



Forest Service Fee Report

Site Name: Camp Discovery Group Camp
Site Type: GROUP CAMPGROUND

Action: Change in Fee Structure
Fee Type: Expanded Amenity Fee
Forest Name: Mendocino National Forest
District: Grindstone Ranger District

Financial Information:

Total O&M: \$50,676
Deferred Maintenance: \$0
Current Revenue: \$5,475
Predicted Revenue: \$6,000
Projected Development Costs: \$0.00

Fee Change Information:

Reservation fee of \$9.00 applies

From: 1/1 To: 12/31

Current Fees: Proposed Fees:

Rate \$175.00 \$175.00

Fee Remarks: Current fee = \$100/day for day use; \$175/night for overnight use. The proposal is to restructure rental of the site to a single fee to allow rental of the site from 2 pm (check-in) to 11 am (check out) the following day.

Reason for Fee Change

Moving to a single fee and rental structure would improve operations and increase management efficiency. It will also allow the public to reserve the site through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS). Groups will be able to reserve the site online (or phone), at their convenience. Currently, approximately 80% of reservations are overnight use.

Basic Group Site Amenities

Access Road:	Paved Road	Picnic Table:	Yes
Fire Device:	Pedestal Grills	Serving Table:	Yes
Visitor Protection:	Respond to emergencies only	Tent Pad:	No
Toilet:	Flush	Play	
Pavilion:	With Utilities	Equipment:	No
Water:	Yes		
Garbage:	Yes		

Other Site Amenities:

Boat Launch
Showers
Lake-River Oriented
Established Vegetation
Interpretive Services
Hookups
Near Population Center
Rec Opportunities from site
Ease of Approach

Area Description:

Camp Discovery is located within the Red Bluff Recreation Area near the full service town of Red Bluff, CA. The group site is completely separate (gated) from the other facilities, which include Sycamore Grove family campground, the Sacramento River Boat Launch, and the Sacramento Discovery Center.



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District: Grindstone Ranger District

Planned Accomplishment Narrative:

Funds would be used for operations and maintenance and facility improvements. In recent years, fee revenue has provided staffing to clean and maintain the facility prior to and following group rentals, general building maintenance, mowing grassy areas within and adjacent to the facility, and paving pathways between buildings.

Method for Informing Public:

Accomplishments are communicated to the public through the Forest’s Annual Report, website, and onsite notices.

Other Provider Summary: Other Provider Avg Price: \$148.33

Other Provider 1 Name:
Woodson Bridge State Park
Other Provider 1 Price:
\$135.00

Other Provider 2 Name:
Hirz Bay Group 1 - Shasta-Trinity NF
Other Provider 2 Price:
\$130.00

Other Provider 3 Name:
Durham Park Day Use
Other Provider 3 Price:
\$180.00

Other Provider 1 Summary:
Group campsite within a family campground. Group site can accommodate groups up to 40 people. Campground has picnic tables, fire rings, restrooms, and showers.

Other Provider 2 Summary:
Group camp offers a picnic area, 2 large pedestal grills, 1 large fire ring, 2 large sinks with faucets and a paved parking lot with 21 spaces. Parking area is separate from the camping area. Vault toilets. Group site can accommodate up to 120 people.

Other Provider 3 Summary:
Operated by the Durham Recreation and Park District, the park has two day use group picnic areas. The group sites are equipped with two BBQs and electricity. Each site can accommodate groups up to 400. The price for 1-100 people is \$180.

Price Justification:

Discovery Group Camp is highly developed. The campground has 11 screen cabins, showers, dish washing facilities, vault toilets, amphitheater, 2 cabanas with picnic tables, preparation tables, secure storage areas, lighting, and four large grills. The site can also accommodate additional tent camping. The camp can accommodate groups up to 100 people.

Site Photos



Group eating area at the Camp Discovery Group site.



Amphitheater at the Camp Discovery Group site.



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Action: Change in Fee Structure

Fee Type: Expanded Amenity Fee

Forest Name: Mendocino National Forest

District: Grindstone Ranger District

Public Participation: Yes

Posted Notice in Rec Area: 08/16/2013

NewsRelease: 08/16/2013

Website Post: 08/16/2013

Notify Local Interest Groups:

Federal Register Notice:

Local Elected Official: 12/17/2013

Federal Legislator: 12/17/2013

Public Meeting:

Public Participation Tasks:

1) Issued press release on 08/16/13 to local newspapers as well as newspapers from known communities in which visitors originate, such as Red Bluff Daily News, Redding Record Searchlight, Chico Enterprise Record, Tri County News (covering Chico, Willows, Orland, and Colusa), and Sacramento Bee. The press release was published in the Red Bluff Daily News on 08/17/13.

2) Posted notice on the Mendocino NF website on 08/16/13. Proposal is also highlighted in the "Alerts and Notices" section of the Mendocino NF website beginning on 09/11/13.

3) Posted proposed change in fee posters at Red Bluff Recreation Area information kiosks, including within Sycamore Grove Campground and at the Sacramento River Discovery Center.

4) Provided briefing on proposed change in fee to local government officials, including the Tehama County Board of Supervisors as well as Congressional representatives from three Congressional Districts. Presented the proposal at the Tehama County Board of Supervisors meeting on 12/17/13.

Public Participation Results:

One inquiry/comment was submitted through email correspondence. The results of public involvement are provided in the attached public involvement summary.

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

**Mendocino National Forest: Camp Discovery Group Camp
Summary includes public involvement efforts & comments as of 1/7/2014**

Summary of Proposal:

The Mendocino National Forest is proposing to:

- Restructure rental of Camp Discovery Group Camp under a single user fee and rental structure. Currently, Camp Discovery is available to rent for either day use or overnight use. The proposal is to restructure rental of the site under a single fee to allow rental of the site from 2:00 p.m. (check-in) to 11:00 a.m. (check-out). During these hours, renters may use the site for either overnight or day use activities.
- Proposed fee is \$175, which is the current overnight fee.

Public Participation Activities:

Public Participation Tasks	Date(s)
Posted notices in campground	08/16/2013
Press release to local media	08/16/2013
Date published in newspaper Red Bluff Daily News	08/17/2013
Posted notice on Mendocino NF web site	08/16/2013
Use Twitter	08/17/2013
Local Elected Official/Congressional Briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone call with follow up email to Congressman Garamendi's office (12/17/13), Congressman Huffman's office (12/18/13), Congressman LaMalfa's office (12/19/13)] • Proposals were presented at the Tehama County Board of Supervisors meeting on 12/17/2013 	12/17/2013 to 12/19/2013

Public Participation Results:

Method of Communication	Summary of Comments as of 1/3/2014
Phone	None received.
In Person Communication	District Ranger presented the proposals at Tehama County Board of Supervisors meeting on 12/17/2013; no comments received or issues expressed.
E-mail Communication	08/20/13, email from Kitty Benzar inquiring about the proposal. Email correspondence between 08/20/13 and 08/21/13 is attached. 12/17/13 to 12/19/13, District Ranger contacted 3 congressional offices (voicemail and follow up email), including a staffer from Congressman Garamendi's office, Congressman Huffman's office, and Congressman LaMalfa's office. No comments were received.
Written Letter	None received.

