



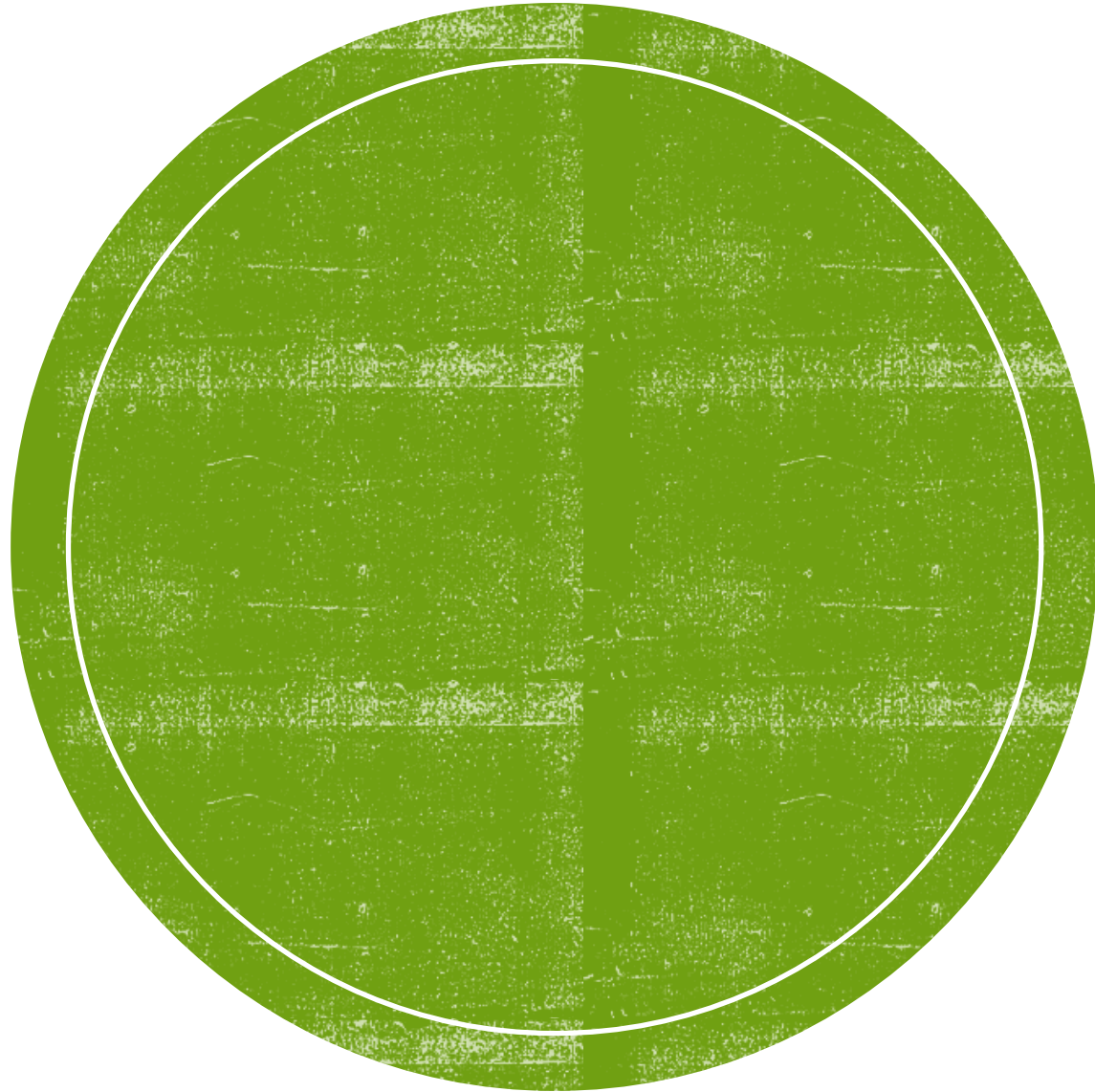
Forests involved in fee proposals presentation:

- Gila National Forest
- Lincoln National Forest
- Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands

Developed Recreation Fee Proposals Public Outreach 2019-2021

Southern New Mexico BLM Resource Advisory Committee 2023

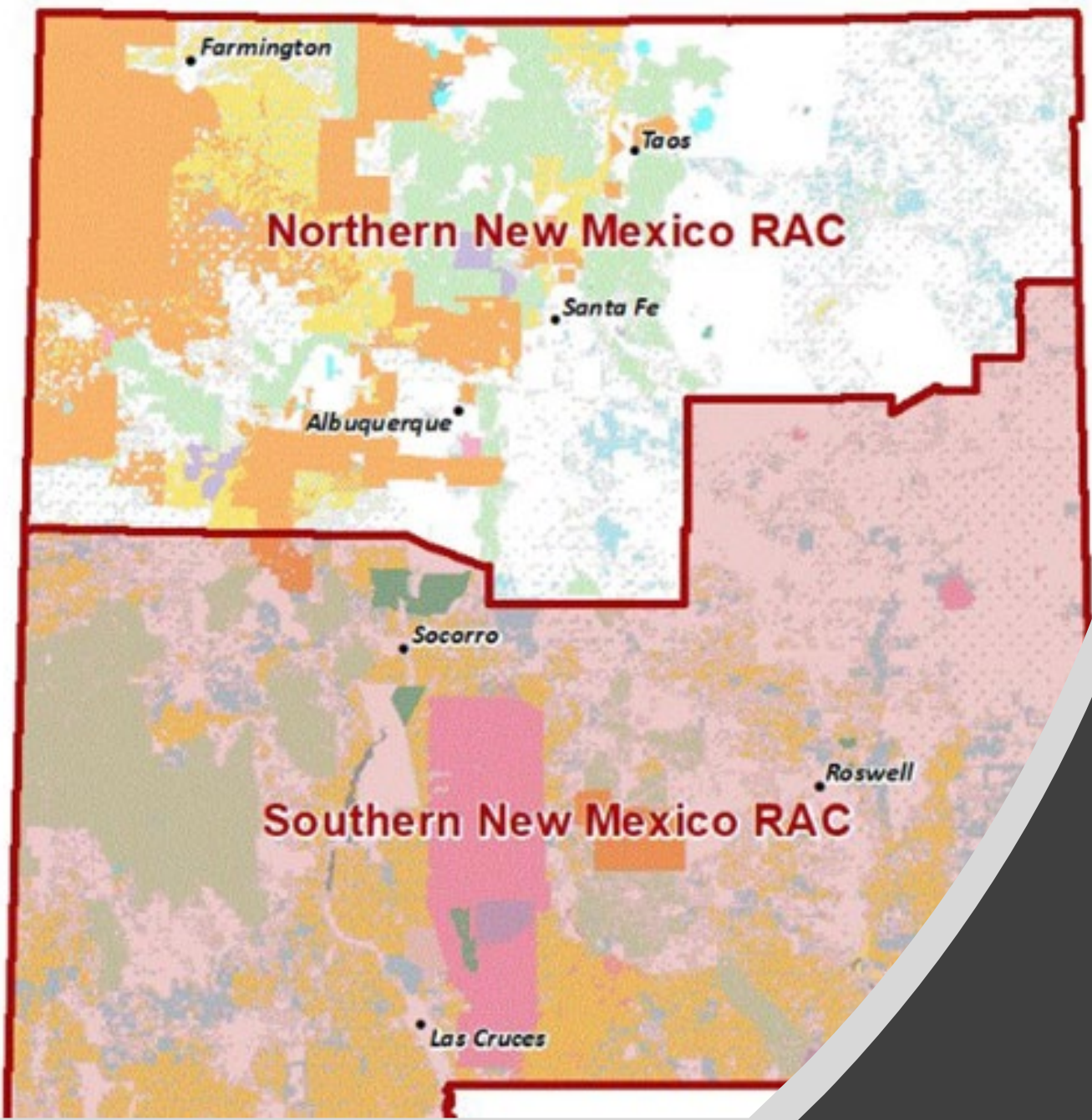




- Overview of the Forests
- How fees are used
- Overview of Forests fee proposals
- Your Fees at Work Examples
- Public Engagement
- How comments changed the fee proposal
- Question/Comments?

