



**Coronado National Forest  
Restructuring Developed Recreation  
Summary of Public Involvement  
On Proposed Fee Changes  
September 2016-May 2018**



*Cochise Stronghold Campground  
on the Douglas Ranger District*



*Public meeting in the Safford  
Ranger District*



*Sabino Canyon developed  
recreation area*

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## Overview of Public Engagement

Between September 2016 and May 2018, the Coronado National Forest (CNF) gathered input from the public (which includes interested community members, forest visitors, and partner organizations) about changing fees at developed recreation sites. The CNF conducted two phases of public engagement related to fee changes. The first phase, which occurred from September 2016 to September 2017, was called “Restructuring Developed Recreation.” In this phase, the CNF asked for general perspectives on potential strategies for managing the Developed Recreation program in a more sustainable way. The forest received 108 written comments submitted at meetings, at recreation sites and over email. Of those, 93 individuals (or 86%) stated that they supported the CNF raising fees to market levels. Other broadly supported strategies included adding fee sites, increasing payment compliance through installing electronic fee stations and other methods, increasing operation and maintenance of sites, and developing new revenue sources such as donation boxes. People were not generally supportive of removing recreation sites, reducing the on-site amenities, or using concessionaires to operate sites. While this effort was focused on broader discussions about improving the CNF’s ability to sustainably manage the Developed Recreation program, the strong feedback that recreation fees were preferable prompted the CNF to write a new proposed fee structure.

Following Phase 1 of public involvement, the CNF wrote an initial proposal for adjusting fees and fee sites. The proposal included increasing prices of the CNF Annual Pass from \$20 to \$40, single-day passes from \$5 to \$8, developed campsites from \$10 to \$20, and standardizing group site fees (\$50/night plus \$10/vehicle). The CNF also proposed adding 36 developed sites across the Forest to the fee structure. The second phase of public engagement gathered input on that proposal. The CNF hosted more public meetings, presented at meetings of partner groups, and reviewed comments sent by email between October 2017 and May 2018.

Based on the public input received, the CNF modified the initial proposal to include two prices for developed campsites (\$15-\$20, depending on the amenities), keeping the \$10 week pass, and adding only 23 new sites to the fee structure. Because of its extensive public engagement effort, CNF feels that this final proposed fee structure is broadly supported by diverse users and supporters of the forest.

## Outreach Efforts

The CNF conducted extensive outreach to involve the public in developing the fee proposal. The CNF met with diverse communities across the forest, engaged partner organizations representing recreational user groups, talked with forest visitors who were not necessarily connected to organized groups, and solicited comments from people interested in the Forest who did not have time to attend meetings. The CNF’s outreach efforts included the following:

### Outreach for Phase 1

*Gathering ideas on general strategies for the Developed Recreation Program, including increasing fees and adding fee sites*

- **Creating a webpage** to provide information about the Restructuring Developed Recreation initiative, public meetings, and an opportunity for anyone to comment.
- **Conducting a market study** of the fees at similar outdoor recreation sites to the CNF, which informed both the CNF and the public on what fees may be reasonable for the Forest.
- **Distributing press releases** in newspapers across all districts describing the proposed fee changes, announcing public meetings, and encouraging anyone interested to visit the website.
- **Posting flyers** at developed recreation sites across the Forest that announced meetings and the website, and encouraged comments on the Developed Recreation program.
- **Talking with Forest visitors** at popular recreation sites across districts (including Sabino Canyon, Madera Canyon, and Mount Graham) about ways to improve the Developed Recreation program.

- Recreation staff in each district, as well as line officers from the Supervisors’ Office, displayed posters and other materials on the fee proposal, and talked with forest visitors about their perspectives and encouraged them to participate in developing the fee proposal.
- **Hosting public meetings** across all Ranger Districts to gather feedback on strategies for making the Developed Recreation program more sustainable (including increasing fees). Communities in which meetings were held included Tucson, South Tucson, Oro Valley, Vail, Oracle, Green Valley, Safford, Sierra Vista, Bisbee, and Douglas.
- **Reviewing and analyzing 88 comment documents** submitted at meetings, by mail, phone calls, and through email.

## Outreach for Phase 2

### *Gathering feedback on the initial fee proposal*

- **Distributing press releases** in newspapers across all districts describing the proposed fee changes, announcing public meetings, and encouraging people to visit the website.
- **Posting flyers** at developed recreation sites across the Forest that announced meetings and the website, and encouraged comments on the proposed fee program.
- **Posting 15 Facebook announcements** about the fee proposal, website, and public meetings.
- **Emailing 71 partner organizations** to solicit their input, ask their members to comment, and offer to present at their meetings about the fee proposal. *(For the list of partners contacted, see Appendix A.)*
- **Hosting public meetings** across all Ranger Districts to gather input on the initial fee proposal. Meetings were held in the following communities: Tucson, South Tucson, Oro Valley, Vail, Oracle, Green Valley, Safford, Sierra Vista, and Douglas. *(For the meeting schedule on the fee proposal, see Appendix B).*
- **Meeting with 28 partner organizations** to discuss the fee proposal, as well as identify ways in which the CNF and partners can better support one another. *(For a list of partners who met with the CNF on the fee proposal, see Appendix C.)*
- **Reviewing and analyzing 124 comment documents** submitted at meetings, by mail, phone calls, and through email. *(For the comments submitted on the fee proposal, see Appendix D. For the analysis of each comment, see Appendix E).*

In both phases combined, there were 20 months of public engagement, during which the CNF held over 30 public and partner meetings, created an informational website about the fee proposal, posted 15 times on Facebook, distributed flyers and press releases in every Ranger District, reviewed 185 written comments, and visited recreation sites across all districts to discuss fees with Forest visitors. The feedback received indicates that the public supports the CNF in the proposed fee increases and additions to fee sites as part of the effort to manage Developed Recreation more sustainably.

As a result of the CNF’s outreach efforts, 459 people attended meetings about raising fees (184 in Phase 1 and 275 in Phase 2); 212 submitted written comments (88 in Phase 1 and 124 in Phase 2); 99 people reacted to CNF’s informational Facebook posts; and 25 public organizations held meetings with the CNF about fees. Through its efforts to meet with recreational groups and community members across the Forest, and to publicize opportunities for anyone to comment online throughout the 20-month public involvement period, the CNF was able to involve many types of stakeholders in developing the fee proposal.

## Participation in the Fee Proposal

*Note: The remainder of this document describes specific input on the fee proposal (Phase 2 of public input). For more details on their ideas on overall strategies for managing the Developed Recreation program, please see the Phase 1 report.*

The majority of people who submitted comments on the fee proposal were residents of communities near the CNF. The 275 public meeting participants spent all or part of the year living near the CNF, and only three people who submitted email comments reported that they live outside of the counties adjacent to the CNF (there were one from Coconino County, one from New Mexico, and one from Iowa).

Of the people who submitted written comments, only 5 commented as representatives of partner groups (three from the Huachuca Hiking Club, and one each from the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona and the Arizona Game and Fish Department); the remainder were individuals. Most in-person meetings with partners about the fee proposal were conducted early in the development of the fee proposal; partners had a major influence on the proposed fee sites and prices.

The public offered input on the proposed fee changes through comment forms at public meetings, emails, letters, and telephone calls. Below is a summary of the comments received through each of these engagement opportunities.

Public Involvement the Phase 2, the Fee Proposal	
Engagement Opportunity	Number of Comments Submitted
Public Meetings	50
Emails	69
Phone Conversations	3
Letters	2
<b>Total Comments Received</b>	<b>124</b>

On public meeting comment forms, participants were asked to select which aspects of the fee changes they supported (annual passes, day use areas, campgrounds, and group sites). They were also asked to suggest developed recreation sites that should not be added to the fee structure. *(Please see an example comment form in Appendix F.)* People's feedback on the comment forms was analyzed along with comments in emails and phone calls to determine overall support for the different aspects of the fee proposal.

## Feedback from the Public

### Public Input on Fee Sites

#### Summary

The CNF initially proposed adding 36 sites to the fee structure, and most people had no objections to adding those sites. Some people objected to adding certain sites, and others suggested adding sites; for some proposed sites, comments were received both in support and in objection of adding them to the fee program. For people who did voice concerns, the main concerns included:

- Free parking would not be available for visitors accessing backcountry areas.
- Amenities would have to be added to certain sites in order to conform to the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, and this would incur costs to the CNF and visitors.

- Some sites are not primarily used for day-use, and therefore making them fee sites would not be in the spirit of visitor needs.
- Some local communities could economically support the proposed new fee sites.

Since reviewing feedback from the public, the CNF has adjusted the proposal accordingly. Thirteen of the originally proposed fee sites have been eliminated to accommodate communities’ desire for free sites, and the CNF has assured that fee-free parking is available near all proposed fee sites. For the sites that were not initially supported by commenters and are still proposed to become fee sites, only three or fewer people specifically stated that those sites should be kept fee-free, and most of those objections have been addressed by the fact that fee-free parking is available within ½ mile of the fee site.

Details on Public Input

Of the 124 people who wrote comments or submitted comment forms at public meetings, only 23 made statements about fee sites. Forty-nine public meeting participants were asked whether they objected to any of the fee sites, and did not offer any objections. Also, 18 people who commented in emails stated that they supported the entire proposal, and they can also be considered supportive of the proposed fee sites.

Twenty-six people stated that they were opposed to raising any fees, or to the idea of paying fees in general, so their comments can be considered non-support for all new fee sites.

Of the 23 people who did make specific comments about fee sites, three stated explicitly that all the proposed fee sites should be added; four stated that they objected to adding any new fee sites; and one stated that no day use fees should be charged (new or otherwise), while camping fees were acceptable. Fifteen people commented on specific sites they thought should be added or removed from the proposed fee site list.

For sites people suggested *adding* to the fee structure, the following 24 sites were suggested individually as fee sites. The number of people who suggested them as fee sites is in parenthesis (no number denotes that one person suggested it).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Bigelow Trailhead (2)  | Red Rock Picnic Area                                |
| Brown Canyon Ranch (2)   | Reef Townsite Campground                            |
| Butterfly Trailhead  | Reef Trailhead                                      |
| Carr Canyon Picnic Area and Trailhead (2)                        | Riggs Lake Fishing and Boating Site (2)             |
| Cunningham Trailhead (2)   | Round-the-Mountain Trailhead                        |
| Gordon Hirabayashi Interpretive Site and Trailhead (3)           | Rucker Forest Camp Trailhead, Sawmill Trailhead (2) |
| Herb Martyr Trailhead  | Sawmill Trailhead                                   |
| Kentucky Camp (2)  | Shannon Trailhead (2)                               |
| Noon Creek Picnic Area (2)                                       | Soldier Creek Trailhead (2)                         |
| Parker Canyon Lake Fishing and Boating Site and nature trail (3) | Upper and Lower Thumb Rock Picnic Area (2)          |
| Pena Blanca Lake Fishing and Boating Site (3)                    | Whipple Picnic Area and Trailhead (2)               |
| Reef Townsite Mining Interpretive Trail                          | Windy Point Vista Day Use Area (2)                  |

Adjustments to the Proposal Based on Input

For the sites suggested for *removal* from consideration as fee areas, each was mentioned only once - except for Bigelow Trailhead, Parker Canyon Lake, and Windy Point, to which two people objected. The following are the 16 sites to which someone objected adding fees. The fee sites in **bold** font are the sites that are still proposed as fee areas; the others have now been removed from the proposal.

- |   |                           |
|---|---------------------------|
| <b>Bigelow Trailhead</b> (2 objections) | Kentucky Camp             |
| <b>Butterfly Trailhead</b>              | <b>Gordon Hirabayashi</b> |
| <b>Brown Canyon Ranch</b>               | <b>Herb Martyr</b>        |

Hospital Flat  
 Parker Canyon Lake (2 objections)  
 Pena Blanca Lake  
 Reef Trailhead  
 Riggs Flat Lake

Round the Mountain Trailhead  
 Rucker Canyon  
 Stockton Pass  
 Treasure Park  
 Windy Point (2 objections)

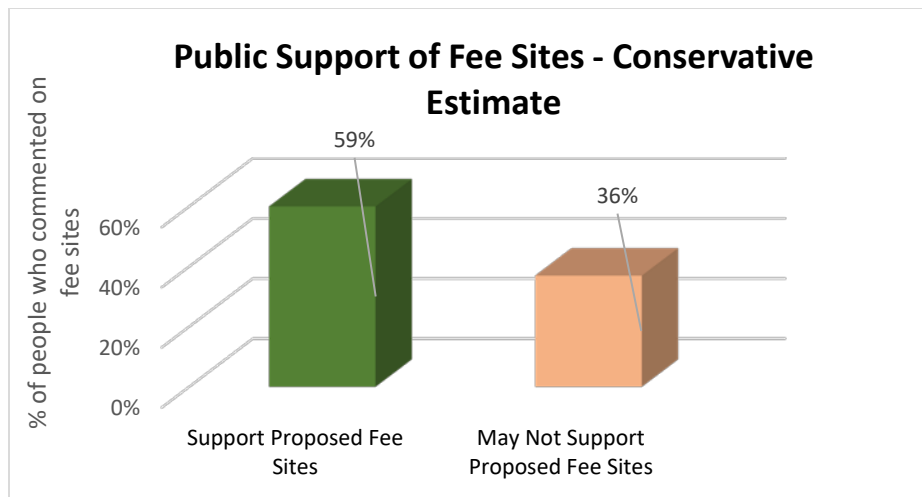
Since soliciting and reviewing public comments, CNF has addressed most people’s concerns about fee sites. As a result of the feedback received, the CNF has removed trailhead sites from the proposal that did not have fee-free parking areas within a ½ mile walk and sites where strategies other than fees will better address sustainability. **These decisions have resulted in the CNF removing 13 sites from the initial proposal.**

The removal of certain sites from the proposal has removed the stated concerns of two commenters. For the sites that have been objected to and are still proposed new fee sites, here are the reasons why people stated their objections, and why it may still be justified as a fee site:

Site(s)	Reason for Public Objection	CNF Response
Bigelow Trailhead, Gordon Hirabayashi, Herb Martyr	Visitors want to use backcountry areas accessed from these sites for free.	There is parking area within ½ mile from these sites where recreationists can park for free.
Parker Canyon Lake, Pena Blanca Lake, Riggs Flat Lake	People who are just fishing need to be able to access the site for free.	There is in fact a fee-free parking area at these sites where recreationists can use for fishing.
Parker Canyon Lake	Current amenities do not justify the lake being a fee area.	The required amenities are present to justify fees.
Brown Canyon Ranch, Treasure Park, Stockton Pass	Local communities are low-income, and need to use these sites for free.	In order to maintain amenities in these sites, fee revenues are necessary. There are alternative options for visitors to spend time on the forest without paying fees (including other historic sites, other group sites on Mt. Graham, and most Coronado NF lands). The CNF might phase in group site fees on Mt. Graham over a few years.

With 18 people who stated support for the entire fee proposal, three who stated that all fee sites should be added, 49 meeting participants who did not object to any of the proposed sites, and two whose concerns have been addressed by CNF’s removal of sites of concern from the proposal, it can be said that 72 of the 124 people who commented specifically on fees, or 59%, support the sites currently proposed to be added to the fee structure.

With 26 commenters who are opposed to adding any fees, four who explicitly stated that no new fee sites should be added, one who objected to any day-use fees, and 13 people whose objections may or may not be satisfied by the CNF’s adjustments to the fee proposal, a conservative count of people who would oppose the added fee sites is 44 of 124, or 36%. This number will likely decrease when people understand that free parking is available at the added sites, and as the CNF works with communities to implement fees in a way that visitors can afford. Below is a graphic that illustrates a conservative estimate of the amount of public support for the proposed fee sites:



The following are the current proposed fee sites:

Douglas Ranger District

- Day Use Sites: Herb Martyr Trailhead, Rucker Forest Camp Trailhead
- Campgrounds: Herb Martyr, Sycamore

Nogales Ranger District

- Day Use Sites: Pena Blanca Lake Fishing and Boating Site, Red Rock Picnic Area, Upper and Lower Thumb Rock Picnic Area, Whipple Picnic Area and Nature Trail

Sierra Vista Ranger District

- Day Use Sites: Brown Canyon Ranch and Trailhead, Carr Canyon Picnic Area, Parker Canyon Lake Fishing and Boating Site (and nature trail)

Safford Ranger District

- Day Use Sites: Riggs Lake Fishing and Boating Site
- Campgrounds: Noon Creek, Stockton Pass

Group Sites: Columbine Visitor Center Ramada, Stockton Pass, Treasure Park, Twilight, Upper Arcadia

Santa Catalina Ranger District

- Day Use Sites: Bigelow Trailhead, Butterfly Trailhead, Gordon Hirabayashi Interpretive Site and trailhead, Windy Point Day Use Area
- Group Sites: Gordon Hirabayashi Horse Camp

**Public Input on User Fees**

Summary

Most members of the public supported all aspects of the user fees (the annual pass, day-use pass, campground fee, and group site fee.) 124 people commented specifically on the fee proposal. Most commenters who disagreed with proposed prices (23, or 19% of the total) were concerned that the Forest was raising fees in general, and did not say that any specific fees were too high. The most common reasons for not supporting fee increases were that the Forest should receive more federal dollars to cover the cost of the Developed Recreation program so that visitation fees do not need

to be charged, and that increasing fees would cause prohibitive costs to community residents. The most often-cited reasons for supporting the proposal were that the CNF has not raised fees for decades, and that raising fees is an important part of the CNF's ability to continue providing services to the public.

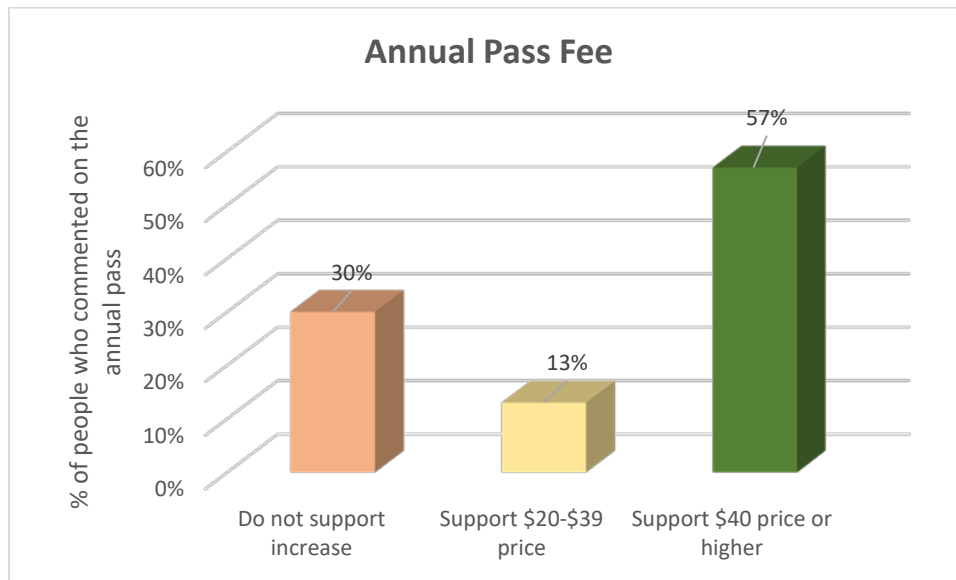
One important note about public support for the fee proposal is that support shown by public meeting participants was much higher than support from people who sent comments without attending meetings. Only one meeting participant opposed all the proposed fees, or the idea of raising fees in general. The rest of the commenters who were opposed to raising fees submitted comments through email and letters. There could be many reasons why opposition to increased fees was so low at public meetings; it is possible that people who heard the CNF's presentation about the need for fee increases had a better understanding of the reasoning behind the fee proposal, or that the people who attended public meetings were somehow predisposed to supporting increased fees. Also, many of commenters' reasons for opposing the proposal (such as believing that the entirety of Mount Lemmon would incur fees) were never part of the proposal, so perhaps public meeting participants were more educated about the actual proposal. (*To see the information the CNF made available outside of meetings on the proposal, see the [Restructuring Developed Recreation website](#)*).

The following sections describe the Annual Pass, overnight campgrounds, the day use pass, and group sites. For each aspect of user fees, the current and proposed prices, number of commenters, and input received are described. The CNF proposed prices based on the market analysis they conducted just before Phase 1 of public engagement. To see the analysis of each comment on user fees, see Appendix E of this document.

### Annual Pass

*Proposed price:* For the annual pass, the current price is \$20/year, and the proposed price is \$40/year. The CNF is also offering a free annual pass to anyone who volunteers for at least 60 hours on the CNF.

*Comments on the annual pass:* Seventy-six people who submitted written comments or public meeting forms on the fee proposal made statements about the annual pass, or said that they did or did not support the entire fee proposal. Below is a summary chart of the input received from the 76 people whose comments pertained to the annual pass.



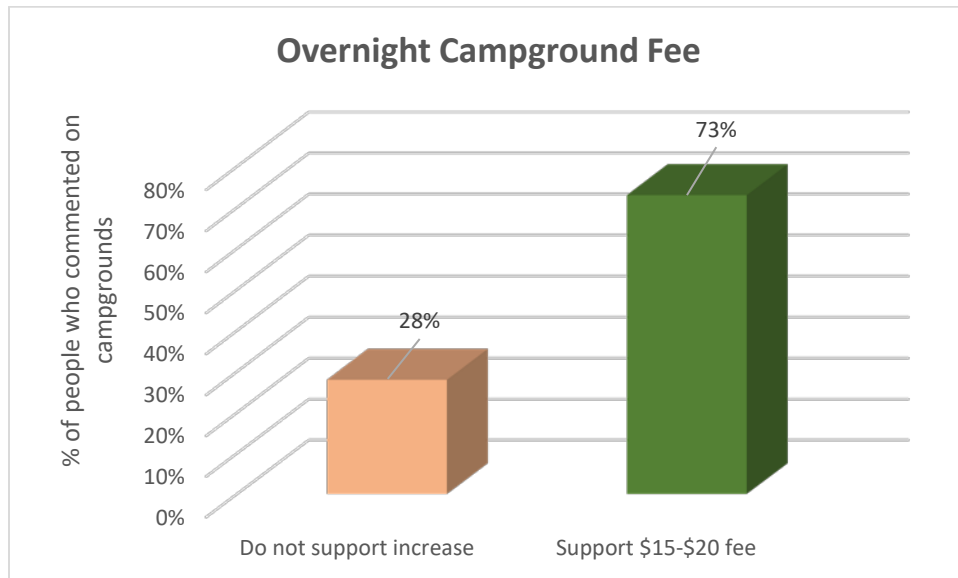
*Input Received:* Of those 76 people, 23 (30%) did not want the annual pass to be increased at all. (Twenty-three of the 30 were people who opposed raising any user fees.) Fifty-seven percent of those who commented on the annual pass supported the proposed \$40 price, while 13 percent said they supported an increase, but not \$40. Many of the commenters who supported an increase lower than \$40 said that they did not want the price to double. Forty-eight of all the people who made comments on the fee proposal made specific comments about other aspects of the proposal that did not have to do with the annual pass.



## Overnight Campgrounds

*Proposed price:* The current campground fee is \$10/night, and the CNF originally proposed \$20/night for all campgrounds. However, because of feedback from the public, the proposal has been modified to implement a two-tiered price system, with 13 campgrounds costing \$15, and only 12 high-use campgrounds costing \$20. The \$15 campgrounds would include Columbine Corrals, Cypress Park, Cunningham, Hospital Flat, Peppersauce, Ramsey Vista, Reef Townsite, Rucker Forest Camp, Rucker Forest Camp, Rustler Park, Shannon, Stockton Pass, and Sycamore. The \$20 campgrounds would include Arcadia, Bog Springs, Cochise Stronghold, General Hitchcock, Gordon Hirabayashi, Idlewilde, Lakeview, Molino Basin, Riggs Flat, Soldier Creek, Stewart, and Sunny Flat.

*Comments on campgrounds:* Eighty-seven people submitted comments pertaining to overnight campgrounds (or that supported or did not support the entire fee proposal). Below is a summary chart of the input received from the 87 people who made statements about overnight campground fees.

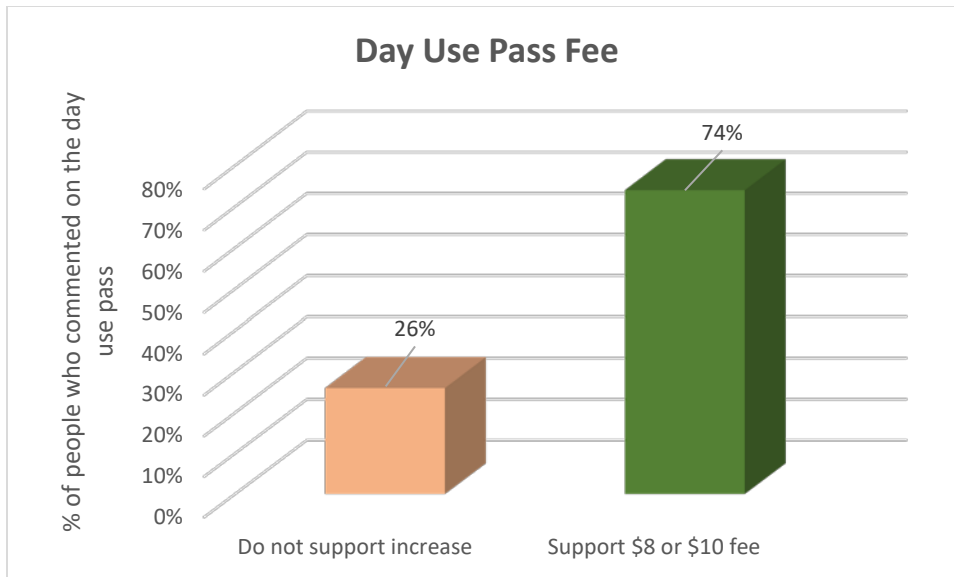


*Input Received:* Of the 87 people who commented on campground fees (or said they support or do not support the entire fee proposal), 73 percent supported either \$15 or \$20 per night, and 28% did not want campground fees to increase at all. Thirty-six percent of people who commented on campgrounds supported the \$15 nightly fee, and 37 percent supported a \$20 fee. No one suggested a price between the current price of \$10 and \$15.

## Day Use Pass

*Proposed price:* The CNF is proposing that the day-use pass price increase from \$5 to \$8. The existing \$10 weekly pass would continue to be available.

*Comments on the day use pass:* Of the 124 people who submitted comments on the entire fee proposal, 95 (77 percent) made comments specifically on the day use pass, or supported or did not support the entire proposal. Below is a summary chart of the input received on the day use pass.