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Forest proposes fee change for Red Bluff Camp Discovery Group Site

Release Date: Aug 16, 2013

Contact(s): **Tamara Schmidt**

WILLOWS, Calif. – Recreation managers on the Mendocino National Forest are accepting comments on a proposal to change the fee structure at Camp Discovery Group Camp at Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area.

Currently, Camp Discovery is available to rent for either day use or overnight use. The proposal is to restructure rental of the site under a single fee to allow rental of the site from 2:00 p.m. (check-in) to 11:00 a.m. (check-out). During these hours, renters may use the site either overnight or for day use activities.

The fee being proposed for the group site is \$175, the current overnight fee. The proposed fee is consistent with rental fees at similar public and private group overnight and day use recreation facilities throughout California.

Moving to a single fee and rental structure will improve operations and increase management efficiency. It will also allow the public to reserve the site through the National Recreation Reservation Service at 877-444-6777 or online at www.recreation.gov.

Camp Discovery receives 95 percent of fees generated, which are invested in the facility, providing ongoing operations, maintenance and improvements. In recent years, recreation fees have provided staffing to clean and maintain the facility prior to and following group rentals, general building maintenance, mowing grassy areas, and paving paths.

"We recognize how important Camp Discovery is to the local community, as well as others who use the site for large group events," said Grindstone District Ranger Eduardo Olmedo. "The single fee for rental of the site will allow us to manage Camp Discovery more efficiently, ensuring visitors continue to enjoy the high quality experience they have come to expect. Additionally, groups will be able to plan ahead and reserve the site online, at their convenience."

The proposed fee change will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee or R-RAC. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups. The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings.

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 this fee proposal is approved, it is anticipated that the change to a single fee structure would begin in fall of 2013 or spring of 2014.

For more information, questions or comments about this fee change proposal, please contact Grindstone Ranger District Recreation Manager Randy Jero at rjero@fs.fed.us or by calling 530-934-3316.

Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

###

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Mendocino

National Forest

825 N. Humboldt Ave.

Willows, CA 95988

(530) 934-3316

TTY (530) 934-7724

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Mendocino National Forest to consider simplifying Camp Discovery fees

Special to the Daily News

UPDATED: 08/17/2013 07:45:47 AM PDT

Mendocino National Forest recreation managers are accepting comments on a proposal to change the fee structure at Camp Discovery Group Camp at Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area.

Currently Camp Discovery is available for rent for either day use or overnight use.

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Camp Discovery receives 95 percent of fees generated, which are invested in the facility, providing ongoing operations, maintenance and improvements.

In recent years, recreation fees have provided staffing to clean and maintain the facility prior to and following group rentals, general building maintenance, mowing grassy areas and paving paths.



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contentItemRelationshipId=53](#)

Mendocino National Forest is proposing a change the rental structure of the Camp Discovery Group Camp at Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area. (DN/Andre Byik)

Mendocino National Forest to consider simplifying Camp Discovery fees

Special to the Daily News Red Bluff Daily News
Updated:

RedBluffDailyNews.com

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"The single fee for rental of the site will allow us to manage Camp Discovery more efficiently, ensuring visitors continue to enjoy the high quality experience they have come to expect.

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If this fee proposal is approved, it is anticipated that the change to a single fee structure would begin in fall of 2013 or spring of 2014.

For more information, questions or comments about this fee change proposal, please contact Grindstone Ranger District Recreation Manager Randy Jero at rjero@fs.fed.us or 934-3316.

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New Fee Proposals

Area(s): Red Bluff Recreation Area, Camp Discovery Group Campground, Sycamore Grove Campground, Sycamore Grove Picnic

Date(s): Sep 11, 2013

The Grindstone Ranger District has two fee change proposals affecting the Red Bluff Recreation Area.

Sycamore Grove Yurt Proposal

Camp Discovery Fee Increase Proposal



Key Contacts

Supervisor's Office
(530) 934-3316

Upper Lake Ranger District
(707) 275-2361

Stonyford Work Center
(530) 963-3128

Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area
(530) 527-2813

Covelo Ranger District
(707) 983-6118

Public Affairs Officer
Tamara Schmidt
(530) 934-1137

Rules & Regulations

Code of Federal Regulations

All visitors and users of the National Forests are subject to Federal Regulations. The points of conduct listed here are generally included in and enforceable through Federal Regulations. All of the regulations are published in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations and are on file at all Forest Supervisor and District Ranger offices. Violation of orders and regulations is subject to punishment by a fine or imprisonment.

Authority: 16 USC 551, 7 USC 1011 (f)

State traffic and game laws apply to National Forests unless otherwise specified.

Forest Regulations

As a visitor to the National Forest, you are asked to follow certain rules designed to protect the Forest and the natural environment, to ensure the health and safety of visitors, and to promote pleasant and rewarding outdoor recreation experiences for all visitors.

InciWeb
Incident Information System

[Wildland Fire Updates](#)

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 10:22 AM
To: Ebert, Jennifer -FS
Cc: Pozas, Shannon L -FS
Subject: FW: Red Bluff Recreation Area Proposed Changes

Sent to staffer (Jeannie Klever – Dist Rep) from Congressman Garamendi's Office.

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 5:05 PM
To: 'jeannie.klever@mail.house.gov'
Cc: Olmedo, Eduardo (oolmedo@fs.fed.us); Tune, Sherry -FS
Subject: Red Bluff Recreation Area Proposed Changes

The Grindstone Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest has proposed changes within the Red Bluff Recreation Area, City of Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

The Forest is proposing the conversion of one traditional campsite to one with a yurt. Adding a yurt will increase visitor opportunities at this campground. As a result, fees for this campsite would increase from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per day. Fees collected would be used to fund operations and maintenance of the yurt and amenities within the campground.

In addition, the Forest is proposing a change to the Camp Discovery Group Camp, also with the Red Bluff Recreation Area. Currently, the reservation system cannot accommodate a variable pricing strategy and the Forest Service requires that all group camp sites be put into the reservation system used nationwide. Previously, we offered groups to reserve the campsite for day use only at a lesser amount (\$100.00) and overnight use (\$175.00/24 hour period). Approximately 80% of reservations are overnight use. The Forest is proposing changing the fee to \$175.00 for up to a 24 hour period. Day use at the \$100.00 fee would no longer be an option.

The Red Bluff Recreation Area is located with the 1st Congressional District. However, these proposals, when submitted to the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, the Forest agreed to contact your office to share with you these proposals. We have already shared these proposals to the Tehama County Board of Supervisors and no concerns were expressed regarding these changes. We are awaiting a response from the 1st Congressional District.

If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Eduardo Olmedo
District Ranger
Grindstone Ranger District
Mendocino National Forest
Phone: 530-934-1250

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 10:25 AM
To: Ebert, Jennifer -FS
Cc: Pozas, Shannon L -FS
Subject: FW: Recreation Fee Change Proposals - Red Bluff

Sent to staffer (Heidi Dickerson) from Congressman Huffman's Office.

