
File Code: 1560; 2300
Date: May 14, 2018

Dear Ms. Marily Reese:

The Mendocino National Forest is committed to providing a quality recreation experience at the Red Bluff Recreation Area (RBRA). For more than 20 years, the Mendocino National Forest has charged visitors fees at RBRA for camping at Sycamore Grove, Camp Discovery, and use of the boat ramp. These fees have been reinvested into the facilities paying for operations and maintenance costs. However, fees currently being collected are not nearly enough to keep up with the rising cost of maintaining the site. Due to current and future budget constraints, a change is necessary in order to keep this area open and able to provide high quality recreational opportunities to the public. I am considering creation of a business opportunity for a non-Forest Service entity to operate the RBRA as a concessionaire. I believe this new approach will benefit the community and enhance the recreation experience at the RBRA.

To make this a viable business opportunity, I anticipate changes in the recreation fees charged to visitors at the RBRA. What those changes will be are unknown until we produce a prospectus and have responses to a request for proposals. One potential change would be a fee for day users. I am hopeful that a new partnership and fee changes at the RBRA will allow for improved maintenance of what is there now, improvements to facilities and additional services in the future, and an increase in customer service available onsite. These improvements would be of benefit to all visitors and could lead to increased popularity of the site as an outdoor recreation destination.

I am very interested in hearing from all parties interested in the future of the RBRA. If you have thoughts to share please email them to: comments-pacificsouthwest-mendocino@fs.fed.us. If you have additional questions about this proposal or would like to set up a meeting to discuss it, please contact Forest Recreation Officer Katheryn Rich, at (530) 934-1199.

Sincerely,

/s/ Gar Abbas
GAR ABBAS
Acting Forest Supervisor