Forest Service Southwestern Region

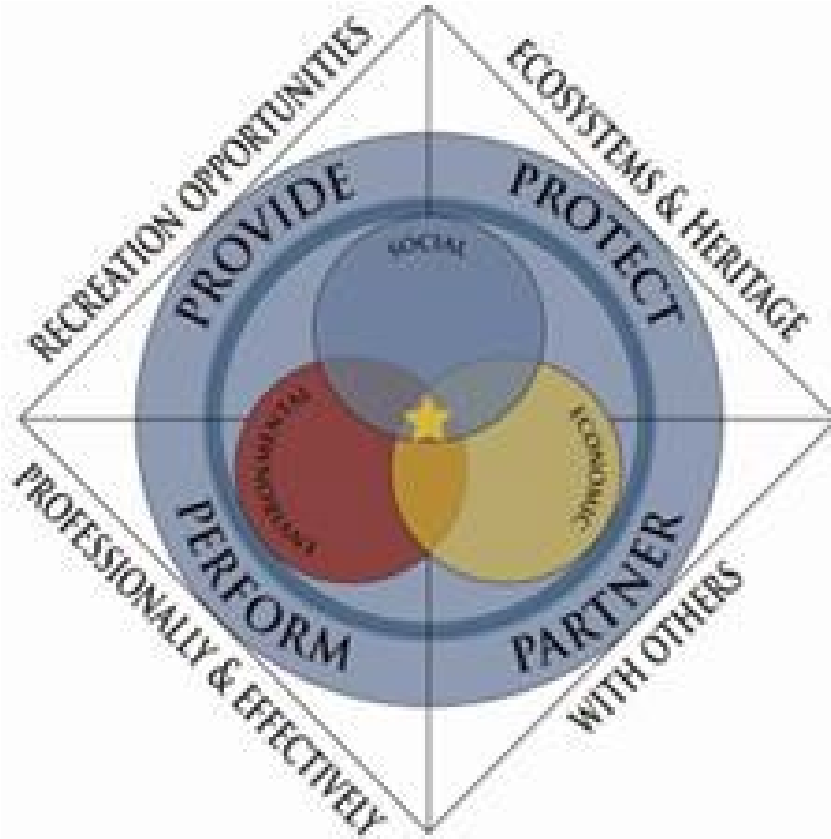




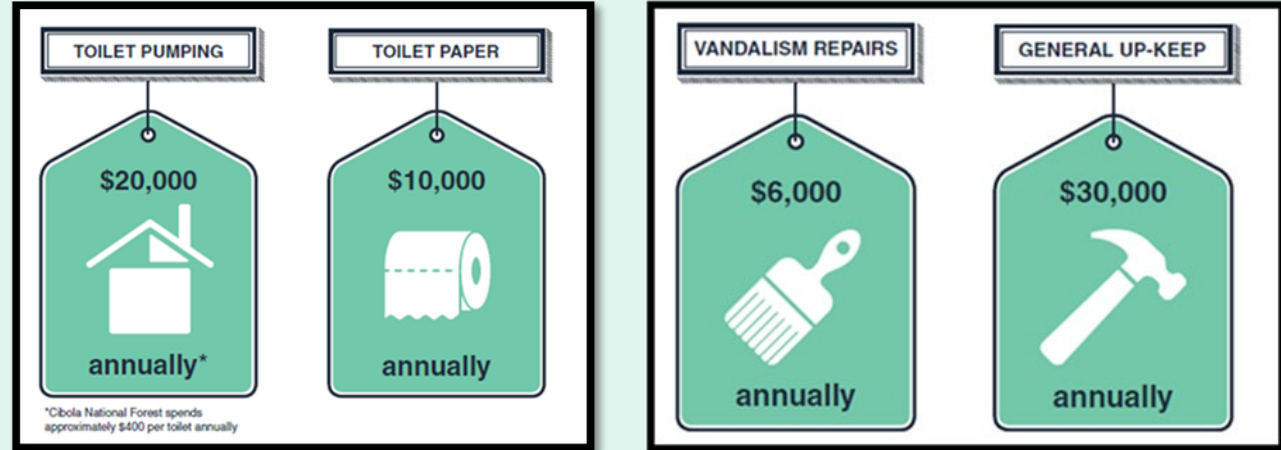
New Mexico Resource Advisory Committee

Southwestern Regional Sustainable Recreation Strategy

- This innovative strategy sustains American's great outdoors and builds greater capacity to serve the citizens of the southwest by focusing the recreation program on building strong relationship with our diverse publics who enjoy and actively care for the National Forests of the southwest while improving our effectiveness and program resiliency.
- The New Mexico National Forests strive to provide the public with high-quality recreation opportunities. However, increased forest visitations, the increasing cost of maintenance and operations, and the decline of budget allocations present challenges to maintaining developed recreation sites up to date.
- New Mexico Forests have not made significant changes to their recreation fee programs since the passage of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act in 2004.



How Fees Are Used



95%



Repair, maintain, and enhance facilities related directly to visitor access, and health and safety.



Interpretation, visitor information, visitor services, visitor needs assessments, and signs.



Law enforcement related to visitor use.



Habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation including hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, and photography.



Direct operating associated with the recreation fee program.

How are developed recreation fees set?



PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT



MARKET ANALYSIS

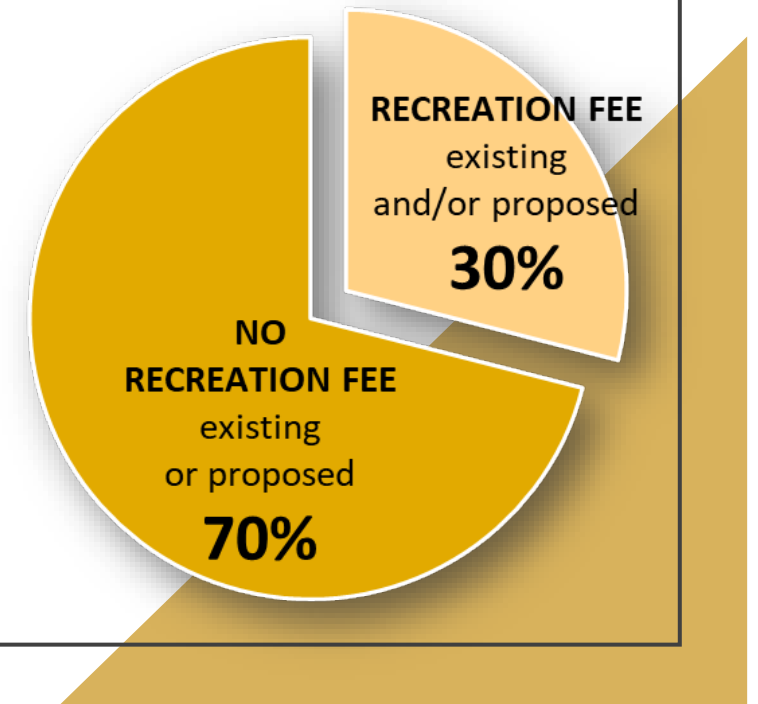
Gila National Forest

- Over 3 million acres
- According to our 2021 National Visitor Use Survey the Gila NF receives approximately 650,000 visitors annually
- 40 Developed Campgrounds
- 29 Developed Campgrounds are free
- The Gila National Forest offers many natural attractions to the visitor. Each provides a unique experience. These range from accessible trails at the Catwalk, historical insights at the Gila Cliff Dwellings, or the serenity of exploring in the wilderness.