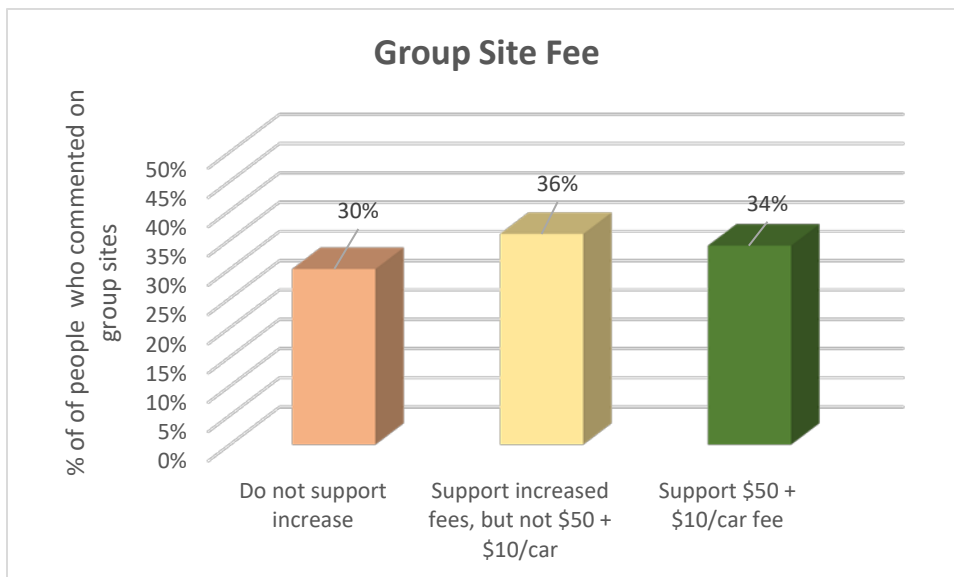


*Input Received:* Of the 95 people who commented on the day use pass, 59 percent supported the \$8 fee, and 15% supported raising the fee to \$10 or more. Some people supported either an \$8 or \$10 fee. Twenty-six percent of comments on the day use fee indicated opposition to increasing the price at all (with 19 of them opposing any user fee increases). The most often cited reason commenters gave for supporting a \$10 fee over an \$8 fee was ease of making change. Lines for paying fees at sites such as Sabino Canyon may be time consuming if many visitors need to make change. However, the CNF is planning on installing electronic fee payment machines, so in the near future, it will not take any more time for visitors to pay \$8 than \$10. In all, the people who supported \$8 or \$10 fee constituted about three-quarters (74%) of the people who commented on the day use fee.

#### Group Sites

*Proposed price:* The current fees at CNF-operated group sites vary across the forest. The CNF is proposing standardizing all group sites to a flat fee of \$50/day, plus \$10 per vehicle parked at the site.

*Commenters on group site fees:* Only 65 percent (80 of 124) of the total commenters made statements about group sites, or gave their support or opposition to the CNF's entire fee proposal. Below is a summary chart of the input received on the group site fees.



*Input received:* Of the 80 people who commented on group sites (or made stated that they support or oppose the entire fee proposal), 30 percent did not support an increase in group site fees. (Nineteen of them, or 63 percent, opposed raising user fees in general.) Seventy percent supported an increase in group site fees, and of those commenters, about half (48% supported the CNF's proposal, and the other half (51%) did not. Most people who supported an increase but not the \$50/day plus \$10/vehicle did not oppose the \$50 fee, but preferred a different way of adjusting the price based on the number of people using the site. Some commenters wanted group sites to have a completely flat fee, while others wanted sites to differ broadly according to site amenities or the number of people occupying the site. The CNF has retained the proposed fee structure so that group site costs can be consistent, and so that the relative use of the site (which correlates to the level of impact the group will have on the site) can be accounted for by vehicles, which are easier to count and plan for than numbers of people.

### **Addressing Public Concerns**

Three main concerns were communicated through written comments: the need to provide recreation opportunities for low-income visitors, the desire for free access for backcountry recreation, and the need to address other issues such as payment compliance in addition to raising fees. The CNF is addressing these concerns in the following ways:

#### Providing Recreation Opportunities for Low-Income Visitors

The strongest concern communicated by people about the fee proposal was the fear that the fee increase would discourage use of the Forest by low-income visitors. Commenters advocated for the ability of seniors, youth, veterans, and people in between jobs to continue accessing the forest. Some people who sent emails were concerned that the entirety of Mt. Lemmon or Mt. Graham would become a fee site, and stated the importance of these areas for mental, emotional, and community health.

Under the CNF fee proposal, over 99 percent of the Forest will continue to be free to visitors of all ages and abilities (including most of Mt. Lemmon and Mt. Graham), and over 100 developed recreation sites will remain free. The CNF is also proposing that anyone can volunteer for 60 hours in exchange for a CNF Annual Pass. In addition, the America the Beautiful Interagency Pass (which covers all Federal public lands) is available for \$20 annually to seniors, and free for veterans; effectively, seniors will be able to access all day-use sites on the CNF for \$20/year, and veterans have free access.

In particular, residents of Graham and Greenlee Counties were concerned that incurring fees at campgrounds on Mt. Graham would be prohibitive for community members. The CNF is therefore removing Treasure Park from the fee proposal, and Snow Flat will remain free. Most of the revenues from these fees, like all site fees, will be spent on improving those sites.

In addition, the CNF received 23 comments that suggested a \$10 day-use fee, but has decided to maintain \$8 as the proposed price, and continue to offer a \$10 weekly pass. Although it may initially be more time consuming for CNF staff to make change for \$8 passes, the eventual installation of electronic fee stations will allow visitors to conveniently pay the lower \$8 fee.

#### Free Access for Backcountry Recreation

Another strong concern voiced by people is that some recreationalists do not want to use the amenities at fee areas for day-use or camping, and desire free access to backcountry areas. As a result, the CNF has made certain it is only proposing adding fees for sites that have free parking nearby, in most cases within a ¼-mile walk. The Forest has created free parking maps for each new fee site. Ninety-nine percent of the forest will remain free for all visitors, and recreationalists will be able to access those areas without paying fees.

In particular, fishermen and the Arizona Game and Fish Department communicated that adding fees at fishing areas that the Department helps to maintain would incur prohibitive costs. The CNF has also ensured that for proposed fee areas at lakes, there will be nearby access to park and use these areas without paying a fee.

#### Addressing Other Fee Issues

Some people asked why the CNF would raise fees when there are other ways to increase forest revenue. The most commonly cited issues to address were payment compliance and the idea that federal appropriations should cover the costs of the Developed Recreation program. The CNF has acknowledged from the beginning of the fee proposal process that raising fees is only part of the solution for sustaining the Developed Recreation program. The CNF cannot advocate to receive more federal allocations, but it has already allocated more personnel to ensuring payment compliance, and is developing plans to install electronic fee stations.

### **Conclusion**

Through the CNF's extensive public outreach and involvement on Forest fees over a 20-month period, the Forest was not only able to craft an initial fee proposal that was widely supported by people, but also to make small adjustments that directly address people's needs. As a result of public feedback, the CNF made the following adjustments:

- Replacing the \$5 day-use pass with a \$10 weekly pass
- Removing 13 of the proposed new fee sites
- Charging less for campgrounds that have lower use
- Providing specific parking locations to continue accessing backcountry areas for free
- Planning to install electronic fee stations
- Offering a free annual pass for anyone who provides 60 volunteer hours on the CNF

Public support will remain a key component of implementing the proposed fee changes. The CNF will continue involving people not only in the fee structure, but also in maintaining and operating developed recreation sites into the future. The CNF greatly appreciates the time and consideration taken by meeting participants, commenters, and forest visitors who contributed to this fee proposal.

## Appendix A. Partners Contacted about Proposed Changes

### U.S. Forest Service

- All Coronado National Forest employees
- Tonto National Forest employees
- Regional Office and Washington Office recreation program managers

### Congressional Representatives

- Senator Jeff Flake
  - Julie Katsel, Southern Arizona Director
- Senator John McCain
  - Shay Saucedo, Tucson Office Manager
- Representative Raul Grijalva
  - Glenn Miller, Senior Policy Advisor
- Representative Ann Kirkpatrick
  - Blanca Varela, Deputy District Director
- Representative Martha McSally
  - CJ Karamargin, District Director

### Federal and State Agencies

- Arizona Game and Fish Department
  - John Windes
  - Matt Walton
  - Mark Hart
  - Raul Vega
- Arizona State Parks
  - Steven Haas
- Arizona Office of Tourism
  - Debbie Johnson
- Bureau of Land Management – Tucson and Safford field offices
  - Melissa Warren (Tucson Field Office)
- National Park Service – Chiricahua National Monument, Coronado National Memorial, Saguaro National Park (Cam Juarez), Tumacacori National Monument

### Tribal Nations

- 12 Tribal Nations

### National Organizations

- National Outdoor Leadership School
  - Kathleen Pelto
- National Wild Turkey Federation
  - Justin Watts
- Sierra Club (Tucson Chapter)
  - Meg Weesner
- Audubon Society (Tucson Chapter)

- Keith Ashley

### Forest-wide

- Sky Island Alliance
  - Louise Miztal
  - Carrienne Campbell
- Coronado Outdoors
  - Evan Pilling
- Arizona Trail Association
  - Matt Nelson
- Southern Arizona Climbers' Coalition
- Climbing Association of Southern Arizona (CASA)
  - Eric Sophiea
- Southern Arizona Grottos
- Southern Arizona Mountain Bike Association
  - Carlos Resto
- Trail Riders of Southern Arizona
  - George Wysopal
- Visit Tucson
  - Julie Pulliam
- Western National Parks Association
  - Jim Cook
- Public Lands Interpretive Association
  - Lisa Madsen
- Arizona Wilderness Coalition
  - Barbara Hawkes
- Arizona Wilderness Society
  - Mike Quigley
- Ironwood Tree Experience
  - Suzanne and Eric Dhruv
- University of Arizona Outdoor Adventures
  - John Lloyd

### Douglas Ranger District

- Boards of Supervisors (Cochise and Hildalgo Counties)
- City officials (Bisbee, Douglas, Portal, and Wilcox)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Friends of Cave Creek Canyon
- Cochise Trails Association

### Nogales Ranger District

- Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
- City officials (Nogales, Green Valley, Patagonia, Sahuarita)
- Chambers of Commerce – Visit Canoa
- Friends of Kentucky Camp
- Friends of Madera Canyon

- Friends of the Santa Cruz River
- Green Valley Hiking Club

#### Sierra Vista Ranger District

- Cochise County Board of Supervisors
- City officials (Benson, Huachuca City, Sierra Vista)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Fort Huachuca
- Friends of Brown Canyon Ranch
- Friends of Huachuca Mountains
- Friends of Sonoita Creek
- Friends of San Pedro River
- Huachuca Hiking Club

#### Safford Ranger District

- Graham County Board of Supervisors
- City officials (Pima, Safford, Thatcher, Wilcox)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Gila Watershed Peoplehip
- Southeastern Arizona Sportsmen's Club

#### Santa Catalina Ranger District

- Pima County Board of Supervisors
- City officials (Marana, Oro Valley, South Tucson, Tucson, Vail)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Recreation Resource Management
- Friends of Catalina State Park
- Friends of Redington Pass
- Friends of Sabino Canyon
- Pima County Parks and Recreation
- Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists
- Sabino Canyon Volunteer Patrol
- Sonoran Desert Mountain Bicyclists
- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum
- Southern Arizona Hiking Club
- Tucson Off Road Cyclists and Activists
- Tucson Rough Riders

## **Appendix B. Fee Proposal Public Meeting Dates and Locations**

### **ORO VALLEY**

- Saturday, January 27, 1:30-3:30pm
- Monday, February 5, 3:30-6:30pm  
Oro Valley Public Library  
1305 W Naranja Drive Oro Valley, AZ 85737

### **ORACLE**

- Saturday, March 3, 12:00-2:00pm  
Oracle Community Center  
685 E American Avenue, Oracle, AZ 85623

### **SOUTH TUCSON**

- Saturday, February 17, 1:00-3:00pm
- Saturday, March 10, 12:00-3:00pm  
Mission Public Library  
3370 S Mission Road, Tucson, AZ 85713

### **MARANA**

- Monday, February 26, 4:00-7:00pm  
Wheeler Taft Abbett Sr. Library  
7800 N Schisler Drive Tucson, AZ 85719

### **CENTRAL TUCSON**

- Saturday, February 3, 1:00-3:00pm Wednesday, February 14, 4:00-7:00pm  
Himmel Park Library  
1035 N Treat Ave, Tucson, AZ 85716

### **EAST TUCSON**

- Saturday, February 24, 1:00-3:00pm  
Murphy Wilmot Library  
530 N Wilmot Rd, Tucson, AZ 85710

### **VAIL**

- Monday, February 12, 4:00-7:00pm  
Rincon Valley Fire Station #1  
8850 S Camino Loma Alta, Tucson, AZ 85747

### **NORTH TUCSON**

- Saturday, February 10, 9:00-11:00am
- Wednesday, February 28, 9:00- 11:00am  
Sabino Canyon Visitor Center  
5700 N Sabino Canyon Rd, Tucson, AZ 857

### **SAFFORD**

- Wednesday, April 18 from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m.



Safford Library  
808 S. 7th Avenue, Safford, AZ.

**DOUGLAS**

- Monday, April 23; 4:00 to 7:00 pm  
Douglas Visitor Center  
345 16th Street, Douglas, AZ

**SIERRA VISTA**

- Tuesday, April 24, 4:00 to 7:00 pm  
Sierra Vista Library  
2600 East Tacoma Street, Sierra Vista, AZ

**GREEN VALLEY**

- Wednesday, April 25, 4:00 to 7:00 pm  
La Posada Life Community Services  
780 S. Park Centre Avenue, Green Valley, AZ

## **Appendix C. Partner Meetings on the Fee Proposal**

The following are partner organizations who met with the CNF specifically about the fee proposal:

1. Congressional Delegation
2. Arizona Trail Association
3. Arizona Game & Fish Department
4. National Park Service
5. Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
6. Gila River Indian Community
7. Tohono O'odham Nation
8. Ak-Chin Indian Community
9. Sky Island Alliance
10. Climbing Association of Southern Arizona
11. Western National Parks Association
12. Arizona Wilderness Coalition
13. Arizona Wilderness Society
14. Friends of Cave Creek
15. Gila Hiking Club
16. Gila Watershed Partnership
17. Friends of Brown Canyon Ranch
18. Friends of Huachuca Mountains
19. Huachuca Hiking Club
20. Sierra Vista Tourism Council
21. Friends of Madera Canyon
22. Friends of Sabino Canyon
23. Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists
24. Sabino Canyon Volunteer Patrol
25. University of Arizona Arizona Outdoor Adventures
26. Friends of Kentucky Camp
27. Recreation Resource Advisory Committee
28. Green Valley Hiking Club

## Appendix D. Written Comments Received through Email, Letters, and Comment Forms

### Comments Received through Email

1. I support the proposal. At first glance the per vehicle fee for group sites seemed high. However, if there are 4 people per vehicle this results in \$2.50 per person plus the a portion of the \$50 flat fee which is less than the cost of many other activities. I do think fees for everyone should be waived on select days throughout the year. The idea that "the developed recreation program should be self sustaining" are good sounding words that I believe would be impossible to implement without exorbitant fees and closing of many sites. The concept of an Coronado National Forest annual permit would be better if it applied to everyone who entered the national forest for any kind of recreation. The meeting format was okay, very traditional. I was disappointed in the turnout and number of comments to date. However, once increased fees are implemented I would expect a great outcry.

2. This email is a response to the request for comments regarding the increase in recreation fees. I very strongly object to raising fees, especially at Pena Blanca Lake, Riggs Flat Lake and Parker Canyon Lake. I have fished these lakes many times over the past forty years, especially Pena Blanca and Parker Canyon, so I can speak from experience. My experience has shown me that the vast majority of fishermen and other users of these lakes might be priced out of their recreation if fees are imposed. Many people are retired and living on fixed incomes, and many are working class families looking for cheap or free outdoor recreation. I am aware that there is a budget shortfall, but Congress must provide more money rather than increasing user fees. Increasing fees is like double taxation. My daughter works for the Park Service and my son-in-law works for the Forest Service in Flagstaff so I know full well about budget constraints. Please put pressure on our elected Congresspeople to properly fund our National Forests and National Parks. Please do not raise or impose new fees on the people who can least afford to pay.

3. Hello, I support continued free access to non-developed public land. I'd like there to continue to be free parking available to the public who are recreating on non-developed public land. As is currently the case, we request continued free access to non-developed use regardless of fees being assessed for users of developed amenities. We also believe that it is important that all members of the public have the opportunity to enjoy public land, despite their economic situation. Please provide an area for people to park that do not use amenities.

4. To Whom It May Concern:

This is in regards to the proposed fees and new fee sites on the Coronado National Forest. While I understand the need to increase the fees in an attempt to address the shortfall towards maintenance and infrastructure costs, I strongly feel that this will hurt portions of the forest. A lot has been said about adjusting the fees to "market levels", but let's take a look at the market. On the fee proposal page on the Coronado National Forest website, comparisons are made to Picacho Peak State Park and Catalina State Park. Both have restrooms with flush toilets and hot shower facilities, and potable water is accessible, making it well worth the \$25 to \$30 per night. Now compare that to the Round-the-Mountain and Stockton Pass campgrounds that are proposed to be added to the campgrounds which are charged a fee. The Stockton Pass campground has no water (you have to bring your own), no showers, and it has a vault toilet. The Round-the-Mountain campground also only has a vault toilet, and the only water available is from Noon Creek which must be purified before use. Other campgrounds around Mt. Graham are similar, with most having no water and vault toilets, when there is a toilet offered. Why should we be required to pay twice what is currently charged when we literally have half of what is deemed "market rate". A better way would be to have a two-tier campground fee schedule, so more developed campgrounds (such as those with water and flush toilets) are charged the higher rate, while less developed campgrounds are charged a lower fee. Perhaps \$10 is too low, but don't call it "market rate" if the comparable services and infrastructure are vastly different.

Regarding group site fees, I feel that the proposed price will have unintended consequences, particularly in areas where there are alternative dispersed camping sites. For example, suppose there is a family who wants to have a family reunion at the Treasure Park North campground, consisting of 5 families each with their own car. For a two-day camping trip under the proposed fees it would be \$200, whereas right now all one would have to pay is a reservation fee. This

proposed price is comparable to the current prices at the Molino Basin Group Site, yet there are no toilets and limited amenities. This fee structure would push these larger groups to more of the dispersed areas, which would be detrimental and have a great impact on these areas of the forest. I agree that a fee of \$0 is not sustainable, and a reasonable fee should be charged. However, that fee should accurately reflect the amenities provided. For example, Picacho Peak State Park's group sites charge a \$25 -30 fee and \$15 per vehicle, and these have access to potable water, showers, and restrooms. The proposed fees are out of line for what is offered at many of these group sites.

I applaud the Forest Service in attempting to restructure the developed recreation fees in the Coronado National Forest. However, we need to be realistic as to what is currently offered and charge more for those campgrounds and group sites with value-added amenities, and less for those with limited items to offer. Having a one-size-fits-all fee structure is not fair nor realistic, and will drive people away from fee-generating areas to dispersed areas of the forest.

5. Dear Forest Service:

I am opposed to any new fees or fee increases charged to users. Increases only serve to reduce the number of low income people who can enjoy the forest.

6. It has been a year since I have been camping on Mt. Lemon and was shocked to see the notice of the fee increases. I would think that before you increase fees you collect the current fees from people using the facilities. Over the weekend not once did anyone check to see if I had paid the camping fees. And I know there were people camping and not paying the fees. The few times I saw anyone from the forest service they were speeding through the campground. I had to flag down one truck to extinguish the campfire left burning from the camper that had just left. The only people that the fee increases will impact are the honest folks. If you want to increase revenue how about charging the rude bicyclists for permits. They use the trails, the roads, the facilities that you want me to pay more for. I even had groups ride through my camp site. I was almost run over on the hike I took. If you would like to compare your fees to other campgrounds then you should improve and MAINTAIN your campgrounds! Also police the campgrounds so families are safe to enjoy them.

7. I strongly support the proposed fee increases at the Coronado National Forest recreation sites.

My family and I have lived in Tucson several years and often enjoy the recreation sites, especially the picnic and camping sites on Mt Lemmon. We would be more than willing to pay an increased fee to ensure the continued availability, upkeep, and maintenance of the sites. Recently I have begun to notice that some of the sites, especially the lower picnic areas, are becoming damaged, littered, and vandalized. Not only should you raise the fees, you should enforce them and issue citations to violators. I am sure lots of people come up and use the sites without paying at all, and I bet these are the ones responsible for most of the litter and damage.

Again, we support the proposed fee increase along with recommending the Forest Service enact some way to enforce the fee structure. When we first moved to Tucson, the fee booth on the Catalina Highway (near milepost 3 or 4) was manned and collected fees. It has been vacant for some time now. I understand that manning this booth would entail paying an additional employee and that incurs substantial costs, but it would be one way to enforce fee payment.

Thank you for your time.

8. Would the fee mean, the lake would be maintained better, because there is a lot a trash around the lake at this time. If so, it would be a good thing. Can anything be done to improve the fishing at the lake, will the lake be stocked with trout this year? Has the water condition gotten any better?

9. This rural area doesn't justify such fees. It unjustly limits access to these areas by locals. There is no paved parking, just dirt, rocks, and a trail. Let us enjoy our land!

10. Hi,

I'm in favor of the fee increases and added fee venues. However, these will only be effective if enforced. I trust that not only will the fees go toward infrastructure development and improvement but also support an enforcement effort. Without the later my sense is the fees will fall far short of what's needed.

11. As a frequent user of all the trails and many campsites throughout the Coronado National Forest, Mt. Lemmon and Sabino Canyon, I fully support an increase in fees. May I suggest upping the proposed \$8 to an even figure of \$10. Furthermore, since it's been over 20 years since the last increase, that added \$2 won't matter a bit over any length of time. Also, having credit-card accepting facilities at the fee station areas would promote more adherence to the fee requirement thereby limiting those who 'slip' away and don't pay anything as well as limiting the 'cash' box collections requiring a salaried employee's time and effort. Thanks for the opportunity to contribute my two-cents (no pun intended)...

12. Good morning,

Totally support the fee increases as proposed. It is vitally important to keep these areas accessible and maintained for all. I would ask that you look into, or consider some way to provide a way for those who are poorer to still be able to partake and enjoy our beautiful area. Maybe there's some way for those who can prove they're on assistance or something to get a free pass??? Nowhere in nature should be off limits due to income!!!!

13. To Sarah Corning:

I am writing you directly because of your familiarity with the Catalina Ranger district and the Palisades Ranger/Visitor Center. I have some ideas that may benefit the U.S. Forest Service. They have the potential to turn some liabilities into assets. One idea involves the use of F.S. volunteers to harvest wood from selected forest areas and then make it available for sale (at Palisades) to campers for campfires at developed recreation sites. Monies from harvested wood should go directly to the Forest Service. Under the direction of the Forest Service wooded areas could be identified for fire wood harvesting. A reduction of combustible material in selected areas may reduce the intensity of forest fires and assist with forest preservation. Existing fire breaks could be enhanced. Woodlands surrounding improved recreational campsites could be selected to help protect those assets. Also areas with considerable old forest growth such as along the Aspen Draw Trail may benefit from wood harvesting. A collapsible (rope/net) wheel barrow, with a bicycle type wheel might be used to bring wood to a small ATV with attached trailer for transport. Wood would then be transported to a site near the Palisades Ranger/Visitor Center for processing into salable bundles. It should be noted that the busy summer camping season in southern Arizona also corresponds with the rainy monsoon season, which often makes dry fire wood a scarce and valuable camping commodity.

The advertising of fire wood for sale can be done inexpensively with a small A-frame sign at Palisades, as well as notices at developed recreation sites. The ATV and trailer could be stored in the west room of the "historic" barn located near Palisades. That room has two very large and currently functional doors.....all that is needed is two padlocks. Floor space to accommodate fire wood at Palisades could be made by expanding the main section eastward using about eight feet of the current porch area.....maybe this could be coordinated with needed roofing repairs? I understand that there is some thought to making this porch a picnic area. I am concerned that as a picnic area (1) there is really no place for children to play compared with such picnic sites as Middle Bear and Cypress (2) the current porch decking would be problematic because of staining from dropped food, and food falling between the artificial boards would be an attraction for animals, (3) there would be no place for a fire ring as other sites have, and a barbeque stand on the porch decking I think would be impractical, (4) and finally enforcement as a fee area I believe would be difficult.

Another rather simple idea to increase Forest Service Revenue might be to sell bagged ice for campers. All that is needed is an ice machine to make ice cubes and a display freezer. Again advertising could be done with an A frame sign. Finally my last idea would be to develop the area on Mt. Bigelow that is currently used for dispersed camping into a fee based developed recreation site. I think this area is grossly overused as a dispersed camp site. Litter and human waste in this area is horrible, it is a hazard to the forest and wild life. In addition campers often ignore fire restrictions. One

windy day during a fire restriction period, I personally reported three fires, one of them unattended to Palisades. Making this area a developed recreation site would again turn a liability into an asset. I would love to discuss these ideas with someone.

14. Every year I take a group to Parker Canyon Lake to the Rock Bluff Campsite. This last time in Aug 2017 there was no toilet paper in the restrooms and it was dirty. The trash cans were already full also. A fee increase that has been proposed that would cost \$50 a day plus \$10 per vehicle is ridiculous. As it is we payed \$50 a day for full trash cans and no toilet paper in dirty restrooms. I do not see how an increase of \$10 per vehicle which would have been another \$130 would have made a difference. Also there does not seem to be that many more amenities that should be added for the camping experience, We do not need showers or anything else like that. I have been going to that lake since I was a kid living in Bisbee, I have seen many changes to that lake. Including paving the road from Sonoita which has brought more weekend warriors in BMWs, Coopers and Jaguars. Also when my daughter camped there in December we were awoken to people looking around our campsite and vehicle. Is your increase going to provide security also? I don't think so. \$10 a night there is perfect for the campsites provided.

If you increase the camping fees you have more people camping in the forest making more mess in the already messy forest due to the illegals coming through. New roads and cleared out spots for camping. A perfect hot spot for fishing was taken away when the floating docks and walls were put in at the lake. It made the lake by the store look prettier though. I have seem that store grow into a good thing from what it was when I was a kid to now. I have seen good owners of the store and bad ones, The one now is awesome and is very friendly and made it the best its ever been. I would hate to see less people staying at the lake due to the fee increase and run the store owner out of business because of no business. I do not see any new amenities would be going in and if you will increase impact on the forest surrounding the lake. Which is already hurting due to the drug traffickers and illiegals going through from Mexico. DO NOT INCREASE FEES AT PARKER CANYON LAKE! Or anywhere else until a very detailed list sent out to everyone showing anything going to be added and when and if more people will be working it to take care of the new amenities. Plus security.

Thank you!

15. To Whom this concerns:

I recently visited Coronado National Forest, specifically Rucker Canyon.

I am dismayed at the fee raise proposal to support development. The experience that I look for in the National Forest is one of less development.

I do appreciate the implementation of pit toilets but that is as far as my needs go.

I do not wish to see concrete slabs, groomed trails to the toilet, designated campsites or large pullouts to accommodate large RVs.

