

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service

Eldorado National Forest

100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667



Date: July 8, 2008

Release: Upon Receipt

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Eldorado National Forest Proposes Recreation Fee Increases For 2009

Placerville, Ca... Recreation managers at the Eldorado National Forest are interested in hearing your comments on a proposal to increase fees at the Dru Barner Campground, located east of the town of Georgetown. The campground fees have not been raised since the Recreation Enhancement Act was signed into law in 2004. These fee increases would be consistent with inflationary costs and are comparable to similar public and private sites in the area. The proposed fee increases will change the overnight camping fee from \$8.00 per vehicle to \$12.00 per site, and the day use fee will change from \$3.00 per vehicle to \$5.00 per site.

“The proposed fee increases will help address the rising costs of facility operation, cleaning, maintenance, and trash collection” said Lester Lubetkin, Eldorado Forest Recreation Program Manager. “There are picnic tables in need of repair and replacement, new fire rings to be installed, additional water faucets to be constructed and other improvements.” Lubetkin emphasized that the fee increases will allow these improvements to occur over the next several years.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, which allows the Eldorado National Forest to keep 95 percent of fees collected and use these funds to operate, maintain, and improve these recreation sites and services. Campground fees collected at Dru Barner in the past have been used for the installation of a vault toilet building, operation and maintenance activities in the campground, and the installation of additional picnic tables and fire rings.

All fee change proposals will be presented before a citizen's advisory committee, called the Recreation Resource Advisory Committee, or RRAC. Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable fee changes. Committee members will help ensure that the Forest Service addresses public

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issues and concerns about recreation fees. The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings. Information on the RRAC in California or the fee program is available at this website: www.fs.fed.us/r5/passes/rrac/.

For more information, questions, or comments about this fee change proposal, please contact Diana Erickson by September 15, 2008 at dkerickson@fs.fed.us, or by fax number (530) 621-5297, or by mail at Eldorado National Forest, 100 Forni Road, Placerville, CA 95667.

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