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 1:26 PM
To: heidi.dickerson@mail.house.gov
Subject: Recreation Fee Change Proposals - Red Bluff

The Grindstone Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest has proposed changes within the Red Bluff Recreation Area, City of Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

The Forest is proposing the conversion of one traditional campsite to one with a yurt. Adding a yurt will increase visitor opportunities at this campground. As a result, fees for this campsite would increase from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per day. Fees collected would be used to fund operations and maintenance of the yurt and amenities within the campground.

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If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Eduardo Olmedo
District Ranger
Grindstone Ranger District
Mendocino National Forest
Phone: [530-934-1250](tel:530-934-1250)

Sent from my iPhone

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 10:26 AM
To: Ebert, Jennifer -FS
Cc: Pozas, Shannon L -FS
Subject: FW: Red Bluff Recreation Fee Change Proposals

Sent to staffer (Brenda Haynes) from Congressman LaMalfa's Office.

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 10:07 AM
To: 'hayne [REDACTED]'
Subject: Red Bluff Recreation Fee Change Proposals

Dear Brenda,

I left you voice messages at your office the last couple of days. I did not have your office email, however, I found this email from an earlier message that Rick Svlich had sent to us on another matter. I hope you are ok with me sending this information and briefing summary to the att.net email address.

The Grindstone Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest has proposed changes within the Red Bluff Recreation Area, City of Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

The Forest is proposing the conversion of one traditional campsite to one with a yurt. Adding a yurt will increase visitor opportunities at this campground. As a result, fees for this campsite would increase from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per day. Fees collected would be used to fund operations and maintenance of the yurt and amenities within the campground.

In addition, the Forest is proposing a change to the Camp Discovery Group Camp, also with the Red Bluff Recreation Area. Currently, the reservation system cannot accommodate a variable pricing strategy and the Forest Service requires that all group camp sites be put into the reservation system used nationwide. Previously, we offered groups to reserve the campsite for day use only at a lesser amount (\$100.00) and overnight use (\$175.00/24 hour period). Approximately 80% of reservations are overnight use. The Forest is proposing changing the fee to \$175.00 for up to a 24 hour period. Day use at the \$100.00 fee would no longer be an option.

The Red Bluff Recreation Area is located with the 1st Congressional District. I have already shared these proposals to the Tehama County Board of Supervisors (12/10/13) and no concerns were expressed regarding these changes. The Recreation Resource Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet in January to review such proposals in the region and make decisions to approve or disapprove them.

If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Eduardo

Eduardo Olmedo

From: Jero, Randy -FS
To: ["Kitty Benzar"](#)
Subject: RE: FW: Next Meeting?
Date: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 2:44:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.gif](#)

I just checked our website and both are on there; Yurt was posted July 25 and Camp Discovery posted August 16. Thank you, Randy Jero

From: Kitty Benzar [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 1:53 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Re: FW: Next Meeting?

[If the proposals are supposed to be on our website, it was an oversight and will be remedied.](#)

It's not so much a "supposed to be" as that the more public participation you have the more and better feedback you're going to get. The website just seemed like an obvious place.

If I am becoming a pest sorry for that. It's because I have so much experience with FS and BLM personnel who go through the motions of doing the minimum possible public involvement, then use the RRAC not as a conduit for public participation but as a substitute for it. A system with which the RRACs cheerfully comply because they have been hand-picked for their willingness to vote yes on just about anything. If you haven't read our white paper, [The Fix Is In](#), I hope you will. You'll understand why we scrutinize the process closely every chance we get.

[Camp Discovery was built by the Forest Service.](#)

Then you're right, it's about the most highly developed group site I've ever encountered. BuRec is fond of overbuilding recreation facilities that's why I suspected them. This one does sound like it went overboard, and now you are stuck with maintaining it, with less demand than somebody at one time projected. You have my sympathy. But please keep it and all your facilities open and affordable for families and low-income people. And keep it in FS management, that is a refreshing improvement from the concessionaire model!

On Wed, Aug 21, 2013 at 2:11 PM, Jero, Randy -FS <rjero@fs.fed.us> wrote:
What we've done so far was to post the proposals at the Red Bluff Recreation Area for 60 days, news releases went out in the local papers and I've created a folder which has all of the comments I've received to date. [If the proposals are supposed to be on our website, it was an oversight and will be remedied.](#)

[Camp Discovery was built by the Forest Service.](#)

I'll make sure your comments are included. Thank you and let me know if there is anything else I can answer. Randy Jero

From: Kitty Benzar [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 8:48 AM

To: Jero, Randy -FS

Subject: Re: FW: Next Meeting?

Thank you Randy. So what is your process for documenting the "general public support" that the RRAC is required by law to have before forwarding a recommendation to the Secretary? For example, the proposed changes at Camp Discovery should be posted at the link you sent. There should be a formal comment period and it should be well-publicized.

FYI recreation.gov is not universally beloved. See [THIS LINK](#) and try googling "Reserve America Sucks." It adds a reservation fee to the cost of using the facility, and that goes to a multinational holding company, which has been [red-flagged by some financial analysts](#) for accounting irregularities and which administers the website out of offices in Canada. Lots of people would rather deal with a friendly local district office.

Question for you. Were the facilities at Camp Discovery built by the FS? In the satellite photo at the web link you sent I see a nearby diversion dam. Were the rec facilities built by the BuRec as part of developing that dam? I've seen that on other Forests that's why I wondered.

As to the yurt I have serious concerns about it. It's a step into the world of commercial lodging that I don't think is an appropriate role for the FS. Also the funding to purchase it would come from fees paid by "traditional" campers (tents-RVs) in order to try and attract a different type of user. That is inconsistent with the FS's frequent assertions that rec fees are spent to benefit those who paid them. With a municipality nearby I also see it as competitive with private enterprise. I think it's something that ought to be offered by the private sector, if there really is demand for it. The FS should offer basic, rustic facilities at an affordable price. More "fancy" stuff like yurts should be built in Red Bluff with private capital by private entrepreneurs. I object to the FS trying to be a business instead of a public service.

If you would enter all of that into the comment record I'd appreciate it. Thanks for your prompt responses to my inquiries.

Kitty

On Tue, Aug 20, 2013 at 2:56 PM, Jero, Randy -FS <rjero@fs.fed.us> wrote:

There would be the one with the yurt which would in turn increase the fee at one campsite, then there is another that is for a group campground that we have. Camp Discovery group campground is in the same recreation area as the yurt and we have wanted to get it on the National Reservation service for some time now, but they have not been able to accommodate the day use and night use fees we have in place. What we've proposed is to drop the day use and only offer the night use fee of \$175/night. The site would be available for use from 2 PM to 11 AM. We felt this would help to increase the exposure of the site by using the reservation services advertising ability. As it stands right now, the site is very underutilized (approximately 10%) for a site of its caliber and deferred maintenance costs. The site offers more than any group campsite I've been able to find in the surrounding forests. Take a look at it on our MNF website. Thank you, Randy Jero

[http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mendocino/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?](http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mendocino/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/)

[recid=25240&actid=33](#)

From: Kitty Benzar [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 7:46 AM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Re: FW: Next Meeting?