I feel that if you need all those amenities, you really aren't there to experience the forest. Why attract the folks that don't even come out of their RVs? I have witnessed this time and time again, camping next to people that never come outside. You can see the blue glow of their tv inside the camper. So, why provide development?

The folks that need this development are better served at the highly developed State and National Parks. I prefer the National Forest camping mainly because it is less developed. I love dispersed camping.

I don't understand going to the forest and then having to squeezed into a small area camping 5 feet away from another person. I seek solitude, clean air and natural living. This simple goal is becoming more and more difficult to find.

Please do not develop the forest. You cannot make nature better.

Thank you for listening.

16. Hi All,

I am sure you all have some tough decisions to make with these proposed fee increases.

I consider myself middle-class and recently moved here so any fees for recreation are rather shocking. Personally, I don't use any of your pay sites because of my previous state's taxes covered picnicking. However, I can see where you are coming from but, I don't agree that this is the way to generate monies needed for recreational sites. I think there has been a major disconnect in the U.S as to where our tax dollars are being spent. However, politics aside, this still does not seem to be a move in the right direction. Mt. Lemmon is the best part about Tucson and to charge people even more for their only escape from the heat seems inhumane. Suggested alternatives: 1. Implement pay toilets and pay showers. 2. Go fund me 3. Make it a national story, get the word out that you are having to turn free recreational sites into pay-to-poop sites. 4. Adapt the same model as Saguaro national park and Sabino Canyon, don't shaft your residents and the residents of Summerhaven that rely on our money. 5. Ask for Volunteers, you have so many retired people that are capable and willing to help. 6. Ask your employees if they can afford your rate increases on a basic salary, can a teacher, or cub scout leader?

Tucson is a low wage town and city parks are filled with homeless. Don't pass your budget cuts on to the people!!

17. I am a very frequent user and volunteer in the Santa Catalina Ranger District. I agree with the need to increase fees, but think the proposed prices should be modified as follows:

1) Increase proposed price for Day Use to \$10. RATIONALE: a) at Sabino Canyon this will speed the fee booth process (less frequent need to make change) and shorten lines that often extend out onto Sabino Road during "high season" b) this will increase the likelihood of payment at unattended fee tubes across the Coronado (visitors will be more likely to have the correct amount of cash)

2) Change Day Use definition to "One Week Pass". RATIONALE: this will make the proposed fee increase more palatable to out-of-town visitors, incentivize repeat short term visits, and reduce the number of fee booth interactions for short term repeat visitors

3) OVERALL RATIONALE for going to \$10 instead of \$8: a) increase the time frame before the next fee increase needs to be considered b) \$10 is still a "bargain" in comparison to all other recreation fees in the region c) the difference between \$8 and \$10 in terms of potential lose of visitation is probably somewhere between zero and insignificant.

18. Please stop increasing the fees. They're high enough as it is. You need to lower the camping site fees to no more than \$15.00. Do not increase the yearly permit fee as well! We getting ripped off big time as it is. Again please lower the campsite fees.

19. I am opposed to any fee increases. This would put an undue burden on low income and fixed income recreation users. I suggest you contact who ever you need to in Washington and ask for a budget increase instead of levying addition fees on tax payers.

20. Hello,

My name is [name inserted] and I am a seasonal at Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. I wanted to comment about the proposed fee increase to \$8. I work at the fee booth/visitor center where I collect fees. The current day use fee is \$5 and people always pay with \$20's. It is difficult keeping change on hand constantly giving out \$5's. It would be impossible to keep change on hand for an \$8 day use fee. Please increase day use fee to \$10. That would make it simpler to keep and exchange change with visitors. Also, Sabino Canyon was no included in the day use fee increase. Please raise Sabino Canyon day use fee from \$5 to \$10. Or consider eliminating day use fee and charge \$10 week fee.

21. Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed fee increases. One of the items on the proposal page included growing visitation. A basic tenet of economics tells us that there is an inverse relationship between cost of an activity and the number of people who will participate in that activity. Thus, by raising prices you are actually reducing visitation.

I live in Tennessee but routinely make trips to the western US to recreate. Increasing costs are definitely going to keep me from recreating in places in the future. I will be limiting my trips to places that are reasonably priced. The increasing cost of camping is not worth the increase. I would suggest that if increases are needed, perhaps move towards a graduated increase. A 100% increase is a little much for anyone to justify continuing to use the resource unfortunately.

22. You already hiked the fees once before and made the same reasons known. Now you want more. Where does the public get relief from all these fee hikes? Seems to be more greed here than is necessary. I oppose the hiked fees. With the new tax program under Trump, you will get enough monies as it is.

23. To whom it may concern,

As a nogales native since childhood i have known peña blanca lake. Today i can say i visit the lake maybe 10 to 15 times a year for fishing and other recreational activities. In my opinion i wouldnt mind paying 5\$ or less. The fish cannot be consumed except trout wich is nice in the winter but also the lake is not well maintained . Lots of fallen branches from debris in the lake. The trails have branches and stairs have overhanging branches also. I understand its nature but proposing a fee is ok if it will be maintained. Stocking the lake more often for us fisherman and for family trips. There is really not much to do in nogales anyways so i would be ok with my opinion of a small fee but it would also drive some people away . Thank you.

24. Too bad you working people don't have a clue what it's like to be retired on a fixed income. We just plain old can't afford your increase!!! PLEASE have some compassion for Gods sake!

25. Hello,

I am an avid outdoorswoman. I work seasonally and travel for my work as an outdoor educator. I spend time educating youth, young adults and adults about human impact, importance and their potential to create positive change for and in the environment, among other topics. I have held an inter-agency pass for the past 3 years and personally have been shocked by the drastic dollar amount increase.

I completely understand the difficulty funding the national and state land, monuments and parks. However, it seems that the fee increase is extremely drastic. Due to this I see the obvious potential for the parks to be geared towards the wealthy instead of everyone. As well I see potential for "stealth campers" who will occupy sites and not pay because of the price. This would increase the need for patrolling and ultimately create a negative persona about the camps as well as continue burning hols in the forest services pockets. I have noticed in my work that those who deeply feel a connection to the lands and hold a desire to continuously spread awareness about them also tend to have less money to throw around. These are the people that make a difference. These are the people that pick up the trash and volunteer on their free time unbeknownst to anyone. These are the ones who pay the fair fees. They are the backpackers, hikers, guides, back country campers, instructors, park volunteers. They are those that would hold complete sticker shock at the price of a primitive campsite (for example, the fees of Molino Basin - a camp with no water, pit toilets, very primitive - would DOUBLE to \$20 for a single site and \$40 for a double). Personally I find this price change obscene. Funding can be found in ways such as fund raisers, utilizing the income from the visitors centers differently, jars placed around, leading paid guided hikes, raising public awareness by volunteers. I see a direct and enormous impact on the populations that the wilderness will welcome. It will no longer welcome everyone despite diversity, capability, interest, income and background. It will only welcome those who are wealthy. Those who only see these lands as a weekend get away, not a classroom or home.



Thus I urge you to reconsider these fees. I urge you to find revenue in other, more welcoming and practical ways. It may take more time but these beautiful wild lands will welcome all instead of just the few wealthy. I would love to discuss this topic more.

26. I have a suggestion on possible help with maintaining, fixing and upgrading the Land, Parks and Forests of these United States with the funds shortfall. Maybe this is already in process but what would the chance of asking Retired Travels, which I am one, to volunteer to perform the needed work and instead of pay provide a place with at least electricity and water hookups and a dump station where one could empty tanks once in a while. I know the wife and I would jump on something like this and would work for at minimum two weeks or more before moving on to another assignment if available. With the many retired persons on the road now after retirement this would be a ready force to tap. Even the number of Canadians who come and snowbird has increased into the US and may be willing to do something like this. This is just an idea but something someone could advance forward up the chain and see where this could go.

27. Dear Coronado National Forest:

I am writing to share my thoughts regarding the proposal to increase fees at various campgrounds and day-use sites. I'll keep it short. I support campground and day-use site fees, although the proposed 100% increase in campground fees (\$10 to \$20) is excessive. An increase of 30-50% is reasonable. I do NOT support paying a fee to park at a trail head for the sole purpose of hiking. Hiking is a low-impact activity and should be encouraged for its health benefits.

28. The amount of increase is more than fair. Let the ones using the campground pay for there use. Non campers should not pay a nickel for others privilege to camp. We use Rose Canyon and Molino Basin campgrounds - a lot... we are regulars.

We are forced to use "improved" sites as there is no other option in the forest. We have a small trailer and even with a small trailer and truck we are not able to find free campsites. If there were free sites available I could understand the value improved sites offered but as it is you can't camp in a trailer or RV without paying a fee. Many people use the forest and simply don't pay - that isn't fair to those of us who do pay - find a way to collect from everyone instead of raising it for those of us who do pay. I would not be surprised if you see more people completely stop paying and that you see your funds actually **decrease**. The proposed fees do not reflect the value of sites that have ZERO hook ups - no water, no electric, not even a sewage dump option. We are basically paying for someone to haul our trash - which we can do. What other value is there?? Most RVs and Trailers have bathrooms - so we aren't getting that "benefit" that is provided. The other amenities provided are totally useless as well. People who camp often bring their own tables. Designated parking is not an amenity - not even sure how that could be considered one. There is no added security to either location - security is provided by the sheriffs department not the forestry service.

Why do interpretive signs exhibits or kiosks even have to do with campsite fees? We aren't even paying for the salary of the Molino Basin host -that is volunteer.

I think we pay enough and get a good value for what we pay. We are simply paying for a spot to park and sleep. We are forced into spots where we see other campers, have to put up with traffic and noise and the smells of other campers smoke blowing into our trailer. What may be considered amenities to some actually are detriments to others. If you are going to raise fees for amenities we do not use then at least give us options where we do not have the amenities to pay for! Create more free options that are truly accessible options for all size campers and then raise the fees for people who want the "amenities." This will price many out of using our park system. We won't be priced out, but we will have to use the system 1/2 as much. We would much rather camp without the amenities in much more private settings where we can't see other campers - but that isn't an option in our forest. Thank you for at least acting like our input matters.

28. I absolutely support raising fees. Fiscally necessary.

29. I feel like bring the prices up is going to get less people going to these sites, it already gets pretty expensive if you take a group. If the prices go up a lot less people are gonna visit the beautiful sites. That might also cause problems with people going to random places and camping, leaving trash and causing damage to the wild life. It's better to have affordable areas for people to visit, where it's safer and they can clean up after themselves easier. Obviously, the USDA Forest Service needs to be adequately funded, especially access to all public lands under the responsibility and jurisdiction of the Federal Government. The number one action is to mobilize the public as to the inefficiency of current funding for public lands. And therefore, placing pressure and the responsibility on both the Republican and Democratic parties to fulfill their responsibility to do what is best for the general public, especially those of low income. Instead of tax breaks for the wealthy, simply replace those breaks with a tax benefit to the wealthy if they will commit annually to funding the protection and maintenance of all public lands according to needs. That isn't likely, so I do agree with increasing the fees for public use.

30. As a vendor of your passes, I would recommend that the Day Use Fee which is proposed to increase from \$5.00 to \$8.00 be increased to \$10.00, which is commensurate with your other proposed increases. Making change for an \$8.00 pass will be difficult for your retail outlets and especially for your own Fee Rangers, as it will involve the necessity of a substantial amount of \$1.00 bills. At the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, PLIA historically has provided change for the Fee Rangers, but we may not be able to keep enough of the correct change to accommodate both of our needs with the proposed increase to \$8.00. We all will in general be given \$20.00 bills for payment of the Day Use fee. Thank you for your consideration.

31. Fees are taxes. At first, they were a temporary solution to inadequate appropriations by Congress. Now they have become normal. This is wrong, and the fees charged by Forest Service and National Park facilities have gotten completely out of hand. I have written all our congressional representatives and senators about this issue. I also told them that fees are taxes. These are public lands and should rightfully be supported by tax dollars. If these fees go into effect, we will quit visiting all CNF day use sites, including Brown Canyon Ranch, and will stop volunteering to help in any Forest Service/BLM activity.

32. While I understand the reason you need to collect higher fees, because our federal representatives don't give a whit about the common people or nature, I do feel that the increased fees, and particularly the added fee areas, would pose a hardship for many families and could curtail some family's ability to enjoy time in nature. Mt Lemmon is a haven for many of us during the summer, when the heat in Tucson can become unbearable for some, especially those without AC (vs evaporative coolers). At the very least, please leave more free areas available, and don't add or increase the fees in especially popular areas that families frequent. We raised our children on something tighter than a shoestring budget, and we always had to look for places we could visit for free to be out in nature with our kids. Even modest fees were prohibitive by the time we considered the cost of driving and so forth. (Mt. Lemmon is 100 miles each way from where we live to the top.)

Please don't shut out some of the families who need it the most. We seriously need to upend Congress and get some people in there who care about us, about our land, and about our resources instead of the billionaires who own them. A tall order, I realize, but it's the only real answer.

33. Dear Sirs,

I saw the article in the ADS 14 November 2017 regards increased fees to close the maintenance budget shortfall of 2.5M. Proposed fees were 8\$ for day use and 20\$/night camping for improved camp grounds. I am against the fees as too high for value/service. We are talking about pit toilets and concrete picnic tables. Cheap RV parks provide full service for 18\$ per night including electric, water, trash. I think you really need to look at what is driving the maintenance costs? Is it enforcement? Is it road maintenance? Is it structures? Is it the vault toilets?

The one item I appreciate at an improved campground are the vault toilets -- I could care less about the rest, we are usually packing plastic tables and chairs. We have recently camped at rucker canyon and at Barfoot park since rustler park was closed. Not sure where the money is going -- those facilities at rucker were put in years and years ago and did not appear to have any mtx whatsoever.

At 20\$ per night I'd do dispersed every time, its just not worth it. Please consider a real cost assessment -- what did it cost to maintain these same forests in 1925? Why is that not the model today? Are there regulations and laws that are driving the costs? Can I contact my congresswoman and encourage less regulation and more administrative freedom for the NFS? National forest are only a public asset if they are accessible and that means financially. Public support is dependent upon average citizens being able to use and visit them and feel like they got either their tax dollars or day use fee out of it. Drive away the public and you drive away the long term support. Long long term then who cares about a public forest, simply sell it off and privatize it. That would be a very tragic outcome for the country.

34. Absolutely I support.

35. I read, with interest, the article in the Sierra Vista Herald regarding new fee locations and rate hikes. I am often at locations throughout the Huachucas and participate in a weekly hiking group.

How will these rate hikes be affected by those of us who hold a senior pass? What are the proposed rates for Senior Pass holders? My concern (besides the Senior Pass issue) is that the fees may price many lower income individuals and families out of the forest. If I had to pay even a \$5 fee every week to hike in the Huachucas, and other areas, I wouldn't be able to go. I know costs go up, and those cost have to be covered in some way, but I am concerned about people

36. No fees should be collected from visitors. The parks should be supported 100% from the general fund.

37. I hike frequently on Mt. Lemmon and see no evidence that current fees are enforced. While there is a fee booth on the road leading to Rose Canyon Lake, other areas appear to have virtually no fee enforcement. I use my America the Beautiful pass and often see other cars with the pass displayed, but the majority of vehicles parked at locations such as Molino Basin, the Butterfly Trail and the summit trailheads do not have any type of pass displayed. How do you propose enforcing the fees, whether at current levels or at an increased level?

38. I support your fee increases for Coronado National forest recreation. However, I think you need to raise the prices further in order to hire the people that will ensure that the fees get collected. The people of this area are notoriously cheap and without someone there collecting, the fees will undoubtedly not be collected. Another solution would be to work with the border patrol and on a monthly basis find out how many illegal aliens were apprehended within the national forest boundaries and send a bill to the government of Mexico for the day-use fee for each person apprehended.

39. I'm ok with an increase in fees, as long as that money stays in Coronado National Forest.

40. I understand a fee increase may be needed. But to increase camping fees and pass fees by 100% is outrageous. You are pricing families out of our lands. Recreation is very much needed and is much less destructive to the land than resource extraction I am sure those companies are not being hit with the same outrageous fee increases you are hitting the recreation sector with.

41. Joe,

It was a pleasure to take time today to listen to your presentation on the fee proposal while we were waiting to hike in Bear Canyon. First, let me say I appreciate people like yourself who deeply care for the Coronado National Forest as well as all of our wonderful recreational facilities in the state of Arizona. As a former resident of Oro Valley I love bringing my small hiking group to areas around Tucson so they can experience not only the wonderful places we have up here in the Phoenix area but also beautiful places like Sabino Canyon. We count ourselves to be blessed to live in such a diverse environment as the State of Arizona provides us. Second.

Let me address your presentation and the fee proposal. I fully support the proposed fee increases. These are very small and to be blunt a fee of \$10 for day use would not deter me or my colleagues from using recreational facilities. As for camping and group site fees, I do not use these but the increases seem reasonable. I would suggest another variation to the Annual Pass. I think a tiered pass with a discount for seniors like the National Park Pass for Seniors would make sense. As a senior I know many people have the \$40 you are recommending for the annual pass but giving seniors a discount serves many purposes including encouraging seniors to get outside and enjoy our great state even if they don't have a National Park Pass. You could even pitch it as a bargain compared to the National Park Senior Pass which I think now costs \$80. Also, it says seniors we appreciate your previous support for our parks and we are willing to give you a discount. Maybe \$10.

I also think you should be collecting some data on recreational usage. I know you mentioned the canvass you did at Madera Canyon but you have the perfect opportunity at Sabino Canyon to collect data on how many people have senior national park or similar cross agency passes, who pays the day use fee and who buys an annual pass. Get this data at the entrance by just checking it on a simple list and collecting over a period of a month or quarter or just as part of regular operations. This gives you a lot of data to use in your budget assessments. Anyway, that's my input. Good luck with the process.

42. I attended a public info session at the Wilmot Library last weekend about the proposed increase, and can see that it is probably necessary to do this to continue to offer access to the Coronado NF. I do enjoy Mt Lemmon especially, and hope to continue to do so for quite a while, so I will reluctantly (due to a limited budget!) endorse the fees being raised. If a Senior Pass or rate could be offered, that would be good too!

43. I appreciate the need to begin charging day-use fees at many of the Coronado's recreation sites, and would gladly pay to visit most of the sites you propose to add to the fee program. However, I think it's inefficient and unfair to charge a fee for day-use at Kentucky Camp. Back in the early 2000s I was the CNF's Heritage Program Manager, and at that time, much of the maintenance at the site was done by volunteer caretakers or the Friends of Kentucky Camp. Water testing and vault toilet pumping were done with proceeds from the "Rooms with a View" cabin rental program. Have those arrangements changed? If not, it would seem like public price-gouging to charge K-Camp visitors to use the toilets, and disrespectful of the time the volunteers contribute to the site, which they contribute for the public's benefit, not the Forest Service's funding. Further, unless visitation has increased substantially in the last 8 years, it doesn't seem that amount of fees collected would warrant the cost of collecting the fees (in salary, overhead, vehicle use, and gas). It's not an easy job you have these days, in spite of the fact that you work in one of the most beautiful and diverse places in the country. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal, and hope that one day stewardship of our nation's treasures will receive the funding it deserves from Congress.

44. Yes, I agree the fees need to be increased. After attending the meeting at Oro Valley Library I learned that our National Forest Service is completely underfunded (and has been for years) by Congress. They have withheld money to sustain the public lands at every level. I learned that the fees haven't been increased even while underfunded and costs to just maintain recreation sites has increased. I believe that the cost for users simply must go up. It's simply not acceptable that our National Forest Service is unable to make ends meet and this is just one of the steps that need to take place. I sincerely wish that the Coronado National Forest and all our National Forests were funded appropriately by congress and this administration but because they aren't, the fees have to be raised. It's been negligent to **not** have raised the fees, year by year, incrementally.

I believe the proposed price increases are still too low. Day use should be \$10 . . . an even \$10 is a much easier amount to collect than the odd \$8. Whose there to make change, anyway? The fee should be \$10 a day. Camping fee should be (minimum) \$30. Where can anyone stay overnight for less than \$70 a night? \$30 is reasonable. Group Sites proposed price is reasonable, in my opinion. Even at that, a car with 2 or more people are still getting a deal. \$50 plus \$10 per vehicle is more than reasonable. Coronado Annual Pass proposed price of \$40 is way too low. I pay \$75 for an annual pass at Catalina State Park. It is ridiculous that the national forests can't charge at least the same amount as the state

parks. It is my hope that this is somehow helpful. I don't look forward to the day when our National Forests are gone completely, but I believe it will happen. I know that the Koch brothers and their ilk are hell bent on freeing up some of that public land for their exploitation. It's been a slow moving inch by inch project for them. There will be oil derricks, open pit mines, holding ponds of chemicals, deforestation and whatever else they, the wealthy, deem profitable. We, the People, take our National Forests for granted and it's a shame. '

45. Why wouldn't any fee charged by the park system be tax-deductible? You are a non-profit organization . . . I know it's a stretch but if religions can be non-profit . . . certainly, our forest services can.

46. These comments are in regard to the non-Portal area of the Chiricahua Mountains in Cochise County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. The fee increase from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per night sounds fine. However, this is the same fee that is proposed for daytime picnickers . The difference between the two uses is that the overnight camper would typically consume 4 meals during a 24 hour stay (presumably eating breakfast before leaving home, and eating dinner upon re-arrival to home) Therefore, the overnight camper creates 4 times more garbage and restroom use as a picnicker who could be expected just to eat lunch at the site. My concern is that most of the expectations for visitors to pay a fee is based on the honor system in the first place. Some of the other sites listed as examples of the market rate have concessionaires and/or park service staff (which also are paid a salary generated from their fees) on site to ensure fees are paid. It's compulsory. This area has a small staff and very limited ability to make an enforcement presence. I feel that the Forest Service may actually see a decrease in revenue because of this. In other words, daytime picnickers would be more likely to pay a fee consummate with the time that they're actually using the campground and creating an impact thereon. I would prefer to see a daytime fee of \$10.00-\$12.00 and an overnight fee of \$20.00. When fees were increased to \$10, they went from \$7.50 to \$10.00. I was told that, for a while, there was a drop in revenues. But after a while, it picked back up. Remember, this was only a \$3.00 increase. The public may not respond as readily to a \$10.00 increase.

One proposed strategy was the possible elimination of some campgrounds in this area due to the revenue shortfall. I am concerned that raising the fees, in this case the picnickers fee, beyond what the market will bear might cause some people either to picnic in undesignated campgrounds and not pay a fee (and still take a trip up the road to dump their trash and use the restroom anyhow) or take the risk of using the site without paying and not getting caught. This could ultimately zero out the overall fee increase and/or create a greater shortfall, which would again put eliminating campgrounds as an option on the table – which nobody in this area wants to see happen. The outdoors are really the only source of entertainment in this underserved area. Thank you very much. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Please keep me informed of any meetings, should they be held.

47. Dear Forest Service:

I am strongly against any fees to park and hike on public (National Forest) land. Fees to camp and picnic seem more reasonable. I use only the trailheads that are without parking fees since the settlement of Adams v. Forest Service allows for them. I usually pick up trash when I see it on the trail. I am a 35-year resident of Tucson.

48. Sir/Ma'am,

I would support a camping fee increase from \$10 to \$20 nightly only if those fees actually remain and are used in the CNF. I would prefer camping fees be used for maintenance of camping sites, etc. I had seen a proposal to increase the camping fee to \$30 nightly...that is pretty much full-market value, and CNF would have to add facilities to make that much of an increase worth it. We've camped at quite a few of the AZ state parks...they are OK, but nothing special. Parker Canyon Lake is special, and the hosts there do a tremendous job of keeping the place up to standards. I would vote for an increase to \$20 for Parker, but only to \$30 if you add water and electric to the sites, and shower facilities in the campground.

49. I strongly oppose fee increases for Forest Service operated sites. I think these should remain affordable for all.

50. To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to any increase in fees for use of the Coronado National Forest. That land belongs to the people of this nation and the Forest Service is meant to act as it's steward. It is one of the few places left that allow for recreation and entertainment at a reasonable price. Raising fees will make it inaccessible, either due to financial hardships or because of disgust at the ever increasing cost of trying to enjoy oneself. I would rather see the Forest Service cut back on it's staffing than impact the ability of the citizen/owners of that land to easily and affordably access it. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

51. To whom it may concern;

I understand increased fees are needed to keep up with inflation. However, I disagree with doubling (100%) increase of fees. I am retired and on fixed income which will reduce my usage of parks. Thank you for listening.

52. Most campers bring their own grill - do not replace damaged grills, these are expensive and very seldom used. A very simple fire ring is sufficient at campsites and these can be sponsored by clubs or businesses and have their logo on them. Picnic tables are a nice amenity, but they could be treated the same as fire rings - give local clubs and businesses an opportunity to sponsor/purchase tables and place their logo on them. District Ranger Booher mentioned working with the local state prisons for inmate labor - this is a fantastic idea. Inmate could be used to pick up trash and clean restroom facilities as well as any occasional necessary repairs.

Graham County, as are other regions, is struggling economically and visitors to Mt. Graham are an important part of our economy. Doubling the camping fees will deter visitors to Mt. Graham and will push them to find other camping areas. Although it has been stated that "99.9% of the Forest will remain free," the topography of Mt. Graham as a "sky island" compared to the vast majority of the CNF severely limits the areas accessibility and usability for camping. In fact, there are very few level areas that can be accessed for camping other than the current pay-for-use campsites. In response to fee increases for "Group Sites," please keep in mind that specifically Stockton Pass, Treasure Park, Twilight, and Upper Hospital Flat are frequently used for 3-5day Boy Scouts of America camps. As a former Scoutmaster, the main reason was the financial feasibility of hte sites. Please keep the Souting and family reunions on the mountain and add to the local economy.

53. I fully support all proposed fee increases because Congress continues to underfund the USFS and the increases are both reasonable and necessary to maintain visitor facilities and amenities. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

54. I say no increase until they offer more ammenities. Quit comparing prices to other places that offer more for the price. Most campgrounds in this forest are broke and used up. No increase.

55. 1. General Comment. While I support the need for updated fees, there are some aspects of the Coronado's Fee Proposal that I cannot support as presented. Some of the new fee sites do not currently comply with the fee criteria in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). Placing additional amenities at certain sites may not be economically wise nor consistent with the recreational use pattern at those sites. As a general rule, I believe that trailheads should not be subject to a day use fee. I also cannot support the proposed \$20 campground fee as it is excessive and significantly higher than the market.

2. Day Use Fee. I believe the proposed \$8 day use fee is reasonable and consistent with the market.

3. Annual Pass. I believe the proposed \$40 annual pass is reasonable and consistent with the market.

4. Campground Fee. I believe the proposed \$20 campground fee is excessive and significantly higher than the market. I base my opinion on a comparison of the Coronado's proposed \$20 fee with campground fees at other Arizona National Forests.

a. Tonto National Forest. Most campgrounds are either no fee or \$10 to \$12 per night. A couple of campgrounds have more amenities such as flush toilets and showers and charge \$20 per night. They also offer access to a variety of water recreation opportunities. Examples are Cholla Campground and Windy Hill Campground at Lake Roosevelt.

b. Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Most campgrounds are either no fee or \$14 to \$16 per night. A couple of campgrounds with more amenities such as flush toilets and showers are \$20 per night. Examples are Rainbow Campground and Grayling Campground at Big Lake.

c. Prescott National Forest. Most campgrounds are either no fee, or \$10 to \$14 to \$18 per night. One of the more popular campgrounds is Lynx Lake which is \$18 per night.

