

## News Releases: 2005



### News Release

USDA Forest Service

Los Padres National Forest

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### **Adventure Pass No Longer Required in Some Areas of Los Padres National Forest**

The Forest Service has reduced the area in southern California where recreation fees are required. Officials today announced that less than five percent of Los Padres National Forest now requires the Adventure Pass. The pass continues to be required for day use activities in the forest's most popular and heavily visited areas including the following:

Mt. Pinos (snow season only), Goldhill and Ballinger (Mt. Pinos Ranger District);

Rose Valley (Ojai Ranger District);

Santa Ynez Recreation Area (Santa Barbara Ranger District);

Figueroa Mountain and Pozo-La Panza (Santa Lucia Ranger District)

In addition to these seven "high impact recreation areas" (HIRA's), fees will be charged at 35 campgrounds both within the HIRA's and in more remote areas of the forest. A fee will also be required for the Nordhoff Ridge Road and Potrero Seco Road off-highway vehicle routes on the Ojai Ranger District. These routes are available by special recreation permit on a reservation basis. The Forest Service may charge for some special tours and events based at their Wheeler Gorge Visitor Center on Highway 33.

The Adventure Pass is not currently required on the Monterey Ranger District.

Concessionaires will continue to charge their own fee in the campgrounds and day use areas they manage. The concessionaire in the Santa Ynez Recreation Area will honor the Adventure Pass for day use at the facilities they manage. A list and maps of the recreation fee areas are available on the Los Padres National Forest website at

[www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lospadres). Information is also available on the Adventure Pass website at [www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/ap](http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/sanbernardino/ap).

The price of the Adventure Pass remains unchanged this year -- \$5 for a daily pass, or \$30 for an annual pass. Visitors who purchased a pass for an area where fees are no longer required may request a pro-rated refund of their Annual Pass and accompanying second vehicle pass by December 31, 2005. Contact any Forest Service office for further information.

The changes to the fee program are the result of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), which was part of the 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-447). REA allows the Forest Service to charge fees for specific sites and for heavily impacted recreation areas that have specific amenities, including toilets, parking, trash receptacles, picnic tables, visitor information, and security. REA also extended the fee program for ten years and established the criteria that must be met before new fees can be charged.

The Adventure Pass was initiated in June 1997 to reduce recreation deferred maintenance and address problems posed by heavy recreation use. Since 1997, more than \$22 million in revenues have been collected and invested back into the four southern California Forests, including approximately \$300,000 per year in Los Padres National Forest. Revenues from the fees will allow the Forest Service to continue to maintain trails, clean restrooms, pick up trash, remove litter and graffiti, and provide visitor information and other services.

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