

Klamath National Forest proposes increases on some recreation fees

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Yreka, Calif. -

Recreation managers on the Klamath National Forest (KNF) are asking for public comments on a proposal to increase fees at 15 recreation sites, a recent KNF news release announced.

Campground fees, which have been unchanged since 2001, allow the national forest to make improvements at those sites to ensure that campground services continue to meet visitor needs. The fee increases would be consistent with inflationary costs and ensure that fees collected on the national forest are comparable to similar public and private sites in the area.

The majority of funds collected at recreation fee sites, 80 percent to 95 percent, remain on the forest to operate, maintain and improve facilities and programs at the sites where fees are collected.

"We recognize how important these sites are to our local communities and those who use the sites. These fee increases will help us maintain the sites to the level and quality people have come to expect," Togan Capozza, recreation program manager, said in the release.

All current fee campgrounds across the forest would be affected by the proposed fee increases. Group campsite fees would be increased, or added at a few campgrounds where fees are currently being charged. All campgrounds have been posted with notices to inform users about proposed fee increases. A more detailed description of fee increases is located online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/klamath/>.

All fee change proposals are presented before the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC), a state-wide citizen's advisory committee. RRAC members represent many recreation interest groups to ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable fee changes. Committee members will also ensure the Forest Service addresses issues raised by the public, as well as concerns about recreation fees.

The public is invited to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings, which are scheduled in various locations throughout the state. RRAC meetings are announced through local media and online.

The following campsites require reservations: Curly Jack group sites, Carter Meadows group site, Sarah Totten group sites, Indian Scotty group site and some sites at Tree of Heaven. Reservations may be made by calling (877) 444-6777, or online at www.reserveusa.gov.

Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act in 2004, which allows the Forest Service to apply up to 95 percent of fees collected at certain recreation sites, and to use those fees to maintain and improve sites where they are collected. For more information, questions or comments about any of these fee change proposals, con

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