Another concern is that the Coronado's proposed campground fee is the same no matter what campground location. Other Arizona National Forests charge site specific campground fees that vary depending on amenities and the attractions offered at that location. I believe the Coronado should do the same. In my opinion, a proposed campground fee of \$12 to \$14 to \$16 (depending on amenities and attractions at the specific location) would be more reasonable.

5. Group Fee. The Coronado's proposal is a flat \$50 plus an additional \$10 per vehicle per day. Compared to other Arizona National Forests, this appears excessive and unnecessarily complex. I recommend the group fee be designated based on a stated maximum group size and maximum number of vehicles. This would more easily allow the group site to be reserved and payable on recreation.gov. An example is the Ponderosa Group Campground on the Tonto National Forest. The fee is \$90 per night for a maximum of 50 people and 10 vehicles. Extra vehicles are charged \$8 per night.

6. Standard Amenity Fee Sites.

a. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act spells out the following criteria that must be present in order for the Forest Service to charge a standard amenity fee.

Start quote:

(4) An [area](#)—

(A)

that provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation;

(B)

that has substantial Federal investments;

(C)

where fees can be efficiently collected; and

(D) that contains all of the following amenities:

(i)

Designated developed parking.

(ii)

A permanent toilet facility.

(iii)

A permanent trash receptacle.

(iv)

Interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk.

(v)

Picnic tables.

(vi)

Security services.

End quote

In my view, the sites that best reflect compliance with these criteria are the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, the Madera Canyon Picnic Area, and the South Fork Picnic Area, as they are popular day use destinations with significant opportunities for outdoor recreation and have substantial federal investments. I believe that for a good number of proposed fee sites the Coronado's Fee Proposal seems to ignore or downplay the first two criteria, i.e., an area that provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation and that has substantial Federal investments.

b. The following comments apply to both existing and proposed new standard amenity fee sites.

(1). There are existing developed campgrounds where a standard amenity fee is charged for picnicking or other day use in the campground. Examples are Cochise Stronghold Campground, Rustler Park Campground, and Ramsey View Campground where one can park at a campsite and use the campsite table as a picnic area. I believe a standard amenity fee can be appropriate for this day use activity. However, I do not believe that a standard amenity fee should be charged to folks who park in or near the campground in order to access a trailhead. As long as they are not parking in a designated campsite space then that activity should be exempt from a standard amenity fee. I highly recommend the Coronado re-examine its policy for charging a standard amenity fee for folks who just park in or near the campground (but not in a campsite parking space) to access a trailhead.

(2). Regarding the Coronado's proposed new fee sites, here are specific comments:

- Bigelow Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Brown Canyon Ranch. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Butterfly Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Carr Canyon Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the Perimeter Trail.
- Cunningham Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate fee free parking for users who just come to park and hike.
- Gordon Hirabayashi Interpretive Site and trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Herb Martyr Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Kentucky Camp. Okay for day use fee. Most folks who hike the trail there start at a different parking location so no issue for trail users.
- Noon Creek Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.
- Parker Canyon Lake Fishing and Boating Site (and nature trail). Okay for day use fee.
- Pena Blanca Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Red Rock Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.
- Reef Townsite Mining Interpretive Trail. Does not qualify. Keep trail fee free. (Note: picnic/day use inside the Reef Townsite Campground can be a separate fee activity – see para 6b(1) above.)
- Reef Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free. (Note: picnic/day use inside the Reef Townsite Campground can be a separate fee activity – see para 6b(1) above.)
- Riggs Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Round-the-Mountain Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Rucker Forest Camp Trailhead, Sawmill Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.



- Shannon Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Soldier Creek Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Upper and Lower Thumb Rock Picnic Area. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Whipple Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Windy Point Vista Day Use Area. Does not qualify. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act bars fees for “use of overlooks or scenic pullouts”.

c. Trailheads. I would like to offer some additional comments on the Coronado’s proposal to charge fees at trailheads where people typically go to park and hike. The law exempts certain activities from fees as follows:

Start quote:

A) Solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trailsides.

(B) For general access unless specifically authorized under this section.

(C) For dispersed areas with low or no investment unless specifically authorized under this section.

(D) For persons who are driving through, walking through, boating through, horseback riding through, or hiking through Federal recreational lands and waters without using the facilities and services.

(E) For camping at undeveloped sites that do not provide a minimum number of facilities and services as described in subsection (g)(2)(A).

(F) For use of overlooks or scenic pullouts.

(G) For travel by private, noncommercial vehicle over any national parkway or any road or highway established as a part of the Federal-aid System, as defined in section 101 of title 23,<sup>1</sup> which is commonly used by the public as a means of travel between two places either or both of which are outside any unit or area at which recreation fees are charged under this chapter.

End Quote

I think the Coronado needs to demonstrate how fees at trailheads where people just go to park and hike are consistent with the law. Based on recent court decisions, I do not believe the Coronado’s fee proposal is on solid legal ground.

For example, in the Mt Lemmon decision dated February 9, 2012, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit made the following statements:

“Moreover, the REA clearly contemplates that individuals can go to a place offering facilities and services without using the facilities and services and without paying a fee.” (page 11)

“It is equally clear that the REA prohibits the Forest Service from charging standard amenity recreation fees for each of several activities in which plaintiffs participate after they park: hiking without using facilities and services, picnicking on a road or trailside, or camping at a site that does not have a majority of the nine enumerated amenities.” (page 12)

“For the foregoing reasons, we conclude that the REA unambiguously prohibits the Forest Service from charging fees in the Mount Lemmon HIRA for recreational visitors

who park a car, then camp at undeveloped sites, picnic along roads or trailsides, or hike through the area without using the facilities and services.” (page 15)

Also, in the decision of US District Court for the District of Arizona, re: USFS vs James T. Smith, dated September 14, 2010, the judge made the following statements:

“The FLREA is an extremely comprehensive and precise statutory scheme clearly delineating specific instances in which the public may be charged an amenity fee for use of the National Forests, and other public lands, and quite plainly prohibiting the agency from establishing any system which requires the public to pay for parking or simple access to trails or undeveloped camping sites.” (page 21)

“The Forest Service is specifically prohibited from charging a recreational amenity fee at sites or for uses where charging a recreational amenity fee is specifically prohibited.” (page 32)

In conclusion, the Coronado’s proposal to charge a standard amenity fee for people who park at trailheads and then hike on forest trails appears to be prohibited by FLREA and is inconsistent with recent court decisions on this issue.

#### References:

1. Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.
2. Decision of US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, re: Adams vs USFS, dated February 9, 2012.
3. Decision of US District Court for the District of Arizona, re: USFS vs James T. Smith, dated September 14, 2010.

56. I don't like the fee proposal. I'd prefer a reduction in amenities. Also, it seems like too sudden an increase of that magnitude, not entirely unlike the fee increase in the AZ State Trust Land Permit a few years ago.

I am a Scoutmaster of a very small troop and frequently camp near Tucson. The troop already gets squeezed financially in the fees that are required. Most of this is because of the current structuring of the fee program is a poor fit for the non-profit style recreation that the scout group typifies. It is a small group that typically involves a group size of 6-10 individuals.

57. First, the scale of the recreation facilities serve as an access barrier to dispersed camping or more primitive recreational experiences that our organization favors. As an example, we just avoid Sabino Canyon altogether. It's a mad house and it takes too much effort and/or expense to just get past it all and into the backcountry. Another example, when we go to the Wilderness of Rocks we park in a day-use only fee area (Marshall Gulch) and hike right through without using the amenities (other than the road and parking lot). Another example, when we go to the Peppersauce area we typically camp just off the Rice Peak forest road rather than going to the campground because why pay for amenities we don't need especially when the campsites are too compressed.

That brings me to my second point. The camp facilities are oriented at either a single family or at larger groups without a useful in between. Our group sometimes exceed the max number of people for a single site by 1 or 2 people which incurs a 100% penalty because the fee doubles and incurs a disincentive for us to invite additional people into the outdoors. Also, the group sometimes exceeds number of people that can fit in a car by 1 or 2 people and there is typically a significant penalty for a second car.

Thanks.

58. Really? Nobody wants the fees to increase except for current and former USFS employees. Let me make a prediction for you: You increase these fees as proposed in the article below, and what you're going to get is less people staying at your developed campsites that have these "amenities". You say it costs \$3.8M+ to maintain these sites. GREAT! Get the money from the federal government, LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO! The public, who already pay federal income taxes that cover things like the USFS, should not be left holding the bill while you flounder for a way to pay for the minor upkeep of some rudimentary facilities and amenities!

59. I realize that the federal government has abdicated its responsibility to provide for the Forest Service and its public recreation sites, and I understand that the Forest Service needs to have fees to support those sites and services. However, I feel the proposed increases are a bit steep. The future success of these resources depends on young people

and families having the easy access in order to learn about and appreciate them. Raise the fees, but don't double them. (\$20/night for a campsite!) Those of us who "love the woods" will pay the increases but many other less familiar with the forest will just choose to stay in town. A loss for us all...

60. Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Huachuca Hiking Club (HHC), I wish to submit some comments and suggestions regarding the Coronado's plan to restructure developed recreation to better align costs and revenues. It was not possible to develop comments that all HHC members agreed with, so this letter reflects a consensus among HHC members concerning this topic

As background, our club was formed in 1973 and is based in Sierra Vista. Our members have been active over the years in hiking, backpacking, car camping, and volunteering trail maintenance. Our hiking and camping destinations have ranged not only in the Coronado National Forest (CNF), but also in national forests, parks, and BLM lands throughout the western states. This has given us a broad perspective on developed recreation services and different approaches across various forests and agencies. So, my comments are offered from this perspective.

General Comment. I support the need for updated fees and I believe the CNF is making a good faith effort to comply with the fee criteria in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). As a rule, I understand why trailheads with the appropriate number of amenities should be subject to a day use fee.

Day-Use Fee. I believe the proposed \$8 day-use fee should be increased to \$10 and that \$10 is reasonable and consistent with the market. This will enhance compliance with the day-use fee, as less and less people carry cash and are more likely to have larger bills, not three \$1 bills. In addition, the \$2 difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a day use site and of any food or refreshments.

Annual Pass. I believe the proposed \$40 annual pass is reasonable and consistent with the market.

Campground Fee. I believe the proposed \$20 campground fee reasonable and consistent with the market. I base my opinion on a comparison of the Coronado's proposed \$20 fee with campground fees at other Arizona National Forests that have not raised their fees lately, and the fact that fees are not changed frequently, so they are understandably at the upper end of the market when they are implemented. Other Arizona National Forests charge site-specific campground fees that vary depending on amenities and the attractions offered at that location. I disagree with this policy. Variable fees can lead to public confusion and resentment when campers are fined because they paid an improper fee amount. In addition, a small fee difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a campground and of any food or refreshments.

Group Fee. The Coronado's proposal is a flat \$50 plus an additional \$10 per vehicle per day. Compared to other Arizona National Forests, this appears excessive and unnecessarily complex. I recommend the group fee be designated based on a stated maximum group size and maximum number of vehicles, which would also help when planning and creating new group sites or maintaining existing group sites. This would more easily allow the group site to be reserved and payable on recreation.gov. An example is the Ponderosa Group Campground on the Tonto National Forest. The fee is \$90 per night for a maximum of 50 people and 10 vehicles. Extra vehicles are charged \$8 per night.

Standard Amenity Fee Sites. The following comments apply to both existing and proposed new standard amenity fee sites.

There are existing developed campgrounds where a standard amenity fee is charged for picnicking or other day use in the campground. I believe a standard amenity fee is appropriate for this day use activity. I also believe that a standard amenity fee should be charged to folks who park in or near a campground in order to access a trailhead. How can you identify these people and what happens when they decide to use an amenity, such as a restroom or an interpretative

sign? When trailheads are in areas that have the required amenities, I do not see how you can designate locations inside these areas as free for hikers using the trails and not expect everyone to park there first whether they use a trail or not. This is exactly what happened at the Moreno Basin parking area during a recent HHC hike. There are signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots inside the day use fee parking area and every one of the slots were full, while the rest of the day use fee slots were half empty. Who knows what the people parked in the signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots were doing? This concept is highly subject to abuse and not realistically enforceable. In addition, people supposedly just hiking will probably use some of the amenities, like restrooms and signs with maps or other information. When HHC members used the Bigelow Trailhead just recently most people used the restrooms and everyone used the signs with maps. We do support the concept of clearly signing the fees areas, so if someone wants to park outside the fee areas they can. As for providing costly new parking areas for these non-fee hikers – no; this is not cost effective, especially given the CNF’s current and future funding challenges.

Regarding the Coronado’s proposed new fee sites, here are specific comments:

- Bigelow Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Brown Canyon Ranch. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails at the existing parking area by Carr Canyon Road.
- Butterfly Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Carr Canyon Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike the Perimeter Trail and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Cunningham Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Gordon Hirabayashi Interpretive Site and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Herb Martyr Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Kentucky Camp. Okay for day use fee. Most folks who hike the trail there start at a different parking location so no issue for trail users.
- Noon Creek Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.
- Parker Canyon Lake Fishing and Boating Site (and nature trail). Okay for day use fee.
- Pena Blanca Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Red Rock Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.
- Reef Townsite Mining Interpretive Trail. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Reef Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Riggs Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Round-the-Mountain Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Rucker Forest Camp Trailhead, Sawmill Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Shannon Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Soldier Creek Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Upper and Lower Thumb Rock Picnic Area. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Whipple Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Windy Point Vista Day Use Area. Will qualify once add required amenities.

Trailheads. I would like to offer some additional comments on the Coronado’s proposal to charge fees at trailheads where people typically go to park and hike. The law exempts certain activities from fees. I believe the CNF staff has taken these laws into consideration, as well as any relevant court decisions. Why would the CNF staff not do this, as

they know there will probably be some court case based upon this program? Why would they want to weaken their case in court? It is just not logical.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to working with the Coronado as this effort continues. Please keep us posted on future opportunities to participate in this process.

61. Dear Sir/Madam:

General Comment. I support the need for updated fees and I understand why trailheads with the appropriate number of amenities should be subject to a day use fee.

Day-Use Fee. I believe the proposed \$8 day-use fee should be increased to \$10 and that \$10 is reasonable. This will enhance CNF visitor convenience and compliance with the day-use fee, as less and less people carry cash and are more likely to have larger bills, not three \$1 bills. In addition, the \$2 difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a day use site and of any food or refreshments.

Annual Pass. I believe the proposed \$40 annual pass is reasonable.

Campground Fee. I believe the proposed \$20 campground fee is reasonable based on a comparison of the Coronado's proposed \$20 fee with campground fees at other Arizona National Forests that have not raised their fees lately. Since fees are not changed frequently, they are understandably at the upper end of the scale when they are implemented. In addition, I disagree with other Arizona National Forest's policy of charging site-specific campground fees that vary depending on amenities and the attractions offered at that location. Variable fees can lead to public confusion and resentment when campers are fined because they paid an improper fee amount. Finally, a small fee difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a campground and of any food or refreshments.

Group Fee. The Coronado's proposal is a flat \$50 plus an additional \$10 per vehicle per day. Compared to other Arizona National Forests, this appears excessive and unnecessarily complex. I recommend the group fee be designated based on a stated maximum group size and maximum number of vehicles, which would also help when planning and creating new group sites or maintaining existing group sites. This would more easily allow the group site to be reserved and payable on recreation.gov. An example is the Ponderosa Group Campground on the Tonto National Forest. The fee is \$90 per night for a maximum of 50 people and 10 vehicles. Extra vehicles are charged \$8 per night.

Standard Amenity Fee Sites. The following comments apply to both existing and proposed new standard amenity fee sites.

There are existing developed campgrounds where a standard amenity fee is charged for picnicking or other day use in the campground. I believe a standard amenity fee is appropriate for this day-use activity. I also

believe that a standard amenity fee should be charged to folks who park in or near a campground in order to access a trailhead. How can you identify these people and what happens when they decide to use an amenity, such as a restroom or an interpretative sign? When trailheads are in areas that have the required amenities, I do not see how you can designate locations inside these areas as free for hikers using the trails and not expect everyone to park there first whether they use a trail or not. This is exactly what happened at the Moreno Basin parking area during a recent hike. There are signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots inside the day use fee parking area and every one of the slots were full, while the rest of the day use fee slots were half empty. Who knows what the people parked in the signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots were doing? This concept is highly subject to abuse and not realistically enforceable. In addition, people supposedly just hiking will probably use some of the amenities, like restrooms and signs with maps or other information. When I parked at the Bigelow Trailhead just recently I used the restrooms and the signs with maps. I do support the concept of clearly signing the fees areas, so if someone wants to park outside the fee area they know where to park. I do not support providing costly new parking areas for non-fee hikers. This is not cost effective and would only worsen the CNF's current and future funding challenges.

Regarding the Coronado's proposed new fee sites, here are specific comments: I support adding the required amenities to the proposed fee sites that currently do not have them, so that a day-use fee can be charged. I do not support designating separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails at the existing parking areas (I explained why earlier.), nor the development of new no fee parking areas just outside or near fee parking. However, fee areas needed to be clearly marked, so users can easily park outside the fee area.

Trailheads: I would like to offer some additional comments on the Coronado's proposal to charge fees at trailheads where people typically go to park and hike. The law exempts certain activities from fees. I believe the CNF staff has taken these laws into consideration, as well as any relevant court decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to working with the Coronado as this effort continues. Please keep us posted on future opportunities to participate in this process.

62. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) met with you on April 19<sup>th</sup> to review proposed changes to fees and additional fee sites on the Coronado National Forest (Forest). We understand that the Forest intends to raise fees at existing day use sites from \$5 to \$8 per day, double the camping fee to \$20 per night, and double the annual pass to \$40 per year. Group sites would cost \$50, plus \$10 per vehicle. Twenty-two sites would change from free day use to fee sites. You explained that increasing costs of operation and maintenance and declining appropriated funds from Congress to the Forest Service for recreation require the Forest to seek additional revenue to maintain these sites.

The Department recognizes these challenges and we support the fee changes. However, we have the following concerns for your consideration:

Pena Blanca Lake, Riggs Lake, and Parker Canyon Lake are currently free day use sites for anglers and boaters. The Department constructed each of these lakes and has a special use permit for each one. Department engineers monitor and maintain the dams. Additionally, the Department funded the construction of most of the angler and boating related facilities at these sites, including boat ramps, fishing piers, etc. The Department manages the sportfish populations in these lakes and stocks fish regularly. All these items were paid for with revenue generated directly from anglers and boaters, including State Lake Improvement funds and Federal Sportfish & Restoration monies as well as license dollars. As this infrastructure has deteriorated over the years, the Department has funded replacement projects. Anglers and boaters continue to pay their share through annual fishing license and boat registrations collected by the Department.

Currently the majority of infrastructure at Pena Blanca Lake (parking lot, restroom, boat launch, and fishing piers) was constructed with Department funds for a total cost of \$600,000. We Anglers and boaters continue to pay their share through annual fishing license and boat registrations collected by the Department.

Currently the majority of infrastructure at Pena Blanca Lake (parking lot, restroom, boat launch, and fishing piers) was constructed with Department funds for a total cost of \$600,000. We anticipate any maintenance costs to repair or replace these facilities will be paid for by the Department. The Department spends around \$10,000 to \$12,000 of angler dollars annually to stock trout in winter.

At Parker Canyon Lake, the Forest is currently requesting the Department to pay for a new boat ramp or repair the existing ramp, replacement of the vault toilets, and the addition of a fish cleaning station. The existing ramp (and historically the maintenance of it) has been the Department's responsibility. All other facilities at the lake are within the campground which already requires a fee. The Department spends about \$10,000 to \$12,000 of angler dollars annually to stock trout in winter.

The only facilities at Riggs Flat Lake are within the campground, which already requires a fee. The Department spends about \$5,000 to \$12,000 of angler dollars to stock the lake annually.

We are concerned about additional barriers to people accessing public land and wildlife. The North American Model (NAM) of fish and wildlife management serves all Americans by ensuring common people have access to public land and wildlife held in public trust. At some cost there is a tipping point where anglers will not be willing to spend the money necessary to access their sport. The peoplehip between the state and federal government is what makes the NAM so successful.

Therefore, we request that the Forest take into consideration the revenue invested into these facilities by our licensees who recreate at those lakes. The Department's revenue is entirely dependent on discretionary spending by our customers as we receive no General Fund money from the State. Continued revenue from our customers requires that access to hunting, angling, and boating opportunities continue to be available and a reasonable value.

The Forest proposed that although some trailheads with facilities will become fee sites, many other trailheads will continue to offer access to trails free of charge. The Department finds that an acceptable strategy for hunters wishing to access the Forest via trail. Likewise we discussed the potential to ensure that there are areas at each lake within the fee system where anglers may access the lakes free of charge to fish without using fee sites. The Forest indicated that it intends to investigate and identify fee-free parking sites at each lake for free shore angling day use. The Forest committed to allowing physically challenged anglers will have free access to barrier free sites via a free federal pass. One additional option would be to add more annual free days to all those areas where fees will be increasing. This will ensure that all of our anglers have a way to continue to harvest the fish they stocked, in the lakes they built, on their public land.

We look forward to continued peoplehip with the Coronado National Forest and offer our support at your meeting with the Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) in June.

63. On behalf of the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona (CASA), it's Board of Directors, hundreds of volunteers, and nearly 300 yearly donating members, I am submit the following comments regarding the Coronado National Forest's proposed fees and additional fee sites. This comment was drafted by our Board of Directors after I attended one of your public meetings hosted by Mr. Winfield.

CASA supports continued free access to non-developed public land. We support continued access to the free parking available to the public who are recreating on non-developed public land. As is currently the case, we request continued free access to non-developed areas regardless of fees being assessed for users of developed amenities.

We recommend the Forest Service **does not** add amenities to Windy Point or the currently non-fee area of Gordon Hirabayashi and to leave those as non-fee sites.

We are concerned about the loss of free access and parking to non-developed recreation that this would create.

We are also concerned that additional amenities at Windy Point will result in even higher impacts to the fragile soil and cliff-top ecosystem in the area. This site has seen dramatic impacts to vegetation and soil in the areas closest to the current amenities, caused by casual hikers trampling, littering, and defacing this scenic vista. Mitigation of increased impacts resulting from intensified use associated with an addition of amenities should be considered by the Forest Service. We recommend a substantial commitment of resources to mitigation measures, including funding for restoration and erosion control work.

We also believe that it is important that all members of the public have the opportunity to enjoy public land, despite their economic situation. **We want the Forest Service to provide free or substantially reduced price passes to fee areas for people who demonstrate financial hardship and need.**

Without these adjustments, CASA cannot support the current proposal regarding increases in Fees at developed recreation sites in the Coronado National Forest.

Please let us know if you have questions or need clarification.

64. What follows are principles, based upon nearly 20 years of experience gained since the passage of Fee Demo, that should govern federal recreation fees. If new legislation follows these principles the agencies will have adequate latitude to charge and retain reasonable fees, but will have to abide by clearly defined limitations that will protect the public's right to general access onto lands that we all own in common.

- Public lands are a valued public good that provides important benefits to all Americans.
- National Forests and BLM lands are public lands for which other funds are made available by Congress.
- Recreation fees should never be expected to cover the entire cost of recreation management.
- Recreation fees should be supplemental to the funding provided by Congress and should only be imposed where there is a demonstrated need to provide supplemental benefits.
- Fee revenues should be expended to directly benefit those who paid them.
- Entrance fees should be allowed only for National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges.



- In Parks and Refuges where an entrance fee is established, no additional fee should be charged for interpretive programs and visitor centers that promote an understanding and appreciation of the values for which the unit was established.
- On National Forests and BLM lands, fees should only be allowed for the actual use of developed facilities or for specialized activities, and only where there is a demonstrated need.
- Perverse incentives to build unneeded facilities in order to justify charging fees must be eliminated.
- Fees should be prohibited for general access to Forests and BLM lands, including dispersed camping outside of developed campgrounds, travel to or through undeveloped lands and waters, snow play, wildlife viewing, trail use, parking, and access to designated wilderness or other backcountry dispersed areas.
- Fees should be prohibited for the use, either singly or in any combination, of drinking water, wayside exhibits, roads, overlook sites, scenic drives, toilet facilities, or picnic tables. Where these basic facilities cannot be provided using appropriated funds, they should not be offered.
- Fees charged at federal recreation facilities that are managed by private contractors or permittees should be subject to the same requirements and restrictions as those at federally-managed facilities, including acceptance of federal passes.
- Fee program overhead and administration should not be allowed to exceed 15% of gross revenues. This must include fee-collection materials, contracts with third parties for fee collection, and sales commissions paid to third-party vendors.
- Fee revenue should first be spent on backlogged maintenance at the facility where it was collected. Only when there is no backlogged maintenance should it be available to be spent on new facilities or improvements, and only if such improvements are required and appropriate.
- Failure to pay a recreation fee should be treated as an infraction and not a misdemeanor as is currently the case under FLREA.
- The maximum penalty for failure to pay a required recreation fee should be set at \$100.
- Establishing and increasing fees by the agencies must be done in an open and transparent fashion operating under congressional oversight.
- The agencies must provide opportunity for robust public participation and a mechanism must be provided to ensure public input is given full consideration when decisions are made involving the establishment of new and/or increased recreation fees.

64. I think the camping and day use fees should be raised.

65. I object to day use fees on Mt. Lemmon . This area is heavily used by low income people from Tucson. Any fees at trailheads or picnic areas would be a heavy burden for them. Perhaps there could be a donation box at these areas for people who can afford to pay.

66. I don't see much trail repair, especially in Cochise County (Chiricahuas !!!!). It is rather embarrassing to live here and to have such lousy trail repair/maintenance. Lately I have been hiking in Pima County (Santa Ritas) and the trails are

much much better for the most part. But, many of the trails up and around Mt. Wrightson are "gone" at the upper parts. I certainly would not object to increased fees as long as a larger portion of them is devoted to hikers.

67. To Joseph Winfield,

I received the e-mail reply below, from Armando Arvizu, Recreation Manager on the Douglas District, telling me that I can still send comments on the fee restructuring for recreation on Coronado NF sites, until May 1, 2018, which is this coming Tuesday. Wishing to send some last minute comments before the deadline, I tried to open the website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Coronado/feereview> which Mr. Arvizu gave as the place to register these comments.

When I tried to open this website, I was redirected to another website with the URL

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/PA\\_WIDConsumption/goto?shortURL=Coronado/feereview](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/PA_WIDConsumption/goto?shortURL=Coronado/feereview). At this URL no page ever opened up. My screen remained blank for multiple minutes until I finally closed it. There are still important comments for me to post before the deadline. Can I still send them by e-mail to the address to which I am sending this message? If I don't get a reply from anyone in the USFS before Monday, I will post the comments to this address, anyway.