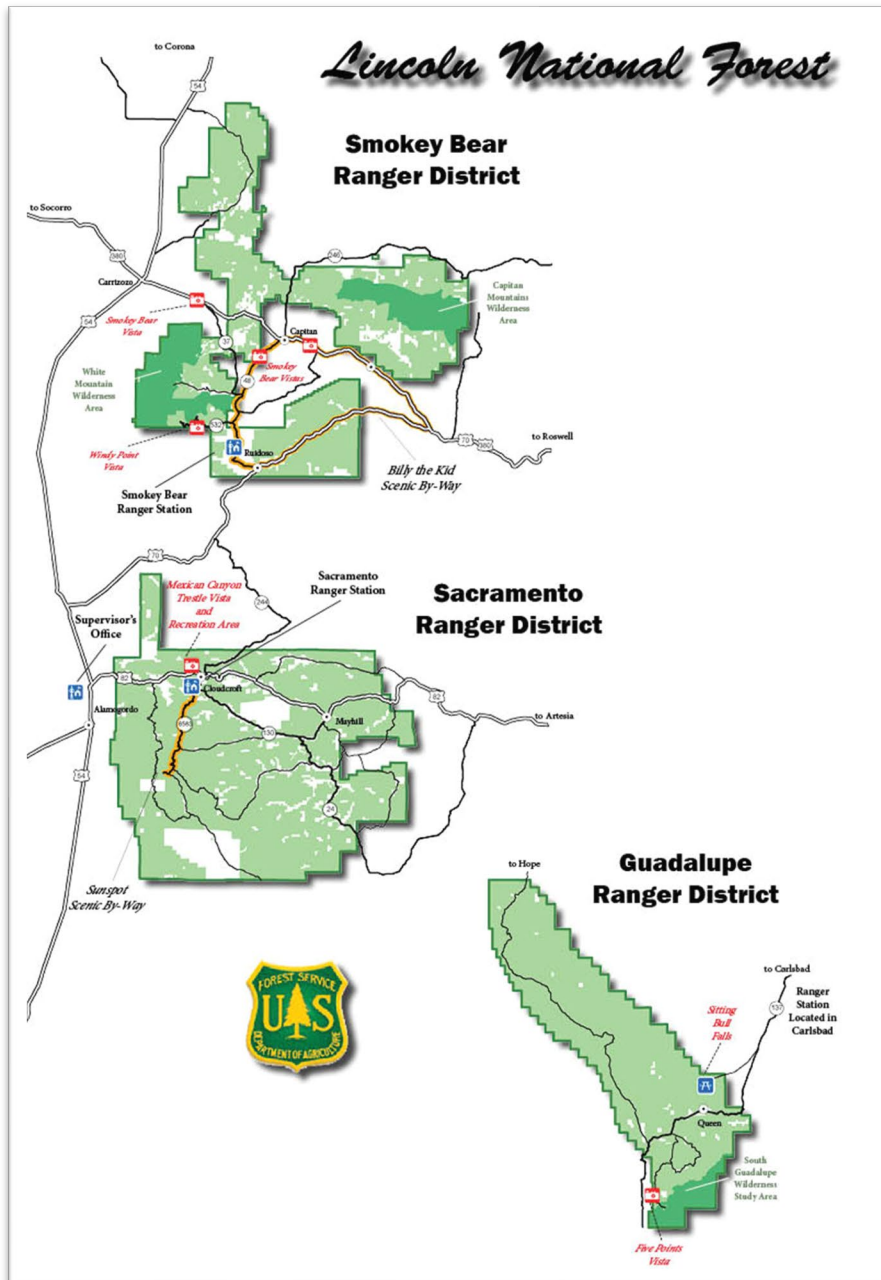


Overview of Fee Proposal – Gila NF

Site Type	New Fees	Fee Increases
Day Use Sites	0 sites	1 site
Campgrounds	19 campgrounds	5 campgrounds
Group Day Use Sites	0 sites	3 sites
Group Campgrounds	1 site	1 site
Rental Cabins/Lookout	3 cabins	0 cabins
Dump Stations	1 site	1 site
Totals:	25 new fees	11 fee increases



36 fee proposal changes for Southern NM RAC to review



Lincoln National Forest

- 1.1 million acres
- One million visitors annually
- 7 developed recreation sites are free
- Elevations range from 4,000 to 11,500 feet and pass through five life zones from Chihuahuan desert to sub-alpine forest. It offers a range of recreational activities including hiking, picnicking, mountain biking, camping, and dirt bike riding. It is also home to Smokey Bear who was found on the Lincoln National Forest in 1950.

Overview of Fee Proposal – Lincoln NF

Site Type	New Fees	Fee Increases	Fee Decreases
Day Use Sites	3 sites	1 sites	0 sites
Campgrounds	0 single sites 0 extra vehicle fees	3 single sites 0 extra vehicle fees	0 single sites 2 extra vehicle fees
Group Day Use Sites	1 site	1 site	0 sites
Group Campgrounds	0 sites	5 campgrounds	0 sites
Totals:	4 new fees	10 fee increases	2 fee decreases

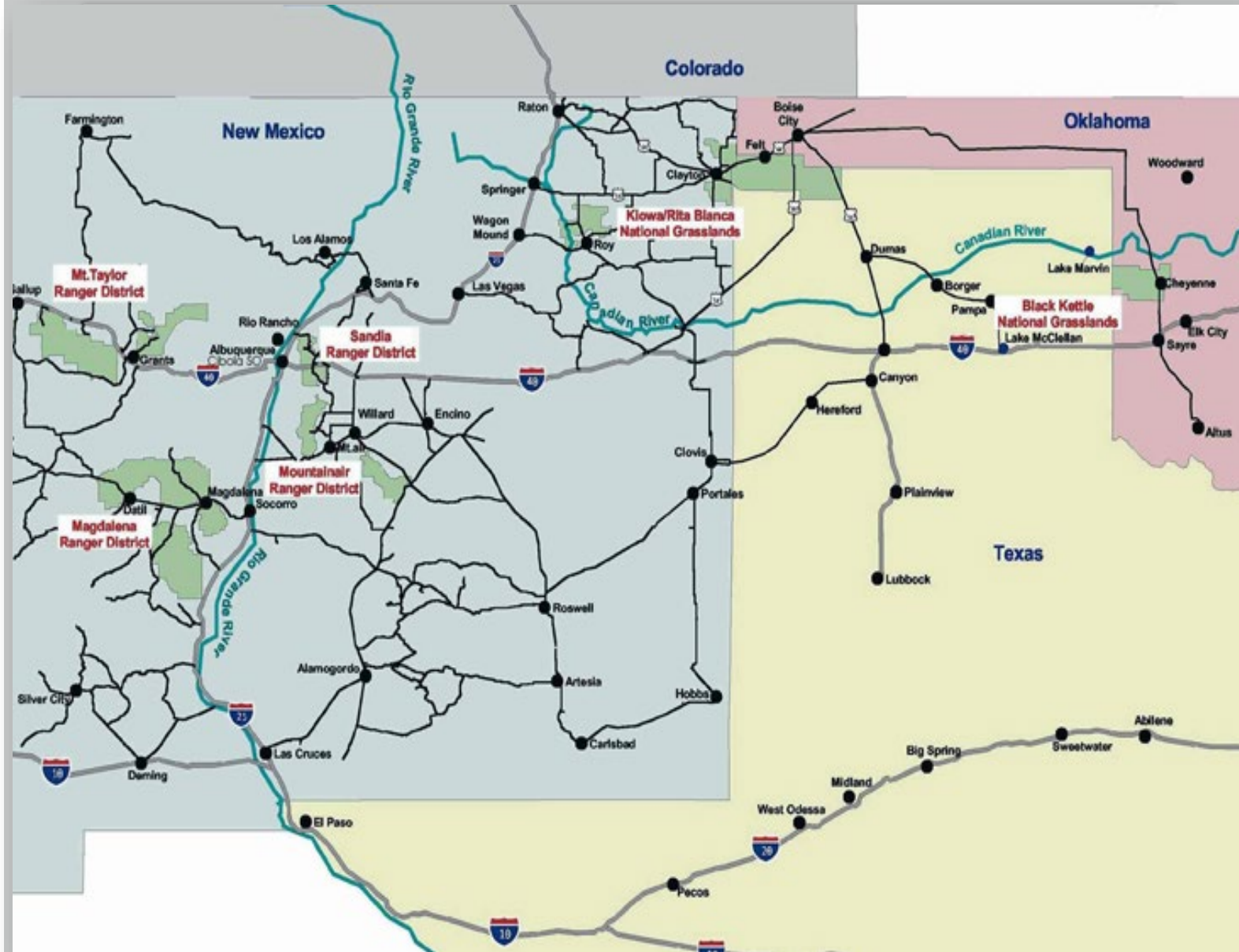
16 fee proposal changes for Southern NM RAC to review



