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Around 200 snow visitors to Figueroa Mountain ticketed

Posted: Feb 21, 2011 4:51 PM by **Monica Quintero** - Source: **KSBY News**

Updated: Feb 21, 2011 9:09 PM

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Snowfall in Santa Barbara County rarely happens, but that day of fun at Figueroa Mountain over the weekend ended with frustration for some visitors.

The Forest Service says hundreds of people were breaking the rules and slapped with a ticket for not buying the "adventure pass" and that now has some upset.

From snowball fights to sledding down the mountain, visitors were having all kinds of fun. Shelley Orozco, Santa Barbara resident, said, "It's awesome! We never have snow over here, we love it." We found many families as well as their furry friends taking advantage of the rare snowfall in Santa Barbara County Sunday afternoon. Sabina Funk, Santa Barbara County resident, said, "We bring up the boogie boards like good Santa Barbarans."

But apparently some didn't know about the adventure pass or simply decided not to buy one so they were given a \$5 ticket. The Forest Service is estimating some 200 were issued.

Orozco said, "I didn't know. I wouldn't mind it because it's not like we come up here often so to spend \$5 to come to the snow, I have no problem with that." Funk said, "I'm not a big supporter of the

adventure pass." She bought one but believes it's ridiculous. "I think it's double dipping," said Funk.

Nick Ciauri, Forest Service, said, "To be in compliance, you need to have an adventure pass. A day passes is only \$5 and annual passes are \$30. So that \$5 ticket covers the cost of a day pass. It essentially clears you after-the-fact. However, if a driver keeps getting caught breaking this rule that citation could jump dramatically. A ticket could end up being as much as \$125.

The Forest Service says the adventure pass has been around for the past 15 years and that visitors should be well aware of the requirement since there are signs all around making it clear. If you're wondering where the money generated from the tickets goes, the Forest Service says it helps maintain the area.

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