Re: your Feb. 25 editorial, “Federal court chops down fee for forest visits”:

Forest Service officials like to tout that 95 percent of Adventure Pass fees collected stay in the area where they have been collected. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Off the top, Los Padres officials send 20 percent of Adventure Pass fees directly to their headquarters in Vallejo and Washington, D.C. An additional 15 percent is absorbed by the bureaucratic miasma the Forest Service calls "cost of collections."

Thereafter, Forest Service accounting becomes even more voodoo-like, including the agency's claim that there are no local (Los Padres National Forest) administrative costs in administrating this program … huh? In reality it's quite likely that less than 50 percent of Adventure Pass fees once collected, ever again see the light of day.

Giving any government agency the ability to exact a direct tax (Adventure Pass Fees) with little or no oversight is never a good idea.

- Peter Wiechers,
Kernville,