Cibola National Forest

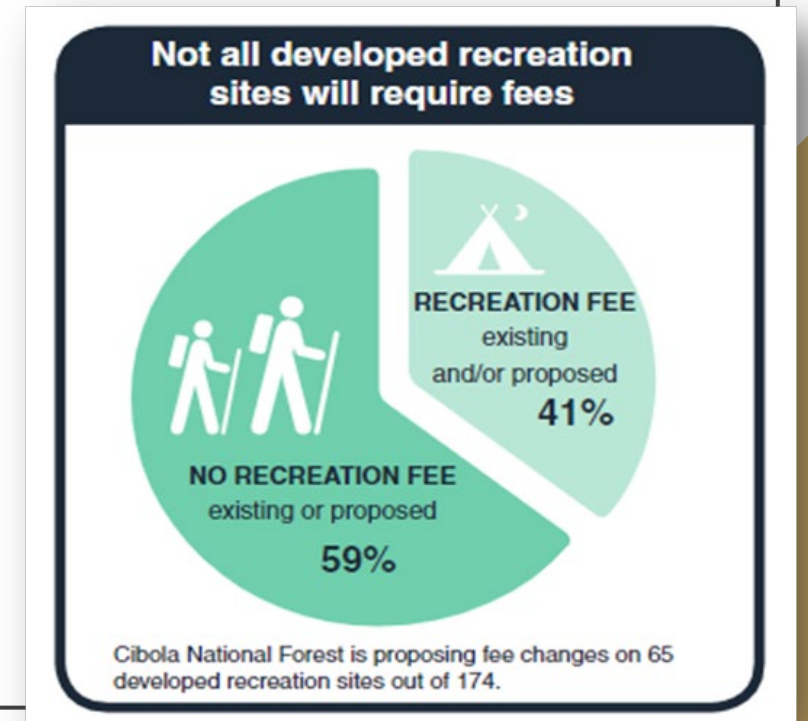
Visitors to the Cibola experience a variety of unique year-round recreational opportunities spanning over three states. The Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands oversees:

- 1.8 million acres
- 1.8 million visitors
- 174 Developed Recreation Sites including experiences for:
 - Picnicking
 - Camping
 - Sight Seeing/Scenic Drives
 - Climbing
 - Fishing
 - Trails (motorized/non-motorized)
 - Interpretive/Educational Sites



Overview of Fee Proposal – Cibola NF

Site Type	New Fees	Fee Increases
Day Use Sites	1 site	0 sites
Campgrounds	1 site	0 sites
Group Day Use Sites	1 site	0 sites
Group Campground	1 site	0 sites
Totals:	4 new fees	0 fee increases



4 fee proposal changes for Southern NM RAC to review

Overview of Fee Proposal – All Forests

Site Type	New Fees	Fee Increases	Fee Decreases
Day Use Sites	4 sites	2 sites	0 sites
Campgrounds	20 campgrounds 0 extra vehicle fees	8 campgrounds 0 extra vehicle fees	0 campgrounds 2 extra vehicle fees
Group Day Use Sites	2 sites	4 sites	0 sites
Group Campgrounds	2 sites	6 sites	0 sites
Cabins/Lookouts	3 cabins	0 cabins	0 sites
Dump Stations	1 site	1 site	0 sites
New Mexico Enchantment Pass	1 pass	0 sites	0 sites
Totals:	33 new fees	21 fee increases	2 fee decreases

56 proposed fee changes for Southern NM RAC to review

What is the Proposed Enchantment Pass?

- Convenient payment option for unlimited use, during the season of operation, of most developed day use fee sites (proposed and existing) throughout the Forests in New Mexico.
- A proposed fee of \$40 for an annual pass and \$5 for a daily pass.
- Visitors can also accrue 24 volunteer hours annually to receive free pass.
- Purchase online, through vendors, or at local Offices.

Expires DEC NOV OCT SEP AUG JUL JUN MAY APR MAR FEB JAN 2024



Fee Free Days and Passes

National Fee Free Days:

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- President's Day
- National Get Outdoors Day
- National Public Lands Day
- Veterans Day



Interagency & Enchantment Passes



Amenities & Services That Change the Price

\$10 Campgrounds

- Remote Location
- Fee Station/Reservation
- Fire Ring/Grill
- Picnic Tables
- Garbage Receptacle*
- Gravel Road/Parking
- Vault Toilet
- Employee Presence

\$15 Campgrounds

- All \$10 amenities plus....
- Drinking Water
- Host Present

\$20 Campgrounds

- All \$10 and \$15 amenities plus...
- Reservations
- Combo Fire Ring/Grill
- Paved Road/Parking
- Tent Pads
- Interpretive Kiosk
- RV Hookups Available

Campgrounds

\$10 Single Site
\$5 Extra Vehicle

Gila National Forest

- \$10 Single Site
- 19 campgrounds



Lincoln National Forest

- \$10 Single Site
- \$5 Extra Vehicle
- 1 campground



Cibola National Forest

- \$10 Single Site
- 1 campground



Campgrounds

\$15 Single Site
\$25 Double Site
\$25 Site with
Hookups
\$5 Extra Vehicle

Gila National Forest

- \$15 Single Site
- \$25 Double Site
- \$25 Site with Hookups
 - 4 campgrounds



Lincoln National Forest

- \$15 Single Site
 - 1 campground



Cibola National Forest

- none

Campgrounds

\$20 Single Site
\$5 Extra Vehicle

Gila National Forest

- none

Lincoln National Forest

- \$20 Single Site
- \$5 Extra Vehicle
 - 1 campground



Cibola National Forest

- none

Day Use \$5 per vehicle/day

• Amenities Required:

- Toilet Facility
- Interpretive Kiosk
- Garbage Receptacle
- Picnic Tables
- Gravel Road/Paved Parking
- Forest Service Presence