68. The amount of increase is more than fair. Let the ones using the campground pay for there use. Non campers should not pay a nickel for others privilege to camp. We use Rose Canyon and Molino Basin campgrounds - a lot... we are regulars.

### **Comments Received through Handwritten Letters**

69. I read about your proposed fee hikes at the Mt. Lemmon Visitor Center and would like to comment. Access to public land is important to people of all levels of income and increased fees will affect the wealthy hardly at all, and the poor very much so. It is essentially discriminatory to exclude people who can't afford it, especially in Tucson with very high food costs and rising costs of housing. I oppose it on the same level of opposing Zinke's proposed increased fees for National Parks. When I wrote to oposed Park fee increases, I actually cited Mt. Lemmon's toll booth. My kids went to school in Tucson and could never justify a trip up Mt. Lemmon as they were poor students. I just spent some time up there and realized what a loss that was for them and could have greatly improved the quality of their Tucson lives. So Coronado, aren't you better than Zinke? Please keep the fees as they are (good riddance toll booth) and public lands accessible to all. Thanks.

70. Regarding the proposed increases in recreation fees, that would be fine with me as long as the toilets will be pumped out more often. We camp here at Sunny Flat, Steward - both near Portal, and we have also camped at Bog Springs in Madera Canyon. We appreciate the water and garbage services, but the pit toilets are much too full. The odor at Stewart Campground was really bad when we were there in 2016 - could smell it from our campsite. Thank you for keeping the recreation areas open - we do love hiking and bird watching here.

71. All [sites] with amenities should require a fee

72. All proposed fee sites seem valid and fair.

73. Does increasing the term of the daily use to more than 1 day make sense? If so, increase fees to \$10 for a couple days. Unlikely everyone would take advantage of multiple days, but it will generate much needed money. Thank you.

74. 60 hours volunteer is a lot to expect for free annual pass. You should add transportation for low income [people].  $\$20/60 = \$0.33$  wage hourly. I think you should create a no fee low income option, such as allowing free use for people eligible for food stamps. The people already paid and should get to use the land.

75. Doubling fees is a slap in the face. It tells people don't come to the forest, and the forest is just for the rich. If you double fees, I just won't go.

76. I do NOT support privatization or private concessionaires
77. Propose a badge for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc. to experience the CNF. Maybe you receive corporate sponsors to support activities in the forest. Insurance preventative health programs i.e. Silver Sneakers, etc. hike.
78. Enough flexibility in using facilities and forest allow/make fee increase reasonable and important.
79. If our public lands were fully funded, we wouldn't be having the conversation. I'd prefer full funding, but I don't think that's realistic at the moment. Are fees being increased on commercial users like communications towers and Ski Valley? Are fees for grazing permits and other resource uses? I support users paying if the money goes back into the forest itself, not the general fund. But I don't support putting more burden on private individuals who have less resources and make less impact than others.
80. By encouraging federal taxes to pay in lieu of fees by cutting military budget, increase taxes on high income earners
81. \$10 a week would make the increase more acceptable.
82. Collect all fees at one place, i.e. toll booth. No concessionaire management.
83. Credit card machine payment ability! Also, \$10 per day is easier and requiring less change. Electric and water could be provided at camper sites.
84. Get rid of week pass. Consider the cellular credit card pay. Open toll booth on Catalina Highway.
85. Most stops made by travellers are short. It's a first stop for many going up the mountain, and provide a great overview. Charging a fee would not be a pleasant start to their first Forest visit.
86. Open up the Mt Lemmon fee booth.
87. We should encourage, not discourage, use of facilities. Too many Tucsonans don't use the facilities now. Need to take credit cards.
88. Why not reopen toll booth at Catalina Hwy? Improve way to pay (Visa/Mastercard/Discovery Card)
89. An even number [for the day pass] makes sense because people won't be able or prepared to make change. Bump it up \$2.00 and be done with it.
90. I believe Windy Point on Mt. Lemmon should be a fee site. Also, I think \$8 is going to make it very difficult for staff to make change and people to make an excuse not to pay. A round \$10 would be much better.
91. Making change for \$10 would cause problems in fee tubes and fee collections. Also, it would be wise to add a picnic table to Windy Vista so day use fee could be collected.
92. I am opposed to Brown Canyon being added to the fee program. To me, it feels like charging people to go to their neighborhood park. There is not much to do in this town, and charging a fee for Brown Canyon will reduce free time activities available. I liked Brown Canyon better when it wasn't developed.

93. Thinking about Brown Canyon in particular, going from zero to \$8.00 seems rather shocking.

**Comments received during phone conversations** (*comments below are summarized from the conversations*)

94. Safford demographics: low income, increasing fees will push people in non-fee areas, refuges. State Parks provides more services for the price. More people doing dispersed camping. Fire restrictions.

95. Have Sky Island Alliance and Coronado Outdoors volunteers harvest and sell wood at Palisades. Developed rec sites off Bigelow Road. Expand the Palisades Visitor Center to accommodate interpretive exhibits and keeping firewood dry. ATV and small trailers can be housed at the barn.

96. Maintain fee-free public access (basic). Privatization push - concessionaires. Put a donation line on new tax forms - % of tax dollars (Gaye's suggestion - she will follow up). 2 sites in Adams Settlement were removed from fee proposal. To improve sustainability, be more aggressive with donations, have no fires, and no trash. At Gordon Hirabayashi, which would be treated as a "group" site (would need to be reserved), campsite would remain and the day use area would become a fee area. Agree with fee increase, and approach to provide reasonable public access to trailheads within 1/4 mile when possible.

# Appendix E: Analysis of Public Comments

	Annual Pass			Day Use Fee			Campsite Fee			Group Site Fee			Sites	
Comment Text	Do not support increase	Support \$2139 price	Support \$40 or more	Do not support increase	Support \$8 fee	Support \$10 fee	Do not support increase	Support \$15 fee	Support \$20 fee	Do not support increase	Support tiered structure and/or lower than \$50 fee	Support flat \$50 + \$10/veh. fee	Site(s) commenter does not support adding to fee structure	Site(s) commenter suggests adding to fee structure
1 I support the proposal. At first glance the per vehicle fee for group sites seemed high. However, if there are 4 people per vehicle this results in \$250 per person plus the a portion of the \$50 flat fee which is less than the cost of many other activities. I do think fees for everyone should be waived on select days throughout the year. The idea that "the developed recreation program should be self sustaining" are good sounding words that I believe would be impossible to implement without exorbitant fees and closing of many sites. The concept of an Coronado National Forest annual permit would be better if it applied to everyone who entered the national forest for any kind of recreation. The meeting format was okay, very traditional. I was disappointed in the turnout and number of comments to date. However, once increased fees are implemented I would expect a great outcry.			1		1					1		1		
2 This email is a response to the request for comments regarding the increase in recreation fees. I very strongly object to raising fees, especially at Pena Blanca Lake, Riggs Flat Lake and Parker Canyon Lake. I have fished these lakes many times over the past forty years, especially Pena Blanca and Parker Canyon, so I can speak from experience. My experience has shown me that the vast majority of fishermen and other users of these lakes might be priced out of their recreation if fees are imposed. Many people are retired and living on fixed incomes, and many are working class families looking for cheap or free outdoor recreation. I am aware that there is a budget shortfall, but Congress must provide more money rather than increasing user fees. Increasing fees is like double taxation. My daughter works for the Park Service and my son-in-law works for the Forest Service in Flagstaff so I know full well about budget constraints. Please put pressure on our elected Congresspeople to properly fund our National Forests and National Parks. Please do not raise or impose new fees on the people who can least afford to pay.		1			1					1			Pena Blanca Lake, Riggs Flat Lake, Parker Canyon Lake	
3 Hello, I support continued free access to non-developed public land. I'd like there to continue to be free parking available to the public who are recreating on non-developed public land. As is currently the case, we request continued free access to non-developed use regardless of fees being assessed for users of developed amenities. We also believe that it is important that all members of the public have the opportunity to enjoy public land, despite their economic situation. Please provide an area for people to park that do not use amenities.														
4 Comment too long to fit into cell - for full text, see Appendix D, comment number 4.									1			1		
5 I am opposed to any new fees or fee increases charged to users. Increases only serve to reduce the number of low income people who can enjoy the forest.	1				1					1			No added fee sites	

6	<p>It has been a year since I have been camping on Mt Lemmon and was shocked to see the notice of the fee increases I would think that before you increase fees you collect the current fees from people using the facilities Over the weekend not once did anyone check to see if I had paid the camping fees And I know there were people camping and not paying the fees The few times I saw anyone from the forest service they were speeding through the campground I had to flag down one truck to extinguish the campfire left burning from the camper that had just left The only people that the fee increases will impact are the honest folks If you want to increase revenue how about charging the rude bicyclists for permits They use the trails, the roads, the facilities that you want me to pay more for I even had groups ride through my camp site I was almost run over on the hike I took If you would like to compare your fees to other campgrounds then you should improve and MAINTAIN your campgrounds! Also police the campgrounds so families are safe to enjoy them</p>	1			1				1								
7	<p>I strongly support the proposed fee increases at the Coronado National Forest recreation sites My family and I have lived in Tucson several years and often enjoy the recreation sites, especially the picnic and camping sites on Mt Lemmon We would be more than willing to pay an increased fee to ensure the continued availability, upkeep, and maintenance of the sites Recently I have begun to notice that some of the sites, especially the lower picnic areas, are becoming damaged, littered, and vandalized Not only should you raise the fees, you should enforce them and issue citations to violators I am sure lots of people come up and use the sites without paying at all, and I bet these are the ones responsible for most of the litter and damage Again, we support the proposed fee increase along with recommending the Forest Service enact some way to enforce the fee structure When we first moved to Tucson, the fee booth on the Catalina Highway (near milepost 3 or 4) was manned and collected fees It has been vacant for some time now I understand that manning this booth would entail paying an additional employee and that incurs substantial costs, but it would be one way to enforce fee payment Thank you for your time</p>			1	1				1					1			
8	<p>Would the fee mean, the lake would be maintained better, because there is a lot of trash around the lake at this time If so, it would be a good thing Can anything be done to improve the fishing at the lake, will the lake be stocked with trout this year? Has the water condition gotten any better?</p>			1	1				1					1			
9	<p>This rural area doesn't justify such fees It unjustly limits access to these areas by locals There is no paved parking, just dirt, rocks, and a trail Let us enjoy our land!</p>	1			1				1						No added fee sites		
10	<p>I'm in favor of the fee increases and added fee venues However, these will only be effective if enforced I trust that not only will the fees go toward infrastructure development and improvement but also support an enforcement effort Without the later my sense is the fees will fall far short of what's needed</p>			1	1				1					1		All fee sites supported	
11	<p>As a frequent user of all the trails and many campsites throughout the Coronado National Forest, Mt Lemmon and Sabino Canyon, I fully support an increase in fees May I suggest upping the proposed \$8 to an even figure of \$10 Furthermore, since it's been over 20 years since the last increase, that added \$2 won't matter a bit over any length of time Also, having credit-card accepting facilities at the fee station areas would promote more adherence to the fee requirement thereby limiting those who 'slip' away and don't pay anything as well as limiting the 'cash' box collections requiring a salaried employee's time and effort Thanks for the opportunity to contribute my two-cents (no pun intended)</p>			1	1	1			1					1			

12	Totally support the fee increases as proposed. It is vitally important to keep these areas accessible and maintained for all. I would ask that you look into, or consider some way to provide a way for those who are poorer to still be able to partake and enjoy our beautiful area. Maybe there's some way for those who can prove they're on assistance or something to get a free pass??? Nowhere in nature should be off limits due to income!!!!																		
13	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 13 for full text																		Develop Bigelow Campground and charge fees
14	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 14 for full text	1			1			1				1							Parker Canyon Lake
15	I recently visited Coronado National Forest, specifically Rucker Canyon. I am dismayed at the fee raise proposal to support development. The experience that I look for in the National Forest is one of less development. I do appreciate the implementation of pit toilets but that is as far as my needs go. I do not wish to see concrete slabs, groomed trails to the toilet, designated campsites or large pullouts to accommodate large RVs. I feel that if you need all those amenities, you really aren't there to experience the forest. Why attract the folks that don't even come out of their RVs? I have witnessed this time and time again, camping next to people that never come outside. You can see the blue glow of their tv inside the camper. So, why provide development? The folks that need this development are better served at the highly developed State and National Parks. I prefer the National Forest camping mainly because it is less developed. I love dispersed camping. I don't understand going to the forest and then having to be squeezed into a small area camping 5 feet away from another person. I seek solitude, clean air and natural living. This simple goal is becoming more and more difficult to find. Please do not develop the forest. You cannot make nature better.																		
16	I am sure you all have some tough decisions to make with these proposed fee increases. I consider myself middle-class and recently moved here so any fees for recreation are rather shocking. Personally, I don't use any of your pay sites because of my previous state's taxes covered picnicking. However, I can see where you are coming from but, I don't agree that this is the way to generate monies needed for recreational sites. I think there has been a major disconnect in the US as to where our tax dollars are being spent. However, politics aside, this still does not seem to be a move in the right direction. Mt. Lemmon is the best part about Tucson and to charge people even more for their only escape from the heat seems inhumane. Suggested alternatives: 1. Implement pay toilets and pay showers. 2. Go fund me. 3. Make it a national story, get the word out that you are having to turn free recreational sites into pay-to-poop sites. 4. Adapt the same model as Saguaro National Park and Sabino Canyon, don't shaft your residents and the residents of Summerhaven that rely on our money. 5. Ask for volunteers, you have so many retired people that are capable and willing to help. 6. Ask your employees if they can afford your rate increases on a basic salary, can a teacher, or Cub Scout leader? Tucson is a low wage town and city parks are filled with homeless. Don't pass your budget cuts on to the people!!																		





23	As a nogales native since childhood i have known peña blanca lake Today i can say i visit the lake maybe 10 to 15 times a year for fishing and other recreational activities In my opinion i wouldnt mind paying \$5 or less The fish cannot be consumed except trout wich is nice in the winter but also the lake is not well maintained Lots of fallen branches from debris in the lake The trails have branches and stairs have overhanging branches also I understand its nature but proposing a fee is ok if it will be maintained Stocking the lake more often for us fisherman and for family trips There is really not much to do in nogales anyways so i would be ok with my opinion of a small fee but it would also drive some people away Thank you																Charge \$5 or less at Pena Blanca lake - it is not maintained well enough to justify a higher price
24	Too bad you working people don't have a clue what it's like to be retired on a fixed income We just plain old can't afford your increase!!! PLEASE have some compassion for Gods sake!	1			1								1				
25	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 25 for full text	1			1								1				
26	I have a suggestion on possible help with maintaining, fixing and upgrading the Land, Parks and Forests of these United States with the funds shortfall Maybe this is already in process but what would the chance of asking Retired Travels, which I am one, to volunteer to perform the needed work and instead of pay provide a place with at least electricity and water hookups and a dump station where one could empty tanks once in a while I know the wife and I would jump on something like this and would work for at minimum two weeks or more before moving on to another assignment if available With the many retired persons on the road now after retirement this would be a ready force to tap Even the number of Canadians who come and snowbird has increased into the US and may be willing to do something like this This is just an idea but something someone could advance forward up the chain and see where this could go																
27	I am writing to share my thoughts regarding the proposal to increase fees at various campgrounds and day-use sites I'll keep it short I support campground and day-use site fees, although the proposed 100% increase in campground fees (\$10 to \$20) is excessive An increase of 30-50% is reasonable I do NOT support paying a fee to park at a trail head for the sole purpose of hiking Hiking is a low-impact activity and should be encouraged for its health benefits																Trailheads
28	I absolutely support raising fees Fiscally necessary				1												1
29	I feel like bring the prices up is going to get less people going to these sites, it already gets pretty expensive if you take a group If the prices go up a lot less people are gonna visit the beautiful sites That might also cause problems with people going to random places and camping, leaving trash and causing damage to the wild life It's better to have affordable areas for people to visit, where it's safer and they can clean up after themselves easier Obviously, the USDA Forest Service needs to be adequately funded, especially access to all public lands under the responsibility and jurisdiction of the Federal Government The number one action is to mobilize the public as to the inefficiency of current funding for public lands And therefore, placing pressure and the responsibility on both the Republican and Democratic parties to fulfill their responsibility to do what is best for the general public, especially those of low income Instead of tax breaks for the wealthy, simply replace those breaks with a tax benefit to the wealthy if they will commit annually to funding the protection and maintenance of all public lands according to needs That isn't likely, so I do agree with increasing the fees for public use				1												1

30	As a vendor of your passes, I would recommend that the Day Use Fee which is proposed to increase from \$5 00 to \$8 00 be increased to \$10 00, which is commensurate with your other proposed increases Making change for an \$8 00 pass will be difficult for your retail outlets and especially for your own Fee Rangers, as it will involve the necessity of a substantial amount of \$1 00 bills At the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, PLIA historically has provided change for the Fee Rangers, but we may not be able to keep enough of the correct change to accommodate both of our needs with the proposed increase to \$8 00 We all will in general be given \$20 00 bills for payment of the Day Use fee			1		1			1			1	
31	Fees are taxes At first, they were a temporary solution to inadequate appropriations by Congress Now they have become normal This is wrong, and the fees charged by Forest Service and National Park facilities have gotten completely out of hand I have written all our congressional representatives and senators about this issue I also told them that fees are taxes These are public lands and should rightfully be supported by tax dollars If these fees go into effect, we will quit visiting all CNF day use sites, including Brown Canyon Ranch, and will stop volunteering to help in any Forest Service/BLM activity	1			1			1			1		
32	While I understand the reason you need to collect higher fees, because our federal representatives don't give a whit about the common people or nature, I do feel that the increased fees, and particularly the added fee areas, would pose a hardship for many families and could curtail some family's ability to enjoy time in nature Mt Lemmon is a haven for many of us during the summer, when the heat in Tucson can become unbearable for some, especially those without AC (vs evaporative coolers) At the very least, please leave more free areas available, and don't add or increase the fees in especially popular areas that families frequent We raised our children on something tighter than a shoestring budget, and we always had to look for places we could visit for free to be out in nature with our kids Even modest fees were prohibitive by the time we considered the cost of driving and so forth (Mt Lemmon is 100 miles each way from where we live to the top) Please don't shut out some of the families who need it the most We seriously need to upend Congress and get some people in there who care about us, about our land, and about our resources instead of the billionaires who own them A tall order, I realize, but it's the only real answer	1			1			1			1		No new fee sites
33	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 33 for full text	1			1			1			1		
34	Absolutely I support			1		1			1			1	
35	I read, with interest, the article in the Sierra Vista Herald regarding new fee locations and rate hikes I am often at locations throughout the Huachuclas and participate in a weekly hiking group How will these rate hikes be affected by those of us who hold a senior pass? What are the proposed rates for Senior Pass holders? My concern (besides the Senior Pass issue) is that the fees may price many lower income individuals and families out of the forest If I had to pay even a \$5 fee every week to hike in the Huachuclas, and other areas, I wouldn't be able to go I know costs go up, and those cost have to be covered in some way, but I am concerned about people who might not be able to afford to go to the forest												Hiking areas
36	No fees should be collected from visitors The parks should be supported 100% from the general fund	1			1			1			1		No fee sites

37	I hike frequently on Mt Lemmon and see no evidence that current fees are enforced While there is a fee booth on the road leading to Rose Canyon Lake, other areas appear to have virtually no fee enforcement I use my America the Beautiful pass and often see other cars with the pass displayed, but the majority of vehicles parked at locations such as Molino Basin, the Butterfly Trail and the summit trailheads do not have any type of pass displayed How do you propose enforcing the fees, whether at current levels or at an increased level?													
38	I support your fee increases for Coronado National forest recreation However, I think you need to raise the prices further in order to hire the people that will ensure that the fees get collected The people of this area are notoriously cheap and without someone there collecting, the fees will undoubtedly not be collected Another solution would be to work with the border patrol and on a monthly basis find out how many illegal aliens were apprehended within the national forest boundaries and send a bill to the government of Mexico for the day-use fee for each person apprehended			1		1				1			1	
39	I'm ok with an increase in fees, as long as that money stays in Coronado National Forest			1		1				1			1	
40	I understand increased fees are needed to keep up with inflation However, I disagree with doubling (100%) increase of fees I am retired and on fixed income which will reduce my usage of parks		1			1						1		
41	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 41 for full text			1		1							1	
42	I attended a public info session at the Wilmot Library last weekend about the proposed increase, and can see that it is probably necessary to do this to continue to offer access to the Coronado NF I do enjoy Mt Lemmon especially, and hope to continue to do so for quite a while, so I will reluctantly (due to a limited budget!) endorse the fees being raised If a Senior Pass or rate could be offered, that would be good too!			1									1	
43	I appreciate the need to begin charging day-use fees at many of the Coronado's recreation sites, and would gladly pay to visit most of the sites you propose to add to the fee program However, I think it's inefficient and unfair to charge a fee for day-use at Kentucky Camp Back in the early 2000s I was the CNF's Heritage Program Manager, and at that time, much of the maintenance at the site was done by volunteer caretakers or the Friends of Kentucky Camp Water testing and vault toilet pumping were done with proceeds from the "Rooms with a View" cabin rental program Have those arrangements changed? If not, it would seem like public price-gouging to charge K-Camp visitors to use the toilets, and disrespectful of the time the volunteers contribute to the site, which they contribute for the public's benefit, not the Forest Service's funding Further, unless visitation has increased substantially in the last 8 years, it doesn't seem that amount of fees collected would warrant the cost of collecting the fees (in salary, overhead, vehicle use, and gas) It's not an easy job you have these days, in spite of the fact that you work in one of the most beautiful and diverse places in the country I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal, and hope that one day stewardship of our nation's treasures will receive the funding it deserves from Congress			1		1							1	Kentucky Camp
44	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 44 for full text			1						1			1	

45	Why wouldn't any fee charged by the park system be tax-deductible? You are a non-profit organization I know it's a stretch but if religions can be non-profit certainly, our forest services can													
46	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 46 for full text				1	1				1				
47	I am strongly against any fees to park and hike on public (National Forest) land Fees to camp and picnic seem more reasonable I use only the trailheads that are without parking fees since the settlement of Adams v Forest Service allows for them I usually pick up trash when I see it on the trail I am a 35-year resident of Tucson				1	1				1			Hiking areas	
48	I would support a camping fee increase from \$10 to \$20 nightly only if those fees actually remain and are used in the CNF I would prefer camping fees be used for maintenance of camping sites, etc I had seen a proposal to increase the camping fee to \$30 nightly that is pretty much full-market value, and CNF would have to add facilities to make that much of an increase worth it We've camped at quite a few of the AZ state parks they are OK, but nothing special Parker Canyon Lake is special, and the hosts there do a tremendous job of keeping the place up to standards I would vote for an increase to \$20 for Parker, but only to \$30 if you add water and electric to the sites, and shower facilities in the campground													Increase Parker Canyon Lake to \$20
49	I strongly oppose fee increase for Forest Service operated sites I think these should remain affordable for all	1			1			1			1			
50	I am writing to express my opposition to any increase in fees for use of the Coronado National Forest That land belongs to the people of this nation and the Forest Service is meant to act as it's steward It is one of the few places left that allow for recreation and entertainment at a reasonable price Raising fees will make it inaccessible, either due to financial hardships or because of disgust at the ever increasing cost of trying to enjoy oneself I would rather see the Forest Service cut back on it's staffing than impact the ability of the citizen/owners of that land to easily and affordably access it Thank you for your attention in this matter	1			1			1			1			
51	I understand a fee increase may be needed But to increase camping fees and pass fees by 100% is outrageous You are pricing families out of our lands Recreation is very much needed and is much less destructive to the land than resource extraction I am sure those companies are not being hit with the same outrageous fee increases you are hitting the recreation sector with		1			1			1			1		
52	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 52 for full text							1			1		Stockton Pass, Treasure Park, Upper Hospital Flat	
53	I fully support all proposed fee increases because Congress continues to underfund the USFS and the increases are both reasonable and necessary to maintain visitor facilities and amenities Thank you for allowing me to comment				1	1				1			1	
54	I say no increase until they offer more amenities Quit comparing prices to other places that offer more for the price Most campgrounds in this forest are broke and used up No increase	1			1			1			1			

55	<p>Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 55 for full text</p>			1		1			1				1	Trailheads and Windy Point	South Fork TH, Brown Canyon, Carr Canyon, Cunningham TH, Gordon Hirabayashi, Kentucky Camp, Noon Creek, Parker Canyon, Pena Blanca, Red Rock, Reef Townsite Campground, Riggs Lake, Rucker Forest Camp Trailhead, Sawmill Trailhead, Shannon TH, Soldier Creek TH, Upper and Lower Thumb Rock Picnic Area, Whipple Picnic Area and TH
56	<p>I don't like the fee proposal. I'd prefer a reduction in amenities. Also, it seems like too sudden an increase of that magnitude, not entirely unlike the fee increase in the AZ State Trust Land Permit a few years ago. I am a Scoutmaster of a very small troop and frequently camp near Tucson. The troop already gets squeezed financially in the fees that are required. Most of this is because of the current structuring of the fee program is a poor fit for the non-profit style recreation that the scout group typifies. It is a small group that typically involves a group size of 6-10 individuals. First, the scale of the recreation facilities serve as an access barrier to dispersed camping or more primitive recreational experiences that our organization favors. As an example, we just avoid Sabino Canyon altogether. It's a mad house and it takes too much effort and/or expense to just get past it all and into the backcountry. Another example, when we go to the Wilderness of Rocks we park in a day-use only fee area (Marshall Gulch) and hike right through without using the amenities (other than the road and parking lot). Another example, when we go to the Peppersauce area we typically camp just off the Rice Peak forest road rather than going to the campground because why pay for amenities we don't need especially when the campsites are too compressed. That brings me to my second point. The camp facilities are oriented at either a single family or at larger groups without a useful in between. Our group sometimes exceed the max number of people for a single site by 1 or 2 people which incurs a 100% penalty because the fee doubles and incurs a disincentive for us to invite additional people into the outdoors. Also, the group sometimes exceeds number of people that can fit in a car by 1 or 2 people and there is typically a significant penalty for a second car.</p>	1			1			1			1				

