

Recreation Fee Survey

Under the fee demonstration program, Federal agencies like the National Park Service and the Forest Service now charge fees for access to public lands. Usually, these are called entrance/access or parking fees. Fees for specific facilities, like campgrounds, are extra. Even if you don't visit parks or forests, we want to know how you feel about a policy of charging fees for access to public lands.

1. Many outdoor recreation areas on public lands have increased entrance fees over the past several years. Which of the following describes how you responded to these fees during the last 12 months. (Please check all that apply.)

Fees have not affected me because I haven't visited any public lands in the last 12 months.
PLEASE GO TO QUESTION 6.

Fees have not affected me; my visits were about the same.

I took fewer trips to public recreation areas that have fees.

I took more trips to public recreation areas that have fees.

I tried to use sites that do not have entrance, access, or parking fees.

I avoided paying fees by parking in nearby areas, etc.

Other (please explain). _____

Number
(Past 12 months)

- 2a. In the last 12 months, how many times did you visit outdoor recreation areas on federal or state public land? _____

- 2b. Of all your visits in question 2a; how many times did you pay an entrance fee? _____

3. In the last 12 months, did you avoid going to any areas because there was an entrance fee:

	Yes
	No

4. In the last 12 months, did you buy any annual passes to visit federal or state public lands?

	Yes. If yes, how many did you buy? _____ Number
	What was the total cost? \$ _____
	No

5. What is the total amount you paid (including the cost of any annual passes) for entrance to all federal or state public lands during the last 12 months?

\$
Paid

6. How many times did you visit public lands during the last 3 years (including the last 12 months)?

_____ times.

7. Imagine an area with a scenic overlook in a nearby federal or state public forest. In the past, this area was free with only picnic tables and a dirt parking lot. This year the area is the same as always, but it is part of the Fee Demonstration Program (described in the cover letter), so you must buy a permit or face a fine of \$100 if caught without a permit. Permits are sold at a visitor's center that you pass on the way to the site.

If a permit to use this area costs \$_____ per visitor per day, would you buy it, keeping in mind your household income and other financial commitments?

Before you answer this question, please read the following paragraph.

In recent studies, several different groups of people were asked to make choices like this. Although they were asked how much they thought they would pay, no one actually paid money. These studies found that on average, people OVERSTATED their actual willingness to pay by as much as 150 percent -- quite a difference. In this question, please decide on how much you would pay exactly as if you were going to pay real money.

A. Yes, I would pay the amount stated in question 7.

B. No, I would not pay this amount because (please explain why you would not pay).

C. I am not sure if I would pay this amount (please explain why).

8. Suppose the next public election in your state contained a referendum that would require all visitors to pay an access fee of \$_____ to maintain this area in its **CURRENT CONDITION** (no new facilities or services). Would you vote in favor of this proposition?

	Yes
	No

Please explain why. _____

9. Regardless of how you voted in Question 8, if the \$_____ entrance fee for this area became permanent, what **NEW** facilities or services, **IF ANY**, do you think should be added in the next few years in return for the fees collected? (Please check each that you would expect.)

Would Expect

- | | | |
|----|---|-------|
| a. | No new facilities/services | _____ |
| b. | Nature walk with signs (none last year). | _____ |
| c. | Hourly ranger patrols in parking lot (patrols were once per day in the past). | _____ |
| d. | Playground equipment (none in the past). | _____ |
| e. | Fire pits with grills (none last year). | _____ |
| f. | A paved parking area (not paved last year). | _____ |
| g. | Portable toilets (none last year). | _____ |
| h. | Free maps/guide brochures (none last year). | _____ |
| i. | Public telephones (none last year). | _____ |
| j. | Free firewood (none last year). | _____ |

10. If the facilities **DID NOT CHANGE**, would you visit this federal or state public forest recreation area less often because of the daily entrance fee? (Please circle your answer.)

Yes. If yes, how many fewer trips per year? _____
 No. Please go to Q 12.
 Not sure. Please go to Q 12.

11. If you would visit less often, what would you likely do instead:

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------------|
| a. | | Find a cheaper site. |
| b. | | Stay home. |
| c. | | Do an entirely different activity. |
| d. | | Other (please describe) _____ |
-

12. Often passes for federal or state public forest sites are not sold at the site, but can be purchased at field offices, stores, etc. How far out of your way, round trip, would you drive to buy a pass?

<input type="checkbox"/>	10 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	15 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	20 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	30 minutes
<input type="checkbox"/>	45 minutes

13. For the convenience of visitors, passes to federal or state public lands are sometimes sold in nearby private stores. How much profit should private stores that sell passes be allowed to make? (For example, a 10 percent profit on a \$3 pass would mean the pass actually costs you \$3.30.)

<input type="checkbox"/>	0%. \$3 pass costs \$3.00
<input type="checkbox"/>	10%. \$3 pass costs \$3.30
<input type="checkbox"/>	20%. \$3 pass costs \$3.60
<input type="checkbox"/>	30%. \$3 pass costs \$3.90
<input type="checkbox"/>	40%. \$3 pass costs \$4.20
<input type="checkbox"/>	50%. \$3 pass costs \$4.50

14. In the last 12 months, did you actually go to a site like the one described in Question 7 in a federal or state public forest?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes
<input type="checkbox"/>	No

15. If yes, how often did you go? _____ Times

16. What was the entrance fee per person for each visit? \$ _____ (Please write \$0 if it was free.)

17. Congress is currently debating several bills about the fee demonstration program. Some want to make the program permanent and apply it to more areas. Others would eliminate it altogether. In evaluating this program, which of the following considerations do you think should be most important? (Please circle each letter that applies.)