Gila National Forest

- 1 site



Lincoln National Forest

- 4 sites



Cibola National Forest

- 1 sites



Lincoln National Forest – Sitting Bull Falls Picnic Site

- Current Fee:
 - \$5 per day
 - \$10 per large vehicle (15+)
- Proposed Fee:
 - \$10 per day
 - \$25 per large vehicle (15+)



Gila National Forest Dump Stations

Quemado Lake – Pinon Dump Station

- Current Fee: \$5 per use
- Proposed Fee: \$15 per use

Mesa Dump Station

- Current Fee: \$0 per use
- Proposed Fee: \$15 per use



Group Day Use



Gila National Forest

Site Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	Accommodate
Gomez Peak	\$40	\$100	Up to 100 people
	\$40	\$200	Up to 200 people
Little Walnut	\$20	\$50	Up to 50 people
	\$25	\$75	Up to 75 people

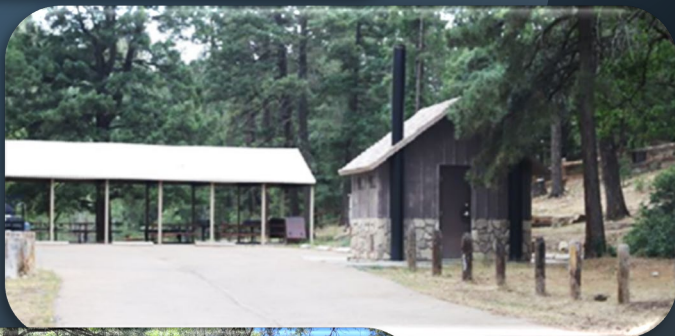
Lincoln National Forest

Site Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	Accommodate
Cedar Creek	\$25	\$40	Up to 40 people
Sitting Bull Falls	\$0	\$40	Up to 25 people

Cibola National Forest

Site Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	Accommodate
Water Canyon	\$0	\$35	Up to 35 people

Group Campground



Gila National Forest

Site Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	Accommodate
Cosmic	\$0	\$100	Up to 100 people
Quemado Lake – Pinyon	\$35	\$50	Up to 30 people
	\$55	\$125	Up to 75 people

Lincoln National Forest

Site Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	Accommodate
Slide	\$108-\$135	\$125	Up to 100 people
Aspen	\$108-\$135	\$125	Up to 70 people
Black Bear	\$108-\$135	\$125	Up to 70 people
Lower Fir	\$108-\$135	\$125	Up to 70 people
Sam Tobias Memorial	\$95-\$120	\$125	Up to 100 people

Cibola National Forest

Site Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	Accommodate
Water Canyon	\$0	\$50	Up to 75 people

Cabin and Lookouts



Gila National Forest

Site Name	Current Price	Proposed Price	Accommodate
Kingston Work Center	\$0	\$150	Up to 8 people
Negrito Fire Lookout	\$0	\$50	Up to 5 people
Willow Creek	\$0	\$125	Up to 8 people

Lincoln National Forest

None

Cibola National Forest

None

Overview of Public Involvement New Mexico State-Wide





NOTICE Recreation Fee Proposal



The Tres Piedras Ranger District is considering a recreation fee proposal which would change fees for the following recreation sites.

We are seeking your input.

How can I get more information or provide a comment?

Site Name	Site Type	Current Fee
Hopewell	Campground	\$0 extra \$16
	Group Over	



Requesting Public Comments on Proposed Recreation Fees and Management

The Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands is looking for public input on proposed changes to the management of the developed recreation program. These changes will impact campgrounds and day-use sites on the Carson, Gila, Lincoln, and Santa Fe National Forests, and the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands. Different management options are being considered, including adding new recreation fees, increasing recreation fees, offering an annual day-use recreation site pass, eliminating, or repurposing some developed recreation sites, and collaborating on some recreation site operations with volunteers.

"Over 1.8 million visitors to the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands each year, we are seeking input from our forest users, from locals to visitors, on ways to sustainably manage the land and provide high quality recreation opportunities," said Jessica Dunn, Recreation Fee Program Manager for the Cibola National Forest. "Developed recreation site fees will help to enhance our developed recreation sites as the funds stay at the forest level to support recreation sites for the visitor's benefit."

"We will continue to operate and maintain a variety of campgrounds and day-use sites that offer limited amenities and visitor services but are free of day-use recreation fees. In exchange, these recreation areas offer visitor

REGISTER

Department of the United States Government



Comment Period December 19, 2019, to September 30, 2021

The Carson National Forest Wants Your Comments on Proposed Recreation Fees and Management

Release Date: Jan 21, 2020

Taos, NM - January 21, 2020 - The Carson National Forest is looking for public input on proposed changes to the management of the developed recreation program. These changes will impact campgrounds and day-use sites on the Carson, Gila, Lincoln, and Santa Fe National Forests, and the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands. Several different management options are being considered, including adding new recreation fees, increasing recreation fees, eliminating or repurposing some developed recreation sites, and collaborating on management of some sites with volunteers, partners or concessionaires.

"To offer quality recreation experiences and serve our public better, we need public input and ideas on other methods that may help cut costs and leverage resources for managing developed recreation facilities," said Jeremy Golston, Recreation Fee Program Manager for the USDA Forest Service Southwestern Region. "Public participation will give us the opportunity to hear from all forest users; visitors, partners, tribes, elected officials and community members."

"The Carson National Forest offers diverse recreational opportunities to over 700,000 visitors annually. They get an

Alerts & Announcements

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Proposed New Fee Site(s)

the Forest Service on 03/07/2022

PUBLISHED DOCUMENT

AGENCY:

Forest Service, Agriculture (USDA).

ACTION:

DOCUMENT DETAILS

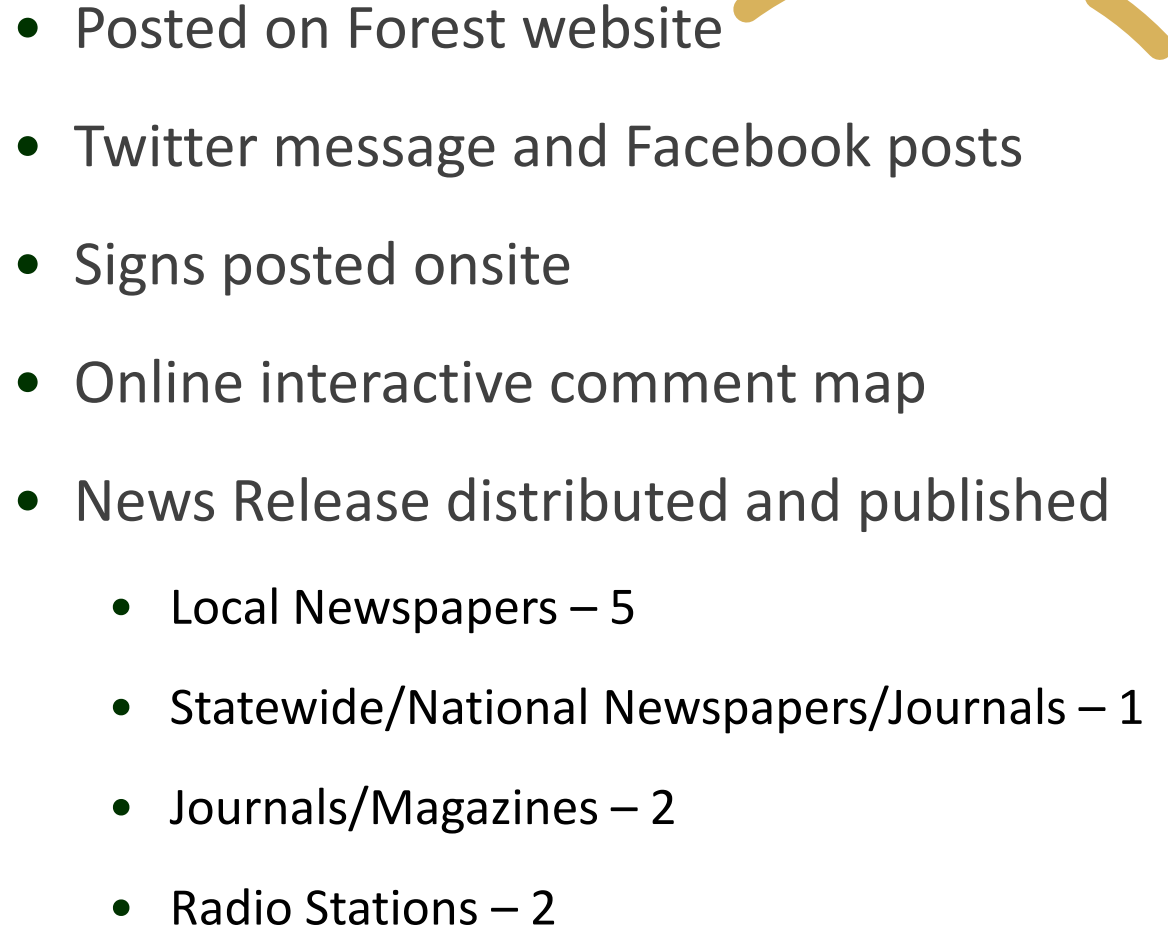
Printed version:
[PDF](#)

