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[Judge Strikes Down Parking Fees in Area Forests](#)

Adventure Pass no longer needed for roadside parking under ruling
[Press Release](#) | Wednesday, Apr 30, 2014 11:40 am

[Western Slope No Fee Coalition] – In a ruling issued April 28, 2014, Senior U.S. District Judge Terry J. Hatter Jr. found that the Unit cannot charge fees to visitors who park their vehicles and head off down the trail without using any developed facilities, such as picni that may be adjacent to the parking area.

“This ruling is a victory for the American public, be they hikers, equestrians, hunters or fishermen. The nationwide fee law has clearly for parking since 2004, and the U.S. Forest Service should now cease charging these fees immediately, across southern California and Coyne, Conservation Director of Keep Sespe Wild and one of the four plaintiffs in the case.

Weather
Santa Clarita CA



Sunny
87°F

Calendar



Today in
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April 30
1973 - Watergate figure H.R. "Bob" Haldeman, a CalArts board member, resigns from Nixon White House
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The Forest Service has been levying such fees, and ticketing parked cars, at trailheads a since 1996 under a program called the Adventure Pass which encompasses all four National Forests in southern California: the Angel Padres, and San Bernardino. The Adventure Pass began as an experiment called Fee Demo, which allowed recreation fees to be char for any activity. Many Fee Demo fees were extremely unpopular, particularly the requirement to buy a pass merely to park and go for response to rising complaints, Congress repealed Fee Demo in 2004 and replaced it with the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement

The FLREA allows fees for use of amenities and services at developed sites, but prohibits them solely for parking or for passing thro facilities. This case, Fragosa et al v. US Forest Service, hinged on whether the Forest Service can require an Adventure Pass anywhere does not use them and only parks there while traveling through undeveloped areas.

In his ruling, Judge Hatter said decisively that they can not.

In an earlier case, Adams v. U.S. Forest Service, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in 2012 that the Forest Service was similarly i charged visitors to Mt Lemmon, near Tucson, a fee to park anywhere along a 28-mile roadway that provides access to numerous bac binding in the nine western states that comprise the 9th Circuit, including California, but the Forest Service there continued to require ticket unoccupied cars at trailheads.

In the current case, four southern California hikers sued in October 2012 to require the Forest Service to follow the Adams ruling and the Adventure Pass area. The Adventure Pass is the Forest Service’s largest fee program, selling more than 300,000 passes per year. / broadly unpopular, with more than 40,000 warnings and tickets for non-payment issued annually.

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