Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

Investing in America’s Recreation Future

June 3, 2005
Summary of REA

✓ A 10-year authority for NPS, BLM, FWS, BOR, and FS

✓ Permits these agencies to continue charging modest fees at developed recreation sites such as:
  • Campgrounds
  • Rental Cabins
  • Day-use Sites
  • High-impact Recreation Areas
Continues requiring a majority of revenue be reinvested in fee sites

Merges current nation-wide interagency passes into one pass called the “America the Beautiful”
Kinds of Fees

✓ Entrance Fees--NPS & FWS

✓ Standard Amenity Fees--BLM, BOR & FS
  • High Impact Recreation Areas
  • Individual day use sites

✓ Expanded Amenity Fees--All agencies
  • Developed campgrounds
  • Highly developed boat launches
  • Rentals
  • Enhanced interpretive programs
  • Reservation services

✓ Special Recreation Permits--All agencies
  • Retain fees for outfitter/guide & recreation event special use permits
  • Allocate capacity
There will be no Entrance or Standard Amenity Fees for all Agencies for:
- People under 16 years
- School Educational Outings
BLM, BOR and FS will not require fees for activities such as:
- Parking/picnicking along roads/trails with no facilities
- General Access
- Overlooks/Scenic Pullouts
Results From Implementation of REA Criteria to Fee Sites

- Total Sites Nationally = 17,086
- Previous (pre-REA) Fee Sites = 4,505
- Removed from Fee Program = 437
- Non-Charges Sites = 10,383
- # Sites Removed in R1 = 4
How Does REA Address Trail Access Fees?

• REA specifically prohibits charging for:
  – Solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trailsides
  – For general access
  – For dispersed areas with minimal or zero investment
  – For persons who are driving through, walking through, boating through, horseback riding through or hiking through Federal recreational lands and waters without using the facilities and services
When Can A Fee Be Charged For Trail Use Under REA?

- For use of transportation services (i.e. a train to get to the top of a trail)
- Participation in an enhanced interpretive program or special tour (i.e. Heritage Expeditions)
- Special Recreation Permit Fees for Outfitters and Guides, Recreation Events (i.e. a Group Endurance Ride) and for motorized recreational vehicle use (i.e. specific OHV facilities).
Could a Fee Look Like A Trail Use Fee?

• Yes, at very developed Trailheads where the Standard Site Amenity Fee criteria are met. These include an area—
  – That provides significant opportunities for outdoor recreation
  – That has substantial Federal Investments
  – Where Fees can be efficiently collected
  – That contains all of the following amenities:
    • Designated developed parking
    • A permanent toilet facility
    • Interpretive sign, exhibit, or kiosk
    • Picnic tables
    • Security Services
What Safeguards Are In The Act To Keep These Fees Reasonable?

• All existing Fees were screened by the USFS Spring 2005. Many sites that did not meet the criteria were dropped.

• All new Standard Amenity Fees will be reviewed by a public Resource Advisory Committee prior to a Decision to implement.
Public Involvement

✓ Recreation Resource Advisory Committees will be formed to make recommendations on the fee program
✓ Publics will have opportunities to weigh in on program changes
How Will RAC’s Be Created?

• Currently being evaluated by Washington Office of FS and BLM (do not apply to NPS)

• Current proposals are for Multi-State RAC’s to keep costs down: i.e. Montana, Idaho, Wyoming could be a one Group, California could be one, Washington & Oregon etc.
What Membership Did REA Specify For RACS?

- 11 Members
- Governors may submit nominations
Who Will Be Appointed To RACs?

Persons who represent:

- Winter motorized recreation
- Winter non-motorized recreation
- Summer motorized recreation
- Summer non-motorized recreation (horseback riding)
- Hunting and fishing
- Motorized outfitters and guides
- Non-motorized outfitters and guides
- Local Environmental Groups
- State Tourism Official
- Indian Tribes
- Local government interests
Using Fees

✅ Fees can be use for:

- Repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement
- Interpretation and visitor information
- Restoration related to wildlife-dependent recreation
- Law enforcement related to public use and recreation
- Direct operating or capital costs (limited to 15%)
- Fee management agreements or reservation service
Trail Activities Supported By Rec Fees In R1:

- **Bitterroot:** installed or repaired 25 hitch racks, rebuilt 7 stock unloading ramps, trail maintenance and reconstruction
- **B/D:** maintained 115 miles of trail, replaced trail signs
- **Clw:** completed heavy brushing and maintenance along several trails, including installing turnpikes, water bars and re-setting or tread
- **Custer:** replace two wilderness bridges
More Trail Projects In R1:

- DP: site cleanup of dispersed camps along Mah Daah Hey Trail, rehabilitate sections of trail
- Flathead: maintained 100+miles of trail
- Helena: replace trail bridge decking and supplies
- IPNF: installation of visitor signing at trailheads and interior trails, trails brushed
- KTN: added two stock vehicle/trailer turnaround parking areas, placed screened aggregate at one trailhead, repaired erosion devices
- Lolo: repaired trail structures, provided advanced packing course, packed 32 water bars to trail reconstruction project
America the Beautiful

- Retains Senior & Disability discounts
- National Parks pass, Golden Eagle Passport, Golden Age Passport, and Golden Access Passport will continue to be sold until the new “America the Beautiful” pass is available. These existing passes will remain valid under existing benefits until expired.
- New pass will cover entrance and standard amenity recreation fees
Changes

Before establishing new fees or sites ...

... a Recreation Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) will be established

... Public Involvement will be conducted and considered
Facilities and Use

✓ National Forests receive 205 million visits a year.
✓ The agency manages 192 million acres

- 122,000 Campsites
- 11,000 Picnic Sites
- 133,000 miles of Trail
- 6,700 Trail Bridges
- Many Cabin Rentals, Boat Launches, and other facilities
## Facilities and Use

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FS</th>
<th>NPS</th>
<th>US F&amp;WL</th>
<th>BLM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Acres</td>
<td>192,000,000</td>
<td>84,400,000</td>
<td>95,000,000</td>
<td>261,900,000</td>
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<td>Acres outside Alaska</td>
<td>170,000,000</td>
<td>29,400,000</td>
<td>19,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors/Year</td>
<td>204,800,000</td>
<td>276,000,000</td>
<td>39,000,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campsites</td>
<td>122,000 plus 11,000 Picnic</td>
<td>26,830</td>
<td>736</td>
<td>17,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trail Miles</td>
<td>133,000</td>
<td>16,578</td>
<td>1,893</td>
<td>16,500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Backlog Maintenance</td>
<td>$9.024 Billion</td>
<td>$4.5-$9.7 Billion</td>
<td>$1.3-$1.7 Billion</td>
<td>$543-$663 Million</td>
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- Summary of REA
  - Kinds of Fees
  - Public Involvement
  - Using Fees
  - America The Beautiful
- Changes to Align with REA
- Facilities and Use
  - Funding Recreation
  - Customer Satisfaction Survey
Fees are one part of a comprehensive recreation funding strategy that helps managers maintain sites and facilities for visitor enjoyment.

Other funds come from:

- Congressionally designated funds
- 78,000 people who volunteer on National Forests each year
- Interagency cooperation
- Partnerships
- Commercial operations
- Funds leveraged from other sources
For More Information:

www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/recfee
Thank You
for your
interest & time!