received as of 01/08/2014 (attached):**

The Forest Service received approximately 47 comments and inquiries on the proposals, including emails, letters, and two phone calls. The comments are attached.

## **Forest Service seeks public comments on proposed changes to Recreation Fee Areas in the Angeles National Forest**

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Release Date: Dec 5, 2013

**VALLEJO, Calif.** – Angeles National Forest officials are seeking public comments on **proposed changes** which would result in over 160,000 acres of the forest becoming available to the public free of charge. These areas include the Angeles Crest, Big Pines-Big Rock, Big Tujunga, Elizabeth Lake, Frenchman's Flat, Front Country, Little Rock, Mt. Baldy, Rowher/ Drinkwater, and San Gabriel Canyon standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) areas. The forest is proposing to substantially reduce the size of the Big Pines, Big Tujunga, Mt. Baldy, and San Gabriel Canyon areas, eliminate the remaining six, and establish special recreation permit (SRP) fees in three locations.

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 SAF areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to eliminate the SAF area designation for 73 recreation areas and reduce the size for 24 areas nationally. The proposed changes for the 10 Angeles National Forest SAF areas are consistent with the results of the national review. Consistent with direction on implementation of the national fee area review, the Angeles National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the sites and reduced areas listed below.

Comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by Jan. 6, 2014, to be considered by a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). Comments may be submitted to the attention of Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, California 94592 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us).

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all R-RAC meetings. The next R-RAC meeting is planned for Jan. 15-16, 2014. More information about the R-RAC and upcoming meeting can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

**The Adventure Pass and the America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass would be accepted as payment for recreation fees at the following sites and areas:**

San Gabriel Canyon SAF Area, Mt. Baldy SAF Area, Big Tujunga SAF Area, Big Pines SAF Area, Ice House Trailhead, Switzers Picnic Area, Mt. Baldy Wayside, San Antonio Falls Trailhead, Delta Flats Day Use Site, Stonyvale Picnic Area, Vogel Flats Picnic Area, Wildwood Picnic Area, Table Mountain Picnic Area, Mescal Picnic Area, Big Pines Clubhouse Day Use Area, Arch Picnic Area, Grassy Hollow Picnic Area, Westgate Picnic Area, three Rowher Flat OHV Staging Areas, Buckhorn Station Day Use Area,

Buckhardt Day Use Area, Charlton Flat Day Use Area, Chilao Day Use Site, Devil's Canyon Day Use Site, Eagle Roost Picnic Area, Islip Saddle Day use Area, Jarvi Vista Memorial Day Use Site, Shortcut Saddle Day Use Site, Three Points Day Use Site, Vista Picnic Area, 6000 Foot Day Use Site, Littlerock OHV Trailhead, Chantry Flats Day Use Area, Millard Day Use Area, Red Box Day use Area, Skyline Park Picnic Area, Frenchman's Flat Day Use Area, Vincent Gap Trailhead, Piru Ponds Interpretive Site, Elizabeth Lake Day Use Area, Big Rock Campground, Blue Ridge Campground, Guffy Campground, Lupine Campground, South Fork Group Campground, Sycamore Flat Campground, Appletree Campground, Peavine Campground, Streamside Campground, Zuni Campground, and winter recreation SRP locations (Mt. Baldy, Big Pines, and Angeles Crest).

**These recreation sites and areas will continue to have a separate expanded amenity fee:**

Manker, Coldbrook, Crystal Lake, Bandido, Buckhorn, Meadow Group, Coulter Group, Horse Flat, Chilao-Little Pine, Chilao-Manzanita campgrounds.

**These recreation sites and areas are free:**

West Fork Trail Camp, Trail Canyon Trailhead, Cabin Flat Trailhead, South Fork Trailhead, Bouquet Crossing Trailhead, Los Cantillos Picnic Area, Drinkwater OHV Staging Area, Cooper Canyon Trail Camp, Little Jimmy Trail Camp, Sulphur Springs Trail Camp, Cascade Picnic Area, Eaton Saddle Trailhead, Echo Mountain Picnic Area, Georges Gap Trailhead, Inspiration Point, Sunset Ridge Trailhead, The Pines Picnic Area, Bear Canyon Trail Camp, Devore Trail Camp, Hoeges Trail Camp, Idlehour Trail Camp, Mt. Low Trail Camp, Spruce Grove Trail Camp, Valley Forge Trail Camp, and San Gabriel Canyon OHV Overlook.

Recreation fee revenue is used for operation and maintenance and future enhancements of recreation sites. More information about recreation fees and the Angeles National Forest Recreation Fee Program can be found in the Forest's Annual Fee Program Accomplishment Reports at

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3\\_048946](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_048946).

For more information about this recreation fee proposal, please contact Tamara Wilton at (707) 562-8965 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us). Further information about this proposal can also be found on the forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/angeles>.



## NEWS RELEASE

**U.S. Forest Service, Cleveland National Forest**  
**For Immediate Release**  
**Contact: Anabele Cornejo at 858-674-2984**  
**Twitter: [@clevelandnf](https://twitter.com/clevelandnf)**

### **Forest Service Seeks Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Recreation Fee Areas on the Cleveland National Forest**

**SAN DIEGO, Calif., Nov. 4, 2013** - Cleveland National Forest officials are seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Corral Canyon, Holy Jim, Mt. Laguna, Ortega, Tenaja and Wildomar Recreation Fee Areas. The forest is proposing to eliminate or substantially reduce the size of these standard amenity fee areas. These proposed changes result in over 30,000 acres becoming free to the public. Comments should be submitted by December 13, 2013 so they may be compiled, analyzed, and shared with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee.

The Adventure Pass and America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes will continue to be accepted as payment for recreation fees at the following sites and areas:

- Holy Jim Standard Amenity Fee Area
- 3 small Mt. Laguna Standard Amenity Fee Areas
- Bobcat Meadow Campground
- Bear Valley Trailhead
- El Cariso South Picnic Area
- Tenaja Trailhead
- Laguna Interpretive/Day Use Site
- Pioneer Mail Picnic Site
- Nobel Canyon Trailhead
- Four Corners Trailhead
- Corral Canyon Campground
- El Cariso Picnic Area
- San Juan Loop Trailhead
- Wildomar OHV Staging Area
- Desert View Picnic Area

These sites will continue to have a separate expanded amenity fee:

- Blue Jay Campground<sup>1</sup>
- Falcon Group Campground
- Laguna Campground<sup>1</sup>
- Horse Heaven Group Campground
- El Cariso Campground
- Upper San Juan Campground
- El Prado Group Campground
- Wildomar Campground

<sup>1</sup> Passes only accepted for day use within this site, including trailheads

These recreation sites are free:

- Elsinore Hang Gliding Sites #1 & 2
- Ortega Falls Day Use Site
- Tenaja Falls Trailhead
- Garnet Information Site
- Storm Canyon Vista/ Trailhead
- Firefighter Memorial Site
- Morgan Trailhead
- Fisherman's Camp Trailhead
- West Horsethief Trailhead
- Penny Pines Interpretive Site
- El Cariso Information Site

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 fee areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to remove the fee area designations for 73 fee areas and reduce the boundaries for the remaining 24 fee areas across the nation. The proposed changes for the six Cleveland National Forest recreation fee areas are consistent with the results of the national review.

The proposed changes to the Cleveland National Forest recreation fee areas will be presented to a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups. The public is welcome to attend and comment at all R-RAC meetings. The next R-RAC meeting is expected to be held in the winter of 2014. More information about the R-RAC, including meeting dates and locations can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

If adopted, it is anticipated that the proposals for the Cleveland recreation fee areas would be implemented in the winter of 2014. In the interim, consistent with direction on implementation of the national review, the Cleveland National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the listed recreation sites and reduced area boundaries.

Fee revenue is used for operations and maintenance and future enhancements of these recreation sites. More information about the recreation fees and the Cleveland National Forest Recreation Program can be found in the Forest's Annual Fee Program Accomplishment Reports at: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3\\_048946](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_048946).

For more information about this fee proposal, please contact Jacob Rodriguez by phone at (951) 736-1811 or by email: [jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us](mailto:jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us). Further information about this proposal, can also be found on the forest website at: [www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland).

Comments may be submitted to: Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District, 1147 East Sixth Street, Corona, CA 92879 or by email at: [jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us](mailto:jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us).

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## **Forest Service seeks public comments on proposed changes to Recreation Fee Areas in the Los Padres National Forest**

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Release Date: Dec 5, 2013

**VALLEJO, Calif.** – Los Padres National Forest officials are seeking public comments on **proposed changes** to the Ballinger, Mt. Pinos, Figueroa Mountain, Goldhill, Santa Ynez, Pozo –La Panza, and Rose Valley standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) areas. The forest is proposing to substantially reduce the size of the Santa Ynez area, eliminate the remaining six SAF areas, and establish special recreation permit (SRP) fees in two locations. These proposed changes would result in more than 40,000 acres becoming available to the public free of charge.

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 SAF areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to eliminate the SAF area designation for 73 recreation areas and reduce the size for the remaining 24 nationally. The proposed changes for the seven Los Padres National Forest SAF areas are consistent with the results of the national review. Consistent with direction on implementation of the national fee area review, the Los Padres National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the sites and reduced areas listed below.

Comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by Jan. 6, 2014, to be considered by a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). Comments may be submitted to the attention of Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, California 94592 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us).

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all R-RAC meetings. The next R-RAC meeting is planned for Jan. 15-16, 2014. More information about the R-RAC and upcoming meeting can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

### **The Adventure Pass and the America the Beautiful –the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass would be accepted as payment for recreation fees at the following sites and areas:**

Santa Ynez SAF Area, White Rock Day Use Area, Aliso Trailhead, Lower Oso Day Use Area, Red Rock Day Use Area, Live Oak Day Use Area, Piedra Blanca Trailhead, Cumbre Day Use Area, First Crossing Day Use Area, Upper Oso Trailhead, Falls Day Use Area, Sandstone Day Use Area, Red Rock Trailhead, Pino Alto Picnic Area, Figueroa Lookout Day Use Area, Rose Valley Campground, Middle Lion Campground, Kings Campground/OHV Staging Area, Goldhill Camping Area, Ballinger Campground/OHV Staging Area, Davy Brown Campground, Nira Campground (including Upper

Manzana Trailhead), Figueroa Campground, Pozo –La Panza (Off Highway Vehicle SRP), and Mt. Pinos (Winter Recreation SRP).

**These recreation sites and areas are free:**

Upper Rose Valley Lake Day Use Area, Lower Rose Valley Day Use Area, Howard Creek Trailhead, Catway Day Use Area, Davy Brown Trailhead, La Jolla/Ballard Trailhead, McKinley Trailhead, Lower Manzana Trailhead, Munch Canyon Trailhead, Pino Alto Interpretive Trail, Sunset Valley Trailhead, White Rock Trailhead, and Willow Springs Trailhead.

Recreation fee revenue is used for operation and maintenance and future enhancements of recreation sites. More information about recreation fees and the Los Padres National Forest Recreation Fee Program can be found in the Forest's Annual Fee Program Accomplishment Reports at [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3\\_048946](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_048946).

For more information about this recreation fee proposal, please contact Tamara Wilton at (707) 562-8965 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us). Further information about this proposal can also be found on the forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf>.

## **Forest Service seeks public comments on proposed changes to Recreation Fee Areas in the San Bernardino National Forest**

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Release Date: Dec 5, 2013

VALLEJO, Calif. – San Bernardino National Forest officials are seeking public comments on **proposed changes** to the Arrowhead, Barton Flats, Big Bear North, Big Bear South, Black Mountain, Falls, Lytle Creek and Thomas Mountain standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) areas. The forest is proposing to substantially reduce the size of the Lytle Creek SAF area, eliminate the remaining seven, and establish special recreation permit (SRP) fees in eight locations. These proposed changes would result in more than 120,000 acres becoming available to the public free of charge.

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 SAF areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to eliminate the SAF area designation for 73 recreation areas and reduce the size for the remaining 24 areas nationally. The proposed changes for the eight San Bernardino National Forest SAF areas are consistent with the results of the national review. Consistent with direction on implementation of the national fee area review, the San Bernardino National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the sites and reduced areas listed below.

Comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by Jan. 6, 2014, to be considered by a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). Comments may be submitted to the attention of Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, California 94592 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us).

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all R-RAC meetings. The next R-RAC meeting is planned for Jan. 15-16, 2014. More information about the R-RAC and upcoming meeting can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

### **The Adventure Pass and the America the Beautiful—the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass would be accepted as payment for recreation fees at the following sites and areas:**

Lytle Creek SAF Area, Applewhite Picnic Area, Applewhite Picnic Area, Big Falls Trailhead, Aspen Glen Picnic, Baylis Park Picnic, Children's Forest Trailhead, Falls Picnic Area, Crest Park Picnic, Vivian Trailhead, Heaps Peak Arboretum, Momyer Trailhead, Miller Canyon OHV Staging Area, Cactus Flats OHV Staging Area, Pinnacles OHV Staging Area, Cougar Crest Trailhead, Lake Fulmor Picnic Area, Gray's Peak Trailhead, Switzer Park Picnic Area, Grout Bay Picnic, South Fork Trailhead, Juniper Point Picnic, Fuller Mill Creek Picnic Area, Meadows Edge Picnic, Woodland Trailhead, Splinters Cabin

Trailhead/Picnic Area, recreational target shooting SRP locations (Arrastre, Big Pine Flat, 1N09, and Lightening Gulch), and winter recreation SRP locations (Aspen Glen, Rim, Snow Valley, and Barton Flats).

**These recreation sites and areas will continue to have a separate expanded amenity fee:**

Applewhite Campground, Black Mountain Group Campground, Boulder Basin Campground, Dark Canyon Campground, Fern Basin Campground, Marion Mountain Campground, and Fisherman's Group Campground.

**These recreation sites and areas are free:**

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, Wildhorse Trailhead, Holcomb Valley Trailhead, Chaparral Neighborhood Native Plant Garden, Black Mountain Trailhead, Seven Pines Trailhead, Keller Peak Camping Area, Fuller ridge Trailhead, Marion Mountain Trailhead, Seven Pines Camps, Black Mountain Camps, Big Bear South Camping Area, Bluff Mesa Trailhead, Castle Rock Trailhead North, Castle Rock Trailhead South, Champion Lodgepole Pine Interpretive Site, Seven Oaks Trailhead, Black Mountain Lookout, Toolbox Springs Camping Area, Thomas Mountain Camping Area, Belleville Interpretive Site, Big Bear North Camping Area, Butler Peak Fire Lookout, Clark's Ranch Trail Camps, Doble Trail Camp, Gold Fever Interpretive Trailheads, Little Bear Springs Trail Camp, Keller Peak Fire Lookout, Camp Creek NRT Trailhead, Pacific Crest Trailhead (3 locations), Little Green Valley Trailhead, Exploration Trailhead, Tunnel II Trailhead, Fisherman's Trailhead, North Shore NRT Trailhead, T6 Crossing Trailhead, Rock Camp/Metate Trailhead, Holcomb Crossing Trail Camp, and Strawberry Peak Fire Lookout.

Recreation fee revenue is used for operation and maintenance and future enhancements of recreation sites. More information about recreation fees and the San Bernardino National Forest Recreation Program can be found in the Forest's Annual Fee Program Accomplishment Reports at:

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3\\_048946](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_048946).

For more information about this recreation fee proposal, please contact Tamara Wilton at (707) 562-8965 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us). Further information about this proposal can also be found on the Forest's website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/sbnf>.

12/1/13

# Cleveland National Forest fees may get chopped

A proposal from the U.S. Forest Service would let the public access more than 30,000 additional acres of the Cleveland National Forest for free.