57	First, the scale of the recreation facilities serve as an access barrier to dispersed camping or more primitive recreational experiences that our organization favors. As an example, we just avoid Sabino Canyon altogether. It's a mad house and it takes too much effort and/or expense to just get past it all and into the backcountry. Another example, when we go to the Wilderness of Rocks we park in a day-use only fee area (Marshall Gulch) and hike right through without using the amenities (other than the road and parking lot). Another example, when we go to the Peppersauce area we typically camp just off the Rice Peak forest road rather than going to the campground because why pay for amenities we don't need especially when the campsites are too compressed. That brings me to my second point. The camp facilities are oriented at either a single family or at larger groups without a useful in between. Our group sometimes exceed the max number of people for a single site by 1 or 2 people which incurs a 100% penalty because the fee doubles and incurs a disincentive for us to invite additional people into the outdoors. Also, the group sometimes exceeds number of people that can fit in a car by 1 or 2 people and there is typically a significant penalty for a second car.														
58	Really? Nobody wants the fees to increase except for current and former USFS employees. Let me make a prediction for you: You increase these fees as proposed in the article below, and what you're going to get is less people staying at your developed campsites that have these "amenities." You say it costs \$3.8M+ to maintain these sites GREAT! Get the money from the federal government, LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO! The public, who already pay federal income taxes that cover things like the USFS, should not be left holding the bill while you flounder for a way to pay for the minor upkeep of some rudimentary facilities and amenities!	1			1										
59	I realize that the federal government has abdicated its responsibility to provide for the Forest Service and its public recreation sites, and I understand that the Forest Service needs to have fees to support those sites and services. However, I feel the proposed increases are a bit steep. The future success of these resources depends on young people and families having the easy access in order to learn about and appreciate them. Raise the fees, but don't double them (\$20/night for a campsite!) Those of us who "love the woods" will pay the increases but many other less familiar with the forest will just choose to stay in town. A loss for us all.		1			1									
60	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 60 for full text													Trail use at Brown Canyon Ranch, Carr Canyon, and Cunningham	See comment 22 sites in total. Day use at campgrounds and Brown Canyon Ranch.
61	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 61 for full text													Trailheads	Add all suggested fee sites, and charge people who only park.
62	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 62 for full text													1 Fishing at lakes	
63	Comment too long to fit into cell - see Appendix D, comment number 63 for full text													Windy Point, Gordon Hirabayashi	
64	I think the camping and day use fees should be raised														

65	I object to day use fees on Mt Lemmon This area is heavily used by low income people from Tucson Any fees at trailheads or picnic areas would be a heavy burden for them Perhaps there could be a donation box at these areas for people who can afford to pay																	No day use fees anywhere
66	I don't see much trail repair, especially in Cochise County (Chiricahuas !!!) It is rather embarrassing to live here and to have such lousy trail repair/maintenance Lately I have been hiking in Pima County (Santa Ritas) and the trails are much much better for the most part But, many of the trails up and around Mt Wrightson are "gone" at the upper parts I certainly would not object to increased fees as long as a larger portion of them is devoted to hikers																	
67	I received the e-mail reply below, from Armando Arvizu, Recreation Manager on the Douglas District, telling me that I can still send comments on the fee restructuring for recreation on Coronado NF sites, until May 1, 2018, which is this coming Tuesday Wishing to send some last minute comments before the deadline, I tried to open the website <a href="http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Coronado/feereview">http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Coronado/feereview</a> which Mr Arvizu gave as the place to register these comments When I tried to open this website, I was redirected to another website with the URL At this URL no page ever opened up My screen remained blank for multiple minutes until I finally closed it There are still important comments for me to post before the deadline Can I still send them by e-mail to the address to which I am sending this message? If I don't get a reply from anyone in the USFS before Monday, I will post the comments to this address, anyway																	
68	The amount of increase is more than fair Let the ones using the campground pay for there use Non campers should not pay a nickel for others privilege to camp We use Rose Canyon and Molino Basin campgrounds - a lot we are regulars				1		1											1
69	I read about your proposed fee hikes at the Mt Lemmon Visitor Center and would like to comment Access to public land is important to people of all levels of income and increased fees will affect the wealthy hardly at all, and the poor very much so It is essentially discriminatory to exclude people who can't afford it, especially in Tucson with very high food costs and rising costs of housing I oppose it on the same level of opposing Zinke's proposed increased fees for National Parks When I wrote to oposed Park fee increases, I actually cited Mt Lemmon's toll booth My kids went to school in Tucson and could never justify a trip up Mt Lemmon as they were poor students I just spent some time up there and realized what a loss that was for them and could have greatly improved the quality of their Tucson lives So Coronado, aren't you better than Zinke? Please keep the fees as they are (good riddance toll booth) and public lands accessible to all Thanks																	1
70	Regarding the proposed increases in recreation fees, that would be fine with me as long as the toilets will be pumped out more often We camp here at Sunny Flat, Steward - both near Portal, and we have also camped at Bog Sprngs in Madera Camyon We appreciate the water and garbage services, but the pit toilets are much too full The odor at Stewart Campground was really bad when we were there in 2016 - could smell it from our campsite Thank you for keeping the recreation areas open - we do love hiking and bird watching here																	1

71	All [sites] with amenities should require a fee													1	Charge day use at all sites with required amenities
72	All proposed fee sites seem valid and fair													1	
73	Does increasing the term of the daily use to more than 1 day make sense? If so, increase fees to \$10 for a couple days. Unlikely everyone would take advantage of multiple days, but it will generate much needed money. Thank you.														
74	60 hours volunteer is a lot to expect for free annual pass. You should add transportation for low income [people]. \$20/60=\$.33 wage hourly. I think you should create a no fee low income option, such as allowing free use for people eligible for food stamps. The people already paid and should get to use the land.														
76	Doubling fees is a slap in the face. It tells people don't come to the forest, and the forest is just for the rich. If you double fees, I just won't go.														
76	I do NOT support privatization or private concessionaires.														
77	Propose a badge for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc. to experience the CNF. Maybe you receive corporate sponsors to support activities in the forest. Insurance preventative health programs i.e. Silver Sneakers, etc hike.														
78	Enough flexibility in using facilities and forest allow/make fee increase reasonable and important.													1	
79	If our public lands were fully funded, we wouldn't be having the conversation. I'd prefer full funding, but I don't think that's realistic at the moment. Are fees being increased on commercial users like communications towers and Ski Valley? Are fees for grazing permits and other resource users? I support users paying if the money goes back into the forest itself, not the general fund. But I don't support putting more burden on private individuals who have less resources and make less impact than others.													1	
80	By encouraging federal taxes to pay in lieu of fees by cutting military budget, increase taxes on high income earners.														
81	\$10 a week would make the increase more acceptable.													1	
82	Collect all fees at one place, i.e. toll booth. No concessionaire management.														
83	Credit card machine payment ability! Also, \$10 per day is easier and requiring less change. Electric and water could be provided at camper sites.													1	
84	Get rid of week pass. Consider the cellular credit card pay. Open toll booth on Catalina Highway.														
85	Most stops made by travellers are short. It's a first stop for many going up the mountain, and provide a great overview. Charging a fee would not be a pleasant start to their first Forest visit.														Windy Point
86	Open up the Mt Lemmon fee booth.														
87	We should encourage, not discourage, use of facilities. Too many Tucsonans don't use the facilities now. Need to take credit cards.														
88	Why not reopen toll booth at Catalina Hwy? Improve way to pay (Visa/Mastercard/Discovery Card).														
89	An even number [for the day pass] makes sense because people won't be able or prepared to make change. Bump it up \$2.00 and be done with it.													1	
90	I believe Windy Point on Mt. Lemmon should be a fee site. Also, I think \$8 is going to make it very difficult for staff to make change and people to make an excuse not to pay. A round \$10 would be much better.													1	Windy Point
91	Making change for \$10 would cause problems in fee tubes and fee collections. Also, it would be wise to add a picnic table to Windy Vista so day use fee could be collected.													1	Windy Point





## Appendix F. Public Meeting Comment Form

Coronado National Forest  
**Fee Proposal for Developed Recreation Sites**  
*Winter 2017-2018*  
***Please share your thoughts!***

1. The following are the proposed fees for the Coronado's Developed Recreation sites. Please mark whether you support each fee, or if you think they should be higher or lower.

Type of Fee	Proposed Price	I <u>support</u> this price	The price should be <u>higher</u>	The price should be <u>lower</u>
Coronado Annual Pass	\$40/year			
Day-Use Site	\$8/day			
Campsite	\$10/night			
Group Site (picnicking or camping)	\$50, plus \$10/vehicle			

2. Are there any **proposed fee sites** that you support or do not support being added to the fee system?
3. Overall, was this meeting helpful for you?
4. How could the meeting, or the information you received prior to the meeting, be improved?

## Written Comments Received through Email, Letters, and Comment Forms

### Comments Received via email

1. I support the proposal. At first glance the per vehicle fee for group sites seemed high. However, if there are 4 people per vehicle this results in \$2.50 per person plus the a portion of the \$50 flat fee which is less than the cost of many other activities. I do think fees for everyone should be waived on select days throughout the year. The idea that "the developed recreation program should be self sustaining" are good sounding words that I believe would be impossible to implement without exorbitant fees and closing of many sites. The concept of an Coronado National Forest annual permit would be better if it applied to everyone who entered the national forest for any kind of recreation. The meeting format was okay, very traditional. I was disappointed in the turnout and number of comments to date. However, once increased fees are implemented I would expect a great outcry.

2. This email is a response to the request for comments regarding the increase in recreation fees. I very strongly object to raising fees, especially at Pena Blanca Lake, Riggs Flat Lake and Parker Canyon Lake. I have fished these lakes many times over the past forty years, especially Pena Blanca and Parker Canyon, so I can speak from experience. My experience has shown me that the vast majority of fishermen and other users of these lakes might be priced out of their recreation if fees are imposed. Many people are retired and living on fixed incomes, and many are working class families looking for cheap or free outdoor recreation. I am aware that there is a budget shortfall, but Congress must provide more money rather than increasing user fees. Increasing fees is like double taxation. My daughter works for the Park Service and my son-in-law works for the Forest Service in Flagstaff so I know full well about budget constraints. Please put pressure on our elected Congresspeople to properly fund our National Forests and National Parks. Please do not raise or impose new fees on the people who can least afford to pay.

3. Hello, I support continued free access to non-developed public land. I'd like there to continue to be free parking available to the public who are recreating on non-developed public land. As is currently the case, we request continued free access to non-developed use regardless of fees being assessed for users of developed amenities. We also believe that it is important that all members of the public have the opportunity to enjoy public land, despite their economic situation. Please provide an area for people to park that do not use amenities.

4. To Whom It May Concern:

This is in regards to the proposed fees and new fee sites on the Coronado National Forest. While I understand the need to increase the fees in an attempt to address the shortfall towards maintenance and infrastructure costs, I strongly feel that this will hurt portions of the forest. A lot has been said about adjusting the fees to "market levels", but let's take a look at the market. On the fee proposal page on the Coronado National Forest website, comparisons are made to Picacho Peak State Park and Catalina State Park. Both have restrooms with flush toilets and hot shower facilities, and potable water is accessible, making it well worth the \$25 to \$30 per night. Now compare that to the Round-the-Mountain and Stockton Pass campgrounds that are proposed to be added to the campgrounds which are charged a fee. The Stockton Pass campground has no water (you have to bring your own), no showers, and it has a vault toilet. The Round-the-Mountain campground also only has a vault toilet, and the only water available is from Noon Creek which must be purified before use. Other campgrounds around Mt. Graham are similar, with most having no water and vault toilets, when there is a toilet offered. Why should we be required to pay twice what is currently charged when we literally have half of what is deemed "market rate". A better way would be to have a two-tier campground fee schedule, so more developed campgrounds (such as those with water and flush toilets) are charged the higher rate, while less developed campgrounds are charged a lower fee. Perhaps \$10 is too low, but don't call it "market rate" if the comparable services and infrastructure are vastly different.

Regarding group site fees, I feel that the proposed price will have unintended consequences, particularly in areas where there are alternative dispersed camping sites. For example, suppose there is a family who wants to have a family reunion at the Treasure Park North campground, consisting of 5 families each with their own car. For a two-day camping trip under the proposed fees it would be \$200, whereas right now all one would have to pay is a reservation fee. This proposed price is comparable to the current prices at the Molino Basin Group Site, yet there are no toilets and limited amenities. This fee structure would push these larger groups to more of the dispersed areas, which would be detrimental and have a great impact on these areas of the forest. I agree that a fee of \$0 is not sustainable, and a

reasonable fee should be charged. However, that fee should accurately reflect the amenities provided. For example, Picacho Peak State Park's group sites charge a \$25 -30 fee and \$15 per vehicle, and these have access to potable water, showers, and restrooms. The proposed fees are out of line for what is offered at many of these group sites.

I applaud the Forest Service in attempting to restructure the developed recreation fees in the Coronado National Forest. However, we need to be realistic as to what is currently offered and charge more for those campgrounds and group sites with value-added amenities, and less for those with limited items to offer. Having a one-size-fits-all fee structure is not fair nor realistic, and will drive people away from fee-generating areas to dispersed areas of the forest.

5. Dear Forest Service:

I am opposed to any new fees or fee increases charged to users. Increases only serve to reduce the number of low income people who can enjoy the forest.

6. It has been a year since I have been camping on Mt. Lemon and was shocked to see the notice of the fee increases. I would think that before you increase fees you collect the current fees from people using the facilities. Over the weekend not once did anyone check to see if I had paid the camping fees. And I know there were people camping and not paying the fees. The few times I saw anyone from the forest service they were speeding through the campground. I had to flag down one truck to extinguish the campfire left burning from the camper that had just left. The only people that the fee increases will impact are the honest folks. If you want to increase revenue how about charging the rude bicyclists for permits. They use the trails, the roads, the facilities that you want me to pay more for. I even had groups ride through my camp site. I was almost run over on the hike I took. If you would like to compare your fees to other campgrounds then you should improve and MAINTAIN your campgrounds! Also police the campgrounds so families are safe to enjoy them.

7. I strongly support the proposed fee increases at the Coronado National Forest recreation sites.

My family and I have lived in Tucson several years and often enjoy the recreation sites, especially the picnic and camping sites on Mt Lemmon. We would be more than willing to pay an increased fee to ensure the continued availability, upkeep, and maintenance of the sites. Recently I have begun to notice that some of the sites, especially the lower picnic areas, are becoming damaged, littered, and vandalized. Not only should you raise the fees, you should enforce them and issue citations to violators. I am sure lots of people come up and use the sites without paying at all, and I bet these are the ones responsible for most of the litter and damage.

Again, we support the proposed fee increase along with recommending the Forest Service enact some way to enforce the fee structure. When we first moved to Tucson, the fee booth on the Catalina Highway (near milepost 3 or 4) was manned and collected fees. It has been vacant for some time now. I understand that manning this booth would entail paying an additional employee and that incurs substantial costs, but it would be one way to enforce fee payment.

Thank you for your time.

8. Would the fee mean, the lake would be maintained better, because there is a lot a trash around the lake at this time. If so, it would be a good thing. Can anything be done to improve the fishing at the lake, will the lake be stocked with trout this year? Has the water condition gotten any better?

9. This rural area doesn't justify such fees. It unjustly limits access to these areas by locals. There is no paved parking, just dirt, rocks, and a trail. Let us enjoy our land!

10. Hi,

I'm in favor of the fee increases and added fee venues. However, these will only be effective if enforced. I trust that not only will the fees go toward infrastructure development and improvement but also support an enforcement effort. Without the later my sense is the fees will fall far short of what's needed.

11. As a frequent user of all the trails and many campsites throughout the Coronado National Forest, Mt. Lemmon and Sabino Canyon, I fully support an increase in fees. May I suggest upping the proposed \$8 to an even figure of

\$10. Furthermore, since it's been over 20 years since the last increase, that added \$2 won't matter a bit over any length of time. Also, having credit-card accepting facilities at the fee station areas would promote more adherence to the fee requirement thereby limiting those who 'slip' away and don't pay anything as well as limiting the 'cash' box collections requiring a salaried employee's time and effort. Thanks for the opportunity to contribute my two-cents (no pun intended)...

12. Good morning,

Totally support the fee increases as proposed. It is vitally important to keep these areas accessible and maintained for all. I would ask that you look into, or consider some way to provide a way for those who are poorer to still be able to partake and enjoy our beautiful area. Maybe there's some way for those who can prove they're on assistance or something to get a free pass??? Nowhere in nature should be off limits due to income!!!!

13. To Sarah Corning:

I am writing you directly because of your familiarity with the Catalina Ranger district and the Palisades Ranger/Visitor Center. I have some ideas that may benefit the U.S. Forest Service. They have the potential to turn some liabilities into assets. One idea involves the use of F.S. volunteers to harvest wood from selected forest areas and then make it available for sale (at Palisades) to campers for campfires at developed recreation sites. Monies from harvested wood should go directly to the Forest Service. Under the direction of the Forest Service wooded areas could be identified for fire wood harvesting. A reduction of combustible material in selected areas may reduce the intensity of forest fires and assist with forest preservation. Existing fire breaks could be enhanced. Woodlands surrounding improved recreational campsites could be selected to help protect those assets. Also areas with considerable old forest growth such as along the Aspen Draw Trail may benefit from wood harvesting. A collapsible (rope/net) wheel barrow, with a bicycle type wheel might be used to bring wood to a small ATV with attached trailer for transport. Wood would then be transported to a site near the Palisades Ranger/Visitor Center for processing into salable bundles. It should be noted that the busy summer camping season in southern Arizona also corresponds with the rainy monsoon season, which often makes dry fire wood a scarce and valuable camping commodity.

The advertising of fire wood for sale can be done inexpensively with a small A-frame sign at Palisades, as well as notices at developed recreation sites. The ATV and trailer could be stored in the west room of the "historic" barn located near Palisades. That room has two very large and currently functional doors.....all that is needed is two padlocks. Floor space to accommodate fire wood at Palisades could be made by expanding the main section eastward using about eight feet of the current porch area.....maybe this could be coordinated with needed roofing repairs? I understand that there is some thought to making this porch a picnic area. I am concerned that as a picnic area (1) there is really no place for children to play compared with such picnic sites as Middle Bear and Cypress (2) the current porch decking would be problematic because of staining from dropped food, and food falling between the artificial boards would be an attraction for animals, (3) there would be no place for a fire ring as other sites have, and a barbeque stand on the porch decking I think would be impractical, (4) and finally enforcement as a fee area I believe would be difficult.

Another rather simple idea to increase Forest Service Revenue might be to sell bagged ice for campers. All that is needed is an ice machine to make ice cubes and a display freezer. Again advertising could be done with an A frame sign. Finally my last idea would be to develop the area on Mt. Bigelow that is currently used for dispersed camping into a fee based developed recreation site. I think this area is grossly overused as a dispersed camp site. Litter and human waste in this area is horrible, it is a hazard to the forest and wild life. In addition campers often ignore fire restrictions. One windy day during a fire restriction period, I personally reported three fires, one of them unattended to Palisades. Making this area a developed recreation site would again turn a liability into an asset. I would love to discuss these ideas with someone.

14. Every year I take a group to Parker Canyon Lake to the Rock Bluff Campsite. This last time in Aug 2017 there was no toilet paper in the restrooms and it was dirty. The trash cans were already full also. A fee increase that has been proposed that would cost \$50 a day plus \$10 per vehicle is ridiculous. As it is we payed \$50 a day for full trash cans and no toilet paper in dirty restrooms. I do not see how an increase of \$10 per vehicle which would have been another \$130 would have made a difference. Also there does not seem to be that many more amenities that should be added for the

camping experience, We do not need showers or anything else like that. I have been going to that lake since I was a kid living in Bisbee, I have seen many changes to that lake. Including paving the road from Sonoita which has brought more weekend warriors in BMWs, Coopers and Jaguars. Also when my daughter camped there in December we were awoken to people looking around our campsite and vehicle. Is your increase going to provide security also? I don't think so. \$10 a night there is perfect for the campsites provided.

If you increase the camping fees you have more people camping in the forest making more mess in the already messy forest due to the illegals coming through. New roads and cleared out spots for camping. A perfect hot spot for fishing was taken away when the floating docks and walls were put in at the lake. It made the lake by the store look prettier though. I have seem that store grow into a good thing from what it was when I was a kid to now. I have seen good owners of the store and bad ones, The one now is awesome and is very friendly and made it the best its ever been. I would hate to see less people staying at the lake due to the fee increase and run the store owner out of business because of no business. I do not see any new amenities would be going in and if you will increase impact on the forest surrounding the lake. Which is already hurting due to the drug traffickers and illiegals going through from Mexico. DO NOT INCREASE FEES AT PARKER CANYON LAKE! Or anywhere else until a very detailed list sent out to everyone showing anything going to be added and when and if more people will be working it to take care of the new amenities. Plus security.

Thank you!

15. To Whom this concerns:

I recently visited Coronado National Forest, specifically Rucker Canyon.

I am dismayed at the fee raise proposal to support development. The experience that I look for in the National Forest is one of less development.

I do appreciate the implementation of pit toilets but that is as far as my needs go.

I do not wish to see concrete slabs, groomed trails to the toilet, designated campsites or large pullouts to accommodate large RVs.

I feel that if you need all those amenities, you really aren't there to experience the forest. Why attract the folks that don't even come out of their RVs? I have witnessed this time and time again, camping next to people that never come outside. You can see the blue glow of their tv inside the camper. So, why provide development?

The folks that need this development are better served at the highly developed State and National Parks. I prefer the National Forest camping mainly because it is less developed. I love dispersed camping.

I don't understand going to the forest and then having to squeezed into a small area camping 5 feet away from another person. I seek solitude, clean air and natural living. This simple goal is becoming more and more difficult to find.

Please do not develop the forest. You cannot make nature better.

Thank you for listening.

16. Hi All,

I am sure you all have some tough decisions to make with these proposed fee increases.

I consider myself middle-class and recently moved here so any fees for recreation are rather shocking. Personally, I don't use any of your pay sites because of my previous state's taxes covered picnicking. However, I can see where you are coming from but, I don't agree that this is the way to generate monies needed for recreational sites. I think there has been a major disconnect in the U.S as to where our tax dollars are being spent. However, politics aside, this still does not seem to be a move in the right direction. Mt. Lemmon is the best part about Tucson and to charge people even more for their only escape from the heat seems inhumane. Suggested alternatives: 1. Implement pay toilets and pay showers. 2. Go fund me 3. Make it a national story, get the word out that you are having to turn free recreational sites into pay-to-poop sites. 4. Adapt the same model as Saguaro national park and Sabino Canyon, don't shaft your residents and the residents of Summerhaven that rely on our money. 5. Ask for Volunteers, you have so many retired people that are

capable and willing to help. 6. Ask your employees if they can afford your rate increases on a basic salary, can a teacher, or cub scout leader?

Tucson is a low wage town and city parks are filled with homeless. Don't pass your budget cuts on to the people!!

17. I am a very frequent user and volunteer in the Santa Catalina Ranger District. I agree with the need to increase fees, but think the proposed prices should be modified as follows:

1) Increase proposed price for Day Use to \$10. RATIONALE: a) at Sabino Canyon this will speed the fee booth process (less frequent need to make change) and shorten lines that often extend out onto Sabino Road during "high season" b) this will increase the likelihood of payment at unattended fee tubes across the Coronado (visitors will be more likely to have the correct amount of cash)

2) Change Day Use definition to "One Week Pass". RATIONALE: this will make the proposed fee increase more palatable to out-of-town visitors, incentivize repeat short term visits, and reduce the number of fee booth interactions for short term repeat visitors

3) OVERALL RATIONALE for going to \$10 instead of \$8: a) increase the time frame before the next fee increase needs to be considered b) \$10 is still a "bargain" in comparison to all other recreation fees in the region c) the difference between \$8 and \$10 in terms of potential lose of visitation is probably somewhere between zero and insignificant.

18. Please stop increasing the fees. They're high enough as it is. You need to lower the camping site fees to no more than \$15.00. Do not increase the yearly permit fee as well! We getting ripped off big time as it is. Again please lower the campsite fees.

19. I am opposed to any fee increases. This would put an undue burden on low income and fixed income recreation users. I suggest you contact who ever you need to in Washington and ask for a budget increase instead of levying addition fees on tax payers.

20. Hello,

My name is [name inserted] and I am a seasonal at Sabino Canyon Recreation Area. I wanted to comment about the proposed fee increase to \$8. I work at the fee booth/visitor center where I collect fees. The current day use fee is \$5 and people always pay with \$20's. It is difficult keeping change on hand constantly giving out \$5's. It would be impossible to keep change on hand for an \$8 day use fee. Please increase day use fee to \$10. That would make it simpler to keep and exchange change with visitors. Also, Sabino Canyon was no included in the day use fee increase. Please raise Sabino Canyon day use fee from \$5 to \$10. Or consider eliminating day use fee and charge \$10 week fee.

21. Hello,

I am writing in regards to the proposed fee increases. One of the items on the proposal page included growing visitation. A basic tenet of economics tells us that there is an inverse relationship between cost of an activity and the number of people who will participate in that activity. Thus, by raising prices you are actually reducing visitation.

I live in Tennessee but routinely make trips to the western US to recreate. Increasing costs are definitely going to keep me from recreating in places in the future. I will be limiting my trips to places that are reasonably priced. The increasing cost of camping is not worth the increase. I would suggest that if increases are needed, perhaps move towards a graduated increase. A 100% increase is a little much for anyone to justify continuing to use the resource unfortunately.

22. You already hiked the fees once before and made the same reasons known. Now you want more. Where does the public get relief from all these fee hikes? Seems to be more greed here than is necessary. I oppose the hiked fees. With the new tax program under Trump, you will get enough monies as it is.

23. To whom it may concern,

As a nogales native since childhood i have known peña blanca lake. Today i can say i visit the lake maybe 10 to 15 times a year for fishing and other recreational activities. In my opinion i wouldnt mind paying 5\$ or less. The fish cannot be consumed except trout wich is nice in the winter but also the lake is not well maintained . Lots of fallen branches from debris in the lake. The trails have branches and stairs have overhanging branches also. I understand its nature but proposing a fee is ok if it will be maintained. Stocking the lake more often for us fisherman and for family trips. There is really not much to do in nogales anyways so i would be ok with my opinion of a small fee but it would also drive some people away . Thank you.

24. Too bad you working people don't have a clue what it's like to be retired on a fixed income. We just plain old can't afford your increase!!! PLEASE have some compassion for Gods sake!

25. Hello,

I am an avid outdoorswoman. I work seasonally and travel for my work as an outdoor educator. I spend time educating youth, young adults and adults about human impact, importance and their potential to create positive change for and in the environment, among other topics. I have held an inter-agency pass for the past 3 years and personally have been shocked by the drastic dollar amount increase.

I completely understand the difficulty funding the national and state land, monuments and parks. However, it seems that the fee increase is extremely drastic. Due to this I see the obvious potential for the parks to be geared towards the wealthy instead of everyone. As well I see potential for "stealth campers" who will occupy sites and not pay because of the price. This would increase the need for patrolling and ultimately create a negative persona about the camps as well as continue burning hols in the forest services pockets. I have noticed in my work that those who deeply feel a connection to the lands and hold a desire to continuously spread awareness about them also tend to have less money to throw around. These are the people that make a difference. These are the people that pick up the trash and volunteer on their free time unbeknownst to anyone. These are the ones who pay the fair fees. They are the backpackers, hikers, guides, back country campers, instructors, park volunteers. They are those that would hold complete sticker shock at the price of a primitive campsite (for example, the fees of Molino Basin - a camp with no water, pit toilets, very primitive - would DOUBLE to \$20 for a single site and \$40 for a double). Personally I find this price change obscene. Funding can be found in ways such as fund raisers, utilizing the income from the visitors centers differently, jars placed around, leading paid guided hikes, raising public awareness by volunteers. I see a direct and enormous impact on the populations that the wilderness will welcome. It will no longer welcome everyone despite diversity, capability, interest, income and background. It will only welcome those who are wealthy. Those who only see these lands as a weekend get away, not a classroom or home.