Publication Date:
03/07/2022

Notice



Public Involvement Actions

- 
- Posted on Forest website
 - Twitter message and Facebook posts
 - Signs posted onsite
 - Online interactive comment map
 - News Release distributed and published
 - Local Newspapers – 5
 - Statewide/National Newspapers/Journals – 1
 - Journals/Magazines – 2
 - Radio Stations – 2

Public Outreach Samples



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USFS May Raise Fees at New Mexico's 5 Nat. Forests

By: Woodall's Campground Magazine | Published on: Jan 29, 2020 | Categories: Industry News | 0 comments

Ruidoso News

NEWS

USDA Forest Service continues with recreation fee proposal for Lincoln National Forest

Jonah Gallegos Ruidoso News
Published 3:10 p.m. MT Sept. 9, 2021 | Updated 3:17 p.m. MT Sept. 9, 2021

The United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service announced a proposal of new, increased and decreased recreation fees on five national forests in New Mexico.

Those national forests are Carson, Gila, Lincoln and Santa Fe national forests as well as the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands.

On Wednesday, the Forest Service Southwestern Region hosted a virtual public meeting to discuss the fee increases and allowed the public to ask questions concerning the changes.


More: Comments sought on draft environmental plan for Lincoln National Forest

Public comment centered on where increased or new fees would go and how the Forest Service structures those fees.

"Our fee structure, is based on what we have been charging in the past, but then we actually go out and do an assessment based on what the private entities are charging as well," USDA Forest Service Public Affairs Officer Laura Rabon said.

"And we do some comparison to see if we're affordable – if maybe we're charging too much, if maybe we're charging a little bit too little."

US forests in New Mexico consider new recreation fees



The Associated Press
Created January 22, 2020 09:24 AM

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Federal land managers are proposing adding new recreation fees, increasing some fees and doing away with developed recreational sites around New Mexico that are managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The agency is seeking comment on proposed changes that would affect campgrounds and day-use sites on the Carson, Cibola, Gila, Lincoln and Santa Fe national forests.



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SFNF: Public Comment On Proposed Recreation Fees

Submitted by Chris Clark on January 22, 2020 - 8:11 am

SFNF News:

SANTA FE — The Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF) is looking for public input on proposed changes to the management of the developed recreation program.

These changes will impact campgrounds and day-use sites on all five national forests in New Mexico — the Carson, Gila, Lincoln and Santa Fe National Forests and the Cibola National Forest and National Grasslands.

Several different management options are being considered, including raising fees at some recreation sites, charging new fees at other sites, eliminating or repurposing some developed recreation sites, and collaborating with volunteers, partners or concessionaires to manage some sites.

"To offer quality recreation experiences and serve our public better, we need public input and ideas on other

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Developed Recreation Sites Under Consideration for Recre

How to Effectively Comment Using the Interactive Map

Please Share Your Feedback Using the Interactive Map

How to Use the Interactive Map:

- Click on the Home button to view all the developed recreation



General Comment Cibola National...

General Comment Cibola National Forest


Site Type	National Forest
Site Name	General Comment Cibola
District	
Forest Name	Cibola National Forest
Proposed Action	Leave a general comment for all sites in the Cibola National Forest
Amenities	
Fees	

Edited by TPCMAdmin on 12/4/19 at 1:18 PM

Online Interactive Comment Map



Public Involvement Actions and Briefings

- 
- Regional Forester Intertribal Roundtable
 - Virtual public meetings
 - September 8, 2021, from 5-6 pm
 - 20 public attendees
 - Meeting was divided into three sections:
 1. A brief presentation about how the fee proposals fit within the Recreation Enhancement Act
 2. Quick briefing by each forest about their specific proposals
 3. Public comment period and how to comment



Cibola National Forest

YOUR FEES AT WORK!



Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands



Recreation of Tomorrow



Collected fees help campground managers evaluate use trends in developed sites and modify the area to better meet the needs of today's visitors.

Never a dull moment.. for upkeep and maintenance

From the removal of hazard trees to keeping the power on, the Cibola uses fees collected for site operation, maintenance and upkeep. Notable Projects and Operational investments include:



- Supporting Volunteer Efforts
- Repairing Site Infrastructure/Utilities
- Supporting Law Enforcement Efforts
- Supporting Site Redesign Efforts
- Modernizing Signage and Fee Collection Efforts
- Averaging an estimated \$250,000 reinvested annually.



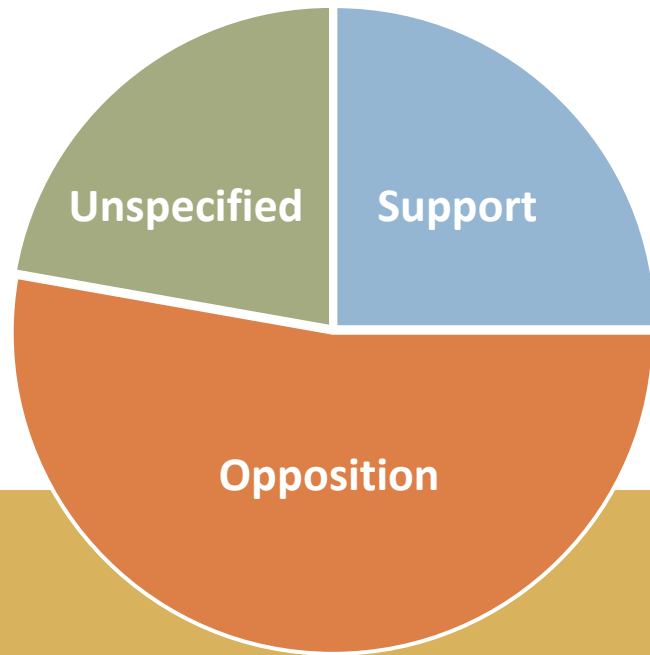
Public Involvement Actions and Briefings

Cibola NF and National Grasslands



- Federal Register Notice published January 3, 2022
- Congressional Delegation
- 30 County Commissioners
- 22 Tribal Governments
- Other Groups:
 - Mountainair Collaborative Group
 - Cibola Collaborative Group
 - Mt Taylor Collaborative Group
 - Sandia Collaborative Group
 - Cibola Amigos Friends Group

Public Involvement Results and Changes to Proposal Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands



Overview of Comments

- 36 Individual Comments Received
 - 9 Supportive
 - 19 Opposition
 - 4 Oppose due to taxes paid
 - 7 Opposed due to questioning management practices
 - 2 Opposed due to economically challenging times
 - 1 Opposed mixing non-fee and fee sites(one or the other)
 - 4 Opposed wanting to maintain free access
 - 1 Generally Opposed
 - 8 Unspecified or asked questions
- Water Canyon specific comments
 - Taxes already paid
 - Want to maintain free access

Changes to Fee Proposal

- No changes to fee proposal.