Thanks Randy. When you say projects, plural, what are the others? I only know about the plan to purchase and erect a yurt.

On Tue, Aug 20, 2013 at 7:24 AM, Jero, Randy -FS <rjero@fs.fed.us> wrote:



Hello, it appears the RAC doesn't yet have a meeting agenda for reviewing projects. To answer your question about when our project would go to the RAC, we would be presenting our projects at the next available meeting. Below is the Recreation RAC website link. Thank you, Randy Jero

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5>

From: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 6:52 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: RE: Next Meeting?

Got it. At this meeting we will be scheduling the next meeting so don't have a schedule yet.

From: Jero, Randy -FS
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 4:34 PM
To: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Subject: RE: Next Meeting?

Yes, the Recreation RAC meeting. I believe we (Grindstone RD, Mendocino NF) may be presenting a couple of fee increase projects to the RAC. Just wanted to know the schedule of the meetings. I've had a few public comments and inquiries through the scoping process about our fee increase projects. I'm calling them projects, but that may not be the proper term. Thank you, Randy Jero

From: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 4:14 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: RE: Next Meeting?

Please feel free to give me a call. [707-562-8846](tel:707-562-8846). Just to be clear this is the Recreation RAC meeting.

From: Jero, Randy -FS
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 7:32 AM
To: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Subject: Next Meeting?

Hello, I've had a few inquiries as to the next schedule meeting to review projects. Thank you, Randy Jero

Mendocino National Forest
Grindstone Ranger District
Recreation Manager
[530-934-1269](tel:530-934-1269)

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--
Kitty Benzar
President
Western Slope No-Fee Coalition
[REDACTED]
Durango, CO 81302
[REDACTED]
www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org

--
Kitty Benzar
President
Western Slope No-Fee Coalition
[REDACTED]
Durango, CO 81302
[REDACTED]
www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org



Forest Service Fee Report

Site Name: Sycamore Grove Campground
Site Type: Campground

Action: Fee Increase
Fee Type: Expanded Amenity Fee
Forest Name: Mendocino National Forest
District: Grindstone Ranger District

Financial Information:

Total O&M: \$76,804
Deferred Maintenance: \$14,708
Current Revenue: \$42,000
Predicted Revenue: \$45,000
Projected Development Costs: \$22,000.00

Fee Change Information:

Reservation fee of \$9.00 applies

From: 1/1 To: 12/31

Current Fees: Proposed Fees:

Single Site \$25.00 \$40.00

Fee Remarks: The fee increase will be for one campsite where the yurt will be located. The fee for all other campsites will remain the same.

Reason for Fee Change

The Forest is proposing to install a yurt at one campsite within Sycamore Grove CG. Adding a yurt would increase visitor opportunities at this campground, which lies adjacent to a major Interstate Highway. The yurt would provide amenities and opportunities for visitors to experience the National Forest that may not otherwise be interested in a traditional camping experience.

REA Amenities - Must Have 5 out of 9

Access Road:	Graveled 2WD accessible	Picnic Table:	Yes
Fire Device:	Pedestal Grills	Water:	Yes
Visitor Protection:	Host or attendant present	Garbage:	Yes
Fee Collection:	Campground Host	Tent Pad:	No
Toilet:	Vault		

Other Site Amenities:

Boat Launch
Showers
Lake-River Oriented
Established Vegetation
Interpretive Services
Hookups
Rec Opportunities from site
Ease of Approach

Area Description:

The campground is located within the Red Bluff Recreation Area, which adjoins the Sacramento River near the full service town of Red Bluff, CA. The campground has grass lawns and is nestled among sycamore, oak and cottonwood trees. Other visitor facilities within the Recreation Area include day use areas, 4.2 miles of trail that provide scenic views of Mt. Shasta and Mt. Lassen, two boat ramps, and the Sacramento Discovery Center.



Forest Service Fee Report

Site Name: Sycamore Grove Campground
Site Type: Campground

Action: Fee Increase
Fee Type: Expanded Amenity Fee
Forest Name: Mendocino National Forest
District: Grindstone Ranger District

Planned Accomplishment Narrative:

Fees collected will fund the operations and maintenance of the yurt and amenities within Sycamore Grove Campground. If the public demand increases for this type of recreation experience, fee funds may also be used to install additional yurts within Sycamore Grove Campground.

Method for Informing Public:

Accomplishments are communicated to the public through the Forest’s Annual Report, website, and onsite notices.

Other Provider Summary: Other Provider Avg Price: \$44.33

Other Provider 1 Name:
Shasta Lake Yurts - Shasta Trinity N
Other Provider 1 Price:
\$45.00

Other Provider 2 Name:
Premier RV Resort Yurt Rentals (Re
Other Provider 2 Price:
\$47.00

Other Provider 3 Name:
Oregon State Park Yurt Campsites
Other Provider 3 Price:
\$41.00

Other Provider 1 Summary:
Located within a National Forest family campground (near Shasta Lake) with some campsites providing yurts. Similar amenities to Sycamore Grove - picnic table, fire ring, and vehicle parking spur. Restrooms available within the campground.

Other Provider 2 Summary:
Amenities include bathroom, showers, swimming pool, tent sites, and cabin rentals. Yurt rentals include electricity, bunk beds and sofa bed.

Other Provider 3 Summary:
Located within a single family campground with some campsites providing yurts. Similar amenities to Sycamore Grove - picnic table, fire ring, and vehicle parking spur. Restrooms available within the campground; some offer showers.

Price Justification:

The price is slightly below the average price of other providers, but is considered reasonable in context to the current fee of \$25/night for a RV site with electrical and potable water hookups within Sycamore Grove Campground.

Site Photos



Campsite 4 in Sycamore Grove CG is one of the possible yurt locations.



Example of the yurt that would be placed in Sycamore Grove CG.



Forest Service Fee Report

Site Name: Sycamore Grove Campground

Site Type: Campground

Action: Fee Increase

Fee Type: Expanded Amenity Fee

Forest Name: Mendocino National Forest

District: Grindstone Ranger District

Public Participation: Yes

Posted Notice in Rec Area: 08/16/2013
 NewsRelease: 07/25/2013
 Website Post: 07/25/2013
 Notify Local Interest Groups:

Federal Register Notice:
 Local Elected Official: 12/17/2013
 Federal Legislator: 12/17/2013
 Public Meeting:

Public Participation Tasks:

- 1) Issued press release on 07/25/13 to local newspapers as well as newspapers from known communities in which visitors originate, such as Red Bluff Daily News, Redding Record Searchlight, Chico Enterprise Record, Tri County News (covering Chico, Willows, Orland, and Colusa), and Sacramento Bee. The press release was published in the Red Bluff Daily News on 07/27/13.
- 2) Posted notice on the Mendocino NF website on 07/25/13. Proposal is also highlighted in the "Alerts and Notices" section of the Mendocino NF website beginning on 09/11/13.
- 3) Posted proposed change in fee posters at Red Bluff Recreation Area information kiosks, including within Sycamore Grove Campground and at the Sacramento River Discovery Center.
- 4) Provided briefing on proposed change in fee to local government officials, including the Tehama County Board of Supervisors as well as Congressional representatives from three Congressional Districts. Presented the proposal at the Tehama County Board of Supervisors meeting on 12/17/13.