**BROOKE EDWARDS STAGGS**  
REGISTER WRITER

The plan would eliminate or substantially reduce the size of six recreation areas where visitors are now required to have \$5-a-day Adventure Passes. At Holy Jim in Trabuco Canyon, for example, the area where vehicles would be required to display passes while hiking or fishing would be roughly a fifth the size it is now.

Large swaths of the Ortega Highway recreation area would no longer be restricted, including the route to Ortega Falls. Other affected areas would include the Wildomar off-highway vehicle area in Riverside County, plus Corral Canyon, Mount Laguna and Tenaja in San Diego County.

Fees still would apply in spots with amenities maintained by the Forest Ser-



FILE PHOTO: DAVID WHITING, THE REGISTER

**A U.S. Forest Service proposal would cut out the \$5-a-day-Adventure Pass fee in opening up more than 30,000 additional acres of the Cleveland National Forest at no charge to visitors.**

vice, the proposal states, including the Holy Jim and San Juan Loop trailheads.

The changes are part of a nationwide overhaul to the recreation fees system, sparked by backlash and lawsuits from the

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# FOREST

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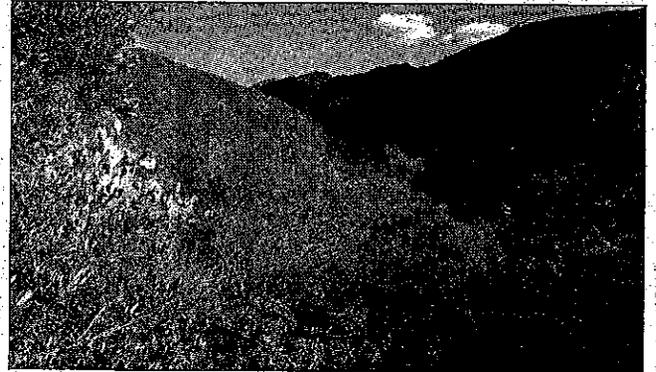
public.

Multiple judges across the country have backed visitors' claims that a 2004 federal law prohibits charging a fee just for driving through or parking in recreation areas. The Forest Service responded by studying all 97 of its fee areas and is looking to drop fee requirements for 73 of them while reducing boundaries for the other 24.

Though he likes the idea of easy access for users, Rich Gomez, co-founder of the environmental group Saddleback Canyons Conservancy, said he supports the fee program as it stands.

"Shouldn't there be a fair-use tax on those who use the forests?" Gomez asked. "It's a small amount of money for a huge benefit, and I think users need to provide financial support to the USFS. Not too different from fishing licenses. While I always hate to pay, the value is worthwhile."

Fee revenue is used to operate, maintain and improve the recreation sites, including cleaning restrooms, removing graffiti and replacing picnic tables. The agency reports state it's unclear how reducing



BROOKE EDWARDS STAGGS, ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

A view toward Holy Jim, a popular hiking spot in the Cleveland National Forest. Under a proposal, visitors wouldn't have to buy Adventure Passes to visit.

## How to get involved

- Details about the proposed change in forest fee areas are at [fs.usda.gov/cleveland](http://fs.usda.gov/cleveland).
- Direct additional questions to Jacob Rodriguez at 951-736-1811 or [jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us](mailto:jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us). Comments may be submitted through Dec. 13 to Rodriguez or by mail to Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District, 1147 E. Sixth St., Corona, CA 92879.

the fee areas will affect that financial support, visitor numbers or natural resources.

There's particular concern over how a spike in visitors might affect the sensitive riparian area at Holy Jim, Forest Service reports state. Officials pledge to carefully monitor the area if the changes are approved.

Residents have until Dec. 13 to weigh in on the proposal.

Comments will be analyzed and shared with the

California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, which is expected to make a recommendation roughly a year from now. If approved, the changes would officially kick in during winter 2014.

Until then, Forest Service officials said rangers are operating as though the proposal has been finalized, enforcing only recreation fees in the reduced areas.

### CONTACT THE WRITER:

949-454-7343 or

[bstaggs@ocregister.com](mailto:bstaggs@ocregister.com)

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## Forest Service Fee Update for the Angeles National Forest

by Casey Schreiner on December 5, 2013



**BIG NEWS** for Southern California Forests – the Adventure Pass may be on its way out ... at least, for most of the Forest Areas.

In a press release sent out by the Forest Service's Pacific Southwest Region just a few moments ago, the Forest Service is asking for public comments on proposed changes that would result in more than 160,000 acres of National Forest land becoming fee-free for the public.

In addition to mixing the fees in the majority of the Forest, the Forest Service is proposing to "substantially reduce" the size of the Big Pines, Mount Baldy, Big Tujunga, and San Gabriel Canyon fee areas, eliminate six existing fee areas, and establish fees in three new locations.

In the summer of 2011, the Forest Service reviewed the 97 fee areas on National Forest System lands and has decided to eliminate fees in 73 areas and reduce the size of 24 others across the entire system.

If you would like to offer a public comment on the proposed changes, it must be submitted by January 6th, 2014. You may submit via mail to Tamara Wilton at [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us), or go old school and send a letter to her attention at:  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

But don't get too excited ... there are a lot of places where you'll still need an Adventure Pass.

The Adventure Pass and the America the Beautiful / the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass **ARE STILL REQUIRED** at the following sites and areas:

San Gabriel Canyon SAF Area  
Mt. Baldy SAF Area  
Big Tujunga SAF Area  
Big Pines SAF Area  
Icehouse Canyon Trailhead  
Switzers Picnic Area  
Mt. Baldy Wayside  
San Antonio Falls Trailhead  
Delta Flats Day Use Site  
Stonyvale Picnic Area



Vogel Flats Picnic Area  
 Wildwood Picnic Area  
 Table Mountain Picnic Area  
 Mescal Picnic Area  
 Big Pines Clubhouse Day Use Area  
 Arch Picnic Area  
 Grassy Hollow Picnic Area  
 Westgate Picnic Area  
 Three Kowhee Flat OHV Staging Areas  
 Buckhorn Station Day Use Area  
 Backhardt Day Use Area  
 Chatham Flat Day Use Area  
 Chino Day Use Site  
 Devil's Canyon Day Use Site  
 Eagle Roost Picnic Area  
 Islip Saddle Day use Area  
 Jarvi Vista Memorial Day Use Site  
 Shortcut Saddle Day Use Site  
 Three Points Day Use Site  
 Vista Picnic Area  
 6000 Foot Day Use Site  
 Little Rock OHV Trailhead  
 Chantry Flats Day Use Area  
 Millard Day Use Area  
 Red Box Day use Area  
 Skyline Park Picnic Area  
 Frenchman's Flat Day Use Area  
 Vincent Gap Trailhead  
 Piru Ponds Interpretive Site  
 Elizabeth Lake Day Use Area  
 Big Rock Campground  
 Blue Ridge Campground  
 Guffy Campground  
 Lupine Campground  
 South Fork Group Campground  
 Sycamore Flat Campground  
 Appletree Campground  
 Peavine Campground  
 Streamside Campground  
 Zuni Campground  
 Winter recreation SRP locations (Mt. Baldy, Big Pines, and Angeles Crest).

Manker, Coldbrook, Crystal Lake, Bandido, Buckhorn, Meadow Group, Coulter Group, Horse Flat, Chilao-Little Pine, and Chilao-Manzanita campgrounds will continue to charge an expanded use fee.

And the following sites are now FREE:

West Fork Trail Camp  
 Trail Canyon Trailhead  
 Cabin Flat Trailhead  
 South Fork Trailhead  
 Bouquet Crossing Trailhead  
 Los Cantillos Picnic Area  
 Drinkwater OHV Staging Area  
 Cooper Canyon Trail Camp  
 Little Jimmy Trail Camp  
 Sulphur Springs Trail Camp  
 Cascade Picnic Area  
 Eaton Saddle Trailhead  
 Echo Mountain Picnic Area  
 Georges Gap Trailhead  
 Inspiration Point  
 Sunset Ridge Trailhead  
 The Pines Picnic Area  
 Bear Canyon Trail Camp  
 Devore Trail Camp  
 Hoeges Trail Camp  
 Idlehour Trail Camp  
 Mt. Lowe Trail Camp  
 Spruce Grove Trail Camp  
 Valley Forge Trail Camp  
 and San Gabriel Canyon OHV Overlook.

For the time being, the Angeles National Forest will not be enforcing fees in the FREE areas listed above. From their press release:



Consistent with direction on implementation of the national fee area review, the Angeles National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the sites and reduced areas listed below.

**Bio** Latest Posts



**Casey Schreiner**

Casey is the founder and editor of Modern Hiker and has been hiking the trails of Southern California and beyond since 2004. Modern Hiker has been featured in several prominent local publications, including the Los Angeles Times and KCET, and has been sponsored by Gore-Tex, Columbia Sportswear, and Honda. In 2013, the site was nominated for two L.A. Weekly Best of the Web Awards - Best Sports Blog and Best City App. Casey was one of the original producers on G4's "Attack of the Show" for seven years and was Head Writer for its final three years. Casey also hosted and co-wrote the web show "The MMO Report" for five years. Casey is currently the Series Producer and Head Writer for pivot's TakePart Live. Casey can be found on [Google+](#) and [Twitter](#).



Tagged as: [adventure pass](#), [Angeles National Forest](#), [money](#), [recreation fees](#), [US Forest Service](#)

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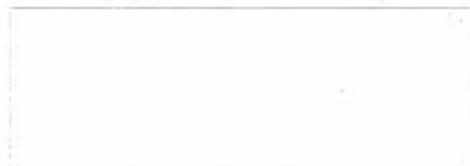
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Photo: Paul Wellman

**SUNSET FOR REC FEES?** If you're just driving through the Los Padres National Forest to take a hike or have a roadside picnic, you may no longer need an Adventure Pass, as a court decision from Arizona said recreational fees aren't necessary if you aren't using amenities.

## Los Padres Forest Proposes Changes in Recreation Fees

*Court Decision in February 2012 May Have Prompted Decision to Eliminate Some Fees*

By Ray Ford

Friday, December 6, 2013

When the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in February 2012 that recreational fees cannot be charged to national forest visitors who aren't using amenities, local forest visitors hoped that they would soon see action by Los Padres Forest officials to eliminate fees for parking near popular hiking areas such as Figueroa Mountain and the Santa Ynez River area. The court ordered mandated that changes be made to fix this within 90 days.

Until today's decision by Los Padres Forest to adjust fees for parking in areas with no developed facilities, almost a year later nothing had changed. As a result of the inaction, last year the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition, located in Durango Colorado, brought a civil lawsuit designed to make the federal agency comply with the ruling

“What in the world do they think they’re doing to ignore the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals?” asked Kitty Benzar, President of the Western Slope coalition. “I’m not crazy about having to sue, but I don’t know what else to do when a federal agency isn’t following the law. You can’t call the sheriff and have the district ranger arrested.” The suit included two Ojai men who have been fighting against the Adventure Pass program for more than a decade. It appears their efforts may have borne fruit though according to the Los Padres press release, the changes come as a result of a national forest review that began in 2011 not the court decision.

## **Seeking Comment**

Los Padres officials announced today that they are seeking public comments proposed changes to fees in six of what are known in forest speak as “standard amenity recreation fee” (SAF) areas at Ballinger Canyon, Mount Pinos, Figueroa Mountain, Goldhill, the Santa Ynez River, Pozo/La Panza and Rose Valley.

Locally in the Figueroa Mountain area you will no longer need an Adventure Pass nor be charged a fee to park at any of the following trailheads: Davy Brown, La Jolla/Ballard, McKinley, Lower Manzana , Munch Canyon, Pino Alto Interpretive Trail, Sunset Valley, White Rock, and Willow Springs trailheads.

It appears from the press release that none of the trailheads in the Santa Ynez Recreation area will be free of charge, at least not in the near future. According to Andrew Madsen, PIO for Los Padres Forest, the SAF areas are required to meet a series of conditions in order to be designated as such and all of the trailheads in the river corridor area meet those conditions.

However, another part of the proposed changes could very well benefit those who head to the Santa Ynez River and Figueroa Mountain areas. If they go into effect many of the day use areas and trailheads within the SAF designated areas will be free of charge for those who have an Adventure Pass or an America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, which costs \$80 annually for the general public or the \$10 Golden Age version, a lifetime pass for those over the age of 62.

Areas which will now be free for use with the appropriate passes include the Santa Ynez Recreation Area, day use areas at White Rock, Lower Oso, Red Rock, Live Oak, Cumbre Peak, First Crossing, the Falls, Sandstone and the trailheads at Aliso Canyon, Upper Oso and Red Rock Trailhead locally and the Pino Alto Picnic Area, Figueroa Lookout Day Use Area, Davy Brown Campground, Nira Campground and Figueroa Campground in that area.

Similar changes in fees were announced for the Mount Pinos and Ojai Ranger District as well. For more information about this recreation fee proposal, please contact Tamara Wilton at (707) 562-8965 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us). Further information about this proposal can also be found on the forest’s website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf>.

Comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by Jan. 6, 2014, to be considered by a citizen’s advisory committee, known as the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

(R-RAC). Comments may be submitted to the attention of Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA, 94592, or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us).

# Forest Service scales back Adventure Pass



Damarie Saldivar, 4, of Hollywood, runs through the snow in Angeles National Forest February 2009, along Angeles Crest Highway. The wilderness area will be exempt from U.S. Forest user fees. Sarah Reingewirtz — Staff Photographer

By [Steve Scauzillo](#), San Gabriel Valley Tribune

Posted: 12/08/13, 10:56 PM PST | Updated: 2 hrs ago



Drew Irby, of Trout Unlimited, teaches Jeremy Santana, 12, and his father Rick Reyes, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan and is an active member of Vet Voice, how to fly fish along the Angeles National Forest's West Fork, which will not be exempt from the U.S. Forest Service's required Adventure Pass. Sarah Reingewirtz — Staff Photographer

Facing increasing legal pressures, the U.S. Forest Service plans to eliminate the \$5-a-day Adventure Pass fee from 160,000 acres in the Angeles National Forest, including popular day-use areas in San Gabriel Canyon and Mount Baldy.

The Forest Service's proposed shrinking fee program will allow millions of Southern Californians to enter the forest without paying the \$5 day pass or carry the \$30 yearly pass.

So far, the agency has proposed turning several areas requiring visitors to pay fees into free-of-charge zones. These include: Angeles Crest, Big Pines-Big Rock, Big Tujunga, Elizabeth Lake, Frenchman's Flat, Front Country, Little Rock, Mount Baldy, Rowher/Drinkwater and San Gabriel Canyon, according to the Forest Service. The list of "free sites" include the popular Devore Trail Camp and Hoeges Trail Camp. However, the West Fork Trailhead would still require an Adventure Pass.

While the news may be welcomed by hikers and off-road vehicle enthusiasts, the proposal will decrease revenues enjoyed by the Forest Service under the 16-year-old Adventure Pass program. Pass dollars are used for maintenance and recreation, such as repairing toilets, removing graffiti and planting trees.

“We do anticipate a reduction in revenue but it is unknown what the financial impacts will be,” said John Heil, a spokesman for the Forest Service’s Pacific Southwest Region.

Under the Recreation Enhancement Act, several forests in the state collect fees from visitors.

The Forest Service collected \$1.2 million in fees in the Angeles forest in 2011. Of that total, \$795,179 was spent on maintenance and repairs, \$204,562 on visitor services and \$43,066 on collecting the fees, according to the 2011 Forest Service Recreation Program Fee Accomplishment Report.

In the San Bernardino forest, \$1.38 million was collected in revenues and \$364,000 was spent on maintenance and repairs; \$282,295 on visitor services and \$373,446 on cost of collections, which included collections on the Angeles, Cleveland and Los Padres forests as well, according to the 2011 report.

“The REA funds will not be spent in the free areas but we do have other options for maintaining those areas such as partnerships and other appropriated funds,” Heil said.

