



Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)

Stanislaus National Forest

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), 2004 (P.L. 108-447) and USDA Forest Service Handbook 2309.13 are the two documents governing recreation fees. When setting fees, the Forest Service considers fees for comparable facilities and services in comparable settings charged elsewhere by the Forest Service, other public agencies (State), and nearby private operators.

Fee Increase for Developed Campgrounds

Forest Service operated developed campgrounds and day uses areas rates have increased. Operating costs have exceeded the revenue.

Stanislaus National Forest operated campgrounds have not increased fees since the induction of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA/FLREA) in 2004. A tiered price increase is in effect for 2024 and 2025, with the final price effective 2026. Of the fees collected 95% stay on the Forest to manage the REA sites.

Fees are spent on Recreation Technicians to patrol the areas, toilets, camp-host stipends, garbage collection, developed recreation amenities, replacement of broken facilities, in addition to annual and deferred maintenance.

- Campground amenities are linked to the fee charged. Amenities range from picnic tables, tent pads, parking spots, fire rings, and food lockers to drinking water, garbage service, fee stations, camp hosts on site, and interpretive programs.
- Per FLREA, the Forest Service must follow procedures for a fee proposal before fees can be enacted.
- Fall 2021, 60 day public comment period
 - Public participation lead to the tiered price implementation
- February 2024, Recreation Advisory Council approved proposal

The result, from Summer 2024-2026 there will be tiered price increases, with a final price reached in 2026.

Recreation Accomplishment Reports

The Stanislaus National Forest reports how the fees were spent every year. Past accomplishments include; water line repairs, hazard tree mitigation, interpretation displays, food lockers, sign replacements and much more.

Please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/visit/passes-permits/reports> to view our annual reports.

Fee Free in the Forest Days

For the Stanislaus National Forest operated Day Use areas, we offer 8 Forest Fee Free Days in addition to the 5 National Fee Free Days:

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	Third Monday in January
Stanislaus National Forest Anniversary	February 22
National Arbor Day	Last Friday in April
Earth Day	April 22
Mother's Day	Second Sunday in May
National Get Outdoors Day	Second Saturday in June
Father's Day	Third Sunday in June
Juneteenth	June 19
Smokey Bear's Birthday	August 9
Woodsy Owl's Birthday	September 15
National Public Lands Day	Fourth Saturday in September
Indigenous People's Day	Second Monday in October
Veterans Day	November 11

Calaveras Ranger District		
Site Name	Site Type	Fee 2024-25/ 2026 +
Sourgrass	Day Use Site	\$5 per day
Union East	Boating Site	\$5 per day
Hermit Valley	Campground	\$15/\$20 *
Mosquito Lakes	Campground	\$15/\$20
Pacific Valley	Campground	\$20/\$25
Bloomfield	Campground	\$20/\$25
Black Springs OHV	Campground	\$15/\$20
Big Meadow	Campground	\$25/\$30
Stanislaus River	Campground	\$25/\$30
Rocky Point	Campground	\$25/\$30
Sandy Flat	Campground	\$25/\$30
Union East	Campground	\$25/\$30
Union West	Campground	\$25/\$30
Highland Lakes	Campground	\$25/\$30
Waka Lu Hep Yo	Campground	\$30/\$35
Big Meadow Group (Recreation.gov)	Group Campground	\$75/\$100

* Hermit Valley will not experience a price increase until infrastructure updates completed.

Mi Wok Ranger District		
Site Name	Site Type	Fee 2024-25 year/ 2026+
Hull Creek	Campground	\$20/\$25
Sand Bar Flat	Campground	\$20/\$25

Summit Ranger District (HWY 108)		
Site Name	Site Type	Increased Fee 2024-25 year/ 2026+
Beardsley	Day Use Site	\$5 per day
Herring Creek	Campground	\$15/\$20
Herring Reservoir	Campground	\$15/\$20
Cascade Creek	Campground	\$15/\$20
Mill Creek	Campground	\$15/\$20
Fence Creek	Campground	\$15/\$20
Niagara Creek	Campground	\$15/\$20
Niagara Creek OHV	Campground	\$15/\$20
TeleLi puLaya	Campground	\$25/\$30 \$55/\$60
Beardsley Dam	Campground	\$25/\$30

Fee Payment

- Most campsites are 1st come; 1st served
- Cash or check only accepted forms of payment
- Occupants must be registered, and fees paid within 30 minutes of arrival to site
- Fill out the entire envelope form, complete with license plate, site number, and dates of occupation
- Receipt is to be displayed on site post

Interagency Passes

Senior (Lifetime or Annual) and Access passes receive 50% off nightly rate for the site the pass holder occupies. No other federal recreation pass/passholder qualifies. Discounts only apply on single sites.

Forest Day Use Area Pass

Forest Day Use Area Passes will be available starting Summer 2025. These annual passes will allow the passholder unlimited use at Beardsley Day Use Area, Sourgrass Day Use Area, and the Union East Boating site. The pass will cost \$30 per year and be available for sale at the District Offices.



For questions about REA or the fee increase, contact the Supervisor's Office. For questions about camping, see our website or contact the appropriate Ranger District.

Supervisor's Office
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