Public Participation Results:

Two comments supporting the proposal were received by phone; one comment, not in support of the proposal was submitted through email correspondence. The results of public involvement are provided in the attached public involvement summary.

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

**Mendocino National Forest: Sycamore Grove Campground Yurt Proposal
Summary includes public involvement efforts & comments as of 01/07/2014**

Summary of Proposal:

The Mendocino National Forest is proposing to:

- Install a yurt at one campsite at the Sycamore Grove Campground and increase the fee to \$40/night for the one campsite with the yurt. The campsite where the yurt would be located has electricity and potable water hookups and the fee is currently \$25/night. The fee for all other campsites would not change.

Public Participation Activities:

Public Participation Tasks	Date(s)
Posted notices in campground	08/16/2013
Press release to local media	07/25/2013
Date published in newspaper Red Bluff Daily News (attached)	07/27/2013
Posted notice on Mendocino NF web site (attached)	07/25/2013
Use Twitter	07/27/2013
Local Elected Official/Congressional Briefing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone call with follow up email to Congressman Garamendi's office (12/17/13), Congressman Huffman's office (12/18/13), Congressman LaMalfa's office (12/19/13)] • Proposals were presented at the Tehama County Board of Supervisors meeting on 12/17/2013 	12/17/2013 to 12/19/2013

Public Participation Results:

Method of Communication	Summary of Comments as of 1/3/2013
<p>Phone</p>	<p>08/08/13, follow up phone conversation with Kitty Benzar (in response to email inquiry) to address questions about the Sycamore Grove Campground Yurt proposal. Email correspondence related to the phone conversation is attached.</p> <p>09/05/13, voicemail message received (no name or contact information was provided). Comments were supportive of the yurt proposal. Individual stated that they would rent the yurt site over the other campsites.</p> <p>09/18/13, voicemail message received (no name or contact information was provided). Individual thought it was a great idea to have an alternate type of camping experience at Red Bluff.</p>
<p>In Person Communication</p>	<p>District Ranger presented the proposals at Tehama County Board of Supervisors meeting on 12/17/2013; no comments were received or issues expressed.</p>
<p>E-mail Communication</p>	<p>08/07/13, initial email from Kitty Benzar inquiring about the proposal. Email correspondence between 08/07/13 and 08/21/13 is attached.</p> <p>12/17/13 to 12/19/13, District Ranger contacted 3 congressional offices (voicemail and follow up email), including a staffer from Congressman Garamendi's office, Congressman Huffman's office, and Congressman LaMalfa's office. No comments were received or issues expressed.</p>
<p>Written Letter</p>	<p>None received.</p>

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Mendocino National Forest
825 N. Humboldt Ave.
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-3316
TTY (530) 934-7724

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Mendocino National Forest Proposes Addition of Yurt at Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area

Release Date: Jul 25, 2013

Contact(s): **Tamara Schmidt**

WILLOWS, Calif. – Recreation managers on the Mendocino National Forest are seeking comments on a proposal to install a yurt at one campsite at the Sycamore Grove Campground, located within the Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area.

The campsite currently has electricity and potable water hookups and fee is \$25 per night. The proposed fee increase for the campsite with yurt is \$40 per night.

Sycamore Grove Campground is a 30-unit campground which provides tent and RV camping adjacent to the Sacramento River. Ten of the campsites within the campground provide electric hook-ups. The Forest is proposing installing a yurt within one of the existing campsites with electric and potable water hook-ups.

The yurt would be available for rental on a first-come-first-served basis or by reservation through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at 877-444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov. The NRRS charges a \$9 reservation fee.

Yurts are becoming increasingly popular at campgrounds throughout the West. They provide a secure, comfortable, weather-proof tent-cabin experience, complete with beds to accommodate up to five people. Yurts are canvas sided with windows, a locking door, vented roof, lights and electricity. Fire rings and picnic tables will be provided within the campsite.

"We are excited about the opportunity to provide this unique camping experience on the Mendocino National Forest," said Grindstone District Ranger Eduardo Olmedo. "By offering yurts at Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area, we hope to encourage people from all walks of life, all ages, and with all levels of camping experience to come out and enjoy camping on the National Forest."

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows the Forest Service to keep 95 percent of the fees collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain and improve these sites. Fees collected from the yurt rental will fund operations and maintenance and could be used to expand the yurt program in the future based on popularity and public demand for this type of recreation opportunity.

This fee proposal will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, or RRAC. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups. The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings. More information about the RRAC, including meeting dates and locations can be found at:

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

If this fee proposal is approved, it is anticipated that the yurt would become available for overnight rental in the spring, 2014.

For more information, or to comment on this proposal, please contact Grindstone Ranger District Recreation Manager Randy Jero at 530-934-1269 or email at **rjero@fs.fed.us**. Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

###

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Reviews Reeds Creek audit

eighth ed Bluff. stigation findings l by the tment of 2012.

012, the id Man- ordinary School mple of district's and poor the dis- e use of ionable" ve been

construed as gifts, a lack of records and receipts for purchases and loose management of Associated Student Body funds.

The audit group found that in its testing of 94 transactions in the 2009-10 fiscal year, documentation for 90 of them couldn't be provided by the district.

The FCMAT highlighted three of those transactions, which



Grand Jury

totalled \$3,500 paid to Sacramento Kings Account Executive, Season Ticket Sales.

The audit noted that without supported documentation, the FCMAT couldn't find out what the payment was for, and inquiries to staff went unanswered.

Jacob Hosler, Reeds Creek School's principal and superintendent from Aug. 1, 2008 to May

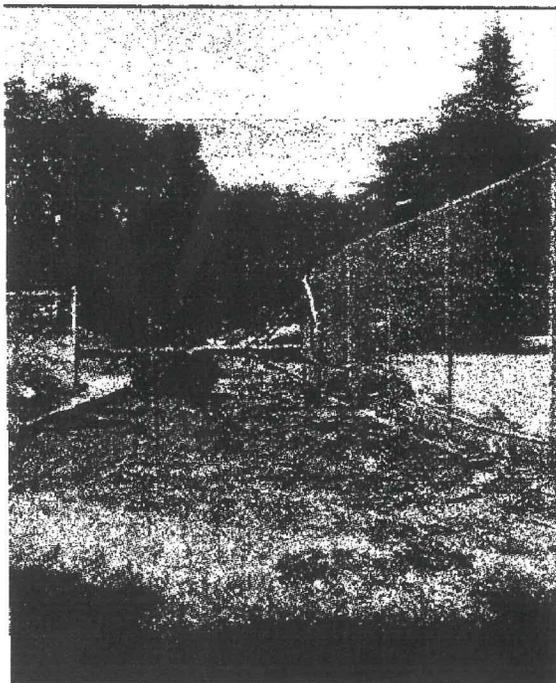
31, 2012, said Friday that payments to the Sacramento Kings were part of a sports fundraiser in which he worked with the Kings. He said that payments made to the Kings were for 300 tickets at \$19.50 apiece.