Four hikers won an appellate court ruling in February 2012 that limited the Adventure Pass to areas with specific amenities. All other areas, including parking lots and trail heads, were ordered to be free of charge by Judge Robert Gettleman.

But because the case originated in the Coronado National Forest in Arizona, the Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service did not institute changes, said plaintiff attorney Matt Kenna of the Public Interest Environmental Law firm in Durango, Colo.

“Any court of appeal ruling applies to all Western states,” Kenna said Friday. “They (Forest Service) should have adjusted their fee programs but they didn’t.”

Instead, hikers Richard Fragosa and Alasdair Cyone of Ojai, along with Peter Wiechers of Kernville and John Karevoll of Running Springs, sued Randy Moore, regional forester of the Southwestern Region, in federal court, with the hopes of getting the Forest Service to apply the appellate court ruling nationwide, Kenna said.

The case is scheduled to be heard by Judge Terry J. Hatter in federal court in Los Angeles on March 10. Kenna said the Forest Service has released a plan to scale back the Adventure Pass in court briefs. The plan is similar to the one it announced Thursday.

But Heil denied the plan was a result of the Arizona case. “No. Those are two separate things. We’ve been working on this since 2011. It is not related to the court case of 2012,” he said.

Kenna said the Forest Service has a policy of never admitting any action is a result of losing a court case.

He argues in his lawsuit that the Adventure Pass “erects barriers to low-income citizens” and “represent double taxation” on lands already paid for through taxes. Kenna and Fragosa want to see the Adventure Pass eliminated, not scaled back.

“They’ve indicated there would be some reductions but they are only making it somewhat smaller. They will still charge people who park in a trail head who don’t use amenities,” Kenna said.

The public can send comments on the proposal to Tamara Wilton by email to [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us) or by U.S. mail to: Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592. The Forest Service will hold a public meeting before the 11-member Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) on Jan. 15 and Jan. 16. The location has not yet been determined, Heil said.

[http://santamariatimes.com/news/local/changes-possible-for-los-padres/article\\_f1b497ba-5fdb-11e3-b174-001a4bcf887a.html](http://santamariatimes.com/news/local/changes-possible-for-los-padres/article_f1b497ba-5fdb-11e3-b174-001a4bcf887a.html)

## Changes possible for Los Padres

*40,000 acres in forest could become fee-free*

December 08, 2013 12:15 am • [Staff report](#)

[\(0\) Comments](#)

Los Padres National Forest officials are seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Ballinger, Mount Pinos, Figueroa Mountain, Goldhill, Santa Ynez, Pozo/La Panza, and Rose Valley standard amenity recreation fee (SAF) areas.

The proposed changes could substantially reduce the size of the Santa Ynez area, eliminate the remaining six standard amenity fee areas, and establish special recreation permit (SRP) fees in two locations. They would result in more than 40,000 acres becoming available to the public free of charge.

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 SAF areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to eliminate the SAF area designation for 73 recreation areas and reduce the size for the remaining 24 nationally.

The proposed changes for the seven Los Padres National Forest SAF areas are consistent with the results of the national review.

In accordance with direction on implementation of the national fee area review, the Los Padres National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the sites and reduced areas listed below.

Comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by Jan. 6, 2014, to be considered by a citizen’s advisory committee, known as the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

(R-RAC). Comments may be submitted to the attention of Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA, 94592, or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us).

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all Recreation Resource Advisory Committee meetings. The next meeting is planned for Jan. 15-16, 2014.

More information about the R-RAC and upcoming meeting can be found at [www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs](http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs).

The Adventure Pass and the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass would be accepted as payment for recreation fees at the following sites and areas:

Santa Ynez SAF Area, White Rock Day Use Area, Aliso Trailhead, Lower Oso Day Use Area, Red Rock Day Use Area, Live Oak Day Use Area, Piedra Blanca Trailhead, Cumbre Day Use Area, First Crossing Day Use Area, Upper Oso Trailhead, Falls Day Use Area, Sandstone Day Use Area, Red Rock Trailhead, Pino Alto Picnic Area, Figueroa Lookout Day Use Area, Rose Valley Campground, Middle Lion Campground, Kings Campground/OHV Staging Area, Goldhill Camping Area, Ballinger Campground/ OHV Staging Area, Davy Brown Campground, Nira Campground (including Upper Manzanita Trailhead), Figueroa Campground, Pozo/La Panza (Off Highway Vehicle SRP), and Mt. Pinos (Winter Recreation SRP).

The following recreation sites and areas are free of charge:

Upper Rose Valley Lake Day Use Area, Lower Rose Valley Day Use Area, Howard Creek Trailhead, Catway Day Use Area, Davy Brown Trailhead, La Jolla/Ballard Trailhead, McKinley Trailhead, Lower Manzanita Trailhead, Munch Canyon Trailhead, Pino Alto Interpretive Trail, Sunset Valley Trailhead, White Rock Trailhead, and Willow Springs Trailhead.

Recreation fee revenue is used for operation, maintenance and future enhancements of recreation sites. More information about recreation fees and the Los Padres National Forest Recreation Fee Program can be found in the Forest's Annual Fee Program Accomplishment Reports at [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/ ?cid=fsbdev3\\_048946](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_048946).

For more information about this recreation fee proposal, contact Tamara Wilton at 707-562-8965 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us).

Further information about this proposal can also be found on the forest's website at [www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/lpnf).

<http://www.independent.com/news/2013/dec/06/los-padres-forest-proposes-changes-recreation-fees/?on>



# \$5 forest fee may be dropped

PRES GARRITY 2/19/13

BY JANET ZIMMERMAN  
STAFF WRITER  
jzimmerman@pe.com

The U.S. Forest Service plans to drop its unpopular recreation fees in 350,000 acres of Southern California forests.

The user fees, imposed for nearly 10 years in most areas of Southern California's national forests, are used principally to pay for maintenance and other visitor-related expenses in the heavily used forests, agency officials

say. Visitors have needed a \$5-per-day or \$30-per-year Adventure Pass or other interagency passes. Repeat violators risked a fine.

The changes, still subject to public comment, would eliminate fees in some areas of the San Bernardino, Cleveland, Angeles and Los Padres national forests.

In the San Bernardino, access fees would be dropped in the Arrowhead, Barton Flats, Big Bear North, and

South, Black Mountain, Falls, Lytle Creek and Thomas Mountain areas.

In all, 120,000 acres would be fee-free in the San Bernardino National Forest, 30,000 in the Cleveland, 160,000 in the Angeles and 40,000 in Los Padres.

Existing fees would remain in place for the following campgrounds: Applewhite, Black Mountain Group, Boulder Basin, Dark Canyon, Fern Basin, Marion Mountain and

Fisherman's Group.

Details can be found online at [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sbnf/home/?cid=stelprd-b5443024](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/sbnf/home/?cid=stelprd-b5443024).

The plan will be considered Jan. 15 and 16 by the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee.

Public comments must be submitted by Monday, Jan. 6 to Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us).



FILE PHOTO

recreation user fees in much of Lytle Creek and elsewhere would be cut in a new plan.

# REGION: Forest Service plans to ditch fee



FILE PHOTO/THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Recreation user fees in much of the Lytle Creek area and elsewhere in Southern California forests would be eliminated under a U.S. Forest Service proposal.

[BY JANET ZIMMERMAN](#)

STAFF WRITER

December 09, 2013; 05:59 PM

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The user fees, imposed for nearly 10 years in most areas of Southern California's national forests, are used principally to pay for maintenance and other visitor-related expenses in the heavily used forests, agency officials say. Visitors have had to have a \$5-per-day or \$30-per-year Adventure Pass, or other interagency passes. Repeat violators risked a fine.

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<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2013/12/09/3384001/stanislaus-national-forest-reveals.html>

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The U.S. Forest Service plans to drop its unpopular recreation fees in 350,000 acres of Southern California forests that now require visitors to have a \$5-per-day or \$30-per-year Adventure Pass. Fees would remain in place for a handful of campgrounds.

Would you be glad to see the fee go?

**REGION: Forest Service plans to ditch fee**  
[www.pe.com](http://www.pe.com)

The agency has proposed free access to 350,000 acres across Southern California forests where visitors now must pay \$5 per day

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**Cheryl Nagle** Yes. Tried to go on a spontaneous picnic with our kids one day in the Big Bear area. Had to drive back home because everything was off limits without a pass. Parks were set aside for all the people not just people with \$25. extra dollars in their pocket.

6 · December 10 at 11:29am via mobile



**Monica Tholen** I live in Big Bear and am sad to see it go. Now our drive down will be bobbing and weaving trying to avoid all the people parked all over the roadway!

1 · December 10 at 12:21pm



**Sean McCulloch** Yes! Now you can legally stop to take pics without getting an expensive ticket

3 · December 10 at 12:26pm via mobile



**Mike Cuda** Finally some good news...now if we can just get people to pick up their trash and stop carving their names in the trees that would be great!

4 · December 10 at 12:23pm via mobile



**Frank Lewis** I plan on spending a bunch of time next year up there so the \$30 will be great for the year...

2 · December 10 at 11:26am



**Debbie Abel** So where is the money for parks and rec going to come from?

1 · December 10 at 12:27pm



**Hallett Newman** Yes, glad to see the fee go. It never should have been in place to begin with.

1 · December 10 at 12:57pm



**Adri N Memolonis** No, because those fees can help maintain the parks.

December 10 at 9:59pm via mobile



**Crystal Mendoza Probet** Now just get the beaches to stop charging outrageous fees as well

1 · December 10 at 5:53pm via mobile



**Karen Jonas Walther** The lands should be FREELY accessible, so removing that fee is a great move on the forest service's part.

December 10 at 5:31pm via mobile



**Ariane Valdez Shimabukuro** Glad to see it go too! Went up to big bear last month and a ranger gave me a ticket for not having a pass. All I did was park to use the restrooms for literally 5 minutes. I tried explaining that to the ranger, but she was very rude and mean!

December 10 at 2:06pm via mobile



**Donna Stevens Soto** Yes.. we are ENTITLED to access to this lands many forests and natural rivers.

December 10 at 2:18pm via mobile

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Home > Opinion > Editorial Headlines

# EDITORIAL: Scale back forest fees? Yes



The Forest Service should ensure any recreation fees in national forests are fair and reasonable, instead of expediently lucrative.

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THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE | December 12, 2013; 05:27 PM

Public lands should be open to the public without undue charges. The U.S. Forest Service's plan to scale back the unpopular recreation fees in Southern California forests is a sensible step, and welcome news for Inland residents. And those who favor lower fees should take the opportunity to weigh in now.

The proposal would drop the recreation fee for 120,000 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest, and 30,000 acres in the Cleveland National Forest. Fees would remain in place for campgrounds and some other facilities, but visitors would be able to use many National Forest areas without any charge. The Forest Service is seeking public input on the proposed changes, which are up for consideration by the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee next month (see www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5443037). The deadline for any comments is Jan. 6.

The \$5 per day fee, or \$30 annual pass, has been in place in the Inland region since 1997 — and has prompted public anger ever since. Critics contend the fee is double taxation, because residents already pay taxes that are supposed to support forest operations. Many are annoyed by the idea of shelling out \$5 to enjoy forests that taxpayers own. And visitors who try to duck the fee are subject to a fine.

Just why the Forest Service is adjusting the fee now is not clear, especially given the program's initial claim that the money would help the agency address a backlog of upkeep and other projects. The recreation fee brought in nearly \$1.4 million for the San Bernardino forest in 2011, and more than \$527,000 in the Cleveland National Forest that year. Limiting the extent of the recreation charge would likely trim revenue, though the Forest Service said the potential results of the changes were "unknown."

Further restricting the reach of the fee, however, would offer a more equitable approach for casual forest visitors. The agency says the proposed changes stem from a 2011 national review of the fee program, as an effort to determine whether program was "functioning as effectively as possible."

But the recreation fee has also seen a series of legal challenges, including a 2012 ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. That decision, in an Arizona case, said federal law prohibited the Forest Service from charging fees to people who park and hike without using facilities or services. And certainly there is little fairness in charging a fee for amenities to people who do not use those facilities. Hikers crossing remote stretches of forest are hardly contributing to wear and tear on buildings and infrastructure.

The public now has a chance to weigh in on the issue — and should take that opportunity. Maintaining national forests for all to enjoy takes money, certainly. But any fees for visiting public lands should be fair and reasonable, and not just expediently lucrative.

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**John G** 3 weeks ago

I think it's OK for the public "pay to play" but only where the required amenities are provided and kept in good clean working order. Just paying to travel through or hike/bike in the national forest should not require a fee. I'm glad that the USFS is trying to comply with the court decision.

[Share](#) | [Reply](#)



**kona zach** 3 weeks ago

keep the pass.

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**SteveGrasha** 3 weeks ago

The fee expired years ago (Congressional Sunset Clause) and The Forest Service continued to write tickets as a way to enhance revenue. The Forest Service was defying congress. They knew it, and continued to do it. Federal Court for a parking ticket was an insult to the court and the American People. PEOPLE SHOULD BE FIRED...

[Share](#) | [Reply](#)



**Rusty\_NAV** 3 weeks ago

no, keep the fee. ever since they introduced the fee, there is less junk in the forest

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# Trim forest fees

**P**ublic lands should be open to the public without undue charges. The U.S. Forest Service's plan to scale back the unpopular recreation fees in Southern California forests is a sensible step, and welcome news for Inland residents. And those who favor lower fees should take the opportunity to weigh in now.

The proposal would drop the recreation fee for 120,000 acres in the San Bernardino National Forest, and 30,000 acres in the Cleveland National Forest. Fees would remain in place for campgrounds and some other facilities, but visitors would be able to use many National Forest areas without any charge. The Forest Service is seeking public input on the proposed changes, which are up for consideration by the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee next month (see [www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5443037](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5443037)). The deadline for any comments is Jan. 6.

The \$5 per day fee, or \$30 annual pass, has been in place in the Inland region since 1997 — and has prompted public anger ever since. Critics contend the fee is double taxation, because residents already pay taxes that are supposed to support forest operations. Many are annoyed by the idea of shelling out \$5 to enjoy forests that taxpayers own. And visitors who try to duck the fee are subject to a fine.

Just why the Forest Service is adjusting the fee now is not clear, especially given the program's initial claim that the money would help the agency address a backlog of upkeep and other projects. The recreation fee brought in nearly \$1.4 million for the San Bernardino forest in 2011, and more than \$527,000 in the Cleveland National

Forest that year. Limiting the extent of the recreation charge would likely trim revenue, though the Forest Service said the potential results of the changes were "unknown."

**Any fees for visiting public lands should be fair and reasonable, and not just expediently lucrative.**

Further restricting the reach of the fee, however, would offer a more equitable approach for casual forest visitors.

The agency says the proposed changes stem from a 2011 national review of the fee program, as an effort to determine whether program was "functioning as effectively as possible."

But the recreation fee has also seen a series of legal challenges, including a 2012 ruling by the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. That decision, in an Arizona case, said federal law prohibited the Forest Service from charging fees to people who park and hike without using facilities or services. And certainly there is little fairness in charging a fee for amenities to people who do not use those facilities. Hikers crossing remote stretches of forest are hardly contributing to wear and tear on buildings and infrastructure.

The public now has a chance to weigh in on the issue — and should take that opportunity. Maintaining national forests for all to enjoy takes money, certainly. But any fees for visiting public lands should be fair and reasonable, and not just expediently lucrative.

# WILD AND FREE

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PHOTOS BY JUAN CARLO/THE STAR

Stephen Bryne, of Ventura, views the Chorro Grande Trail, which starts off state Highway 33 and climbs to about 7,000 feet in Los Padres National Forest. An Adventure Pass to the forest costs \$5 per day or \$30 per year.

By Je  
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## Plan ends some Los Padres fees

By Cheryl Carlson  
ccarlson@vcstar.com  
805-437-0260

Visitors to Los Padres National Forest should find more free access these days.