Thus I urge you to reconsider these fees. I urge you to find revenue in other, more welcoming and practical ways. It may take more time but these beautiful wild lands will welcome all instead of just the few wealthy. I would love to discuss this topic more.

26. I have a suggestion on possible help with maintaining, fixing and upgrading the Land, Parks and Forests of these United States with the funds shortfall. Maybe this is already in process but what would the chance of asking Retired Travels, which I am one, to volunteer to perform the needed work and instead of pay provide a place with at least electricity and water hookups and a dump station where one could empty tanks once in a while. I know the wife and I would jump on something like this and would work for at minimum two weeks or more before moving on to another assignment if available. With the many retired persons on the road now after retirement this would be a ready force to tap. Even the number of Canadians who come and snowbird has increased into the US and may be willing to do something like this. This is just an idea but something someone could advance forward up the chain and see where this could go.

27. Dear Coronado National Forest:

I am writing to share my thoughts regarding the proposal to increase fees at various campgrounds and day-use sites. I'll keep it short. I support campground and day-use site fees, although the proposed 100% increase in campground fees



(\$10 to \$20) is excessive. An increase of 30-50% is reasonable. I do NOT support paying a fee to park at a trail head for the sole purpose of hiking. Hiking is a low-impact activity and should be encouraged for its health benefits.

28. The amount of increase is more than fair. Let the ones using the campground pay for there use. Non campers should not pay a nickel for others privilege to camp. We use Rose Canyon and Molino Basin campgrounds - a lot... we are regulars.

We are forced to use "improved" sites as there is no other option in the forest. We have a small trailer and even with a small trailer and truck we are not able to find free campsites. If there were free sites available I could understand the value improved sites offered but as it is you can't camp in a trailer or RV without paying a fee. Many people use the forest and simply don't pay - that isn't fair to those of us who do pay - find a way to collect from everyone instead of raising it for those of us who do pay. I would not be surprised if you see more people completely stop paying and that you see your funds actually decrease. The proposed fees do not reflect the value of sites that have ZERO hook ups - no water, no electric, not even a sewage dump option. We are basically paying for someone to haul our trash - which we can do. What other value is there?? Most RVs and Trailers have bathrooms - so we aren't getting that "benefit" that is provided. The other amenities provided are totally useless as well. People who camp often bring their own tables. Designated parking is not an amenity - not even sure how that could be considered one. There is no added security to either location - security is provided by the sheriffs department not the forestry service.

Why do interpretive signs exhibits or kiosks even have to do with campsite fees? We aren't even paying for the salary of the Molino Basin host -that is volunteer.

I think we pay enough and get a good value for what we pay. We are simply paying for a spot to park and sleep. We are forced into spots where we see other campers, have to put up with traffic and noise and the smells of other campers smoke blowing into our trailer. What may be considered amenities to some actually are detriments to others. If you are going to raise fees for amenities we do not use then at least give us options where we do not have the amenities to pay for! Create more free options that are truly accessible options for all size campers and then raise the fees for people who want the "amenities." This will price many out of using our park system. We won't be priced out, but we will have to use the system 1/2 as much. We would much rather camp without the amenities in much more private settings where we can't see other campers - but that isn't an option in our forest. Thank you for at least acting like our input matters.

28. I absolutely support raising fees. Fiscally necessary.

29. I feel like bring the prices up is going to get less people going to these sites, it already gets pretty expensive if you take a group. If the prices go up a lot less people are gonna visit the beautiful sites. That might also cause problems with people going to random places and camping, leaving trash and causing damage to the wild life. It's better to have affordable areas for people to visit, where it's safer and they can clean up after themselves easier. Obviously, the USDA Forest Service needs to be adequately funded, especially access to all public lands under the responsibility and jurisdiction of the Federal Government. The number one action is to mobilize the public as to the inefficiency of current funding for public lands. And therefore, placing pressure and the responsibility on both the Republican and Democratic parties to fulfill their responsibility to do what is best for the general public, especially those of low income. Instead of tax breaks for the wealthy, simply replace those breaks with a tax benefit to the wealthy if they will commit annually to funding the protection and maintenance of all public lands according to needs. That isn't likely, so I do agree with increasing the fees for public use.

30. As a vendor of your passes, I would recommend that the Day Use Fee which is proposed to increase from \$5.00 to \$8.00 be increased to \$10.00, which is commensurate with your other proposed increases. Making change for an \$8.00 pass will be difficult for your retail outlets and especially for your own Fee Rangers, as it will involve the necessity of a substantial amount of \$1.00 bills. At the Sabino Canyon Visitor Center, PLIA historically has provided change for the Fee Rangers, but we may not be able to keep enough of the correct change to accommodate both of our needs with the proposed increase to \$8.00. We all will in general be given \$20.00 bills for payment of the Day Use fee. Thank you for your consideration.

31. Fees are taxes. At first, they were a temporary solution to inadequate appropriations by Congress. Now they have become normal. This is wrong, and the fees charged by Forest Service and National Park facilities have gotten completely out of hand. I have written all our congressional representatives and senators about this issue. I also told them that fees are taxes. These are public lands and should rightfully be supported by tax dollars. If these fees go into effect, we will quit visiting all CNF day use sites, including Brown Canyon Ranch, and will stop volunteering to help in any Forest Service/BLM activity.

32. While I understand the reason you need to collect higher fees, because our federal representatives don't give a whit about the common people or nature, I do feel that the increased fees, and particularly the added fee areas, would pose a hardship for many families and could curtail some family's ability to enjoy time in nature. Mt Lemmon is a haven for many of us during the summer, when the heat in Tucson can become unbearable for some, especially those without AC (vs evaporative coolers). At the very least, please leave more free areas available, and don't add or increase the fees in especially popular areas that families frequent. We raised our children on something tighter than a shoestring budget, and we always had to look for places we could visit for free to be out in nature with our kids. Even modest fees were prohibitive by the time we considered the cost of driving and so forth. (Mt. Lemmon is 100 miles each way from where we live to the top.)

Please don't shut out some of the families who need it the most. We seriously need to upend Congress and get some people in there who care about us, about our land, and about our resources instead of the billionaires who own them. A tall order, I realize, but it's the only real answer.

33. Dear Sirs,

I saw the article in the ADS 14 November 2017 regards increased fees to close the maintenance budget shortfall of 2.5M. Proposed fees were 8\$ for day use and 20\$/night camping for improved camp grounds. I am against the fees as too high for value/service. We are talking about pit toilets and concrete picnic tables. Cheap RV parks provide full service for 18\$ per night including electric, water, trash. I think you really need to look at what is driving the maintenance costs? Is it enforcement? Is it road maintenance? Is it structures? Is it the vault toilets?

The one item I appreciate at an improved campground are the vault toilets -- I could care less about the rest, we are usually packing plastic tables and chairs. We have recently camped at rucker canyon and at Barfoot park since rustler park was closed. Not sure where the money is going -- those facilities at rucker were put in years and years ago and did not appear to have any mtx whatsoever.

At 20\$ per night I'd do dispersed every time, its just not worth it. Please consider a real cost assessment -- what did it cost to maintain these same forests in 1925? Why is that not the model today? Are there regulations and laws that are driving the costs? Can I contact my congresswoman and encourage less regulation and more administrative freedom for the NFS? National forest are only a public asset if they are accessible and that means financially. Public support is dependent upon average citizens being able to use and visit them and feel like they got either their tax dollars or day use fee out of it. Drive away the public and you drive away the long term support. Long long term then who cares about a public forest, simply sell it off and privatize it. That would be a very tragic outcome for the country.

34. Absolutely I support.

35. I read, with interest, the article in the Sierra Vista Herald regarding new fee locations and rate hikes. I am often at locations throughout the Huachucas and participate in a weekly hiking group.

How will these rate hikes be affected by those of us who hold a senior pass? What are the proposed rates for Senior Pass holders? My concern (besides the Senior Pass issue) is that the fees may price many lower income individuals and families out of the forest. If I had to pay even a \$5 fee every week to hike in the Huachucas, and other areas, I wouldn't be able to go. I know costs go up, and those cost have to be covered in some way, but I am concerned about people

36. No fees should be collected from visitors. The parks should be supported 100% from the general fund.

37. I hike frequently on Mt. Lemmon and see no evidence that current fees are enforced. While there is a fee booth on the road leading to Rose Canyon Lake, other areas appear to have virtually no fee enforcement. I use my America the Beautiful pass and often see other cars with the pass displayed, but the majority of vehicles parked at locations such as

Molino Basin, the Butterfly Trail and the summit trailheads do not have any type of pass displayed. How do you propose enforcing the fees, whether at current levels or at an increased level?

38. I support your fee increases for Coronado National forest recreation. However, I think you need to raise the prices further in order to hire the people that will ensure that the fees get collected. The people of this area are notoriously cheap and without someone there collecting, the fees will undoubtedly not be collected. Another solution would be to work with the border patrol and on a monthly basis find out how many illegal aliens were apprehended within the national forest boundaries and send a bill to the government of Mexico for the day-use fee for each person apprehended.

39. I'm ok with an increase in fees, as long as that money stays in Coronado National Forest.

40. I understand a fee increase may be needed. But to increase camping fees and pass fees by 100% is outrageous. You are pricing families out of our lands. Recreation is very much needed and is much less destructive to the land than resource extraction I am sure those companies are not being hit with the same outrageous fee increases you are hitting the recreation sector with.

41. Joe,

It was a pleasure to take time today to listen to your presentation on the fee proposal while we were waiting to hike in Bear Canyon. First, let me say I appreciate people like yourself who deeply care for the Coronado National Forest as well as all of our wonderful recreational facilities in the state of Arizona. As a former resident of Oro Valley I love bringing my small hiking group to areas around Tucson so they can experience not only the wonderful places we have up here in the Phoenix area but also beautiful places like Sabino Canyon. We count ourselves to be blessed to live in such a diverse environment as the State of Arizona provides us. Second.

Let me address your presentation and the fee proposal. I fully support the proposed fee increases. These are very small and to be blunt a fee of \$10 for day use would not deter me or my colleagues from using recreational facilities. As for camping and group site fees, I do not use these but the increases seem reasonable. I would suggest another variation to the Annual Pass. I think a tiered pass with a discount for seniors like the National Park Pass for Seniors would make sense. As a senior I know many people have the \$40 you are recommending for the annual pass but giving seniors a discount serves many purposes including encouraging seniors to get outside and enjoy our great state even if they don't have a National Park Pass. You could even pitch it as a bargain compared to the National Park Senior Pass which I think now costs \$80. Also, it says seniors we appreciate your previous support for our parks and we are willing to give you a discount. Maybe \$10.

I also think you should be collecting some data on recreational usage. I know you mentioned the canvass you did at Madera Canyon but you have the perfect opportunity at Sabino Canyon to collect data on how many people have senior national park or similar cross agency passes, who pays the day use fee and who buys an annual pass. Get this data at the entrance by just checking it on a simple list and collecting over a period of a month or quarter or just as part of regular operations. This gives you a lot of data to use in your budget assessments. Anyway, that's my input. Good luck with the process.

42. I attended a public info session at the Wilmot Library last weekend about the proposed increase, and can see that it is probably necessary to do this to continue to offer access to the Coronado NF. I do enjoy Mt Lemmon especially, and hope to continue to do so for quite a while, so I will reluctantly (due to a limited budget!) endorse the fees being raised. If a Senior Pass or rate could be offered, that would be good too!

43. I appreciate the need to begin charging day-use fees at many of the Coronado's recreation sites, and would gladly pay to visit most of the sites you propose to add to the fee program. However, I think it's inefficient and unfair to charge a fee for day-use at Kentucky Camp. Back in the early 2000s I was the CNF's Heritage Program Manager, and at that time, much of the maintenance at the site was done by volunteer caretakers or the Friends of Kentucky Camp. Water testing and vault toilet pumping were done with proceeds from the "Rooms with a View" cabin rental program. Have

those arrangements changed? If not, it would seem like public price-gouging to charge K-Camp visitors to use the toilets, and disrespectful of the time the volunteers contribute to the site, which they contribute for the public's benefit, not the Forest Service's funding. Further, unless visitation has increased substantially in the last 8 years, it doesn't seem that amount of fees collected would warrant the cost of collecting the fees (in salary, overhead, vehicle use, and gas). It's not an easy job you have these days, in spite of the fact that you work in one of the most beautiful and diverse places in the country. I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this proposal, and hope that one day stewardship of our nation's treasures will receive the funding it deserves from Congress.

44. Yes, I agree the fees need to be increased. After attending the meeting at Oro Valley Library I learned that our National Forest Service is completely underfunded (and has been for years) by Congress. They have withheld money to sustain the public lands at every level. I learned that the fees haven't been increased even while underfunded and costs to just maintain recreation sites has increased. I believe that the cost for users simply must go up. It's simply not acceptable that our National Forest Service is unable to make ends meet and this is just one of the steps that need to take place. I sincerely wish that the Coronado National Forest and all our National Forests were funded appropriately by congress and this administration but because they aren't, the fees have to be raised. It's been negligent to **not** have raised the fees, year by year, incrementally.

I believe the proposed price increases are still too low. Day use should be \$10 . . . an even \$10 is a much easier amount to collect than the odd \$8. Whose there to make change, anyway? The fee should be \$10 a day. Camping fee should be (minimum) \$30. Where can anyone stay overnight for less than \$70 a night? \$30 is reasonable. Group Sites proposed price is reasonable, in my opinion. Even at that, a car with 2 or more people are still getting a deal. \$50 plus \$10 per vehicle is more than reasonable. Coronado Annual Pass proposed price of \$40 is way too low. I pay \$75 for an annual pass at Catalina State Park. It is ridiculous that the national forests can't charge at least the same amount as the state parks. It is my hope that this is somehow helpful. I don't look forward to the day when our National Forests are gone completely, but I believe it will happen. I know that the koch brothers and their ilk are hell bent on freeing up some of that public land for their exploitation. It's been a slow moving inch by inch project for them. There will be oil derricks, open pit mines, holding ponds of chemicals, deforestation and whatever else they, the wealthy, deem profitable. We, the People, take our National Forests for granted and it's a shame. '

45. Why wouldn't any fee charged by the park system be tax-deductible? You are a non-profit organization . . . I know it's a stretch but if religions can be non-profit . . . certainly, our forest services can.

46. These comments are in regard to the non-Portal area of the Chiricahua Mountains in Cochise County. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback. The fee increase from \$10.00 to \$20.00 per night sounds fine. However, this is the same fee that is proposed for daytime picnickers . The difference between the two uses is that the overnight camper would typically consume 4 meals during a 24 hour stay (presumably eating breakfast before leaving home, and eating dinner upon re-arrival to home) Therefore, the overnight camper creates 4 times more garbage and restroom use as a picnicker who could be expected just to eat lunch at the site. My concern is that most of the expectations for visitors to pay a fee is based on the honor system in the first place. Some of the other sites listed as examples of the market rate have concessionaires and/or park service staff (which also are paid a salary generated from their fees) on site to ensure fees are paid. It's compulsory. This area has a small staff and very limited ability to make an enforcement presence. I feel that the Forest Service may actually see a decrease in revenue because of this. In other words, daytime picnickers would be more likely to pay a fee consummate with the time that they're actually using the campground and creating an impact thereon. I would prefer to see a daytime fee of \$10.00-\$12.00 and an overnight fee of \$20.00. When fees were increased to \$10, they went from \$7.50 to \$10.00. I was told that, for a while, there was a drop in revenues. But after a while, it picked back up. Remember, this was only a \$3.00 increase. The public may not respond as readily to a \$10.00 increase.

One proposed strategy was the possible elimination of some campgrounds in this area due to the revenue shortfall. I am concerned that raising the fees, in this case the picnickers fee, beyond what the market will bear might cause some people either to picnic in undesignated campgrounds and not pay a fee (and still take a trip up the road to dump their trash and use the restroom anyhow) or take the risk of using the site without paying and not getting caught. This could ultimately zero out the overall fee increase and/or create a greater shortfall, which would again put eliminating

campgrounds as an option on the table – which nobody in this area wants to see happen. The outdoors are really the only source of entertainment in this underserved area. Thank you very much. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Please keep me informed of any meetings, should they be held.

47. Dear Forest Service:

I am strongly against any fees to park and hike on public (National Forest) land. Fees to camp and picnic seem more reasonable. I use only the trailheads that are without parking fees since the settlement of Adams v. Forest Service allows for them. I usually pick up trash when I see it on the trail. I am a 35-year resident of Tucson.

48. Sir/Ma'am,

I would support a camping fee increase from \$10 to \$20 nightly only if those fees actually remain and are used in the CNF. I would prefer camping fees be used for maintenance of camping sites, etc. I had seen a proposal to increase the camping fee to \$30 nightly...that is pretty much full-market value, and CNF would have to add facilities to make that much of an increase worth it. We've camped at quite a few of the AZ state parks...they are OK, but nothing special. Parker Canyon Lake is special, and the hosts there do a tremendous job of keeping the place up to standards. I would vote for an increase to \$20 for Parker, but only to \$30 if you add water and electric to the sites, and shower facilities in the campground.

49. I strongly oppose fee increases for Forest Service operated sites. I think these should remain affordable for all.

50. To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my opposition to any increase in fees for use of the Coronado National Forest. That land belongs to the people of this nation and the Forest Service is meant to act as it's steward. It is one of the few places left that allow for recreation and entertainment at a reasonable price. Raising fees will make it inaccessible, either due to financial hardships or because of disgust at the ever increasing cost of trying to enjoy oneself. I would rather see the Forest Service cut back on it's staffing than impact the ability of the citizen/owners of that land to easily and affordably access it. Thank you for your attention in this matter.

51. To whom it may concern;

I understand increased fees are needed to keep up with inflation. However, I disagree with doubling (100%) increase of fees. I am retired and on fixed income which will reduce my usage of parks. Thank you for listening.

52. Most campers bring their own grill - do not replace damaged grills, these are expensive and very seldom used. A very simple fire ring is sufficient at campsites and these can be sponsored by clubs or businesses and have their logo on them. Picnic tables are a nice amenity, but they could be treated the same as fire rings - give local clubs and businesses an opportunity to sponsor/purchase tables and place their logo on them. District Ranger Booher mentioned working with the local state prisons for inmate labor - this is a fantastic idea. Inmate could be used to pick up trash and clean restroom facilities as well as any occasional necessary repairs.

Graham County, as are other regions, is struggling economically and visitors to Mt. Graham are an important part of our economy. Doubling the camping fees will deter visitors to Mt. Graham and will push them to find other camping areas. Although it has been stated that "99.9% of the Forest will remain free," the topography of Mt. Graham as a "sky island" compared to the vast majority of the CNF severely limits the areas accessibility and usability for camping. In fact, there are very few level areas that can be accessed for camping other than the current pay-for-use campsites. In response to fee increases for "Group Sites," please keep in mind that specifically Stockton Pass, Treasure Park, Twilight, and Upper Hospital Flat are frequently used for 3-5day Boy Scouts of America camps. As a former Scoutmaster, the main reason was the financial feasibility of the sites. Please keep the Scouting and family reunions on the mountain and add to the local economy.

53. I fully support all proposed fee increases because Congress continues to underfund the USFS and the increases are both reasonable and necessary to maintain visitor facilities and amenities. Thank you for allowing me to comment.

54. I say no increase until they offer more amenities. Quit comparing prices to other places that offer more for the price. Most campgrounds in this forest are broke and used up. No increase.

55. 1. General Comment. While I support the need for updated fees, there are some aspects of the Coronado's Fee Proposal that I cannot support as presented. Some of the new fee sites do not currently comply with the fee criteria in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). Placing additional amenities at certain sites may not be economically wise nor consistent with the recreational use pattern at those sites. As a general rule, I believe that trailheads should not be subject to a day use fee. I also cannot support the proposed \$20 campground fee as it is excessive and significantly higher than the market.

2. Day Use Fee. I believe the proposed \$8 day use fee is reasonable and consistent with the market.

3. Annual Pass. I believe the proposed \$40 annual pass is reasonable and consistent with the market.

4. Campground Fee. I believe the proposed \$20 campground fee is excessive and significantly higher than the market. I base my opinion on a comparison of the Coronado's proposed \$20 fee with campground fees at other Arizona National Forests.

a. Tonto National Forest. Most campgrounds are either no fee or \$10 to \$12 per night. A couple of campgrounds have more amenities such as flush toilets and showers and charge \$20 per night. They also offer access to a variety of water recreation opportunities. Examples are Cholla Campground and Windy Hill Campground at Lake Roosevelt.

b. Apache-Sitgreaves National Forest. Most campgrounds are either no fee or \$14 to \$16 per night. A couple of campgrounds with more amenities such as flush toilets and showers are \$20 per night. Examples are Rainbow Campground and Grayling Campground at Big Lake.

c. Prescott National Forest. Most campgrounds are either no fee, or \$10 to \$14 to \$18 per night. One of the more popular campgrounds is Lynx Lake which is \$18 per night.

Another concern is that the Coronado's proposed campground fee is the same no matter what campground location. Other Arizona National Forests charge site specific campground fees that vary depending on amenities and the attractions offered at that location. I believe the Coronado should do the same. In my opinion, a proposed campground fee of \$12 to \$14 to \$16 (depending on amenities and attractions at the specific location) would be more reasonable.

5. Group Fee. The Coronado's proposal is a flat \$50 plus an additional \$10 per vehicle per day. Compared to other Arizona National Forests, this appears excessive and unnecessarily complex. I recommend the group fee be designated based on a stated maximum group size and maximum number of vehicles. This would more easily allow the group site to be reserved and payable on recreation.gov. An example is the Ponderosa Group Campground on the Tonto National Forest. The fee is \$90 per night for a maximum of 50 people and 10 vehicles. Extra vehicles are charged \$8 per night.

6. Standard Amenity Fee Sites.

a. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act spells out the following criteria that must be present in order for the Forest Service to charge a standard amenity fee.

Start quote:

(4) An [area](#)—

(A)

that provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation;

(B)

that has substantial Federal investments;

(C)

where fees can be efficiently collected; and

(D) that contains all of the following amenities:

(i)

Designated developed parking.

(ii)

A permanent toilet facility.

(iii)

A permanent trash receptacle.

(iv)

Interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk.

(v)

Picnic tables.

(vi)

Security services.

End quote

In my view, the sites that best reflect compliance with these criteria are the Sabino Canyon Recreation Area, the Madera Canyon Picnic Area, and the South Fork Picnic Area, as they are popular day use destinations with significant opportunities for outdoor recreation and have substantial federal investments. I believe that for a good number of proposed fee sites the Coronado's Fee Proposal seems to ignore or downplay the first two criteria, i.e., an area that provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation and that has substantial Federal investments.

b. The following comments apply to both existing and proposed new standard amenity fee sites.

(1). There are existing developed campgrounds where a standard amenity fee is charged for picnicking or other day use in the campground. Examples are Cochise Stronghold Campground, Rustler Park Campground, and Ramsey View Campground where one can park at a campsite and use the campsite table as a picnic area. I believe a standard amenity fee can be appropriate for this day use activity. However, I do not believe that a standard amenity fee should be charged to folks who park in or near the campground in order to access a trailhead. As long as they are not parking in a designated campsite space then that activity should be exempt from a standard amenity fee. I highly recommend the Coronado re-examine its policy for charging a standard amenity fee for folks who just park in or near the campground (but not in a campsite parking space) to access a trailhead.

(2). Regarding the Coronado's proposed new fee sites, here are specific comments:

- Bigelow Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Brown Canyon Ranch. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Butterfly Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Carr Canyon Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the Perimeter Trail.
- Cunningham Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate fee free parking for users who just come to park and hike.
- Gordon Hirabayashi Interpretive Site and trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Herb Martyr Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Kentucky Camp. Okay for day use fee. Most folks who hike the trail there start at a different parking location so no issue for trail users.
- Noon Creek Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.
- Parker Canyon Lake Fishing and Boating Site (and nature trail). Okay for day use fee.
- Pena Blanca Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Red Rock Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.

- Reef Townsite Mining Interpretive Trail. Does not qualify. Keep trail fee free. (Note: picnic/day use inside the Reef Townsite Campground can be a separate fee activity – see para 6b(1) above.)
- Reef Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free. (Note: picnic/day use inside the Reef Townsite Campground can be a separate fee activity – see para 6b(1) above.)
- Riggs Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Round-the-Mountain Trailhead. Does not qualify. Keep trailheads fee free.
- Rucker Forest Camp Trailhead, Sawmill Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Shannon Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Soldier Creek Trailhead. Okay for day use fee (if occupying a campsite) but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Upper and Lower Thumb Rock Picnic Area. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Whipple Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails.
- Windy Point Vista Day Use Area. Does not qualify. The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act bars fees for “use of overlooks or scenic pullouts”.

c. Trailheads. I would like to offer some additional comments on the Coronado’s proposal to charge fees at trailheads where people typically go to park and hike. The law exempts certain activities from fees as follows:

Start quote:

A) Solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trailsides.

(B) For general access unless specifically authorized under this section.

(C) For dispersed areas with low or no investment unless specifically authorized under this section.

(D) For persons who are driving through, walking through, boating through, horseback riding through, or hiking through Federal recreational lands and waters without using the facilities and services.

(E) For camping at undeveloped sites that do not provide a minimum number of facilities and services as described in subsection (g)(2)(A).

(F) For use of overlooks or scenic pullouts.

(G) For travel by private, noncommercial vehicle over any national parkway or any road or highway established as a part of the Federal-aid System, as defined in section 101 of title 23,<sup>1</sup> which is commonly used by the public as a means of travel between two places either or both of which are outside any unit or area at which recreation fees are charged under this chapter.

End Quote

I think the Coronado needs to demonstrate how fees at trailheads where people just go to park and hike are consistent with the law. Based on recent court decisions, I do not believe the Coronado’s fee proposal is on solid legal ground.

For example, in the Mt Lemmon decision dated February 9, 2012, the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit made the following statements:

“Moreover, the REA clearly contemplates that individuals can go to a place offering facilities and services without using the facilities and services and without paying a fee.” (page 11)

“It is equally clear that the REA prohibits the Forest Service from charging standard amenity recreation fees for each of several activities in which plaintiffs participate after they park: hiking without using facilities and services, picnicking on a road or trailside, or camping at a site that does not have a majority of the nine enumerated amenities.” (page 12)

“For the foregoing reasons, we conclude that the REA unambiguously prohibits the Forest Service from charging fees in the Mount Lemmon HIRA for recreational visitors



who park a car, then camp at undeveloped sites, picnic along roads or trailsides, or hike through the area without using the facilities and services.” (page 15)

Also, in the decision of US District Court for the District of Arizona, re: USFS vs James T. Smith, dated September 14, 2010, the judge made the following statements:

“The FLREA is an extremely comprehensive and precise statutory scheme clearly delineating specific instances in which the public may be charged an amenity fee for use of the National Forests, and other public lands, and quite plainly prohibiting the agency from establishing any system which requires the public to pay for parking or simple access to trails or undeveloped camping sites.” (page 21)

“The Forest Service is specifically prohibited from charging a recreational amenity fee at sites or for uses where charging a recreational amenity fee is specifically prohibited.” (page 32)

In conclusion, the Coronado’s proposal to charge a standard amenity fee for people who park at trailheads and then hike on forest trails appears to be prohibited by FLREA and is inconsistent with recent court decisions on this issue.

