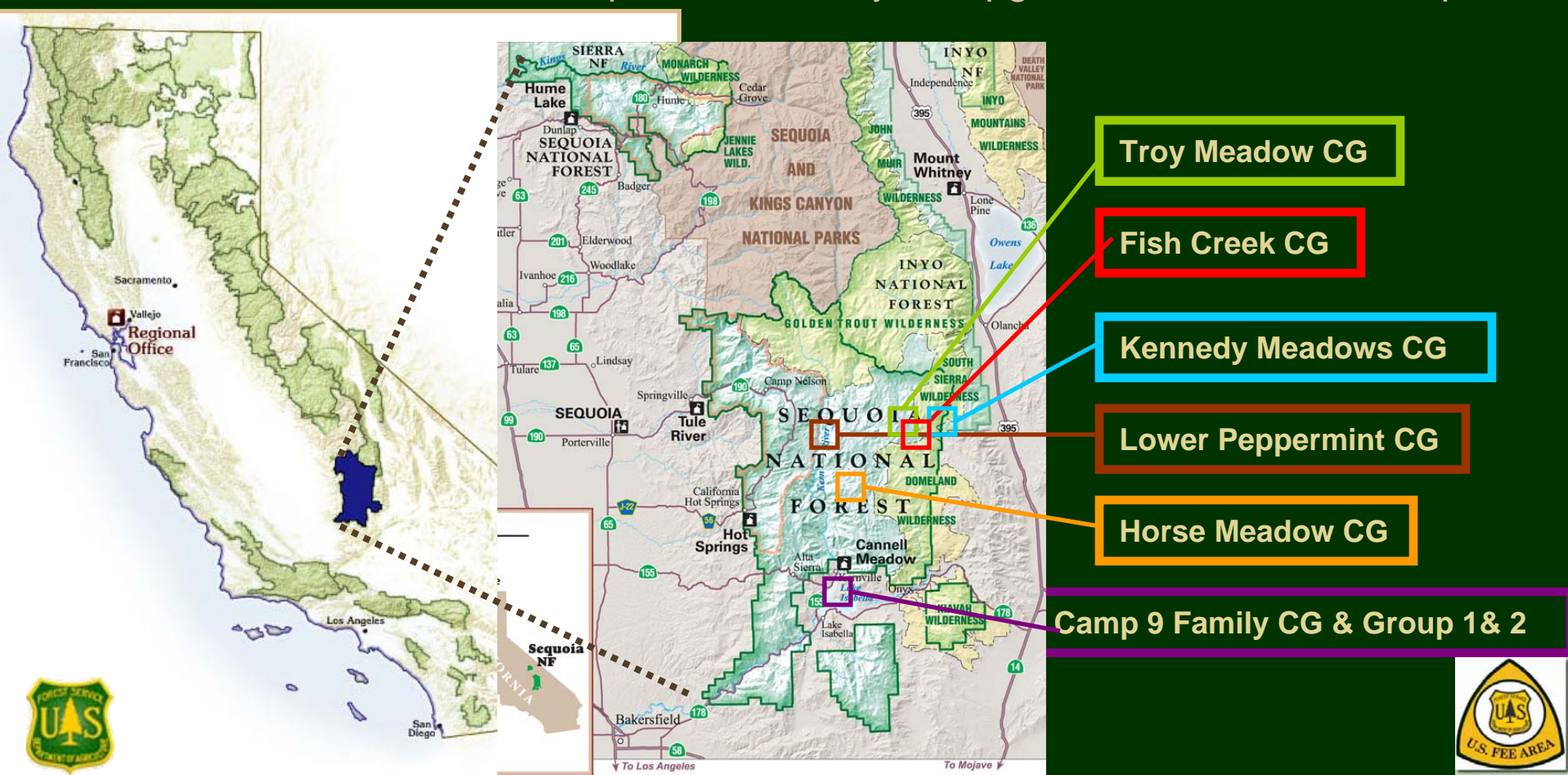


California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

Sequoia National Forest Expanded Amenity Campground Fee Increase Proposals



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

Camp 9 Family CG & Group Sites #1 & 2

- Located on the east side of Lake Isabella
- Offers shoreline overnight camping, a large open area for day use, and a public courtesy boat dock
- Popular area for both locals and people from outside the area for watercraft use and fishing

Fish Creek and Troy Meadow CGs

- Located on the east side of the Kern Plateau at 8,000 ft elevation
- Close to over 100 miles of single-track trails
- Popular with the OHV community

Horse Meadow CG

- Located on the west side of the Kern Plateau at 6,000 ft elevation
- Popular with non-motorized user groups, particularly those with stock

Kennedy Meadows CG

- Located on the west side of the Kern Plateau at 7,000 ft elevation
- Popular with through hikers on the Pacific Crest Trail



Peppermint Creek

Lower Peppermint CG

- Remote campground located in the Giant Sequoia National Monument
- Very popular area throughout the summer and hunting season
- Located near a popular fishing stream and trailheads into the Golden Trout Wilderness Area



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

Site	Current Fee	Proposed Fee	Annual O & M	Deferred Maintenance	Last Increase
Camp 9 Family*	\$12	\$17	\$8,125	\$270,420	2006
Camp 9 - Group 1 & 2*	\$110	\$160	\$2,292	\$10,000	2006
Fish Creek CG	\$10	\$17	\$5,539	\$381,271	1998
Horse Meadow CG	\$10	\$17	\$11,689	\$358,690	1998
Troy Meadow CG	\$10	\$17	\$10,468	\$2,000	1998
Kennedy Meadows CG	\$10	\$17	\$7,101	\$381,942	1998
Lower Peppermint CG	\$14	\$17	\$22,937	\$151,077	2004

* Proposing to increase RV dump station fee from \$8 to \$10

Proposing to increase Day use fee from \$5 to \$10; Annual Day Use Pass from \$25 to \$50



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

How recreation fees are used:

- Campground operation & maintenance and visitor services – maintaining cleanliness, pumping toilets, garbage collections, and maintaining water systems
- Making improvements – accessible campsites, signing, information kiosks, and painting & repairing picnic tables & toilet buildings

Troy Meadow Campground



Before

After



California National Forests

Recreation Fees at Work

Why increase fees?