The U.S. Forest Service has released a plan to limit the number of spots where visitors must buy an Adventure Pass. Officials say the changes would allow the public free access to an additional 40,000 acres in Los Padres.

"We made some pretty significant changes," said Tamara Wilton, recreation fee manager for the region.

The plans have been in the works for years. Public comments are being accepted, and the



Maribeth Farrell and her son, Ryan, 9, of Ojai, hike to the Piedra Blanca Trail. Officials are trying to reduce the national forest area with fees, but the Piedra Blanca parking lot would still require an Adventure Pass. A lawsuit challenges the right of the U.S. Forest Service to charge fees.

California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee will make its recommendation on the proposal in January.

In the meantime,

officials said, the fees are not being enforced at spots proposed for elimination.

See PASS, 2A

### HOW TO COMMENT

Proposed changes for Los Padres National Forest are at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/lpnf/home/?cid=stelprdb5443020>. Comments may be submitted to Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us). Comments must be submitted by Jan. 6 to be considered by a residents advisory committee, the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee. More information about the committee and its January meeting is at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

Some in Ventura County, however, said the changes do not go far enough.

The public already pays taxes to support public lands, said Alasdair Coyne, of Ojai, conservation director of the Keep Sesse Wild group. The public should not have to pay just to park and walk into the forest, he said.

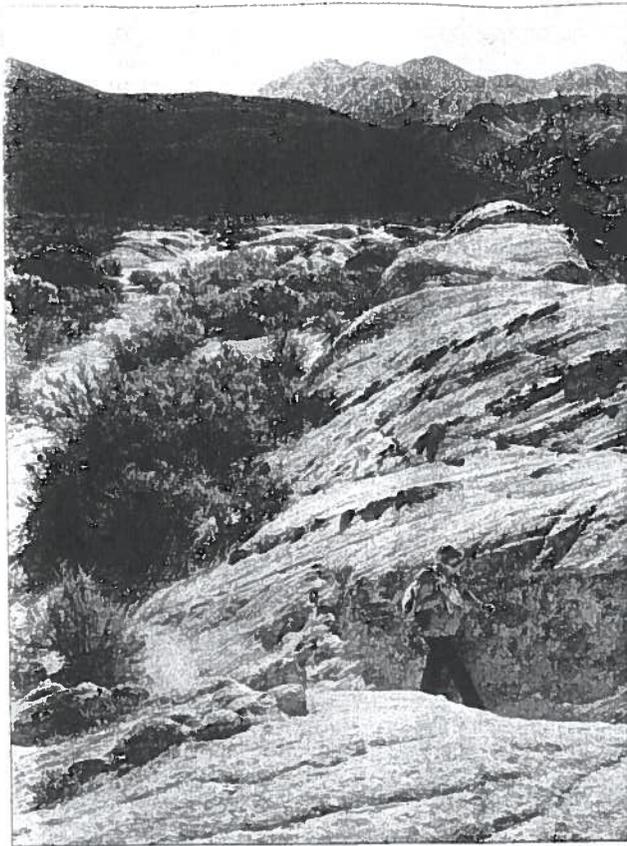
Last year Coyne was one of four hikers who sued the Forest Service, challenging its right to charge fees at the four Southern California national forests.

The lawsuit was filed in federal court in October 2012. Coyne said parties met in Los Angeles last summer but did not resolve their differences. He expects a decision in the case next year.

It's one of several legal challenges to such fees in the past several years.

In Colorado the Forest Service agreed to charge only those who use a few improved parking areas and interpretive sites at Mount Evans. The 2012 decision settled a lawsuit arguing that visitors entering the forest without using amenities should not be charged.

The Forest Service fee study started earlier. Plans call for scaling back the number of areas requiring amenity fees to 24 nationwide from 97. Remaining sites also are being reduced in size.



Maribeth Farrell and her husband, Shawn, and son Ryan, 9, of Ojai.

In California the fee is called the Adventure Pass and is \$5 per day or \$30 per year. The money funds services such as restrooms, picnic tables, patrols and trail maintenance, officials said.

To determine where the fees should still be required, Wilton said, the Forest Service tried to concentrate on areas most heavily used for recreation.

In some cases the fee areas included a larger swath of the forest, and the proposal limits the size of the

boundary.

Elsewhere it gets rid of the area but still requires a fee at a specific site or sites, such as a picnic spot, campground or trailhead. Those sites have amenities such as parking, toilets, trash containers, interpretive signs and picnic tables, according to the Forest Service.

In Los Padres officials proposed reducing the size of the Santa Ynez standard amenity fee area.

The other six existing "standard amenity fee" areas — Ballinger, Mount



JUAN CARLO/THE STAR

Maribeth Farrell and her husband, Shawn, and son Ryan, 9, of Ojai, hike toward the Piedra Blanca Trail.

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In some cases the fee areas included a larger swath of the forest, and the proposal limits the size of the

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In Los Padres officials proposed reducing the size of the Santa Ynez standard amenity fee area.

The other six existing "standard amenity fee" areas — Ballinger, Mount

Pinos, Figueroa Mountain, Goldhill, Pozo-La Panza and Rose Valley — would be eliminated.

But an Adventure Pass would still be required at some specific spots in those locations. For example, a pass would still be required at the Piedra Blanca Trailhead in Rose Valley.

Visitors might not notice much of a change because many visit the popular hiking spot, Coyne said.

Jim Hines, conservation coordinator for the

Los Padres chapter of the Sierra Club, said he understands that the Forest Service needs financial support to provide amenities and services. But instead of the fees, Congress should fund the agency appropriately, he said.

Forests so near a large urban area are treasured resources, Coyne said. "People throughout Southern California have opportunities to find themselves in a very empty place with just nature surrounding them."

plans to appeal the ruling.

## REGION: Forest Service seeks comments on proposed changes



U.S. FOREST SERVICE The Press Enterprise  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE  
Published: December 30, 2013; 02:04 PM

San Bernardino National Forest officials are seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Arrowhead, Barton Flats, Big Bear North, Big Bear South, Black Mountain, Falls, Lytle Creek and Thomas Mountain standard amenity recreation fee areas.

The Forest Service is proposing to substantially reduce the size of the Lytle Creek standard amenity recreation fee area, eliminate the remaining seven, and establish special recreation permit fees in eight locations.

These proposed changes would result in more than 120,000 acres becoming available to the public free of charge.

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 standard amenity recreation fee areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to eliminate the SAF area designation for 73 recreation areas and reduce the size for the remaining 24 areas nationally.

The proposed changes for the eight San Bernardino National Forest standard amenity recreation fee areas are consistent with the results of the national review.

Comments on the proposed changes must be submitted by Jan. 6, to be considered by a citizens advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee. Comments may be submitted to the attention of Tamara Wilton, Pacific Southwest Region, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, California 94592 or [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all Recreation Resource Advisory meetings. The next meeting is planned for Jan. 15-16. More information about the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee and upcoming meetings can be found at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>

## Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS

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**From:** matt stewart <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 05, 2013 2:14 PM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS  
**Subject:** Comments on adventure pass



**For Immediate Release**

**Contact: Anabele Cornejo, [858-674-2984](tel:858-674-2984)**

### **Forest Service Seeks Public Comments on Proposed Changes to Recreation Fee Areas on the Cleveland National Forest**

**CALIFORNIA, November 4, 2013-** Cleveland National Forest officials are seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Corral Canyon, Holy Jim, Mt. Laguna, Ortega, Tenaja and Wildomar Recreation Fee Areas. The forest is proposing to eliminate or substantially reduce the size of these standard amenity fee areas. These proposed changes result in over 30,000 acres becoming free to the public. Comments should be submitted by January 3, 2014 so they may be compiled, analyzed, and shared with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee.

The Adventure Pass and America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands passes will continue to be accepted as payment for recreation fees at the following sites and areas:

- Holy Jim Standard Amenity Fee Area
- 3 small Mt. Laguna Standard Amenity Fee Areas
- Bobcat Meadow Campground
- Bear Valley Trailhead
- El Cariso South Picnic Area
- Tenaja Trailhead
- Laguna Interpretive/Day Use Site
- Pioneer Mail Picnic Site
- Nobel Canyon Trailhead
- Four Corners Trailhead
- Corral Canyon Campground
- El Cariso Picnic Area
- San Juan Loop Trailhead
- Wildomar OHV Staging Area
- Desert View Picnic Area

These sites will continue to have a separate expanded amenity fee:

- Blue Jay Campground<sup>1</sup>
- Falcon Group Campground
- Laguna Campground<sup>1</sup>
- Horse Heaven Group Campground
- El Cariso Campground
- Upper San Juan Campground
- El Prado Group Campground
- Wildomar Campground

<sup>1</sup> Passes only accepted for day use within this site, including trailheads

These recreation sites are free:

- Elsinore Hang Gliding Sites #1 & 2
- Ortega Falls Day Use Site
- Tenaja Falls Trailhead
- Garnet Information Site
- Storm Canyon Vista/ Trailhead
- Firefighter Memorial Site
- Morgan Trailhead
- Fisherman's Camp Trailhead
- West Horsethief Trailhead
- Penny Pines Interpretive Site
- El Cariso Information Site

In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 fee areas on National Forest System lands. As a result of the review, the Forest Service plans to remove the fee area designations for 73 fee areas and reduce the boundaries for the remaining 24 fee areas across the nation. The proposed changes for the six Cleveland National Forest recreation fee areas are consistent with the results of the national review.

The proposed changes to the Cleveland National Forest recreation fee areas will be presented to a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC). Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups. The public is welcome to attend and comment at all R-RAC meetings. The next R-RAC meeting is expected to be held in the winter of 2014. More information about the R-RAC, including meeting dates and locations can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

If adopted, it is anticipated that the proposals for the Cleveland recreation fee areas would be implemented in the winter of 2014. In the interim, consistent with direction on implementation of the national review, the Cleveland National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the listed recreation sites and reduced area boundaries.

Fee revenue is used for operations and maintenance and future enhancements of these recreation sites. More information about the recreation fees and the Cleveland National Forest Recreation Program can be found in the Forest's Annual Fee Program Accomplishment Reports at: [http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3\\_048946](http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=fsbdev3_048946).

For more information about this fee proposal, please contact Jacob Rodriguez by phone at [\(951\) 736-1811](tel:9517361811) or by email: [jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us](mailto:jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us). Further information about this proposal, can also be found on the forest website at: [www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland](http://www.fs.usda.gov/cleveland).

Comments may be submitted to: Cleveland National Forest, Trabuco Ranger District, 1147 East Sixth Street, Corona, CA 92879 or by email at: [jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us](mailto:jfrodriquez@fs.fed.us).

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**Jacob,**

**I received this email from a fellow outdoorsman. To keep this plain and simple, all the adventure pass requirements need to be removed from all of our national forests. I've been**

**camping/hunting/fishing/riding/hiking in our national forests for more than 30 years and I never remember me getting to vote on these taxes/fees. That's taxation without representation in its purest form. The government, both federal and state make a mockery out of just about everything they touch. Charging me to access our national forest is like charging someone to go swimming in the Pacific ocean. The national forests are our national treasures, not to be monetized by the government to create jobs for people.**

**It states these comments will be shared with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee. I guess paying all these taxes/fees to go into our national forest pays for their salaries too. Too bad the money that is collected never goes where it's supposed to. I know that's more of a state issue than a federal one, but let's get serious. In CA, the green/red sticker money, car registration, smog fees, and the adventure pass (I believe was started here in good Ole CA) never allocate the money the way it was intended. The general fund gets funded and the money gets put to other things. Sounds like taxes and not fees to me sir. It would be one thing if I saw the forests with better access points, restrooms, clean campgrounds, etc. etc. But that's not what I see in my forests anymore. All I see is trash and roads closed all over the place. And usually a forest ranger or fireman sitting around doing not much of anything. Maybe you guys could take a lesson in managing a forest and do some research before you go enacting some new laws/rules/taxes/fees. The USFS is becoming more and more like the BLM every day it seems. Maybe that's the plan though huh?**

**A concerned citizen,**

**Matt Stewart**

## Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS

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**From:** John G <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 13, 2013 5:36 AM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS  
**Subject:** Proposal for Rec. Fee Areas Public Comment

Mr. Rodriguez;

I just read a press release dated November 4th wherein the FS is seeking public comments on proposed changes to the Recreation Fee Areas within the CNF. A reply from interest public members is due by January 3, 2014 according to the press release.

As a member of the public I am interested in getting more details and staying informed about this proposal. I read that there will be some notices published in the local newspaper (San Diego Union Tribune) and that information will be posted at the affected sites.

Please let me know when and where these postings will occur. I would like to be kept informed of the public notification efforts.

I hope to comment after I read the details of the proposal.

Thank you

John Grisafi  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]  
Guatay, Ca. 91931

**Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS**

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**From:** marcos cerda [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 01, 2013 2:51 PM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS  
**Subject:** Keep adventure pass fee program as is.

As much as I dislike paying fees, I agree with Rich Gomez's statement, "It's a small amount of money for a huge benefit..." (Orange County Register, local 12, 12/1/13).  
We need to support our forest service in any way we can.

-Marcos Cerda

**Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS**

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**From:** Chris Hudnall [REDACTED] >  
**Sent:** Monday, December 02, 2013 12:15 PM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS  
**Subject:** Holy Jim

Jacob – Thanks for helping with this. As a frequent hiker up there, I can tell you I would gladly pay something to help keep up the canyon. And I think everybody feels that way. The problem is, we don't know where or who to pay. A steel lock box or pipe we can drop an envelope in maybe. If we need to pay at Cook's Corner, let us know before we leave the pavement, not after we get to the trailhead. Thanks again - Chris

## Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS

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**From:** John G [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 05, 2013 7:46 AM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS  
**Subject:** Public Comment on Changes to Recreation Fee Areas within the CNF  
**Attachments:** Rodriguez Letter 1 of 2 (2).jpg; Rodriguez Letter 2 of 2 (3).jpg

Jake;

Thanks for your response to my e-mails about the public comment that the Forest Service is seeking with regards to the changes proposed for Recreation Fee Areas within the Cleveland National Forest.

I attached a copy of a letter that I will mail to you today. My comments are in general for the entire CNF but I am most familiar with the Mount Laguna Recreation Area so I have tried to focus on what I know based on my experience in the local area. My comments are submitted as a private citizen and not on behalf of LMVA. Since I am a volunteer with the organization I have a better insight on the issues so I have included my affiliation in the letter.

I would appreciate being kept in the loop on this proposal.

Thanks  
John Grisafi

[REDACTED]  
Guatay, Ca. 91931  
[REDACTED]

December 5, 2013

Jake Rodriguez  
Recreation & Lands Officer  
Trabuco Ranger District  
Cleveland National Forest  
1147 E Sixth Street  
Corona, CA. 92879

Mr. Rodriguez;

In response to the request for public comments on proposed changes to the Recreation Fee Areas within the Cleveland National Forest as described in the November 4<sup>th</sup> 2013 Press Release, I have the following comments:

As a lifelong resident of San Diego County, I have been regular user of the Mount Laguna Recreation Area in eastern San Diego County. I am also a member of the Laguna Mountain Volunteer Association (LMVA) and have been volunteering at the visitor center on Mount Laguna for the past three years.

The National Forest Adventure Pass is one of the items that LMVA sells to the public at the visitor center and at selected locations during the winter season where visitors engage in "snow play" activities.

The amount of revenue that LMVA collects as a result of the sale of the daily and annual passes will be negatively impacted by the proposed changes. Despite the loss of revenue from the Adventure Pass sales, I support the concept of limiting the SAF requirement to areas where all of the standard amenities are provided.