#### References:

1. Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act.
2. Decision of US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, re: Adams vs USFS, dated February 9, 2012.
3. Decision of US District Court for the District of Arizona, re: USFS vs James T. Smith, dated September 14, 2010.

56. I don't like the fee proposal. I'd prefer a reduction in amenities. Also, it seems like too sudden an increase of that magnitude, not entirely unlike the fee increase in the AZ State Trust Land Permit a few years ago.

I am a Scoutmaster of a very small troop and frequently camp near Tucson. The troop already gets squeezed financially in the fees that are required. Most of this is because of the current structuring of the fee program is a poor fit for the non-profit style recreation that the scout group typifies. It is a small group that typically involves a group size of 6-10 individuals.

57. First, the scale of the recreation facilities serve as an access barrier to dispersed camping or more primitive recreational experiences that our organization favors. As an example, we just avoid Sabino Canyon altogether. It's a mad house and it takes too much effort and/or expense to just get past it all and into the backcountry. Another example, when we go to the Wilderness of Rocks we park in a day-use only fee area (Marshall Gulch) and hike right through without using the amenities (other than the road and parking lot). Another example, when we go to the Peppersauce area we typically camp just off the Rice Peak forest road rather than going to the campground because why pay for amenities we don't need especially when the campsites are too compressed.

That brings me to my second point. The camp facilities are oriented at either a single family or at larger groups without a useful in between. Our group sometimes exceed the max number of people for a single site by 1 or 2 people which incurs a 100% penalty because the fee doubles and incurs a disincentive for us to invite additional people into the outdoors. Also, the group sometimes exceeds number of people that can fit in a car by 1 or 2 people and there is typically a significant penalty for a second car.

Thanks.

58. Really? Nobody wants the fees to increase except for current and former USFS employees. Let me make a prediction for you: You increase these fees as proposed in the article below, and what you're going to get is less people staying at your developed campsites that have these "amenities". You say it costs \$3.8M+ to maintain these sites. GREAT! Get the money from the federal government, LIKE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO! The public, who already pay federal income taxes that cover things like the USFS, should not be left holding the bill while you flounder for a way to pay for the minor upkeep of some rudimentary facilities and amenities!

59. I realize that the federal government has abdicated its responsibility to provide for the Forest Service and it's public recreation sites, and I understand that the Forest Service needs to have fees to support those sites and services.

However, I feel the proposed increases are a bit steep. The future success of these resources depends on young people and families having the easy access in order to learn about and appreciate them. Raise the fees, but don't double them. (\$20/night for a campsite!) Those of us who "love the woods" will pay the increases but many other less familiar with the forest will just choose to stay in town. A loss for us all...

60. Dear Sir/Madam:

On behalf of the Huachuca Hiking Club (HHC), I wish to submit some comments and suggestions regarding the Coronado's plan to restructure developed recreation to better align costs and revenues. It was not possible to develop comments that all HHC members agreed with, so this letter reflects a consensus among HHC members concerning this topic

As background, our club was formed in 1973 and is based in Sierra Vista. Our members have been active over the years in hiking, backpacking, car camping, and volunteering trail maintenance. Our hiking and camping destinations have ranged not only in the Coronado National Forest (CNF), but also in national forests, parks, and BLM lands throughout the western states. This has given us a broad perspective on developed recreation services and different approaches across various forests and agencies. So, my comments are offered from this perspective.

**General Comment.** I support the need for updated fees and I believe the CNF is making a good faith effort to comply with the fee criteria in the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA). As a rule, I understand why trailheads with the appropriate number of amenities should be subject to a day use fee.

**Day-Use Fee.** I believe the proposed \$8 day-use fee should be increased to \$10 and that \$10 is reasonable and consistent with the market. This will enhance compliance with the day-use fee, as less and less people carry cash and are more likely to have larger bills, not three \$1 bills. In addition, the \$2 difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a day use site and of any food or refreshments.

**Annual Pass.** I believe the proposed \$40 annual pass is reasonable and consistent with the market.

**Campground Fee.** I believe the proposed \$20 campground fee reasonable and consistent with the market. I base my opinion on a comparison of the Coronado's proposed \$20 fee with campground fees at other Arizona National Forests that have not raised their fees lately, and the fact that fees are not changed frequently, so they are understandably at the upper end of the market when they are implemented. Other Arizona National Forests charge site-specific campground fees that vary depending on amenities and the attractions offered at that location. I disagree with this policy. Variable fees can lead to public confusion and resentment when campers are fined because they paid an improper fee amount. In addition, a small fee difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a campground and of any food or refreshments.

**Group Fee.** The Coronado's proposal is a flat \$50 plus an additional \$10 per vehicle per day. Compared to other Arizona National Forests, this appears excessive and unnecessarily complex. I recommend the group fee be designated based on a stated maximum group size and maximum number of vehicles, which would also help when planning and creating new group sites or maintaining existing group sites. This would more easily allow the group site to be reserved and payable on recreation.gov. An example is the Ponderosa Group Campground on the Tonto National Forest. The fee is \$90 per night for a maximum of 50 people and 10 vehicles. Extra vehicles are charged \$8 per night.

**Standard Amenity Fee Sites.** The following comments apply to both existing and proposed new standard amenity fee sites.

There are existing developed campgrounds where a standard amenity fee is charged for picnicking or other day use in the campground. I believe a standard amenity fee is appropriate for this day use activity. I also believe that a standard amenity fee should be charged to folks who park in or near a campground in order to access a trailhead. How can you identify these people and what happens when they decide to use an amenity, such as a restroom or an interpretative sign? When trailheads are in areas that have the required amenities, I do not see how you can designate locations inside these areas as free for hikers using the trails and not expect everyone to park there first whether they use a trail

or not. This is exactly what happened at the Moreno Basin parking area during a recent HHC hike. There are signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots inside the day use fee parking area and every one of the slots were full, while the rest of the day use fee slots were half empty. Who knows what the people parked in the signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots were doing? This concept is highly subject to abuse and not realistically enforceable. In addition, people supposedly just hiking will probably use some of the amenities, like restrooms and signs with maps or other information. When HHC members used the Bigelow Trailhead just recently most people used the restrooms and everyone used the signs with maps. We do support the concept of clearly signing the fees areas, so if someone wants to park outside the fee areas they can. As for providing costly new parking areas for these non-fee hikers – no; this is not cost effective, especially given the CNF's current and future funding challenges.

Regarding the Coronado's proposed new fee sites, here are specific comments:

- Bigelow Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Brown Canyon Ranch. Okay for day use fee but designate separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails at the existing parking area by Carr Canyon Road.
- Butterfly Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Carr Canyon Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike the Perimeter Trail and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Cunningham Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Gordon Hirabayashi Interpretive Site and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Herb Martyr Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Kentucky Camp. Okay for day use fee. Most folks who hike the trail there start at a different parking location so no issue for trail users.
- Noon Creek Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.
- Parker Canyon Lake Fishing and Boating Site (and nature trail). Okay for day use fee.
- Pena Blanca Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Red Rock Picnic Area. Okay for day use fee.
- Reef Townsite Mining Interpretive Trail. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Reef Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Riggs Lake Fishing and Boating Site. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Round-the-Mountain Trailhead. Will qualify once add required amenities.
- Rucker Forest Camp Trailhead, Sawmill Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Shannon Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Soldier Creek Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Upper and Lower Thumb Rock Picnic Area. Once all required amenities are present, okay for day use fee.
- Whipple Picnic Area and Trailhead. Okay for day use fee to include for users who just come to park and hike and might end up using the restroom or other amenities.
- Windy Point Vista Day Use Area. Will qualify once add required amenities.

Trailheads. I would like to offer some additional comments on the Coronado's proposal to charge fees at trailheads where people typically go to park and hike. The law exempts certain activities from fees. I believe the CNF staff has taken these laws into consideration, as well as any relevant court decisions. Why would the CNF staff not do this, as they know there will probably be some court case based upon this program? Why would they want to weaken their case in court? It is just not logical.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to working with the Coronado as this effort continues. Please keep us posted on future opportunities to participate in this process.

61. Dear Sir/Madam:

General Comment. I support the need for updated fees and I understand why trailheads with the appropriate number of amenities should be subject to a day use fee.

Day-Use Fee. I believe the proposed \$8 day-use fee should be increased to \$10 and that \$10 is reasonable. This will enhance CNF visitor convenience and compliance with the day-use fee, as less and less people carry cash and are more likely to have larger bills, not three \$1 bills. In addition, the \$2 difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a day use site and of any food or refreshments.

Annual Pass. I believe the proposed \$40 annual pass is reasonable.

Campground Fee. I believe the proposed \$20 campground fee is reasonable based on a comparison of the Coronado's proposed \$20 fee with campground fees at other Arizona National Forests that have not raised their fees lately. Since fees are not changed frequently, they are understandably at the upper end of the scale when they are implemented. In addition, I disagree with other Arizona National Forest's policy of charging site-specific campground fees that vary depending on amenities and the attractions offered at that location. Variable fees can lead to public confusion and resentment when campers are fined because they paid an improper fee amount. Finally, a small fee difference is not that great when you consider the cost of driving to a campground and of any food or refreshments.

Group Fee. The Coronado's proposal is a flat \$50 plus an additional \$10 per vehicle per day. Compared to other Arizona National Forests, this appears excessive and unnecessarily complex. I recommend the group fee be designated based on a stated maximum group size and maximum number of vehicles, which would also help when planning and creating new group sites or maintaining existing group sites. This would more easily allow the group site to be reserved and payable on recreation.gov. An example is the Ponderosa Group Campground on the Tonto National Forest. The fee is \$90 per night for a maximum of 50 people and 10 vehicles. Extra vehicles are charged \$8 per night.

Standard Amenity Fee Sites. The following comments apply to both existing and proposed new standard amenity fee sites.

There are existing developed campgrounds where a standard amenity fee is charged for picnicking or other day use in the campground. I believe a standard amenity fee is appropriate for this day-use activity. I also believe that a standard amenity fee should be charged to folks who park in or near a campground in order to access a trailhead. How can you identify these people and what happens when they decide to use an amenity, such as a restroom or an interpretative sign? When trailheads are in areas that have the required amenities, I do not see how you can designate locations inside these areas as free for hikers using the trails and not expect everyone to park there first whether they use a trail or not. This is exactly what happened at the Moreno Basin parking area during a recent hike. There are

signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots inside the day use fee parking area and every one of the slots were full, while the rest of the day use fee slots were half empty. Who knows what the people parked in the signed AZ Trail Hikers free fee parking slots were doing? This concept is highly subject to abuse and not realistically enforceable. In addition, people supposedly just hiking will probably use some of the amenities, like restrooms and signs with maps or other information. When I parked at the Bigelow Trailhead just recently I used the restrooms and the signs with maps. I do support the concept of clearly signing the fees areas, so if someone wants to park outside the fee area they know where to park. I do not support providing costly new parking areas for non-fee hikers. This is not cost effective and would only worsen the CNF's current and future funding challenges.

Regarding the Coronado's proposed new fee sites, here are specific comments: I support adding the required amenities to the proposed fee sites that currently do not have them, so that a day-use fee can be charged. I do not support designating separate no fee parking for users who just come to park and hike the trails at the existing parking areas (I explained why earlier.), nor the development of new no fee parking areas just outside or near fee parking. However, fee areas needed to be clearly marked, so users can easily park outside the fee area.

Trailheads: I would like to offer some additional comments on the Coronado's proposal to charge fees at trailheads where people typically go to park and hike. The law exempts certain activities from fees. I believe the CNF staff has taken these laws into consideration, as well as any relevant court decisions.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments. We look forward to working with the Coronado as this effort continues. Please keep us posted on future opportunities to participate in this process.

62. The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) met with you on April 19<sup>th</sup> to review proposed changes to fees and additional fee sites on the Coronado National Forest (Forest). We understand that the Forest intends to raise fees at existing day use sites from \$5 to \$8 per day, double the camping fee to \$20 per night, and double the annual pass to \$40 per year. Group sites would cost \$50, plus \$10 per vehicle. Twenty-two sites would change from free day use to fee sites. You explained that increasing costs of operation and maintenance and declining appropriated funds from Congress to the Forest Service for recreation require the Forest to seek additional revenue to maintain these sites.

The Department recognizes these challenges and we support the fee changes. However, we have the following concerns for your consideration:

Pena Blanca Lake, Riggs Lake, and Parker Canyon Lake are currently free day use sites for anglers and boaters. The Department constructed each of these lakes and has a special use permit for each one. Department engineers monitor and maintain the dams. Additionally, the Department funded the construction of most of the angler and boating related facilities at these sites, including boat ramps, fishing piers, etc. The Department manages the sportfish populations in these lakes and stocks fish regularly. All these items were paid for with revenue generated directly from anglers and boaters, including State Lake Improvement funds and Federal Sportfish & Restoration monies as well as license dollars. As this infrastructure has deteriorated over the years, the Department has funded replacement projects. Anglers and boaters continue to pay their share through annual fishing license and boat registrations collected by the Department.

Currently the majority of infrastructure at Pena Blanca Lake (parking lot, restroom, boat launch, and fishing piers) was constructed with Department funds for a total cost of \$600,000. We

Anglers and boaters continue to pay their share through annual fishing license and boat registrations collected by the Department.

Currently the majority of infrastructure at Pena Blanca Lake (parking lot, restroom, boat launch, and fishing piers) was constructed with Department funds for a total cost of \$600,000. We anticipate any maintenance costs to repair or replace these facilities will be paid for by the Department. The Department spends around \$10,000 to \$12,000 of angler dollars annually to stock trout in winter.

At Parker Canyon Lake, the Forest is currently requesting the Department to pay for a new boat ramp or repair the existing ramp, replacement of the vault toilets, and the addition of a fish cleaning station. The existing ramp (and historically the maintenance of it) has been the Department's responsibility. All other facilities at the lake are within the campground which already requires a fee. The Department spends about \$10,000 to \$12,000 of angler dollars annually to stock trout in winter.

The only facilities at Riggs Flat Lake are within the campground, which already requires a fee. The Department spends about \$5,000 to \$12,000 of angler dollars to stock the lake annually.

We are concerned about additional barriers to people accessing public land and wildlife. The North American Model (NAM) of fish and wildlife management serves all Americans by ensuring common people have access to public land and wildlife held in public trust. At some cost there is a tipping point where anglers will not be willing to spend the money necessary to access their sport. The peoplehip between the state and federal government is what makes the NAM so successful.

Therefore, we request that the Forest take into consideration the revenue invested into these facilities by our licensees who recreate at those lakes. The Department's revenue is entirely dependent on discretionary spending by our customers as we receive no General Fund money from the State. Continued revenue from our customers requires that access to hunting, angling, and boating opportunities continue to be available and a reasonable value.

The Forest proposed that although some trailheads with facilities will become fee sites, many other trailheads will continue to offer access to trails free of charge. The Department finds that an acceptable strategy for hunters wishing to access the Forest via trail. Likewise we discussed the potential to ensure that there are areas at each lake within the fee system where anglers may access the lakes free of charge to fish without using fee sites. The Forest indicated that it intends to investigate and identify fee-free parking sites at each lake for free shore angling day use. The Forest committed to allowing physically challenged anglers will have free access to barrier free sites via a free federal pass. One additional option would be to add more annual free days to all those areas where fees will be increasing. This will ensure that all of our anglers have a way to continue to harvest the fish they stocked, in the lakes they built, on their public land.

We look forward to continued peoplehip with the Coronado National Forest and offer our support at your meeting with the Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) in June.

63. On behalf of the Climbing Association of Southern Arizona (CASA), it's Board of Directors, hundreds of volunteers, and nearly 300 yearly donating members, I am submit the following comments regarding the Coronado National Forest's proposed fees and additional fee sites. This comment was drafted by our Board of Directors after I attended one of your public meetings hosted by Mr. Winfield.

CASA supports continued free access to non-developed public land. We support continued access to the free parking available to the public who are recreating on non-developed public land. As is currently the case, we request continued free access to non-developed areas regardless of fees being assessed for users of developed amenities.

We recommend the Forest Service *does not* add amenities to Windy Point or the currently non-fee area of Gordon Hirabayashi and to leave those as non-fee sites.

We are concerned about the loss of free access and parking to non-developed recreation that this would create.

We are also concerned that additional amenities at Windy Point will result in even higher impacts to the fragile soil and cliff-top ecosystem in the area. This site has seen dramatic impacts to vegetation and soil in the areas closest to the current amenities, caused by casual hikers trampling, littering, and defacing this scenic vista. Mitigation of increased impacts resulting from intensified use associated with an addition of amenities should be considered by the Forest Service. We recommend a substantial commitment of resources to mitigation measures, including funding for restoration and erosion control work.

We also believe that it is important that all members of the public have the opportunity to enjoy public land, despite their economic situation. We want the Forest Service to provide free or substantially reduced price passes to fee areas for people who demonstrate financial hardship and need.

Without these adjustments, CASA cannot support the current proposal regarding increases in Fees at developed recreation sites in the Coronado National Forest.

Please let us know if you have questions or need clarification.

64. What follows are principles, based upon nearly 20 years of experience gained since the passage of Fee Demo, that should govern federal recreation fees. If new legislation follows these principles the agencies will have adequate latitude to charge and retain reasonable fees, but will have to abide by clearly defined limitations that will protect the public's right to general access onto lands that we all own in common.

- Public lands are a valued public good that provides important benefits to all Americans.
- National Forests and BLM lands are public lands for which other funds are made available by Congress.
- Recreation fees should never be expected to cover the entire cost of recreation management.
- Recreation fees should be supplemental to the funding provided by Congress and should only be imposed where there is a demonstrated need to provide supplemental benefits.
- Fee revenues should be expended to directly benefit those who paid them.
- Entrance fees should be allowed only for National Parks and National Wildlife Refuges.
- In Parks and Refuges where an entrance fee is established, no additional fee should be charged for interpretive programs and visitor centers that promote an understanding and appreciation of the values for which the unit was established.
- On National Forests and BLM lands, fees should only be allowed for the actual use of developed facilities or for specialized activities, and only where there is a demonstrated need.
- Perverse incentives to build unneeded facilities in order to justify charging fees must be eliminated.
- Fees should be prohibited for general access to Forests and BLM lands, including dispersed camping outside of developed campgrounds, travel to or through undeveloped lands and waters, snow play, wildlife viewing, trail use, parking, and access to designated wilderness or other backcountry dispersed areas.



- Fees should be prohibited for the use, either singly or in any combination, of drinking water, wayside exhibits, roads, overlook sites, scenic drives, toilet facilities, or picnic tables. Where these basic facilities cannot be provided using appropriated funds, they should not be offered.
- Fees charged at federal recreation facilities that are managed by private contractors or permittees should be subject to the same requirements and restrictions as those at federally-managed facilities, including acceptance of federal passes.
- Fee program overhead and administration should not be allowed to exceed 15% of gross revenues. This must include fee-collection materials, contracts with third parties for fee collection, and sales commissions paid to third-party vendors.
- Fee revenue should first be spent on backlogged maintenance at the facility where it was collected. Only when there is no backlogged maintenance should it be available to be spent on new facilities or improvements, and only if such improvements are required and appropriate.
- Failure to pay a recreation fee should be treated as an infraction and not a misdemeanor as is currently the case under FLREA.
- The maximum penalty for failure to pay a required recreation fee should be set at \$100.
- Establishing and increasing fees by the agencies must be done in an open and transparent fashion operating under congressional oversight.
- The agencies must provide opportunity for robust public participation and a mechanism must be provided to ensure public input is given full consideration when decisions are made involving the establishment of new and/or increased recreation fees.

64. I think the camping and day use fees should be raised.

65. I object to day use fees on Mt. Lemmon . This area is heavily used by low income people from Tucson. Any fees at trailheads or picnic areas would be a heavy burden for them. Perhaps there could be a donation box at these areas for people who can afford to pay.

66. I don't see much trail repair, especially in Cochise County (Chiricahuas !!!!). It is rather embarrassing to live here and to have such lousy trail repair/maintenance. Lately I have been hiking in Pima County (Santa Ritas) and the trails are much much better for the most part. But, many of the trails up and around Mt. Wrightson are "gone" at the upper parts. I certainly would not object to increased fees as long as a larger portion of them is devoted to hikers.

67. To Joseph Winfield,

I received the e-mail reply below, from Armando Arvizu, Recreation Manager on the Douglas District, telling me that I can still send comments on the fee restructuring for recreation on Coronado NF sites, until May 1, 2018, which is this coming Tuesday. Wishing to send some last minute comments before the deadline, I tried to open the website <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/Coronado/feereview> which Mr. Arvizu gave as the place to register these comments. When I tried to open this website, I was redirected to another website with the URL [https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/PA\\_WIDConsumption/goto?shortURL=Coronado/feereview](https://www.fs.usda.gov/wps/PA_WIDConsumption/goto?shortURL=Coronado/feereview). At this URL no page ever opened up. My screen remained blank for multiple minutes until I finally closed it. There are still important comments for me to post before the deadline. Can I still send them by e-mail to the address to which I am sending this message? If I don't get a reply from anyone in the USFS before Monday, I will post the comments to this address, anyway.

68. The amount of increase is more than fair. Let the ones using the campground pay for there use. Non campers should not pay a nickel for others privilege to camp. We use Rose Canyon and Molino Basin campgrounds - a lot... we are regulars.

### **Comments Received through Handwritten Letters**

69. I read about your proposed fee hikes at the Mt. Lemmon Visitor Center and would like to comment. Access to public land is important to people of all levels of income and increased fees will affect the wealthy hardly at all, and the poor very much so. It is essentially discriminatory to exclude people who can't afford it, especially in Tucson with very high food costs and rising costs of housing. I oppose it on the same level of opposing Zinke's proposed increased fees for National Parks. When I wrote to oposed Park fee increases, I actually cited Mt. Lemmon's toll booth. My kids went to school in Tucson and could never justify a trip up Mt. Lemmon as they were poor students. I just spent some time up there and realized what a loss that was for them and could have greatly improved the quality of their Tucson lives. So Coronado, aren't you better than Zinke? Please keep the fees as they are (good riddance toll booth) and public lands accessible to all. Thanks.

70. Regarding the proposed increases in recreation fees, that would be fine with me as long as the toilets will be pumped out more often. We camp here at Sunny Flat, Steward - both near Portal, and we have also camped at Bog Springs in Madera Canyon. We appreciate the water and garbage services, but the pit toilets are much too full. The odor at Stewart Campground was really bad when we were there in 2016 - could smell it from our campsite. Thank you for keeping the recreation areas open - we do love hiking and bird watching here.

71. All [sites] with amenities should require a fee

72. All proposed fee sites seem valid and fair.

73. Does increasing the term of the daily use to more than 1 day make sense? If so, increase fees to \$10 for a couple days. Unlikely everyone would take advantage of multiple days, but it will generate much needed money. Thank you.

74. 60 hours volunteer is a lot to expect for free annual pass. You should add transportation for low income [people].  $\$20/60 = \$0.33$  wage hourly. I think you should create a no fee low income option, such as allowing free use for people eligible for food stamps. The people already paid and should get to use the land.

75. Doubling fees is a slap in the face. It tells people don't come to the forest, and the forest is just for the rich. If you double fees, I just won't go.

76. I do NOT support privatization or private concessionaires

77. Propose a badge for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, etc. to experience the CNF. Maybe you receive corporate sponsors to support activities in the forest. Insurance preventative health programs i.e. Silver Sneakers, etc. hike.

78. Enough flexibility in using facilities and forest allow/make fee increase reasonable and important.

79. If our public lands were fully funded, we wouldn't be having the conversation. I'd prefer full funding, but I don't think that's realistic at the moment. Are fees being increased on commercial users like communications towers and Ski Valley? Are fees for grazing permits and other resource uses? I support users paying if the money goes back into the forest iteself, not the general fund. But I don't support putting more burden on private individuals who have less resources and make less impact than others.

80. By encouraging federal taxes to pay in lieu of fees by cutting military budget, increase taxes on high income earners

81. \$10 a week would make the increase more acceptable.

82. Collect all fees at one place, i.e. toll booth. No concessionaire management.

83. Credit card machine payment ability! Also, \$10 per day is easier and requiring less change. Electric and water could be provided at camper sites.

84. Get rid of week pass. Consider the cellular credit card pay. Open toll booth on Catalina Highway.

85. Most stops made by travellers are short. It's a first stop for many going up the mountain, and provide a great overview. Charging a fee would not be a pleasant start to their first Forest visit.

86. Open up the Mt Lemmon fee booth.

87. We should encourage, not discourage, use of facilities. Too many Tucsonans don't use the facilities now. Need to take credit cards.

88. Why not reopen toll booth at Catalina Hwy? Improve way to pay (Visa/Mastercard/Discovery Card)

89. An even number [for the day pass] makes sense because people won't be able or prepared to make change. Bump it up \$2.00 and be done with it.

90. I believe Windy Point on Mt. Lemmon should be a fee site. Also, I think \$8 is going to make it very difficult for staff to make change and people to make an excuse not to pay. A round \$10 would be much better.

91. Making change for \$10 would cause problems in fee tubes and fee collections. Also, it would be wise to add a picnic table to Windy Vista so day use fee could be collected.

92. I am opposed to Brown Canyon being added to the fee program. To me, it feels like charging people to go to their neighborhood park. There is not much to do in this town, and charging a fee for Brown Canyon will reduce free time activities available. I liked Brown Canyon better when it wasn't developed.

93. Thinking about Brown Canyon in particular, going from zero to \$8.00 seems rather shocking.

**Comments received during phone conversations** (*comments below are summarized from the conversations*)

94. Safford demographics: low income, increasing fees will push people in non-fee areas, refuges. State Parks provides more services for the price. More people doing dispersed camping. Fire restrictions.

95. Have Sky Island Alliance and Coronado Outdoors volunteers harvest and sell wood at Palisades. Developed rec sites off Bigelow Road. Expand the Palisades Visitor Center to accommodate interpretive exhibits and keeping firewood dry. ATV and small trailers can be housed at the barn.

96. Maintain fee-free public access (basic). Privatization push - concessionaires. Put a donation line on new tax forms - % of tax dollars (Gaye's suggestion - she will follow up). 2 sites in Adams Settlement were removed from fee proposal. To improve sustainability, be more aggressive with donations, have no fires, and no trash. At Gordon Hirabayashi, which would be treated as a "group" site (would need to be reserved), campsite would remain and the day use area would become a fee area. Agree with fee increase, and approach to provide reasonable public access to trailheads within 1/4 mile when possible.