- a. Raising prices to make parks and recreation areas pay for themselves so that repairs and improvements can be made without tax dollars.
- b. Keeping public lands affordable for lower income families (those earning \$30,000 or less per year).
- c. Getting public agencies to be more "business-like".
- d. Reducing legislative oversight (because the fee money gives agencies a funding source outside congressional appropriations).
- e. Making the agencies that manage public lands more responsive to consumer demand.
- f. Shifting the burden of paying for public lands to those who visit and benefit from them.
- g. Keeping prices low to encourage family-centered activities.
- h. Other. (Please describe.) _____

Which of these do you think are MOST IMPORTANT? Please put the letters from Q-17 in the boxes below:

	Most important.
	Next most important.
	Third most important.

18. If the U.S. Forest Service does not have enough money or staff to adequately maintain its outdoor recreation sites, how much would you support or oppose the following options.

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Indif-ferent	Support	Strongly Support	No Opinion
Put donation boxes in Forest Service parking lots.						
Require a fee of \$_____ per site for entrance to all areas.						
Keep all areas free but reduce maintenance.						
Allow qualified volunteer and citizen organizations to manage sites (adopt-a-site).						
Sell some of the areas to private companies.						
Close areas that cost the most to maintain.						
Contract with private companies to manage the areas.						
Keep sites free but increase federal income tax by \$_____ per household per year to provide adequate funding.						

19. Upcoming legislation allows public agencies to charge entrance fees for most public lands. How much do you support or oppose the following options.

	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	Indif-ferent	Support	Strongly Support	No Opinion
Keep half of all public lands free.						
Give seniors a 50% discount.						
Charge 25% more on weekends.						
Charge fees only for activities with the greatest impact on the land.						
Make one weekend a month free.						
Offer a \$ 50 annual pass that works for <u>all</u> Forest Service recreation areas (A separate pass would be required for access to National Parks).						
Charge fees per-person rather than per-vehicle.						
Give a free pass for volunteer work at the site.						
Give students and children under 16 a free pass.						

Charge more for popular areas.						
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The next questions concern corporate sponsorship and commercial development of public lands.

20. National Parks like the Grand Canyon or Yellowstone often have large hotels, restaurants and other tourist concessions that contribute about three percent of their profits to park maintenance. By contrast, most National Forests have not had such development. Should concessions like hotels, shops, etc. be allowed in national forests if the revenue helps offset the costs of operating national forests?

<input type="checkbox"/>	Yes, there should be concessions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No, don't have concessions.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No opinion.

21. Public/private partnerships are becoming more common in public lands management. Usually, a business provides funding in return for a tax deduction and positive publicity like a sign bearing their logo at the site. ("This site is generously supported by a grant from XYZ Corporation.")

People who like public/private partnerships say they are the wave of the future, letting public agencies deliver services with little tax cost. Opponents say they commercialize nature and let corporations influence agency decision-making.

In general, do you support or oppose the idea of public/private partnerships at each of the following areas? (Please check one for each.)

	Support	Not Sure	Oppose
National Forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
National Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Forests	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Parks	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

22. In your view, how appropriate is it for each of the following facilities in National Forests to receive and be identified as having corporate sponsorship?

	Very Appropriate	Appropriate	Not Sure	Inappropriate	Very Inappropriate
visitor centers	<input type="checkbox"/>				
hiking trails	<input type="checkbox"/>				
campgrounds	<input type="checkbox"/>				
scenic overlooks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
education facilities	<input type="checkbox"/>				
nature walks	<input type="checkbox"/>				
cross-country ski trails	<input type="checkbox"/>				
snowmobile trails	<input type="checkbox"/>				
horse trails	<input type="checkbox"/>				
nationally significant trails such as the Appalachian or	<input type="checkbox"/>				

In this last section, we would like to ask you some questions about your background. This information helps us compare your answers to those of other people. All of your answers will be kept strictly confidential and used only for the purposes of this survey.

- 23. What is your age? _____ (number of years)
- 24. Are you: _____ FEMALE? or _____ MALE?
- 25. Excluding yourself, how many family members live with you? _____ (number of people)
- 25a. How many of these are under 18 years old? _____ (number)
- 26. How many years of school have you completed? (Circle one number)

Elementary	Jr. High/High School	College or Technical School	Graduate School/ professional school
1 2 3 4 5 6	7 8 9 10 11 12	13 14 15 16	17 18 19 20 21 +

27. Please check the amount that includes the **total income (before taxes)** received by you and other adult family members (18 years or older) living with you in 2001. (Please check one)

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| _____ less than \$9,999 | _____ \$60,000 to \$74,999 |
| _____ \$10,000 to \$14,999 | _____ \$75,000 to \$89,999 |
| _____ \$15,000 to \$29,999 | _____ \$90,000 to \$104,999 |
| _____ \$30,000 to \$44,999 | _____ \$105,000 to \$119,999 |
| _____ \$45,000 to \$59,999 | _____ \$120,000 or more |

THANK YOU FOR COMPLETING THIS SURVEY!
 IF YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR VIEWS THAT YOU WOULD LIKE
 TO SHARE WITH US, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WRITE THEM IN THE SPACE BELOW OR
 ON THE BACK PAGE OF THE SURVEY.

5. What is the total amount you paid (including the cost of any annual passes) for entrance to all federal or state public lands during the last 12 months?

\$
Paid

6. How many times did you visit public lands during the last 3 years (including the last 12 months)?

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If a permit to use this area costs \$_____ per visitor per day, would you buy it, keeping in mind your household income and other financial commitments?

Yes, I would pay this amount.

No, I would not pay this amount. (Please explain why.) _____

Not Sure. (Please explain why) _____