One of the amenities included in the standards are restrooms. The Forest Service requested help from volunteers as a result of the loss of contract janitorial services at the Mount Laguna Recreation Area a couple years ago and the challenge to keep the restrooms clean has not always been successful. Therefore I hope that the Forest Service will be able to obtain the funding needed to provide clean restrooms for the public on a regular basis at each of the locations where the fee is required

I would also like to see the Forest Service provide clear signage at each location where the proposed SAF sites are established so that the members of the public will be better informed about where the Adventure Pass is required. Confusion regarding where and when the fees are required has been an issue for the public over the past year or so. I look forward to a final decision on the proposal as soon as practical. I really appreciate

all of the services provided by the staff of the Forest Service in our area and hope that the proposed changes will help to make our local forest even better.

Sincerely;

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Grisafi".

John Grisafi

[REDACTED]  
Guatay, Ca. 91931  
[REDACTED]

**December 5, 2013, Brian Menna - Voicemail to Jacob Rodriguez, Recreation and Lands Officer, Trabuco Ranger District:** *Stated that he saw the article on fee reductions in the Orange County Register and said "I support your move to remove those fees".*

**From:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Bcc:** "Tamara Wilton (twilton@fs.fed.us)"  
**Subject:** RE: Confusingly worded press releases  
**Date:** Thursday, December 05, 2013 7:38:00 PM

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Hi Ben,

Thank you for your question. From the press release please see the following excerpt '*Consistent with direction on implementation of the national fee area review, the Angeles National Forest has not been issuing notices of required fees or enforcing recreation fees outside of the sites and reduced areas listed below.*' The full proposals will be posted on the Forest's website and they include the following excerpt '*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).*' The sites listed in the press release are free.

Sincerely, Tamara

**Tamara Wilton**

Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator

Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager

twilton@fs.fed.us

w: 707-562-8965  
c: 530-228-7828

1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592



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**From:** Ben Hines [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 05, 2013 5:38 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Confusingly worded press releases

Hi Tarmara,

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/news-events/?cid=STELPRDB5442965> -- states

**"These recreation sites and areas are free:"**

**I think you meant to say**

**"These recreation sites and areas would be free under this proposal"**

Correct? they aren't currently free, yet.

This has already caused one blog/ story based on this press release to state that they are now

free:

<http://www.modernhiker.com/2013/12/05/forest-service-fee-update-for-the-angeles-national-forest/>

thanks,

-Ben

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](mailto:Wilton.Tamara-FS)  
**Subject:** Re: Los Padres proposal  
**Date:** Monday, December 09, 2013 5:37:52 PM

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Thanks and good luck.

"Wilton, Tamara -FS" <[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)> wrote:

Jim, Thank you very much for your comment. I will share with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**  
Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator  
Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager  
[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)  
w: 707-562-8965  
c: 530-228-7828  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592



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**From:** Jim [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, December 07, 2013 7:51 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Los Padres proposal

I support the proposal to make portions of Los Padres national forest free access, especially in Ventura county.

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**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Adventure Pass Fees  
**Date:** Monday, December 09, 2013 10:24:50 AM

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Mark,

Thank you for your comments. I will share with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Tamara Wilton

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Mark Lisman [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 08, 2013 7:48 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Adventure Pass Fees

The forest is public land owned by us not the government. I will never buy one! The only people that suffer are our youth. Wake up and open the forest for all!!

Sent from my iPod

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Fee modifications in the Los Padres National forest  
**Date:** Monday, December 09, 2013 10:39:11 AM

---

Dear Al,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting. I am including a link to where you may view the Rose Valley proposal, please see the last page of the proposal for a map of the Rose Valley area affected by this proposal: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5443037>. The America the Beautiful-Federal Lands Recreation Passes, which include the senior pass, and the previously issued Golden Age Passport, are all accepted for payment of standard amenity recreation fees. I've attached a link which explains the benefits of the recreation passes: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/passes-permits/recreation>.

Each of the proposals provides details on each site and where passes are accepted. Thanks again for your interest.

Tamara Wilton

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 08, 2013 1:45 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Fee modifications in the Los Padres National forest

Is it possible to email me a map which shows all the different Rose Valley areas affected by this proposal.

Regardless, I would like to suggest that a Golden Age Passport be eligible for admission into all of the areas listed.

Al Knuth

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Forest free with no passes needed  
**Date:** Monday, December 09, 2013 10:41:10 AM

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Sylvia,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely, Tamara Wilton

**From:** Sylvia Dohnal [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 08, 2013 8:02 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Forest free with no passes needed

I am writing to object to the idea that there will now be no costs associated with using forest lands. We already know the consequences

of heavy usage: run-down facilities, broken toilets, uncollected trash and scads of litter - including children's diapers. There needs to be some other way to monitor usage, if not a paid pass, then an online recording of car licenses and/or user's names. Someone needs to rethink some

of the consequences to this decision.

Sylvia Dohnal

Arcadia, CA

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [Ken Sikorski](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Lytle Creek standard amenity recreation fee (SAF)  
**Date:** Monday, December 09, 2013 12:18:45 PM

---

Hi Ken,

Thank you for your interest in the recreation fee area proposal for Lytle Creek. I am including the website link to where you can find copies of all of the proposals, including the one for Lytle Creek (located on the San Bernardino National Forest). You will find a map showing the proposed changes on the last page of each proposal: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5443037>. Please let me know if you have any questions. I look forward to your comments and will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator  
Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

w: 707-562-8965  
c: 530-228-7828

1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592



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**From:** Ken Sikorski [<mailto:ksikorski@wwwd.org>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 09, 2013 11:10 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** FW: Lytle Creek stadard amenity recreation fee (SAF)

---

**From:** Ken Sikorski  
**Sent:** Monday, December 09, 2013 11:05 AM  
**To:** 'twilto@fs.fed.us'  
**Cc:** Anthony Butch Araiza; Tom Crowley  
**Subject:** Lytle Creek stadard amenity recreation fee (SAF)

Hi Tamara,

The West Valley Water District will submit comments on the proposed changes to the Recreation Fee Areas in the San Bernardino National Forest. I am looking to find a map that will define the new proposed SAF reduced area for Lytle Creek.

The West Valley Water District has Water Rights in Lytle Creek dating back to 1897. Lytle Creek provides a substantial amount of drinking water to our customers in the North Fontana and Rialto area.

Thank You,

WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Ken Sikorski  
Superintendent/Chief Operator

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [Chavez, Beatrice -FS](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Fee or no Fee  
**Date:** Monday, December 09, 2013 1:43:59 PM

---

Dear Beatrice,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely, Tamara Wilton

-----Original Message-----

From: Chavez, Beatrice -FS  
Sent: Monday, December 09, 2013 1:40 PM  
To: Wilton, Tamara -FS  
Subject: Fee or no Fee

I work out of the San Bernardino, on the Front Country Ranger District. Personally, I feel that the \$5.00 is an appropriate fee inasmuch as I have seen a huge increase in visitors from all over southern California; especially from the L.A. area. Bonita Falls which 7 years back might have received a few hundred visitors over the past two years has increased dramatically, I would not be exaggerating if I said by the thousands per year. Especially attractive to young adults. There are bumper to bumper visitors coming up Lytle Creek Road. The increase of visitors to Lytle Creek has created traffic congestion, trash and vigilance. The current budget constraints has eliminated the seasonal staff and now we rely on volunteers to do the cleanup and patrolling.

This area is especially attractive to the low income families because they enjoy a family outing and an opportunity to get away from the urban areas. I have not once heard them complain about the fee. The ones that complain are the middle class who complain about the fee because they already pay taxes but want something to be done about the graffiti and the trash. If anything, the pass fee should go towards EFFECTIVE interpretive programs. Most of the blame for the trash and other misbehavior is blamed on the usual patsy, the hispanic community. There should be a concerted effort to engage the hispanic business community and leaders to address this part of the problem.

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Comment on Adventure Pass Program  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2013 10:26:16 AM

---

Dear Michael,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

w: 707-562-8965

c: 530-228-7828

1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592



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---

**From:** Michael McNamara [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2013 10:25 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Comment on Adventure Pass Program

Dear Ms. Wilton,

I completely oppose the Adventure Pass program. It is essentially double taxation. Furthermore, it represents a degradation of the wilderness experience. No one wants to feel like they are living in a totalitarian state where you have to purchase 'permission' – show your papers – just to take a walk in what is a publicly owned land.

Furthermore, I am completely shocked that the government would entertain the notion of commercializing, privatizing, or otherwise turning over control of National Forest assets to be run by private companies or entities. Is everything for sale? Is nothing sacred or void of advertising? Is there nowhere in this land we can find respite from corporate logos or ads?

Please, please, please stop the insanity.

Regards,  
Michael McNamara

[REDACTED]  
Sylmar, CA 91342  
818-426-2443

P.S. I would like to be put on any mailing list for upcoming meetings or initiative regarding national Forest management and policies.

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Article I read in the Daily Bulletin  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2013 10:22:29 AM

---

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting. I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you and your wife Karen for your long and distinguished volunteer efforts on behalf of both the San Bernardino and Angeles National Forests. We truly could not do our jobs without your valuable assistance. Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

twilton@fs.fed.us

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**From:** Diffenbacher, Steve [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 10, 2013 11:46 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Article I read in the Daily Bulletin

Hi Tamara

First let me introduce myself. My name is Steve Diffenbacher. My wife Karen and I have been volunteers for the San Bernardino and Angeles National Forest's now for 12 years.

In this past weekend's Daily Bulletin there was an article about scaling back the Adventure Passes. I am sure you will hear from the side that is happy to hear it being abolished. But let me talk from the other side of the coin.

It said

"So far, the agency has proposed turning several areas requiring visitors to pay fees into free-of-charge zones. These include: Angeles Crest, Big Pines-Big Rock, Big Tujunga, Elizabeth Lake, Frenchman's Flat, Front Country, Little Rock, Mount Baldy, Rowher/Drinkwater and San Gabriel Canyon, according to the Forest Service."

Here is that article if you have not seen it.

<http://www.dailybulletin.com/lifestyle/20131207/forest-service-scales-back-adventure-pass>

We have been volunteering at the Mt. Baldy Visitors center for the last 10 years giving out hiking trail information, selling passes and being a good steward for the forest.

I have watched as services and employees continually get cut in the forest I love and support. I have seen the change in attitude by visitors entering the visitors center. Their change in attitude is not a positive one. What with services and sequestration and government shutdown what would a person expect.

Seniors are upset when they come in because there are no more paid employees at the visitors center and we do not have senior passes to sell. Visitors seem to be taking their frustrations with the US government out on anybody they feel represents that government.

The Mt. Baldy area gets a large number of visitors. Both hikers and non-hikers. Would it make more sense to make changes to the area so it meets the requirement to require the passes. I am familiar with the Recreation Fee Demonstration Act law passed in the 90s that allowed the sale of passes then the Recreation Enhancement Act passed in 2004 that allowed the continuation of it. Of course I have read about the 9<sup>th</sup> district court of appeals in Arizona. I have also read it and the requirements for parking, bathrooms etc.

We provide visitors sale of passes, information on trails and when we see visitors with their college ages kids from Claremont colleges often we are providing them an education on what the area has to offer.

So now I wonder... how will that 1.2 Million collected from these passes be replaced? What services will be cut to make up that deficit? Will trash collection and graffiti cleanup be cut? Is the visitors center next to get closed because of funds?

Thanks for listening, I for one hate to see the passes stopped.

Steve

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: \$5 fee  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2013 10:15:48 AM

---

Dear Mr. Aubert,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

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---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013 6:05 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** \$5 fee

I have a cabin in Pine Cove and think that the taxes I pay should cover the lakes in the area not the camp grounds. I only use the cabin 4 or 5 times a year at this time but used to go there much more in my younger years. I like to go to Lake Fulmor to fish but when the fee took place I stopped due to convenience of getting the tag. This is due to late arrival up the hill and having to travel to Idylwild the next day and lose the morning fishing. I do believe that campers should pay the fee for camp grounds maintenance and control. I hope this fee stops outside of camping. Thanks

R. W. Aubert

**From:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Adventure Pass fees  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2013 10:11:00 AM

---

Dear Steve,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely, Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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---

**From:** Steven Renquist [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013 7:48 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Adventure Pass fees

Tamara,

I use the forests often and always buy the annual pass. My family and I often visit the forest for sledding in the winter around Big Bear Lake at Mill Creek Road and the Baden Powell trail head off highway 2 near Wrightwood. We also motorcycle out of the Pinnacles Staging area and Miller Canyon area. I think the fee is not too bad assuming it goes directly to support of costs to clean and patrol the area. I don't like the idea of the costs being transferred to the general public many of whom don't use the areas. I also don't like the fact that if clean up and patrolling then relies on other taxes that the areas might be closed or suffer if the government redirects tax revenue to other areas. Keep the fees if it is supporting the people that keep the forest healthy, safe, and fun for those people that use it!

Thanks,  
Steve

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**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: \$5 forest fee  
**Date:** Thursday, December 12, 2013 10:04:51 AM

---

Dear Marcia,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely, Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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**From:** Marcia Miller [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, December 11, 2013 10:53 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** \$5 forest fee

PLEASE DO NOT DROP THIS FEE!!! The picnic grounds, stream and parking areas are a mess now. Forestry agents just cannot keep up with it and I'm getting very tired of cleaning the stream at the back of my property after every weekend.

We don't need more illegals who don't care about the forests and drop their trash everywhere. They start illegal fires and park illegally. Why encourage even more of this by making our forests free to them to destroy?

I can't believe there even was a discussion about the fee at all. If so, the discussion sensibility should be about doubling the fee.

Marcia Miller

[REDACTED]  
Lytle Creek, CA 92358

---

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[UsAutoInsuranceNow.com](#)

Keep the Fee  
NOTE

Dec. 12. 2013

Mrs. Wilton,

In my Area, The San Bernardino  
Mts Surrounds Yucaipa, CA Before  
The \$5.00 Increase Our Surrounding  
Mts Areas were Brutally Abused  
Especially During Summer months Near  
Streams - Our Family Stopped going  
To Area Streams Campgrounds Because  
of Trashy Conditions Especially  
used Diapers Thrown liberally in  
Streams - After the \$5.00 tax was  
Installed Campgrounds were so  
much cleaner. And I think THAT  
was Because #1 People Refused to  
Pay the Fee, in which I think these  
Are the People who shouldn't be  
There Due to Lack of Education on  
The Environment and #2 Because of  
The fee Helps Extra Attention to  
Camp Grounds and Stream Areas -  
Educating the non-Speaking  
English Patrons with a Daughter or  
Signifying a Disclosure to Abide with  
Cleanliness would I think be proper

The latter would apply to everyone.

Sorry about this  
old school type of communication  
but I don't own a computer.

P.S. I work part time and  
in all during the workweek I  
would be interested in applying to  
volunteer my time in your committee  
I am educated in both Spanish  
and English - Served in Advisory  
Committee in School. many years ago!

Sincerely  
Geo. Aguin

I understand some  
articles I've read say  
we're being double  
taxed - Not so THAT'S  
what it takes to keep  
our Mtu. Committee  
Beautiful - So be it.



**From:** Colby, Al -FS  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** FW: PE - LETTER: Open forests to everyone  
**Date:** Saturday, December 14, 2013 12:03:08 PM

---

**From:** Miller, John -FS  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2013 10:45 AM  
**To:** FS-pdl r5 sbf mgt  
**Subject:** PE - LETTER: Open forests to everyone

<http://www.pe.com/opinion/letters-to-the-editor-headlines/20131211-letter-open-forests-to-everyone.ece>

## LETTER: Open forests to everyone



Reader Cheryl Nagle says she is happy that the U.S. Forest Service is considering dropping Adventure Pass fees in many mountain areas in Southern California.  
December 11, 2013; 01:35 AM

I, too, am happy to see the U.S. Forest Service considering dropping the Adventure Pass fees in many places ("Forest Service plans to ditch fee," Dec. 9).