Gila National Forest

RECREATION FEES AT WORK ON THE GILA NF



Clean and Safe Water!

The Forest used recreation fee funds to improve the potable water system at Dripping Vat Campground including replacing valves, installing a new well access cover and a new water hydrant for water quality testing.

Recreation Site Operations

- Restocking toilet paper
- Trash pick up and removal
- Cleaning and sanitizing toilets
- Maintaining trails
- Addressing safety hazards
- Repairing damaged and vandalized amenities
- Providing visitor information and interpretive services
- Supporting volunteer campground hosts

Modernization Projects

Catwalk Recreation Area

- Constructed retaining wall along accessible sidewalk
- Removed overgrown vegetation

Dipping Vat Campground

- Constructed accessible ramp to restroom
- Improved road surface and drainage
- Installed new roofs and new restroom facility
- Upgraded and replaced information kiosk

Upper End Campground

- Installed speed bumps for visitor safety
- Removed invasive elm trees



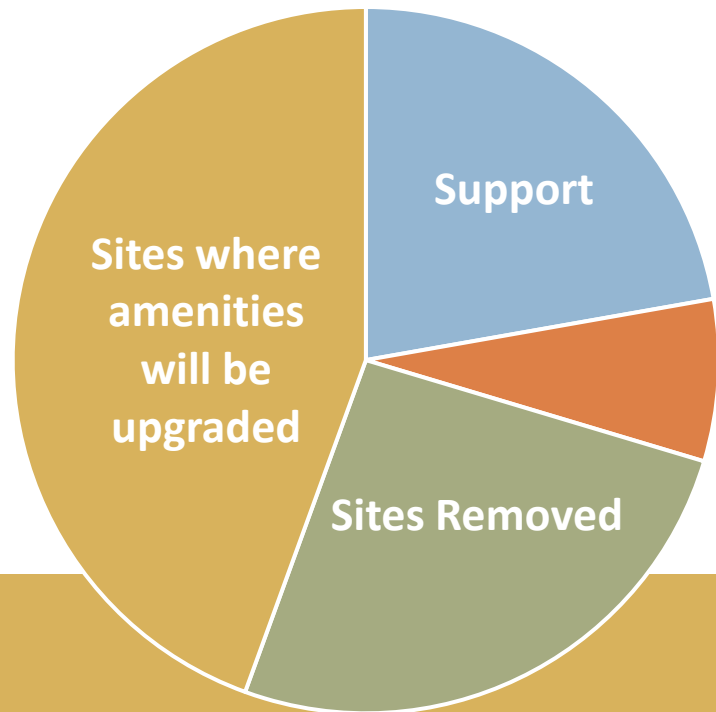
Public Involvement Actions and Briefings

Gila National Forest

- Federal Register Notice published February 22, 2022
- Congressional Delegation
- Grant, Sierra, Hidalgo, and Catron County Commissioners
- 12 Tribes
- Emailed approximately 300 constituents



Public Involvement Results and Changes to Proposal Gila National Forest



Overview of Comments

- 38 comments received
 - 6 Supportive as long as fees were invested in sites
 - 2 Conditional Support as long as amenities are upgraded
- 19 opposition
 - 7 Sites were removed after public comment analysis
 - Majority of campgrounds will receive upgraded amenities before fees are implemented

Changes to Fee Proposal

Removed the following sites:

- Gila Visitor Center Dump Station
- Lower Scorpion Campground
- Upper Scorpion Campground
- Lake Roberts Recreation Area Day Use - both picnic and boating fees
- Quemado Lake Recreation Area Day Use - both fishing and boating fees
- Snow Lake Recreation Area Day Use - both picnic and boating fees
- Little Walnut Day Use
- Willow Creek Campground
- Wolf Hollow Campground
- Monument Cabin (burned in fire)

A photograph of a dense forest of tall, green evergreen trees under a clear blue sky. In the foreground, several trees are visible, some with bare branches. A large, semi-transparent circular graphic is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Lincoln National Forest' and a horizontal line below it.

Lincoln National Forest

YOUR RECREATION FEES AT WORK!

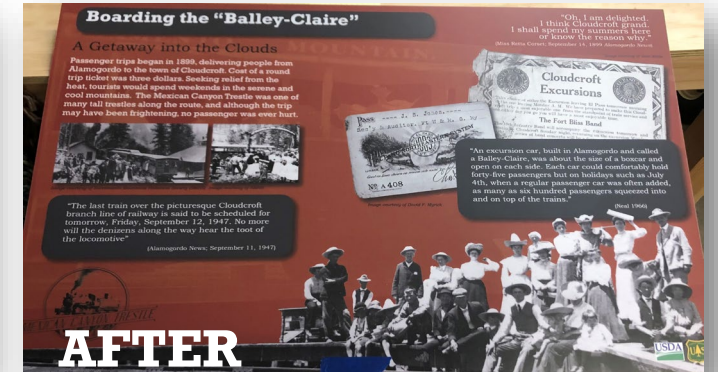
Lincoln National Forest

Major deferred maintenance project examples



Replacement Signs

Developed and ordered replacement signs for many disintegrated recreation sites with a sign contract.



Cedar Creek Roofing Replacement

In 2022 the Smokey Bear Ranger District used recreation fee dollars to replace decayed cedar shake roofing with fireproof metal roofing for 3 pavilions in the Sam Tobias Memorial Group Campgrounds.



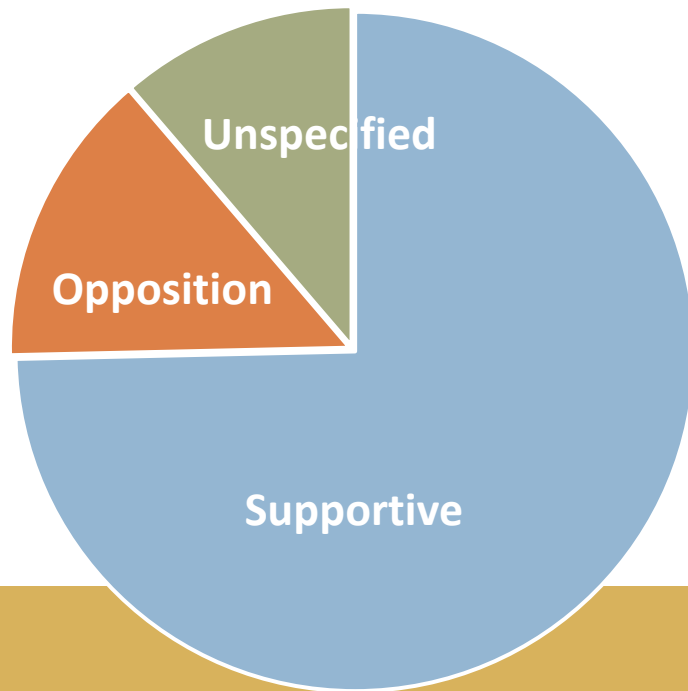
Public Involvement Actions and Briefings