Hosler said that students from Reeds Creek School, in cooperation with students from Lassen View Elementary School District, sold the tickets at a price of \$25 apiece, netting Reeds Creek School more than \$1,000 for its sports program.

Additionally, he said, as a perk for working with the Kings students from both schools trav-

See AUDIT, page 9A

COURT



Daily News photo by Andre Byik

ounty Department of Education building.

osed basketball lights will be rved courts o ng of the courts

online and seat time learning models, is expected to have the potential of housing 100 students. The school, which will be run by the county department of education, is expected to open in December.

Mendocino to consider yurt at Lake Red Bluff

Recreation managers on the Mendocino National Forest are seeking comments on a proposal to install a yurt at one campsite at the Sycamore Grove Campground, located within the Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area.

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Ten of the campsites within the campground provide electric hook-ups. The forest is proposing installing a yurt within one of the existing campsites with electric and potable water hookups.

See YURT, page 9A

State tightens smog rules for off-road vehicles

SACRAMENTO (AP) — Dirt bikes and other off-road vehicles sold in California will have to meet tough new anti-smog requirements beginning with 2018 models.

The state Air Resources Board on Thursday approved rules that could

Organic reactive gases such as cancer-causing benzene are emitted from off-road vehicles even when they're in the garage. The new regulations would limit them to 1 gram a day instead of the estimated 10 to 15 grams the 2018 models otherwise would release

vodka is made from Russian ingredients.
Bars in Chicago have also been boycotting.

YURT

(Continued from page 1A)

The yurt would be available for rental on a first-come-first-served basis or by reservation through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) at 877-444-6777 or at www.recreation.gov. The NRRS charges a \$9 reservation fee.

Yurts are becoming increasingly popular at campgrounds throughout the West. They provide a secure, comfortable, weatherproof tent-cabin experience, complete with beds to accommodate up to five people. Yurts are canvas sided with windows, a locking door, vented roof, lights and electricity. Fire rings and picnic tables will be provided within the campsite.

"We are excited about the opportunity to provide this unique camping experience on the Mendocino National Forest," said Grindstone District Ranger Eduardo Olmedo. "By offering yurts at Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area, we hope to encourage people from all walks of life, all ages, and with all levels of camping experience to come out and enjoy camping on the National Forest."

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows the Forest Service to keep 95 percent of the

fees collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate, maintain and improve these sites.

Fees collected from the yurt rental will fund operations and maintenance and could be used to expand the yurt program in the future based on popularity and public demand for this type of recreation opportunity.

This fee proposal will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee, called the California Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, or RRAC. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups.

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings. More information about the RRAC, including meeting dates and locations can be found at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/main/r5/recreation/racs>.

If this fee proposal is approved, it is anticipated that the yurt would become available for overnight rental in the spring 2014.

For more information, or to comment on this proposal, please contact Grindstone Ranger District Recreation Manager Randy Jero at 530-934-1269 or email at rjero@fs.fed.us.

Comments may also be submitted by mail to: Mendocino National Forest, 825 N. Humboldt Ave., Willows, CA 95988.

SMOG

(Continued from page 1A)

Off-road vehicle manufacturers are expected to need design changes and make use of newer materials to meet the cap — and that's expected to raise prices.

The requirements will be phased in over four years beginning in 2018. The regulations will cover vehicles such as dirt bikes, all-terrain vehicles and sand cars. Professional racing motorcycles, snowmobiles, gas-

end of last year, according to a Department of Motor Vehicles.

Regulators say stricter rules are necessary as the state struggles to meet federal clean-air standards.

However, the changes could raise the cost to 2018 buyers 4 percent to 9 percent, potentially adding hundreds of dollars to the vehicle price.

"This will put pressure on dealers already struggling to stay in business," off-road enthusiast Bob Ham of Calexico said.

articles of clothing were purchased between Dec. 14, 2010 and May 2, 2011, totaling \$7,243.22.

These purchases, the audit notes, could have been considered gifts of public funds. It said the district's board could set guidelines for allowable gifts and awards to staff, but the board didn't provide the Fiscal Crisis and Management Team with its own policy.

"During my time (at Reeds Creek School) we did have two extraordinary audits from FCMAT," Hosler said. "During those audits, one of the items that was stated in both of their investigations was that the district needed to review, and make current, district policy per (education) code."

The audit also found, in a sample selection of the school's transactions, that Hosler "approved his own reimbursement requests in 13 of 14, or 93 percent, of the reimbursement payments made to him using the general fund accounts payable process," during fiscal year 2010-2011. The audit found no evidence that a third party with power to deny the reimbursements reviewed the requests.

Hosler was placed on administrative leave Feb. 2, 2012 and was ultimately replaced by Dane Hansen, as Reeds Creek School's superintendent and Jennifer Brockman as the school's principal.

"I had glowing evaluations from the board," Hosler said. "During my time as superintendent and principal I followed district policy as it was stated at the time."

Additionally, the district used its revolving fund account to quickly process reimbursements to Hosler.

that Hosler \$100 per through the roll system ing eighth during trips D.C. He w \$400 and 2010 and respectively states that business of approval fr president fo payment, employer the former principal d for the stipend of t audit state indication party appr 2010 payr further st approval s sought for

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The found th used for weren't r ly fash became with the fundrais expendit tle to no vided.

The deposits fund into to make fundrais



The staff at Red Bluff Cremations would like to thank the families who trust in their loved ones need Red Bluff Simple Cremation Co.



Searched for: allfields(yurt) AND date(7/1/2013 to 9/30/2013)

Returned: 1 displays of 1 matches

Mendocino to consider yurt at Lake Red Bluff

Author: Special to the Daily News

Date: July 27, 2013

Publication: Red Bluff Daily News (CA)

Recreation managers on the Mendocino National Forest are seeking comments on a proposal to install a yurt at one campsite at the Sycamore Grove Campground, located within the Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area.

The campsite currently has electricity and potable water hookups and fee is \$25 per night. The proposed fee increase for the campsite with yurt is \$40 per night.

Sycamore Grove Campground is a 30-unit campground which provides tent and RV camping adjacent to the Sacramento

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New Fee Proposals

Area(s): Red Bluff Recreation Area, Camp Discovery Group Campground, Sycamore Grove Campground, Sycamore Grove Picnic

Date(s): Sep 11, 2013

The Grindstone Ranger District has two fee change proposals affecting the Red Bluff Recreation Area.

Sycamore Grove Yurt Proposal

Camp Discovery Fee Increase Proposal



Key Contacts

Supervisor's Office
(530) 934-3316

Upper Lake Ranger District
(707) 275-2361

Stonyford Work Center
(530) 963-3128

Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area
(530) 527-2813

Covelo Ranger District
(707) 983-6118

Public Affairs Officer
Tamara Schmidt
(530) 934-1137

Rules & Regulations

Code of Federal Regulations

All visitors and users of the National Forests are subject to Federal Regulations. The points of conduct listed here are generally included in and enforceable through Federal Regulations. All of the regulations are published in Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations and are on file at all Forest Supervisor and District Ranger offices. Violation of orders and regulations is subject to punishment by a fine or imprisonment.