I tried to go on a spontaneous picnic with our kids one day in the Big Bear area, and I had to drive back home because everything was off-limits without a pass.

Parks should be available to all the people, not just those with an extra \$25 in their pocket.

*Cheryl Nagle*

*via Facebook*

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [OnyxCollector@aol.com](mailto:OnyxCollector@aol.com)  
**Subject:** RE: (no subject)  
**Date:** Friday, December 13, 2013 3:12:05 PM

---

Dear David,  
"SAF area" is a standard amenity recreation fee area.  
Tamara Wilton

---

**From:** [OnyxCollector@aol.com](mailto:OnyxCollector@aol.com) [mailto:[OnyxCollector@aol.com](mailto:OnyxCollector@aol.com)]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 13, 2013 11:21 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** (no subject)

"In June 2011, the U.S. Forest Service conducted a national review of the 97 SAF areas on National Forest System lands."

Ms. Wilton,  
What is an "SAF" area?  
David Dills  
Onyx, CA



December 15, 2013

Purdue University  
President's Council

to: TAMARA WILTON  
from: JOHN GLEITER

SUBJECT: ADVENTURE PASS

PLEASE SEND ME THE WILSON AND WILSON INFORMATION  
FOR THE JANUARY 15, 16 2014 MEETING OF THE  
PRAC. AN AGENDA WOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL, IF  
ONE EXISTS AT THIS TIME.

TWENTY YEARS AGO, I WAS AN AVID NATIONAL FOREST  
HIKER AND "TRASH PICKER-UPPER" WHO BECAME VERY  
INVOLVED IN THE ADVENTURE PASS EXPERIMENT. I'M  
ANXIOUS TO LEARN WHAT HAS CHANGED!

THANK YOU.

JOHN



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Pacific  
Southwest  
Region

Regional Office, R5  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592  
(707) 562-8737 Voice  
(707) 562-9240 Text (TDD)

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File Code: 2300

Date: January 2, 2014

Mr. John Gleiter



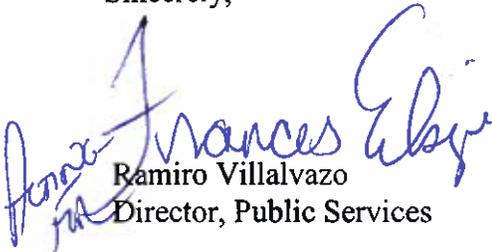
Valley Village, California 91607

Dear Mr. Gleiter;

Thank you for your interest in the upcoming California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC) meeting scheduled for January 15-16, 2014 in San Bernardino, California. I am enclosing the agenda, where you can find the details you have requested. You may also wish to visit the website link for the R-RAC at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs> for more information.

Please contact Jennifer Ebert at (530) 647-5455 if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

  
Ramiro Villalvazo  
Director, Public Services



**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Forest Service / Adventure Pass  
**Date:** Monday, December 16, 2013 4:01:14 PM

---

Dear Mr. Haffey,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely, Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

twilton@fs.fed.us

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**From:** Peter Haffey [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2013 2:25 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Forest Service / Adventure Pass

TAMARA WILTON, PLEASE KNOW THAT WE APPRECIATE EVERYTHING THAT YOU ARE DOING TO SCALE BACK THE DAY USE PASSES, ELIMINATION WOULD BE EVEN BETTER. IT SEEMS UNFAIR THAT WE WORK HARD, PAY OUR TAXES, AND CAN NOT EVEN TAKE A SATURDAY / SUNDAY DRIVE TO THE MOUNTAINS AND PARK ALONGSIDE THE ROAD WITH OUT HAVING THIS ADVENTURE PASS ! I AM ALL FOR THIS ADVENTURE PASS BEING ELIMINATED. SINCERLY PETE HAFFEY [REDACTED]

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](mailto:Wilton, Tamara -FS)  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment - Proposed Fee Restructuring  
**Date:** Monday, December 16, 2013 5:41:55 PM

---

Perfect!  
Thanks much Tamara.  
T.J.

T.J. Fraser  
[REDACTED]

*"Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world."  
John Muir*

---

**From:** Wilton, Tamara -FS [mailto:[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2013 5:36 PM  
**To:** TJ  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment - Proposed Fee Restructuring

Mr. Fraser,  
The R-RAC has meet at various locations, including Redding, Sacramento, Monrovia, Vallejo, and Mammoth Lakes. I just learned today that this meeting will be at the San Bernardino National Forest Supervisors Office, 602 S. Tippecanoe Ave., San Bernardino, CA 92408. More information on the meeting, including the agenda, should be posted soon at this link:  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

Thank you,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator

Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager

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**From:** TJ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2013 5:04 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment - Proposed Fee Restructuring

Hi Tamara,

Apologies for filling up your inbox again but I had a quick question.

I reposted your request for comments among some local hiker/backpacker forums and there seems to be a lot of interest in the process.

I have a quick question. I may like to attend the meeting but, unless I'm mistaken, it seems that past meetings have taken place in Vallejo. Is this correct or will there be a SoCal meeting location?

I'm sure you can understand why Southern California residents would prefer to have an on-site presence regarding issues that impact them directly.

Thanks much.

T.J. Fraser



*"Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world."*  
John Muir

---

**From:** Wilton, Tamara -FS [<mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us>]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2013 3:57 PM  
**To:** TJ  
**Subject:** RE: Public comment - Proposed Fee Restructuring

Dear Mr. Fraser,  
Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator

Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

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**From:** TJ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, December 16, 2013 3:49 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Public comment - Proposed Fee Restructuring

Dear Ms. Wilton,

As you were listed as the contact to provide thoughts regarding the proposed restructuring of the NFS permit fees; I wanted to get in touch with mine.

As an avid hiker and backpacker, I enjoy the upper elevations of the Angeles National Forest weekly and have for many years. While I totally understand the "But we pay taxes" argument I am also aware that the NFS budget takes a hit every year.

Because of that, I am 100% in FAVOR OF MAINTAINING the Adventure Pass system as it currently stands.

When comparing the \$30 a year / \$5 a day pass for the ANF with a CA State Park, which is typically around 12 bucks for day use and \$20 - \$40 to camp, I think it's a small price to pay for what we're afforded. That's why you'll get my 30 bucks a year irrespective of the outcome.

Now that's not to say I don't have other suggestions on how my personal experience as a hiker and backpacker can be made better. I do. But I'll save that for the next time you open up for comments like this. :)

Thank you very much and hike on.

T.J. Fraser  
[REDACTED]

*"Between every two pines is a doorway to a new world."  
John Muir*

**Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS**

---

**From:** John G [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 5:28 AM  
**To:** Rodriguez, Jacob F -FS  
**Subject:** Press release CNF November 4th

Jacob;

Do you know what happened with regards to timing of the press release that was dated November 4th seeking public comments on the recreation fee change proposal? The CNF press release was done one month prior to the same press release done for three other southern California national forest areas( December 5th.)

Also;

Did you get my comments (sent via e-mail and USPS)?

Thanks

John Grisafi

[REDACTED]  
Guatay, CA. 91931

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Fee Comments  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 3:47:00 PM

---

Dear Mr. Amrhein,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely, Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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**From:** Amrhein, John [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 3:40 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Fee Comments

I am all for keeping the Adventure Pass System in place. Unfortunately I think it's the only way money for maintenance, restoration and improvements are going to find its way down to the smaller sites like Thurman Flats, Forest Falls, etc. Where else can you go and spend a day recreating for only \$5.00? I think the fee also discourages the type of people who would rather destroy and deface the facilities than enjoy them. As a resident of Forest Falls for 25 years I've seen the amount of graffiti, dirty diapers and broken beer bottles go way down since the Adventure Passes came into being.

Sincerely,

John Amrhein  
Forest Falls Resident  
[resq65@msn.com](mailto:resq65@msn.com)

---

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This communication contains legally privileged and confidential information sent solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient of this communication you are not authorized to use it in any manner, except to immediately destroy it and notify the sender.

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC)  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 2:28:46 PM

---

Dear Sharyn,

Thank you for your comments, they will be shared with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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**From:** Sharyn Deeringer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2013 2:10 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC)

The current fees are not unreasonable. Those who use the facilities should help pay for the upkeep of our parks and forests.

=====

Sharyn Deeringer

JEFFREY D. SMITH

████████████████████  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92504

Dec. 18, 2013

Tamara Wilton  
Pacific Southwest Region  
1323 Club Dr.  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Ms. Wilton:

As an ordinary citizen I naturally encourage the government to repeal the use tax now imposed on citizens who come upon designated wilderness areas. It is, of course, unfair that we be coerced into paying to be upon land we already own. The government has bought into the conceit that wilderness cannot exist without extensive and expensive management. Management, regulation, enforcement, etc. are ideas that conflict with the notion of wilderness. I hope you will join me in opposing the continuation of this most unfair and irrational tax in all areas not just those presently under review.

Thank you.

*Jeffrey D. Smith*

12-18-13

Ms. Tamara Wilton  
Region 5 Recreation Fee Management Program Manager  
US Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592-1110

Re: Reduction in Adventure Pass required areas

Dear Ms. Wilton,

I am currently a volunteer in the Angeles National Forest, San Gabriel River Ranger District. I have been a volunteer for over twenty three years and am also the CEO of an all volunteer 501 c3 organization, the San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders, [www.sgmtrailbuilders.org](http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org). Our group does trail construction and maintenance, constructs and maintains various trails and other US Forest Service structures and infrastructure. Not the least of our work is selling USFS Adventure Passes.

Before being able to sell Adventure passes, our group of all volunteers had to rely on passing the hat to come up with funds to purchase tools, do maintenance on equipment, purchase safety equipment, and buy oil and gas for our saws and generator. We have about 50 or so committed volunteers that work on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup> Saturdays all year long. We volunteers are responsible for providing our own vehicles, insurance, and auto maintenance on the days we volunteer too. The majority of our volunteers have over twenty five years volunteering with the US Forest Service. We have sponsored over 50 Eagle Scout and various Boy Scout projects. In addition for a number of years we have had hundreds of college students join us to fulfill community service and class assignments.

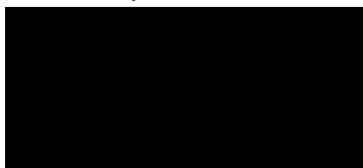
Now there is a proposed plan to either cut back or eliminate the selling of Adventure Passes. Revenue from our selling of the passes, we get the same amount back as any other retailer, helps fund our volunteer organization almost 100%. Unlike retailers that sell the passes, we give 100% of what we sell back to the public in the form of us purchasing needed tools and services for our group that directly benefit the USFS and the users of our forest. Our group of forest volunteers is not alone in this endeavor.

There are half a dozen volunteer groups in our district that sell passes to generate operating revenue. We must buy the passes up front like everyone else that sells them, and be responsible for maintenance of records of sales and any losses. Where we differ from the normal retailer of the passes is in the use of whatever we make to directly fund volunteer efforts in the forest.

There was no mention in the newspaper article of how or if any funds that now flow to the different districts and volunteer groups are to be made up if the Adventure Passes are eliminated. Can you please tell me if there is a plan to implement any shortfall resulting from decreased Adventure Pass sales? Also, as the volunteer groups generate a lot of the funds from Adventure Pass sales, I propose that if the sales continue, that volunteer groups have a democratic say in how the Adventure Pass funds are expended in each district. Thank you very much.

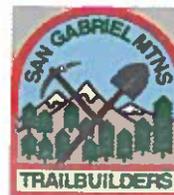
Sincerely,

Ben White, CEO San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders



**San Gabriel Mountains Trailbuilders**

All-volunteer public service organization dedicated to constructing and maintaining hiking trails in the San Gabriel Mountains' Angeles National Forest.



978 Norumbega Drive  
Monrovia, CA. 91016-1821

Helen Oakley: 626-792-4573  
Ben White: 626-303-1078

ben@SGMTrailbuilders.org  
<http://www.sgmtrailbuilders.org>

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Forest adventure pass  
**Date:** Saturday, December 21, 2013 4:03:28 PM

---

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

w: 707-562-8965  
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Vallejo, CA 94592



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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2013 1:41 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Forest adventure pass

Hi my names justin i also agree the adventure pass should be eliminated thanks

Sent from my Boost phone.

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Angeles NF Adventure Pass  
**Date:** Saturday, December 21, 2013 4:25:28 PM

---

Dear Karen,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their meeting in January.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, December 20, 2013 6:55 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Angeles NF Adventure Pass

Hi Tamara, hope you are doing well. I can't believe it's almost 5 years since I have retired from the Forest Service. My kids (at the time of my retirement were 6 and 9 and I was wanting to spend time with them at their schools, etc.) are now in middle school and high school!! Crazy how fast it goes by!!

I started to get involved with volunteering at Mt. Baldy with the Environmental Education Program and Visitor Center because I saw the program decline to the point of almost extinction. The staff was all eliminated due to budgets (and no one seeking grant support) and the last remaining FS employee retired due to total frustration by inadequate management. It was quite sad to see a vibrant - totally public based program run into the ground by poor supervisors. But a non profit established last year is rallying the education program and we hope to bring it back to speed. Where do school kids go to get environmental education and learn about their forests??

But my main point of discussion is the elimination of many key areas of the Angeles Forest Adventure Pass Program. You may not be aware but the Angeles NF sells very few passes compared to what the vendors and nonprofits sell. The FS certainly uses the proceeds from the sales (ref. San Gabriel Valley Tribune article dated 12/8/13) where it states that \$1.2 million collected in 2011 - over \$795,000 spent on mtce and repairs. This figure is

unbelievable because you do not see this on the ground. I'm guessing that it went towards salaries of various office and field individuals who in some way support Ad Pass functions. But my main point is that nonprofits that sell the Ad Pass rely on the "profit" to purchase necessary supplies ie. paint, gloves, etc. to perform maintenance work. The majority of maintenance work is done by volunteers and the elimination of Ad Pass "profits" will continue to discourage these volunteer groups and nonprofits. I can tell you that the majority of the volunteer groups are very discouraged with the lack of support from Angeles NF management. It is very apparent that the Angeles does not recognize the thousands of hours that are contributed by volunteers to get the basic cleaning, picking up of trash and making public contact. These volunteers continue to be frustrated and will soon lack the enthusiasm to support the forest needs (especially when their one solid form of support is gone). Can you believe that it takes months for the FS to provide a can of paint to a volunteer?? The response from PR Rep Heil is that they will "make up the difference with partnerships and appropriated funds" is absurd. The partners are tapped out with the lack of support from management and appropriated funds go strictly to funding salaries (I'm guessing that 80% of which are office staff).

Please Tamara, take some time and talk to the volunteer groups who work so hard for the Forest Service. They do have the answers and are willing to continue to dedicate their valuable personal time to make the forests a better place. Why would they do this if they didn't care.

If it takes putting in an interpretive sign to designate a fee area - then put one in. Most of the areas already provide the necessary amenities required for charging a fee. Please don't let the forest continue in this downward spiral. Our public deserves more than this!

Karen Fortus

P.S. Someone needs to respond back to San Gabriel Valley Tribune editor Steve Sezillo (sp) who constantly states that he's being taxed twice when going into the Forest. I also am being taxed twice when I go to the beach and have to pay \$15.00 to park my car!!! What's the difference?? As long as it's being kept clean - I don't mind paying.

