



# News Release

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## Ashley National Forest Proposes Recreation Fee Increases and Additional Cabins for Rent

VERNAL, UTAH: The Ashley National Forest is interested in hearing your comments on a proposal to increase fees at one campground, one group site, three cabins and three yurts, along with new fee recreation opportunities being proposed on three additional cabins.

Currently, fees are collected at 89 recreation sites, which include 71 family campgrounds, 12 day use sites and six rental cabins and yurts. Sites where fees are charged have a higher level of amenity features than non-fee areas. Some of the amenities present are picnic tables, toilets, garbage collection, fire rings and interpretive displays.

“We have made improvements to many of our fee sites over the last 18 years,” said Kathy Paulin, recreation program manager for the Ashley National Forest. “Many of these improvements were possible because of fees collected at recreation sites. Increases in fees will help us continue to make improvements and provide quality recreation opportunities to visitors.”

Public comments will be accepted from June to the end of September 2014. To comment on these proposals, contact: Louis Haynes, Ashley National Forest, (435) 789-1181 or email [ljhaynes@fs.fed.us](mailto:ljhaynes@fs.fed.us). For detailed information on each site please visit [http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804959.pdf](http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprd3804959.pdf).

There are numerous recreation opportunities on the forest that are free, such as less developed campgrounds and dispersed camping sites, trails for travel by OHV, horses, and hiking, scenic driving, High Uintas Wilderness trips and numerous picnic and fishing sites. The Ashley has 171 developed recreation sites; 89 require fees and 82 are free.

<b>Proposed New Recreation Rentals *</b>			
<u>Cabins</u>	<u>Descriptor</u>	<u>Proposed Summer Fee</u>	<u>Proposed Winter Fee</u>
Moon Lake Guard Station	Cabin	\$60.00	Not for rent
Rock Creek Cabin	Apartment	\$100.00	\$100.00
Yellowstone Guard Station	Cabin Plus Bunkhouse	\$80.00	Not for rent

\* All of these sites could be reserved at [www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov) if the fees are approved.

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**Fee Proposal details for sites with existing fees:**

<u><i>Campground Name</i></u>	<u><i>Type</i></u>	<u><i>Current Fee</i></u>	<u><i>Proposed Fee</i></u>
Moon Lake	Single Site	\$10.00	\$20.00
	Double Site	\$20.00	\$32.00
<u><i>Group Use</i></u>	<u><i>Group Capacity</i></u>	<u><i>Current Fee</i></u>	<u><i>Proposed Fee</i></u>
Moon Lake	Groups up to 75	\$50.00	\$100.00
<u><i>Yurts, Cabins</i></u>	<u><i>Type</i></u>	<u><i>Current Fee</i></u>	<u><i>Proposed Fee</i></u>
Colton Guard Station	Cabin	\$40.00	\$60.00
Carters Military Yurt	Yurt	\$30.00	\$50.00
Grizzly Ridge Yurt	Yurt	\$30.00	\$50.00
Limber Flag Yurt	Yurt	\$30.00	\$50.00
Paradise Guard Station	Rustic Cabin	\$25.00	\$40.00
Trout Creek Guard Station	Cabin	\$35.00	\$60.00

“We want to know how fee increases might impact recreationists,” stated Kathy Paulin. “We are asking for people who recreate at the Ashley’s campgrounds, group sites and cabin rentals to give us feedback about the fee proposals.”

The fee increases would be consistent with inflationary costs as well as ensure that fees are more comparable to similar public and private sites in their respective areas. “We are proposing to have price consistency throughout the Forest at similar sites with similar amenities provided”, Kathy Paulin said.

The majority (95%) of the revenue collected at recreation fee sites remains on the forest to operate, maintain and improve the facilities and programs at the recreation sites. User-generated revenue supplements appropriated funds and helps the Ashley National Forest reinvest in recreation facilities that are important to the public.

All fee change proposals will be presented before a citizen’s advisory committee, called the Utah BLM Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC). Committee members represent a broad array of recreation interest groups to help ensure that the Forest Service is proposing reasonable and publicly acceptable fee changes. Committee members will help ensure that the Forest Service addresses public issues and concerns about recreation fees.

The public is welcome to attend and comment at all advisory committee meetings. The next Utah RAC meeting is expected to be held during the winter of 2014/15. The exact meeting time, location and agenda will be announced on the Ashley National Forest website and through local media.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act which allows the Forest Service to retain funds collected at certain recreation sites and use these funds locally to operate and maintain and improve these sites. Before the Forest Service received the authority to retain funds locally, all fees collected by the Forest Service went to the national treasury.

Comments will be accepted through the end of September 2014. Written comments should be submitted to: Kristy Groves, Roosevelt-Duchesne District Ranger, P.O. Box 981 (85 West Main), Duchesne, UT 84021 or Nicholas Schmelter, Vernal District Ranger, 355 N Vernal Avenue, Vernal, UT 84078. Electronic comments should be sent to [comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us](mailto:comments-intermtn-ashley@fs.fed.us) and will be most useful if submitted in a format such as an email message, pdf, plain text (.txt), rich text format (.rtf), or Word (.doc or .docx) document. If you are submitting comments please note the name of the project (Ashley Fee Proposal) within your comments.