Authority: 16 USC 551, 7 USC 1011 (f)

State traffic and game laws apply to National Forests unless otherwise specified.

Forest Regulations

As a visitor to the National Forest, you are asked to follow certain rules designed to protect the Forest and the natural environment, to ensure the health and safety of visitors, and to promote pleasant and rewarding outdoor recreation experiences for all visitors.

InciWeb
Incident Information System

Wildland Fire Updates

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 10:22 AM
To: Ebert, Jennifer -FS
Cc: Pozas, Shannon L -FS
Subject: FW: Red Bluff Recreation Area Proposed Changes

Sent to staffer (Jeannie Klever – Dist Rep) from Congressman Garamendi's Office.

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Tuesday, December 17, 2013 5:05 PM
To: 'jeannie.klever@mail.house.gov'
Cc: Olmedo, Eduardo (oolmedo@fs.fed.us); Tune, Sherry -FS
Subject: Red Bluff Recreation Area Proposed Changes

The Grindstone Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest has proposed changes within the Red Bluff Recreation Area, City of Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

The Forest is proposing the conversion of one traditional campsite to one with a yurt. Adding a yurt will increase visitor opportunities at this campground. As a result, fees for this campsite would increase from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per day. Fees collected would be used to fund operations and maintenance of the yurt and amenities within the campground.

In addition, the Forest is proposing a change to the Camp Discovery Group Camp, also with the Red Bluff Recreation Area. Currently, the reservation system cannot accommodate a variable pricing strategy and the Forest Service requires that all group camp sites be put into the reservation system used nationwide. Previously, we offered groups to reserve the campsite for day use only at a lesser amount (\$100.00) and overnight use (\$175.00/24 hour period). Approximately 80% of reservations are overnight use. The Forest is proposing changing the fee to \$175.00 for up to a 24 hour period. Day use at the \$100.00 fee would no longer be an option.

The Red Bluff Recreation Area is located with the 1st Congressional District. However, these proposals, when submitted to the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, the Forest agreed to contact your office to share with you these proposals. We have already shared these proposals to the Tehama County Board of Supervisors and no concerns were expressed regarding these changes. We are awaiting a response from the 1st Congressional District.

If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Eduardo Olmedo
District Ranger
Grindstone Ranger District
Mendocino National Forest
Phone: 530-934-1250

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 10:25 AM
To: Ebert, Jennifer -FS
Cc: Pozas, Shannon L -FS
Subject: FW: Recreation Fee Change Proposals - Red Bluff

Sent to staffer (Heidi Dickerson) from Congressman Huffman's Office.

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Wednesday, December 18, 2013 1:26 PM
To: heidi.dickerson@mail.house.gov
Subject: Recreation Fee Change Proposals - Red Bluff

The Grindstone Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest has proposed changes within the Red Bluff Recreation Area, City of Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

The Forest is proposing the conversion of one traditional campsite to one with a yurt. Adding a yurt will increase visitor opportunities at this campground. As a result, fees for this campsite would increase from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per day. Fees collected would be used to fund operations and maintenance of the yurt and amenities within the campground.

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Respectfully yours,

Eduardo Olmedo
District Ranger
Grindstone Ranger District
Mendocino National Forest
Phone: [530-934-1250](tel:530-934-1250)

Sent from my iPhone

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Monday, January 06, 2014 10:26 AM
To: Ebert, Jennifer -FS
Cc: Pozas, Shannon L -FS
Subject: FW: Red Bluff Recreation Fee Change Proposals

Sent to staffer (Brenda Haynes) from Congressman LaMalfa's Office.

From: Olmedo, Eduardo -FS
Sent: Thursday, December 19, 2013 10:07 AM
To: 'haynes [REDACTED]'
Subject: Red Bluff Recreation Fee Change Proposals

Dear Brenda,

I left you voice messages at your office the last couple of days. I did not have your office email, however, I found this email from an earlier message that Rick Svlich had sent to us on another matter. I hope you are ok with me sending this information and briefing summary to the att.net email address.

The Grindstone Ranger District of the Mendocino National Forest has proposed changes within the Red Bluff Recreation Area, City of Red Bluff, Tehama County, California.

The Forest is proposing the conversion of one traditional campsite to one with a yurt. Adding a yurt will increase visitor opportunities at this campground. As a result, fees for this campsite would increase from \$25.00 to \$40.00 per day. Fees collected would be used to fund operations and maintenance of the yurt and amenities within the campground.

In addition, the Forest is proposing a change to the Camp Discovery Group Camp, also with the Red Bluff Recreation Area. Currently, the reservation system cannot accommodate a variable pricing strategy and the Forest Service requires that all group camp sites be put into the reservation system used nationwide. Previously, we offered groups to reserve the campsite for day use only at a lesser amount (\$100.00) and overnight use (\$175.00/24 hour period). Approximately 80% of reservations are overnight use. The Forest is proposing changing the fee to \$175.00 for up to a 24 hour period. Day use at the \$100.00 fee would no longer be an option.

The Red Bluff Recreation Area is located with the 1st Congressional District. I have already shared these proposals to the Tehama County Board of Supervisors (12/10/13) and no concerns were expressed regarding these changes. The Recreation Resource Advisory Committee is scheduled to meet in January to review such proposals in the region and make decisions to approve or disapprove them.

If you have any concerns, comments, or questions, please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Respectfully yours,

Eduardo

Eduardo Olmedo

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Jero, Randy -FS
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 2:44 PM
To: 'Kitty Benzar'
Subject: RE: FW: Next Meeting?

I just checked our website and both are on there; Yurt was posted July 25 and Camp Discovery posted August 16. Thank you, Randy Jero

From: Kitty Benzar [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 1:53 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Re: FW: Next Meeting?

If the proposals are supposed to be on our website, it was an oversight and will be remedied.

It's not so much a "supposed to be" as that the more public participation you have the more and better feedback you're going to get. The website just seemed like an obvious place.

If I am becoming a pest sorry for that. It's because I have so much experience with FS and BLM personnel who go through the motions of doing the minimum possible public involvement, then use the RRAC not as a conduit for public participation but as a substitute for it. A system with which the RRACs cheerfully comply because they have been hand-picked for their willingness to vote yes on just about anything. If you haven't read our white paper, [The Fix Is In](#), I hope you will. You'll understand why we scrutinize the process closely every chance we get.

Camp Discovery was built by the Forest Service.

Then you're right, it's about the most highly developed group site I've ever encountered. BuRec is fond of overbuilding recreation facilities that's why I suspected them. This one does sound like it went overboard, and now you are stuck with maintaining it, with less demand than somebody at one time projected. You have my sympathy. But please keep it and all your facilities open and affordable for families and low-income people. And keep it in FS management, that is a refreshing improvement from the concessionaire model!