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](mailto:Wilton.Tamara-FS)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Angeles NF Adventure Pass  
**Date:** Monday, December 23, 2013 9:35:26 AM

---

Dear Darryl,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting. Information about the upcoming meeting and the proposals can be found at this website link: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/recreation/racs/?cid=stelprdb5444303>

I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your many years of volunteer service and support of the Angeles National Forest. Thousands of visitors who, through the efforts of the San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association, have a much more meaningful National Forest visit because of your efforts.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

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**RECREATION SOLUTIONS**  
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**From:** Darryl Meathe [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, December 22, 2013 4:23 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Angeles NF Adventure Pass

Hello Tamara. In addition to being a volunteer for the FS at the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center, I'm also President of the San Gabriel Mountains Heritage Association (SGMHA), a 501(c)3 non-profit association that manages the environmental education program at Baldy and San Gabriel Canyon; as well as supporting the FS to help staff the visitor centers at Baldy and San Gabriel Canyon. Having heard about discussion centered on eliminating the adventure pass program in the Angeles, I was going to send you an email making arguments why our volunteer group is adamantly against this course of action. But Karen Fortis, our board secretary, beat me to it and I'm glad she did. See hers of Dec. 20, 2013. I couldn't have come close to describing our position as well as she has. So I will only add a couple additional thoughts I have on the subject.

I have spent many hours manning the visitor center at Mt. Baldy over the last 3 1/2 years and have sold many ad. passes to the public. I can think of only a couple people who have voiced any discontent with having to pay the fee to park. Many more have expressed

understanding for the program. Based on my experience, if a survey were taken, the vast majority would be either indifferent or supportive with a small minority believing the program is unfair. As Karen stated, many public operations charge a use fee and the public is generally happy to pay it. Please don't let the vocal minority dictate the elimination of this revenue source that is so important to the FS and the volunteer groups that would struggle to support the FS without it.

We believe our education program is inspiring future adults to be good stewards of the forest and many of them may become FS volunteers themselves. Since the program has existed for 13 years, I'm sure there are many former participants, now adults, who have a greater appreciation for this valuable resource. Now that the SGMHA runs the program through a participating agreement with the FS, the loss of the ad. pass revenue would severely jeopardize our ability to continue to exist.

Thanks for your attention. I understand there will be a couple days of public hearings in January. I would appreciate being kept advised of details as they become available. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Darryl Meathe



855 West Base Line, P.O. Box 920  
Rialto, California 92377-0920  
Phone (909) 875-1804

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December 23, 2013

Tamara Wilton  
Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator  
Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

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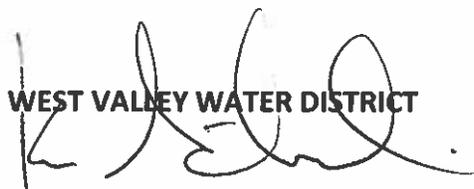
**RE: WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT COMMENTS FOR THE PROPOSED RECREATION FEE AREA IN  
LYTLE CREEK (SAN BERNARDINO NATIONAL FOREST)**

Dear Tamara,

This letter is written in support of the proposed changes to the Standard Amenity Recreation Fee (SAF) for the Lytle Creek Recreation Fee Area. The SAF has resulted in increased management of the recreation activities and recreationalist behavior in the Lytle Creek Watershed.

West Valley Water District (District) has Water Rights in Lytle Creek dating back to 1897. Lytle Creek provides a substantial amount of drinking water to our customers in the North Rialto/Fontana area. The District is particularly concerned with the microbiological quality of Lytle Creek, specifically the levels of Total Coliform, Fecal Coliform and Escherichia coli (E. coli). The management of the SAF by the US Forest Service since 1996 in Lytle Creek has resulted in significant improvement of the water quality by providing portable restrooms, trash cans and policing of recreational behavior. The District believes that the elimination of the SAF and the services it provides for in the Lytle Creek Recreational Area will result in degradation of the water quality. If you require additional information or data, please feel free to contact my office.

**WEST VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**



Ken Sikorski

Superintendent/Chief Operator

Cc: Jody Noiron, Forest Supervisor-SBNF

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**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Adventure Pass fees  
**Date:** Friday, December 27, 2013 9:40:39 AM

---

Dear Mr. Kaufer,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wilton

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lanny Kaufer [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 26, 2013 12:17 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Adventure Pass fees

Dear Ms. Wilton,

Please register for the record my strong feeling that there be no adventure pass fees charged for trailhead access in the Los Padres National Forest. I appreciate that several trails I use have been eliminated from the program in the last few years but I still use the Piedra Blanca trailhead to the Sespe River Trail as well as the trailhead to Rose Valley Falls from Rose Valley Campground where the pass is still required. I have a lifetime senior pass so I am not personally affected but many of my friends and family are. I do understand the need to charge for maintaining certain campsites with amenities but I don't believe charging for simple trail access was ever the intent of the Adventure Pass fee program. To me, it goes against the concept for public access to our National Forests.

Thanks for taking my comment,

Lanny Kaufer

Ojai, CA

December 26, 2013

Ms. Tamara Wilton  
U.S. Forest Service  
Pacific Southwest Region  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Dear Ms. Wilton:

Below are my comments regarding eliminating the forest fees including the Adventure Pass for all of the national forests in California and not just the San Bernardino, Angeles, Los Padres and Cleveland national forests. Please forward my comments to other forest service regions in the western states.

Public lands should be available to everyone without being charged. After all, we already pay federal taxes and this is like a double taxation. Low income people may be financially challenged to pay these fees which would severely limit their ability to enjoy our national forests.

Also, the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals, in the Arizona case, determined that federal law already prohibits the Forest Service from charging fees to anyone who parks and hikes in the forest without using services or facilities, which has the rule of law for all western states. The U.S. Forest Service should comply with the courts ruling.

I would like to recommend that the U.S. Forest Service eliminate these fees.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



Jo Sanford



**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Proposed Changes for Los Padres National Forest  
**Date:** Friday, December 27, 2013 9:37:29 AM

---

Dear Mr. Simmen,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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Vallejo, CA 94592



**RECREATION SOLUTIONS**  
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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, December 26, 2013 4:08 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Proposed Changes for Los Padres National Forest

Dear Committee Member,

I address you in order to express my support for elimination of fees for admission to various parts of the Los Padres National Forest, in particular the Pine Mountain area or Los Pinos.

My reason is basically a practical one : there is no manned fee station there or mechanical dispensary/machine where a visitor could pay the fee. Likewise, there is not even a sign there that indicates where a pass could be purchased.

Please support NO FEES.

Vern Simmen  
[REDACTED]  
Camarillo, CA

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: comment re. Adventure Pass requirement  
**Date:** Monday, December 30, 2013 6:39:22 PM

---

Dear Mr. Rose,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will forward them to the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

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Vallejo, CA 94592



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**From:** [REDACTED] **On Behalf Of** Greg Rose  
**Sent:** Monday, December 30, 2013 4:14 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** comment re. Adventure Pass requirement

To whom it may concern:

I understand that there is consideration for removing the need to purchase an adventure pass to visit/recreate in the Southern Calif. forests. I am strongly in favor of this as these are tough economic times and visiting our national forests should be as cheap as possible.

I should also note that whatever policy is decided on it should be transparent and consistent.

For example, this last week my wife and I visited a couple places in the Coronado Natl. Forest in Arizona. We first visited Sabino Canyon. The person there required that we buy a pass. I explained that we were planning to visit the Dragoon Mountains in a couple days and asked him if the pass was required there. He had no idea. To be safe I purchased a week pass (paying \$5 more than the daily pass rate). When we went to the Cochise trailhead at the Dragoon Mountains there was no notice that a pass was required. Some cars had a pass, some did not.

So did we waste the \$5? Who knows???

Whatever policy is adopted in California should be very clear and transparent. Also if a pass is required have someone there who can sell it! When you drive deep into the forest (for

example a year ago visited the Burkhardt trailhead) being told that you need a pass doesn't help. It's too far to go back to a vendor that sells it!

I can also attest that a couple times I went to purchase a pass from one of the ranger stations and no passes were available as they were sold out. If you're going to require a pass, make it easy to buy!!!

Sincerely,

Greg Rose

Pasadena, CA

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Eliminating fees comment  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2013 11:18:15 AM

---

Dear Kerry,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

twilton@fs.fed.us

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**From:** Kerry [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 31, 2013 7:17 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Eliminating fees comment

Thank you Forest Service! Eliminating recreation-related fees on any public lands is the appropriate thing to do, since our taxes pay for the operation of public land agencies.

Kerry Wicker  
Esparto CA

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Fee changes  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2013 11:10:25 AM

---

Dear Ms. Bennett,

Thank you for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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**From:** Deborah Bennett & Leslie Bischoff [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 31, 2013 9:24 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Fee changes

Hello and thanks for soliciting comments. We are adamantly opposed to any special fees to use public lands .Remove these fees and find other ways of funding the agencies' needs.  
Thank you, Deborah Bennett

--

Leslie and Debbie [REDACTED] Make a Small Loan, Make a Big Difference-----Check out Kiva.org and learn how!

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Forest  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 31, 2013 11:00:28 AM

---

Dear Mr. Ball,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely, Tamara Wilton

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Kevin Ball [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 31, 2013 9:56 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Forest

I real like the idea that our forests will be free of charge again I hope most other people feel the same way.

Sent from my hot rod

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Forest Service Recreation Fees  
**Date:** Thursday, January 02, 2014 4:22:02 PM

---

Dear Peggy,

Thank you so very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

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**RECREATION SOLUTIONS**  
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**From:** Peggylmb [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 02, 2014 4:19 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Forest Service Recreation Fees

I am writing to encourage the Forest Service to abandon collecting fees in the Forest Service areas. We love our National Forests and do travel thru and to them often. We do not live in the immediate area of a forest, but when traveling thru it is a major hassle to have to go find a ranger station or some other local shop/service provider etc. to procure a day use pass for a short hike into the woods, or to walk to a scenic spot for a short duration. The whole argument about having to pay a fee for a public area that we already pay taxes for only makes the case in point even stronger for repealing the day use recreation fee!! Thank you for your time and consideration.

## Ebert, Jennifer -FS

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**From:** Ebert, Jennifer -FS  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 07, 2014 9:32 AM  
**To:** Ebert, Jennifer -FS  
**Subject:** Mr. Growth Voicemail Message Comment - 1/3/14

Voicemail message to Tamara Wilton (1/3/14):

Mr. George Growth left a voicemail message that said he'd been hiking in the Wilderness for 50+ years, at least once a week. He read in the Yucaipa News Mirror that we were asking for feedback. He noticed immediately that once fees were implemented the immediate and dramatic cut way down in litter, vandalism, graffiti in the wild. Fees are not outrageous by any means, and seem to cut back on the people who do not respect the Wilderness. He states, "I am in favor of keeping these fees."

He said he didn't need a call back but left his number, [REDACTED]. I did return his call and we talked briefly. I thanked him for his call and invited him to send written comments via email or snail mail, gave him RO address but haven't seen anything come in.

### **Jennifer Ebert**

*Region 3 Fee Program Manager  
Natural Resource Planner*

jebert@fs.fed.us

w: (530) 647-5455

7887 Highway 50  
Pollock Pines, CA 95726



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**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Comment: Recreation Fee Areas in Angeles National Forest  
**Date:** Saturday, January 04, 2014 2:08:16 PM

---

Dear Mr. Sanders,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator

Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager

[twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

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**From:** Trent Sanders [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 04, 2014 2:01 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Cc:** 'Sonja Bartsch'; Rollman, Sherry -FS; Contreras, Thomas A -FS; Reader's Rep; paul.pringle@latimes.com; steve.lopez@latimes.com; 'Oneil, Megan'; 'Kitty Benzar'; mattkenna@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Comment: Recreation Fee Areas in Angeles National Forest

The Recreation Fee Legislation is explicit in specifying that for the Forest Service to charge an Adventure Pass Fee an "area", known as a Standard Amenity Fee Area [SAFA], must contain 6 "amenities". There is nothing ambiguous about that.

For the Forest Service to interpret the definition of a SAFA "area" as including many tens of thousands of acres was not the intent or goal of the Fee Legislation, especially where the distance between the SAFA area boundary and the nearest "amenity", or the distances between amenities, can be many miles. "Area" should be construed as a confined and defined site such as a campground, picnic area or similar developed facility. The Forest Service's definition of "area" is as ludicrous as Bill Clinton's "It depends on what the *meaning* of the words 'is' is."

Despite the Forest Service proposed plans to eliminate the SAF area designation for several areas on the Angeles, there are still tens of thousands of acres designated as SAFA areas on the Angeles which do not meet the Fee Legislation requirements.

If the Forest Service thought they could get away with it they'd define the entire Angeles Forest as a SAFA area. Let's remember that this is our forest, not the Forest Service's. As such it should be managed to the benefit of forest visitors and not as a "cash cow" for the Forest Service.

Trent D. Sanders

[REDACTED]

La Canada Flintridge, California  
91011

[REDACTED]

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# Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps

PROTECT, MONITOR and EDUCATE  
Post Office Box 1102 • Azusa, CA 91702-1102



January 5, 2014

Tamara Wilton  
Federal Lands Scenic Byway Program Coordinator  
Region 5 Program Manager  
1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592

Tamara Wilton,

I am writing to you as a 15 year Forest Service Volunteer with the Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC). This year the FRVC is embarking on its 21<sup>st</sup> year of service to the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. The mission of the FRVC is to protect and monitor 13 wild trout streams and 7 tributaries of these streams, which is accomplished by performing 220 stream patrols and 30 conservation projects annually. In addition, we provide maintenance and repair to Forest Service buildings, campgrounds, radios and trail signs, as well as, remove 11 tons of trash and cover over or remove 2,500 graffiti tags each year. In all, FRVC Volunteers provide 12,000 hours of service annually, while we provide and pay for all the equipment, hardware, paint and tools, necessary to perform these tasks. We also provide and pay for all the uniforms worn by FRVC Volunteers.

Five years ago, the Forest Service asked for our assistance in staffing a small roadside kiosk to sell Adventure Passes and to have the opportunity to interact with forest visitors in a high impact area in San Antonio Creek Canyon, requiring the need to become an Adventure Pass Vendor. Two years later, we were ask to assist with staffing at the San Gabriel Canyon Gateway Center and the Mt. Baldy Visitor Center, which required the need to become a nonprofit corporation. As the Forest Service budgets continue to deteriorate, we have assumed additional tasks that are far from our mission as "stream keepers", resulting in significant administrative hours.

On one hand, it would be a blessing to me if the Adventure Pass Program were completely eliminated. However, the Forest Service and the forest visitors would suffer significantly, as the FRVC would not be able to provide the equipment and supplies that we are able to pay for from the sale of Adventure Passes.

As a scout in the early 1950's and a Scoutmaster in the 1970's and 1980's, we did not have anywhere near the issues that we have today in the Sothern California Forests, that we have from the behavior of today's forest visitor. We are now experiencing significant damage to our natural resources, due to mining, illegal camping, graffiti and trash. It is not uncommon to find graffiti on boulders and trees 4 to 5 miles in the backcountry, or trash dumps from people living in the back country, that are 20 square feet and two feet deep, infested with maggots and 5 gallon buckets of human feces. Who do you think cleans these messes up? It's volunteers that do this dirty work, week after week. We need the Adventure Pass Program more than ever in the backcountry in these high impact areas.

These occasional announced visits from the Regional and National offices to our local forests are not reality. To think that the Forest Service can continue to maintain and manage the forests in Southern California, with the continual reduction in budget and personnel is a disaster in progress.

The FRVC looks forward to the Forest Service's responsibility to maintain this program and the source of income that it provides to the Forest Service Volunteer Groups that are Adventure Pass Vendors.

Tom Walsh  
President  
Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps

**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Forest fee changes  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 08, 2014 8:52:18 AM

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Dear Ms. Gauld,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wilton

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Tammy Gauld [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, January 05, 2014 1:09 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Forest fee changes

Not charging fees will keep the area from being policed by paid persons who would keep the area free from trash, loitering, and all the other things that can diminish the neighborhoods of Elizabeth Lake and Lake Hughes.