Lincoln National Forest



- Federal Register Notice published December 28, 2021
- Congressional Delegation
- Eddy, Otero, and Lincoln County Commissioners
- Mescalero Apache Tribe and Natural Resource Department of Mescalero Tribes
- Emailed forest interest groups and local organizations

Public Involvement Results and Changes to Proposal Lincoln National Forest



Overview of Comments

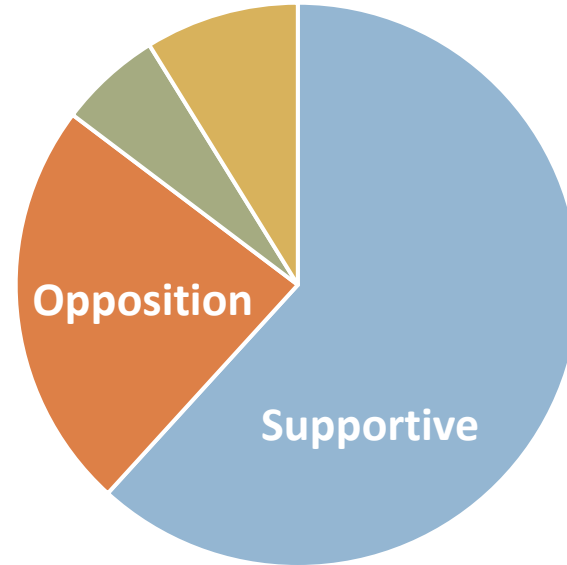
- 69 comments received
 - 53 Supportive
 - 10 Opposition
 - 6 Unspecified or asked questions

Changes to Fee Proposal

- Lowered the following sites:
 - Sitting Bull Falls Group Picnic Area lowered the fee proposal from \$50 to \$40 per day

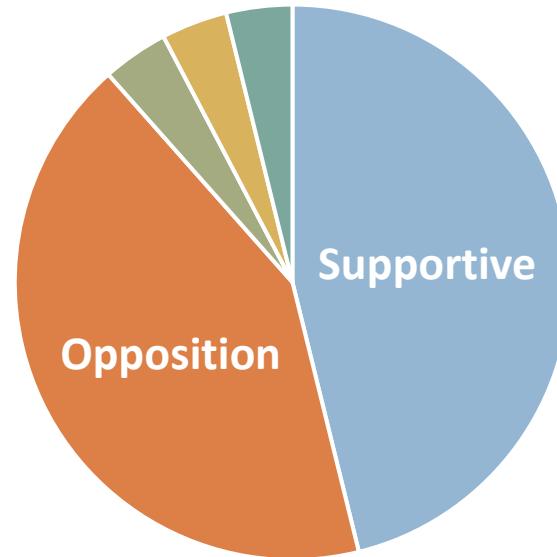
- **Enchantment Pass**

- 34 comments received
 - 21 Supportive
 - 8 Opposition
 - 2 Unspecified
 - 3 Question about proposal



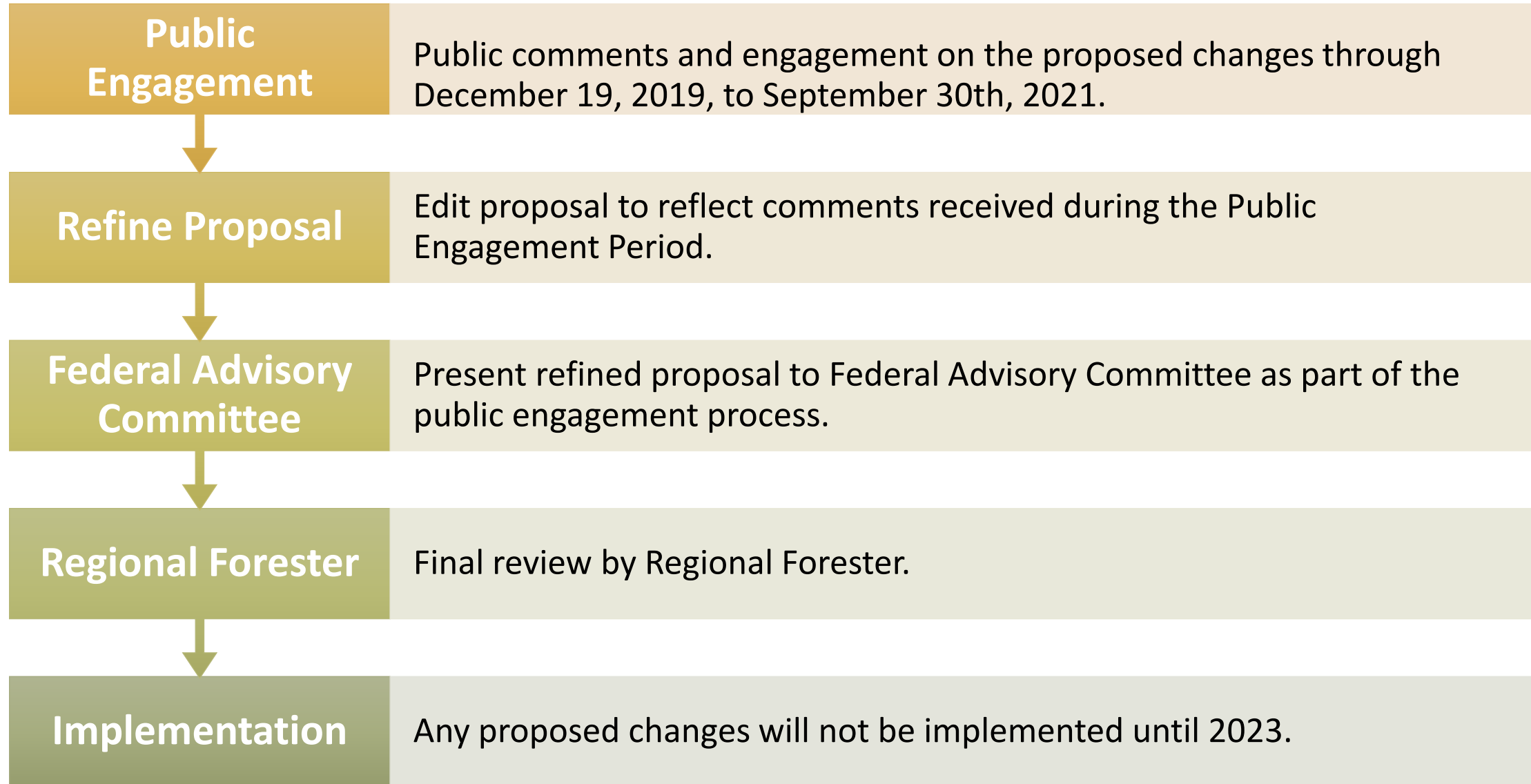
- **State-Wide Comments**

- 27 comments received
 - 12 Supportive
 - 11 Opposition
 - 2 Unspecified
 - 1 Questions about proposal
 - 1 Suggestions for proposal



Public
Involvement
Results –
State-Wide

Next Steps



Thoughts from Leadership

- Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness and Resource Regional Deputy Director- Zachary Parsons
- Gila National Forest – Camille Howes (Forest Supervisor)
- Lincoln National Forest – Travis Moseley (Forest Supervisor)
- Cibola National Forest & National Grasslands – Tina Cason (Magdalena District Ranger)





Questions