On Wed, Aug 21, 2013 at 2:11 PM, Jero, Randy -FS <rjero@fs.fed.us> wrote:

What we've done so far was to post the proposals at the Red Bluff Recreation Area for 60 days, news releases went out in the local papers and I've created a folder which has all of the comments I've received to date. If the proposals are supposed to be on our website, it was an oversight and will be remedied.

Camp Discovery was built by the Forest Service.

I'll make sure your comments are included. Thank you and let me know if there is anything else I can answer. Randy Jero

From: Kitty Benzar [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Wednesday, August 21, 2013 8:48 AM

To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Re: FW: Next Meeting?

Thank you Randy. So what is your process for documenting the "general public support" that the RRAC is required by law to have before forwarding a recommendation to the Secretary? For example, the proposed changes at Camp Discovery should be posted at the link you sent. There should be a formal comment period and it should be well-publicized.

FYI recreation.gov is not universally beloved. See [THIS LINK](#) and try googling "Reserve America Sucks." It adds a reservation fee to the cost of using the facility, and that goes to a multinational holding company, which has been red-flagged by some financial analysts for accounting irregularities and which administers the website out of offices in Canada. Lots of people would rather deal with a friendly local district office.

Question for you. Were the facilities at Camp Discovery built by the FS? In the satellite photo at the web link you sent I see a nearby diversion dam. Were the rec facilities built by the BuRec as part of developing that dam? I've seen that on other Forests that's why I wondered.

Comment specific to Sycamore Grove CG yurt proposal

As to the yurt I have serious concerns about it. It's a step into the world of commercial lodging that I don't think is an appropriate role for the FS. Also the funding to purchase it would come from fees paid by "traditional" campers (tents-RVs) in order to try and attract a different type of user. That is inconsistent with the FS's frequent assertions that rec fees are spent to benefit those who paid them. With a municipality nearby I also see it as competitive with private enterprise. I think it's something that ought to be offered by the private sector, if there really is demand for it. The FS should offer basic, rustic facilities at an affordable price. More "fancy" stuff like yurts should be built in Red Bluff with private capital by private entrepreneurs. I object to the FS trying to be a business instead of a public service.

If you would enter all of that into the comment record I'd appreciate it. Thanks for your prompt responses to my inquiries.

Kitty

On Tue, Aug 20, 2013 at 2:56 PM, Jero, Randy -FS <rjero@fs.fed.us> wrote:

There would be the one with the yurt which would in turn increase the fee at one campsite, then there is another that is for a group campground that we have. Camp Discovery group campground is in the same recreation area as the yurt and we have wanted to get it on the National Reservation service for some time now, but they have not been able to accommodate the day use and night use fees we have in place. What we've proposed is to drop the day use and only offer the night use fee of \$175/night. The site would be available for use from 2 PM to 11 AM. We felt this would help to increase the exposure of the site by using the reservation services advertising ability. As it stands right now, the site is very underutilized (approximately 10%) for a site of its caliber and deferred maintenance costs. The site offers more than any group campsite I've been able to find in the surrounding forests. Take a look at it on our MNF website. Thank you, Randy Jero

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/mendocino/recreation/camping-cabins/recarea/?recid=25240&actid=33>

From: Kitty Benzar [mailto:[\[REDACTED\]](mailto:)]
Sent: Tuesday, August 20, 2013 7:46 AM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Re: FW: Next Meeting?

Thanks Randy. When you say projects, plural, what are the others? I only know about the plan to purchase and erect a yurt.

On Tue, Aug 20, 2013 at 7:24 AM, Jero, Randy -FS <rjero@fs.fed.us> wrote:



Hello, it appears the RAC doesn't yet have a meeting agenda for reviewing projects. To answer your question about when our project would go to the RAC, we would be presenting our projects at the next available meeting. Below is the Recreation RAC website link. Thank you, Randy Jero

<http://www.fs.usda.gov/r5>

From: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 6:52 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: RE: Next Meeting?

Got it. At this meeting we will be scheduling the next meeting so don't have a schedule yet.

From: Jero, Randy -FS
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 4:34 PM
To: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Subject: RE: Next Meeting?

Yes, the Recreation RAC meeting. I believe we (Grindstone RD, Mendocino NF) may be presenting a couple of fee increase projects to the RAC. Just wanted to know the schedule of the meetings. I've had a few public comments and inquiries through the scoping process about our fee increase projects. I'm calling them projects, but that may not be the proper term. Thank you, Randy Jero

From: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 4:14 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: RE: Next Meeting?

Please feel free to give me a call. [707-562-8846](tel:707-562-8846). Just to be clear this is the Recreation RAC meeting.

From: Jero, Randy -FS
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 7:32 AM
To: FS-R5 Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
Subject: Next Meeting?

Hello, I've had a few inquiries as to the next schedule meeting to review projects. Thank you, Randy Jero

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Jero, Randy -FS
Sent: Monday, August 19, 2013 8:30 AM
To: 'Kitty Benzar'
Subject: RE: Yurt questions

One additional note, the yurts on the Shasta Trinity are owned by the concessionaire and would be taken down if the concessionaire left. Randy Jero

From: Kitty Benzar [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Wednesday, August 14, 2013 1:23 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Re: Yurt questions

Thanks very much!

On Wed, Aug 14, 2013 at 11:07 AM, Jero, Randy -FS <rjero@fs.fed.us> wrote:

I've asked for the business plan and the date for presentation to the RAC. I hope to have an answer shortly. I'll call the Shasta-Trinity and Lassen NF for information on the ownership of the yurts and get back with you. Thank you, Randy Jero

Mendocino NF

Grindstone RD

Recreation Manager

530-934-1269

From: Kitty Benzar [mailto:████████████████████]
Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2013 1:30 PM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Yurt questions

Hello Randy,

Thanks for your time today.

I looked for information online about the rental yurts on the Lassen and Shasta-Trinity forests that you mentioned.

On the Lassen, I found yurts available for rent from the private Hat Creek Resort. I also found a backcountry yurt owned and operated by CSU-Chico for organized student outings. I couldn't find any in the forest's campgrounds. If they have some, can you clarify where they are?

On the Shasta-Trinity I found three yurts for rent in the Lakeshore East campground, which is concessionaire-operated. Can you tell me whether these yurts are owned by the FS or by the concessionaire? I also found some rental yurts on the Tahoe in the Fallen Leaf campground, which is also concessionaire-operated. Same question there - does the concessionaire own them or does the FS?

Thanks,

Kitty

--

Kitty Bazar
President
Western Slope No-Fee Coalition



www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org

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Kitty Bazar
President
Western Slope No-Fee Coalition



www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org

Ebert, Jennifer -FS

From: Kitty Benzar <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Wednesday, August 07, 2013 7:30 AM
To: Jero, Randy -FS
Subject: Yurt questions

Hello Randy,

I have some questions for you about your proposal to erect a rental yurt at the Lake Red Bluff Recreation Area campground. Could you please give me a call so I can ask you a couple of things?

Thanks.

--

Kitty Benzar
President
Western Slope No-Fee Coalition



www.WesternSlopeNoFee.org