Michael and Tammy Gauld

[REDACTED]  
Elizabeth Lake, 93532

[trgauld@yahoo.com](mailto:trgauld@yahoo.com)

**From:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for proposed recreation changes!  
**Date:** Monday, January 06, 2014 4:44:48 PM

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Dear Michelle,

It is a requirement of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) that we provide opportunities for the public to participate in the development of, or changing of a recreation fee. Changes in recreation fees include the elimination of a fee, which these proposals include. The Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (R-RAC) meeting scheduled for January 15-16, 2014 is another opportunity for the public to comment, in person, to the proposals. The impacts of the proposed changes are unknown; reductions in revenues and shifts in visitor use patterns are possible. The Forest Service will monitor impacts to recreation facilities, sanitation, public health & safety, and natural resources.

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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1323 Club Drive  
Vallejo, CA 94592



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**From:** MICHELLE BENITEZ [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 06, 2014 2:36 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** RE: Questions for proposed recreation changes!

**Hi again,**

**Thank you so much for your prompt response.**

**Why would there be a meeting and notice of something becoming FREE if there is no consequence? What is the underlying**

**afteraffect, do you possibly already predict  
or know ?**

**Appreciate your time.**

"MICHELLEY" Michelle Benitez, Realtor HomeBased Realty CA DRE Lic# 1208960 661-965-4436 CELL 661-724-0645 FAX [REDACTED] [www.HomeBasedRealty.com](http://www.HomeBasedRealty.com)  
[www.FreeMarketEvaluation.com](http://www.FreeMarketEvaluation.com) [www.HomeMatchMakers.com](http://www.HomeMatchMakers.com)  
[www.NeighborhoodHotSheet.com](http://www.NeighborhoodHotSheet.com) [www.FreePreApproval.com](http://www.FreePreApproval.com)

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From: [twilton@fs.fed.us](mailto:twilton@fs.fed.us)

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: RE: Questions for proposed recreation changes!

Date: Mon, 6 Jan 2014 21:10:27 +0000

Dear Michelle,

Thank you for your questions. The proposals relating to the proposed changes are located at this link: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r5/passes-permits/recreation/?cid=stelprdb5443037>

I will try to answer your questions but please feel free to call me if you have others.

Generally, the proposed changes have resulted in a reduction of the national forest sites and areas where recreation fees are changed. Many areas and sites which previously had recreation fees are now free.

There is no proposed change to the current recreation fee of \$5/day or \$35/annual adventure pass or for the National America the Beautiful Passes.

Yes, the changes affect certain areas and the proposals located at the above link each have a map which details where the changes occur.

No, these changes do not affect taxes.

These changes are related to National Forest System lands which are not subject to investor purchase.

Please let me know if you have any other questions.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator

Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager

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**From:** MICHELLE BENITEZ [REDACTED]

**Sent:** Monday, January 06, 2014 10:54 AM

**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS

**Subject:** Questions for proposed recreation changes!

Happy New Year! Thanks for taking our feedback.

This is not clear to us. What exactly, in plain English, no fancy words, does the change mean? Is it about changing the \$30 fee every year? And for only certain areas? Does it affect our taxes in any way, shape, or form? Will this mean the land is not open to investors to buy?

Thank you. Hope for an answer soon.

Also, many were on holiday and vacation. This is not much notice to act or write to you or schedule off work for the meetings.

Michelle Benitez 661-965-4436 14653 Deerbank Dr., Lake Elizabeth, Ca., 93532

"MICHELLEY" Michelle Benitez, Realtor HomeBased Realty CA DRE Lic# 1208960 661-965-4436 CELL 661-724-0645 FAX [REDACTED] [www.HomeBasedRealty.com](http://www.HomeBasedRealty.com)  
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**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Adventure Tax  
**Date:** Monday, January 06, 2014 4:35:11 PM

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Dear Mr. Allen,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,

Tamara Wilton

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Bryan [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 06, 2014 3:35 PM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Adventure Tax

A friend informed me that the United States Forest Service is taking public comment on the Adventure Pass. She says she knows this goes against my "grain".

I recently picked up the USFS annual newspaper and guess what? No revenue statement for the adventure pass as in previous issues. Must be getting hard to justify all that money collected and the best accounting for it is restroom cleaning and pumping.

The newsletter also talks a lot about volunteers and the California Conservation Corps, who are paid from the California Resources Agency who have their own budget... Nobody's getting paid from the Adventure Tax.

Two years ago some hikers in Arizona came back to their car and found a ticket on their windshield. They sued the USFS and WON. The Federal Court says the USFS can't charge for parking, picnicking or

hiking in non developed areas. But why just non-developed areas?

Our tax dollar always covered this in the past. Just how much does it cost to walk in the forest or eat at a picnic table?

On a trip home from Snow Valley last year after a heavy snow, I saw an Adventure Ranger writing tickets to people for being out of their cars and throwing snowballs. Just how much does it cost to throw a snowball? Driving that way several weeks ago I noticed a

sign that read, "Adventure Pass Required in this Area" beneath it was a handmade sign that read, "When snow is present". Where is all this going in our Country, are we now to pay a higher Tax if the snow is deeper?

Several years ago the Ranger Station in Skyforest had a sign out front that read "welcome to "Your" National Forest" guess that was taken down for false advertising. If it's ours we shouldn't have to pay to walk into it, no matter where in the forest.

Its become so confusing what areas are fee and where its FREE. Just read the list, imagine a tourist from another country trying to figure out this bureaucrazy. You find a pretty place to take a picture and you could get a ticket unless your in SAF SRP zone or its a free day or you happen to be in the 120,00 acres that maybe becoming free.

You could drive miles to find a place to pay your adventure "TAX ",

and we are supposed to feel good about 120,00 acres becoming "available" to the public free of charge (that's if it's not snowing).

Available? May I remind you that it OURS!

SAF (standard amenity recreation fee), SRP (special recreation permit), R-RAC (recreation resource advisory committee). Certainly we can come up with a few more acronyms to manage tree growth.

Just how much does it cost for a tree to grow?

Against my Grain?, yes double taxation goes against my amber waves of grain. Purple Mountain Majesty has turned green with greed from FEE to shining FEE.

Bryan Allen

**From:** [Ebert, Jennifer -FS on behalf of FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee](#)  
**To:** [Peter Wiechers; FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [Kitty wsnfc](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Comments for California R-RAC Members  
**Date:** Monday, January 06, 2014 6:36:57 PM

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Dear Mr. Wiechers,

Thank you very much for your comments, they will be shared with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Ebert

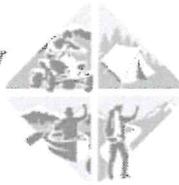
**Jennifer Ebert**

*Region 3 Fee Program Manager  
Natural Resource Planner*

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w: (530) 647-5455

7887 Highway 50  
Pollock Pines, CA 95726



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**From:** Peter Wiechers [<mailto:peterrpm@yahoo.com>]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 06, 2014 4:09 PM  
**To:** FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee  
**Cc:** Kitty wsnfc  
**Subject:** Comments for California R-RAC Members

Attached are some suggestions/background info. for next week's Adventure Pass meeting in San Bernardino. Please give copies to all R-RAC members.  
Thanks for the opportunity to participate.  
-Peter Wiechers

January 6, 2014

California R-RAC Members:

For most of you, if not all, this is going to be your last meeting. I would hope that you would at least take the time to read what I'm going to write. In any case, at this point I guess it's most important to have what I am going to write become part of the public record.

Region 5 officials of the US Forest Service are asking for your approval to tweak the Adventure Pass fee areas of southern California. This is nothing more than a legal maneuver being employed by the United States Justice Department in an attempt to help get the United States Forest Service out of a deep hole that they themselves have dug.

**In June of 2008**, this committee voted to approve the Sequoia National Forest's plan to double (and make year round) the fees at the Lake Isabella Standard Amenity Fee Area (SAFA). In doing so, Region 5 officials (including Tamara Wilton) and Sequoia National Forest officials (including then Sequoia Supervisor, Tina Terrell) explicitly stated that this area met the requirements of a SAFA under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. In fact it did not, at a minimum there were no Interpretive Signs, Designated Developed Parking was lacking, and the boundaries of the area were not in compliance with the law.

**In May of 2009** at your meeting in Vallejo I presented to you:

- photographs (October of 2008) of trash that was not being collected at several sites of the Lake Isabella SAFA
- photographs (October of 2008) of signs posted at the Lake Isabella SAFA which stated "NO Garbage Service Please Pack it OUT!"

- The Sequoia's Recreation Appropriated Dollars spreadsheet (as presented to the public in Kernville by the Sequoia Forest Supervisor in February of 2009) that defied the rules of simple arithmetic. At the Vallejo meeting, then Sequoia National Forest Supervisor, Tina Terrell, gave extensive explanations refuting what I had presented essentially stating that in fact the Lake Isabella SAFA did meet all the requirements of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act. In fact, it did not, there were still no Interpretive Signs, Designated Developed Parking was lacking, the boundaries of the area were not in compliance with the law, and –until I brought it to the attention of my Congressman's office- Garbage Service had been suspended.

**In February of 2013** I initiated a lawsuit against the United States Forest Service because their Lake Isabella SAFA (along with several Kern River sites) still lacked the required amenities as stated under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.

**In August of 2013** the California R-RAC met in Sacramento and under the direction of the United States Forest Service changed the designation of the Lake Isabella Standard Amenity Fee Area to that of an Expanded Amenity Fee Area.

**In September of 2013** the US Justice Department, representing the US Forest Service, filed a motion to moot the case I had brought against the Forest Service arguing that my claims were no longer valid because the Lake Isabella fee area was no longer a SAFA, but had in fact become an EAFA. As of today, signage/fees/boundaries at Lake Isabella are unchanged. Regardless of what the Justice Department and Forest Service are claiming on

paper the area remains an illegal SAFA. [The Lake Isabella fee areas if somehow accepted by the courts as EAFAs would still violate the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, but this would necessitate the filing of a completely new lawsuit, one of which would probably not make its way through the judicial system until after the law is changed next year - the not so cryptic strategy of the US Forest Service and the Justice Department.]

The Justice Department and Forest Service have now put a similar shell game before you in the form of Adventure Pass program *adjustments* in southern California.

For the case of brevity I'm only going to cite one example (there are many). Page two of the San Gabriel Canyon proposal has a chart stating Yes or No with regard to the presence of the six required amenities that are a prerequisite for charging fees. Almost half of these areas –by the Forest Service's own admission- do not have toilet facilities. Quite a few also have no interpretive signage and lack picnic tables completely. For example, San Gabriel Day Use Area #7 is a state highway pullout with a trash receptacle. The nearest toilet (and picnic table) going north is close to, if not more than, one mile away at Lower Bichota day use site. The nearest toilet (and picnic table) headed in the other direction is at least one mile away at San Gabriel Day Use Area #6.

Moreover, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act requires that SAFAs have "permanent toilets." Other parts of the law specifically state "flush toilets," or simply "toilet facilities." If this committee approves what the US Forest Service has before you and the lawyers for the US Justice Department are then able to successfully argue mootness, I will be denied the chance to state before a judge that a porta-potty is not a permanent toilet. By approving what the Forest Service has put in front of you here, the toilet question is not the only thing that you will potentially be allowing *not* to be presented to the court. No matter what officials of the federal government claim, a portable toilet is not a permanent toilet. I am asking you, please, do not buy into this.

In closing, I've pasted on the next page two photos from the Upper Richbar Day Use site (SAFA) along the Kern River which is open and requires fees year round. This is an area that has never come before this committee, but nonetheless is part of the Lake Isabella/Kern River suit. This past fall, at this site, Sequoia officials once again posted "**NO Garbage Service Please Pack it OUT!**" signs. As part of my third declaration in this case, these photos were submitted to the court. On the first day of your meeting in San Bernardino I will be hearing back from the Justice Department with regard to this. My guess is that like my first two declarations they will be trying to strike this and other photos from the record. Not because of questions of veracity (not by a long shot), but simply on legal grounds, legal maneuvering, putting me in my place.

The best of luck to all of you, wherever your next endeavors may take you.

Peter Wiechers  
Kernville, California



Upper Richbar, US Forest Service Standard Amenity Fee Area – December, 2013



**From:** [Wilton, Tamara -FS](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** RE: Adventure Pass revisited  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 07, 2014 11:40:30 AM

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Dear Ardis,

Thank you very much for your comments, I will share them with the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee at their January meeting. I'd like to thank you for your volunteer efforts on behalf of the San Bernardino National Forest. Your efforts make a such a difference! Thank you!

Sincerely,  
Tamara Wilton

**Tamara Wilton**

*Federal Lands Scenic Byway  
Program Coordinator*

*Region 5 Fee  
Program Manager*

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 07, 2014 11:20 AM  
**To:** Wilton, Tamara -FS  
**Subject:** Adventure Pass revisited

Sorry I had the flu for a week and then no electricity yesterday....here is a comment I sent to the Riverside Press Enterprise Newspaper. Seems all they printed were "Lets get rid of the Adventure Pass" Articles. Unfortunately a few disgruntled folk have acted like "Bullies" in taking the USFS to court over it when so many of us were content to share the cost of keeping recreational areas open and safe for the public.

"The Adventure Pass created over 10 years ago was allowed to help fill the deficit of tax dollar funding for the Forest Service at the level which citizens can enjoy our national lands. That funding has steadily been cut and will continue to be cut in the future.

Already in the San Bernardino National Forest where I volunteer now and for the last 17 years, areas have been closed to use. Personnel in the forest meeting the needs of caring for the forest and the people who use the forest has been cut to the extent of no one to clean restrooms, pick up trash, provide law enforcement for our safety, man visitor centers and campgrounds.

Five dollars per day or thirty per year has been a reasonable fee for parking, and very few are unwilling to help share that cost. A few have stirred up the public to the extent of creating some lawsuits against one of the only funds of which 80% stays in the local area National forests, and only 20% goes to the Federal budget. The Interagency Pass funds go directly to the National Parks and fed. govt.

Thousands of volunteers have donated their time to maintain trails, roads and visitor centers thus saving millions of dollars to keep our forest service running for the public to enjoy. These volunteers need supplies, tools, phones, faxes, copy machines and office supplies, and yes even toilet paper, as well as buildings to work from. These are available because of funds generated through the Adventure Pass. Please help us out here, we need some moneies for volunteer leadership, a few vehicles and suppliesand some forest service personnel to

keep Natnl. forests open and running for the good of all.

What will those who oppose the Adventure Pass ( which now has free days and more free spaces than ever before) say when they want to use the forest for recreation, and there are locked gates instead of forest trails, closed restrooms and picnic areas, graffiti all over rocks and buildings, closed visitor centers, closed fire towers, and volunteer work stations? When they have to pay more to use the forest because campgrounds, trail hiking permits, and areas of recreation, have to be outsourced to groups residing in the Washington DC area; who are charging a great deal more for their services than we now pay? These outsourced people have not a clue to the area they are servicing and are unable to answer simple questions currently being asked volunteers in work stations in our forests. Lets keep the Adventure pass monies to provide volunteers with work places and supplies and forest service personnel working in the forests, not just the offices.

Lets keep Forest service restrooms open for bikers, picnickers, hikers. Let's help the USFS pay for persons responsible to see that dumpsters are available and serviced, that picnic tables aren't used for firewood, that someone is available to lock and unlock forest road gates and provide for lawenforcement to deter gang activity, homeless encampments, and would be arsonists .

Yours for keeping the Adventure Pass--funds that stay in our local forests instead of being sent to Washington. The taxes we pay won't be coming back for public land care and use any time soon. Keep IT for the Greater Good to the most people!

Where else can you take a family for a great day of recreation without having to watch violence, or adrenalin pumping entertainment , for \$5 a day, and a good picnic lunch? Or \$30 for a whole year's worth of fun?

**LET'S KEEP THE ADVENTURE PASS and SHARE THE COST!**

Ardis Beckner, public citizen and volunteer ranger USFS./ SBNF going on 18 years of service paying for my own uniforms and still smiling and answering forest related questions for my fellow citizens