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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.

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BY JANET ZIMMERMAN | STAFF WRITER | December 09, 2013; 05:59 PM

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 had to have 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.

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- I have seen more wild animals in my neighborhood this year
- I have seen fewer wild animals
- It's about the same
- I see animals, but nothing exciting -- just stray cats and lost poodles
- I don't know

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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=stelprdb5443024.

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

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

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KiethBaldwin 6 days ago

The front page headline reads:
 "REGION: Forest Service plans to ditch fee.
 The agency has proposed free access to 350,000 acres across Southern California forests where visitors now must pay \$5 per day"

Isn't that statement contradicting?
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DwightChristensen 6 days ago

Well! after some ten years they figured out who owns the property!

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ChiefD 6 days ago

Right, Chris, however, I do think camp ground fees are ok, gotta pay for trash removal, etc.

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TRANSIP Personnel, a provider of public mass transportation in the San Bernardino Valley is recruiting for: Field Supervisor \$4125 - \$5760 mo.

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