

# Judge limits USFS fees in national forests

By Steve Scauzillo, San Gabriel Valley Tribune

A federal judge has ruled that the U.S. Forest Service can no longer charge fees to visitors who hike, walk and bike in the undeveloped regions of the Cleveland, Los Padres, Angeles and San Bernardino national forests.

U.S. District Court Judge Terry Hatter Jr. ruled in favor of four hikers who were tired of paying fees to hike in these popular Southern California forests, often called the backyard of Los Angeles.

The ruling is a victory for hikers and opponents of the 17-year-old federal Adventure Pass program.

The Forest Service improperly required all visitors to purchase the \$5 daily or \$30 annual pass upon entering any portion of these forests, even when they didn't use developed facilities, according to the ruling.

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