- To meet rising operation and maintenance costs
- The Camp 9 Family & Group Campground was taken over from concessionaires in April 2007 and funds are needed to complete deferred maintenance and operate & maintain this site until new concessionaire can be chosen
- Add picnic tables & campfire rings
- To develop a RV dump station in the Kern Plateau (Fish Creek CG)
- To replace aging vault toilets with CXT toilets as funds become available



**US Forest Service - Region 5
Recreation Fee Proposal - Fee Increases
Summary of Public Involvement**

October 1, 2007

Sequoia National Forest: Fee Increases Proposals

Summary of Fee Proposal:

Site/Service	Current Price	Proposed Price
Camp 9 Family CG	\$12/night	\$17/night
Camp 9 - Group Site #1& 2	\$110/night	\$160/night
Camp 9 Extra Vehicle Fee	\$5	\$5 (no change)
Camp 9 CG - RV Dump Station	\$8	\$10
Camp 9 Day Use (per day/annual pass) Note: Free if camping	\$5/\$25	\$10/\$50
Group Areas #3-#11	\$75-\$90	\$75-\$90 (no change)
Troy Meadow CG	\$10/night	\$17/night
Troy Meadow CG Extra Vehicle Fee	\$5/vehicle	\$5 (no change)
Horse Meadow CG	\$10/night	\$17/night
Horse Meadow CG Extra Vehicle Fee	\$5/vehicle	\$5 (no change)
Lower Peppermint CG	\$14/night	\$17/night
Kennedy Meadows CG	\$10/night	\$17/night
Kennedy Meadows CG Extra Vehicle Fee	\$5/vehicle	\$5 (no change)
Fish Creek CG	\$10/night	\$17/night
Fish Creek CG Extra Vehicle Fee	\$5/vehicle	\$5 (no change)
Oak Flat Lookout*	\$35/night	\$50/night (2008) \$75/night (2010)
Camp 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ Cabin*	\$75/night	\$100/night (2008) \$125/night (2010)
Big Meadow Cabin*	\$100/night	\$125/night (2008) \$150/night (2010)

* Proposal review postponed to next meeting due to time constraints

Public Participation Activities:

Public Participation Tasks	Date(s)
Posted notice at recreation sites inviting comments on proposed fee changes.	June 11, 2007 - present
Ran press release announcing proposed fee changes in Fresno Bee, Bakersfield California, and Kern Valley Sun.	May 30, 2007
Ran press release announcing series of open houses to discuss proposed fee changes.	July 16, 2007
Posted information on proposed fee changes on forest web site.	August 1, 2007
Briefed local elected officials on proposed fee changes.	June 2007
Article about fee increases and open houses on front page of the Kern Valley Sun.	August 22, 2007
Conducted public open houses (workshop format) at various locations to discuss proposed fee changes.	May 29, August 1, 8, 16, 18, & 28, 2007
Met with Kern River Valley Revitalization (KRVR) & Kern River Valley Chamber members to discuss proposed fee changes.	March 2, 2007, March 7, 2007, and March 8, 2007,
Met with Kern Valley Exchange Club members to discuss proposed fee changes.	March 8, 2007
Met with Kernville Chamber members to discuss proposed fee changes.	March 12, 2007 and March 26, 2007
Met with Lake Isabella & Bodfish Homeowners Association members to discuss proposed fee changes.	May 8, 2007
KCNQ Dam Talk Show (call in show).	March 9, 2007

Public Participation Results:

Method of Communication	Summary of Comments- as of 10/1/07
Posted On-site Notices	<p>One response suggested implementing an "Adventure Pass" approach to fees.</p> <p>Two written responses opposing fee increases - 1 @ Troy CG and 1 @ Kennedy CG.</p>
Press Releases & News Story	<p>One letter to the editor of the Kern River Courier, August 10, 2007 supporting fee increases. Two letters to the editor (written by same person) opposing REA in general and specifically fees associated with white water boating.</p> <p>Individual also wrote four letters to the forest requesting more information and opposing fees associated with white water boating. Three e-mails received supporting fee increase to maintain facilities.</p>
Forest Web Site Posting	<p>None received</p>
Public Meetings and Call in Radio Show	<p>Over 130 attendees at various open houses, community and stakeholder meetings. All expressed support for fee increases and want Forest Service to use fees to operate & maintain sites. Some felt sites were priced too low. Most expressed support for fee increases as long as recreation sites remain open. Many like the idea that forest retains 95% of fees collected and want that to remain. Some expressed desire to continue to meet with FS to discuss fee changes.</p>
Open Houses (Workshops)	<p>Over 50 attendees at six open houses across the forest.</p> <p>Written comments received:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-suggestions on how to improve services & communications • 1-opposing day use fees & increasing fees for campgrounds but supporting fee increases for dump station and cabin rentals • 1-Supported all fee increase proposals, made specific suggestion to increase fee at Troy CG to \$22/night based on recent renovations. <p>One person attended 2 of the workshops trying to rally support to oppose fees (same individual who wrote letters detailed above). One comment received opposing fee increase at Fish Creek CG.</p>
Elected Officials Briefing	<p>None received</p>
General Customer Feedback	<p>Many visitors to recreation rental cabins and lookouts comment on their enjoyment of the experience and many are return guests.</p>