

Campground Facts

USDA Forest Service · Pacific Southwest Region, Lassen National Forest



Management of Recreation Facilities for 2004

What is different this year? The Lassen National Forest has 33 campgrounds, ten day use areas, five boat launches, and four other facilities. For the past ten years, the majority of these facilities were managed by the Chico Research Foundation under a special use authorization. Last fall, the Foundation announced they no longer wished to operate the Lassen's recreation facilities. Currently, the Forest Service is seeking another concessionaire to manage our recreation sites. Announcement of the new concessionaire is anticipated in late fall 2004, or early winter 2005. Until the new concessionaire is selected, the Forest Service will be managing our campgrounds under the Fee Demonstration Authority, which allows the Forest Service to collect campground fees and use most of those fees to offset our operations and maintenance costs, and to improve facilities, as funding allows.

How are your fees being used? The forest has hired temporary employees to operate and maintain the facilities, as well as recruit volunteers to provide visitor information and campground oversight. We are covering the considerable expenses for trash disposal, utilities, water testing, and pumping toilets, as well as cleaning and maintenance supplies. Due to the rising cost of fuel and materials, these operating expenses rise each year, and a slight increase in camping fees is necessary to meet these. We have strived to keep our rates below or at parity with comparable local facilities in the state and private sectors. Finally, although our popular non-fee sites (day use areas, trailheads, vista points and information centers) are not supported by fee demonstration authority, the forest is committed to keeping these open for your continued enjoyment.

What Campground Improvements Will be Made? If you are a regular visitor to the Lassen National Forest, you have probably noticed facility improvements in many locations over the past several years. Some of these include:

- New, handicapped accessible restrooms
- New picnic tables and fire rings
- New footbridges
- Pavement repairs to campground roads and spurs
- New visitor information signs
- New water systems and hand-pumps
- New RV dump station

As funding allows, your fees will allow us to continue to make needed repairs and improvements in additional locations. For example, this year we will be replacing the restroom roofs at Hat and Cave Campgrounds to prevent water damage. Although we know that no one likes paying higher fees, deferred maintenance at our campgrounds is a growing concern. We are working to upgrade our facilities to meet critical health, safety, and accessibility standards, as well as to maintain essential visitor services. We appreciate your understanding and support as we work to achieve these goals now, and in the future.

Do you have concerns or comments? We welcome your comments at any time and will do our best to improve our customer service to you. Please contact one of the individuals below.

For More Information: To find out more about management of recreation facilities on the Lassen National Forest, please contact the following staff:

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Or, go to our web page on the Internet at: <http://www.fs.fed.us/r5/lassen/>