

How to Comment

More detailed information can be found on the Bitterroot National Forest Recreation Fee Proposal interactive website at: www.fs.fed.gov/goto/r1recfee

Please send your comments to:

Bitterroot National Forest
Darby-Sula Ranger District
Attn: Rec Fee Proposal
P.O. Box 388
Darby, MT 59829

Comments can also be given directly through the website listed above, by E-mailing to r1recfee@fs.fed.us, calling Erica Strayer at (406) 821-4252 or by stopping at the local Ranger Station or Supervisor's Office. Comments will be accepted through November 17, 2017.

All comments will be reviewed by the Forest. Those comments found to be substantive will be evaluated further and considered in this proposal.



Bitterroot National Forest

Office hours: 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

Forest Supervisor's Office
1801 North 1st
Hamilton, MT 59840
(406) 363-7100

www.fs.usda.gov/bitterroot

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/DiscoverBitterrootNF>

Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/BitterrootNF>

Flickr:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fsnorthernregion/collections/>

Stevensville Ranger District
88 Main Street
Stevensville, MT 59870

Darby-Sula Ranger District
712 N. Main Street
P.O. Box 388
Darby, MT 59829

West Fork Ranger District
6735 West Fork Road
Darby, MT 59829

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Bitterroot National Forest Recreation Fee Proposal



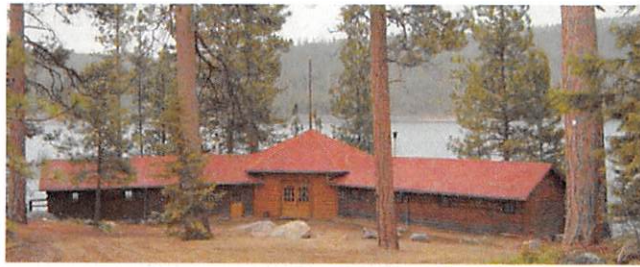
Recreation Fee Proposal

The Bitterroot National Forest is interested in receiving your comments on a proposal to begin charging fees at two campgrounds and one rental cabin; and increasing fees at several additional existing campgrounds, group sites, and rental cabins.

As part of a Region-wide effort, these fee changes are being proposed to support the Forest's ability to continue providing high levels of service to visitors at popular recreation sites. The Forest has invested in items such as potable water, increased recreation site capacity and amenities at group sites and shelters, improved toilet facilities, and new picnic tables and other infrastructure.

The proposed fee changes better align prices with the services and amenities provided, the cost of operations and maintenance, and comparable market assessment. These funds provide critical support to providing high-quality recreation experiences and fund maintenance and improvement of facilities and trails. Not all recreation sites are fee sites; in fact, most recreation sites across the Forest do not require a fee.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) which allows the Forest to retain 80–95 percent of the revenue collected at recreation fee sites and reinvest that money into the sites where the fees are collected. The Forest Service also works with partners and volunteers to leverage fee dollars to complete projects such as cabin and lookout improvements and education efforts.



Fee Changes

Cabin Rentals	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Lost Horse Guard Station	N/A	\$50.00
East Fork Guard Station	\$30.00	\$50.00
Magruder Ranger's House	\$50.00	\$100.00
Woods Cabin	\$60.00	\$100.00 Peak season
Campgrounds	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Sam Billings Memorial	Free	\$10.00
Slate Creek	Free	\$10.00
Lake Como	\$16.00 + \$5.00 h/u	\$25.00
Alta	\$8.00	\$15.00
Charles Waters	\$10.00	\$15.00
Indian Trees	\$10.00	\$15.00
Rombo	\$8.00	\$15.00
Spring Gulch	\$12.00	\$15.00
Crazy Creek	\$8.00	\$12.00
Martin Creek	\$8.00	\$12.00
Rock Creek Horse	\$8.00	\$12.00
Three Frogs	\$8.00	\$12.00
Warm Springs	\$8.00	\$12.00
Group Sites	Current Fee	Proposed Fee
Three Sisters-Lake Como	\$25 +\$5/vehicle >5	\$75
Fales Flat	\$15.00	\$30.00
Larry Creek	\$30.00	\$75.00

General Information

A \$5.00 extra vehicle fee is also being proposed for all campgrounds (not including group sites). Extra vehicle fees will be assessed for more than two vehicles per site.

New & increased fees will help ensure that the Forest can continue to maintain and improve these sites for future generations and provide a high level of service to Forest visitors at these sites

The majority of recreation opportunities and sites across the Forest will remain free

Several of the sites proposed for fee changes are available for advance reservation, which can be made through www.recreation.gov

Interagency Passes will continue to be valid for day-use at the Lake Como Recreation Area, including the Annual, Senior, Access, Military and 4th Grade Passes

This proposal and public comments received will be presented to the Western Montana Bureau of Land Management Resource Advisory Council (RAC) prior to a final decision and implementation.

If recommended and approved, fee changes are anticipated to be implemented in May, 2018.

