

SOUTHERN REGION RECREATION  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
May 9-10, 2017

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The Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) convened in Atlanta, Georgia, on Tuesday, May 9, 2017.

RRAC members participating: Illana Burkhart, Mary Crockett, Lissette Gonzalez, Lewis Ledford, Pete Rosenboro, Cheryl Sanders, Alina Shively, Graham Simmerman, Raymond Stanley, and Deborah Whitmire.

USFS attendees included: Chris Spurl, Tiffany Williams, Julie Cox, and Al Remley. Caroline Mitchell participated via teleconference.

Public participants: Kitty Benzar via teleconference.

#### PURPOSE OF MEETING

The primary purpose of this meeting was to introduce government and committee members, provide background information pertaining to the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) and Federal Advisory Committees, discuss committee matters, have a field visit, and to identify a potential date for the next RRAC meeting. No fee proposals were discussed or reviewed at the meeting.

#### WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chris Spurl introduced himself as the Southern Region Director of Recreation and the Designated Federal Manager (DFO) for the RRAC. As DFO, he explained that his responsibilities include: calling or approving the call of a meeting, attending meetings, and approving the agenda. He emphasized that diverse ideas and opinions will be needed from the RRAC.

Tiffany Williams introduced herself as Southern Region Fee Program Manager and the Committee Coordinator. She briefed the RRAC on safety procedures and on the reference books provided by the USFS for the meeting. Each member then introduced themselves.

#### FACA OVERVIEW

Julie Cox, Deputy National Fee Program Manager, discussed (PowerPoint) the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and its purpose and requirements. She explained that each FACA committee must have a charter and that charter must be filed with Congress before the committee can meet or conduct any business. The charter sets out the scope of activity and objectives of the committee as well as membership, frequency of meetings and funding.

Each member then signed a Code of Conduct according to FACA requirements.

#### OVERVIEWS

After a short break, Chris Spurl gave an introduction to Forest Service and Recreation. This included recreation mission and goals, recreation program, general overview of fee program, and the sustainable recreation strategy.

An overview (PowerPoint) of the Recreation Enhancement Act was provided by Al Remley, National Fee Program Manager. He discussed the history, public involvement requirements, and roles and responsibilities of the members. The Recreation RAC makes recommendations to the Secretary of

Agriculture on implementing or eliminating fees; expanding or limiting the recreation fee program; and implementing fee level changes. He summarized the three fee categories: Standard Amenity Fees, Expanded Amenity Fees, and Special Recreation Permits.

#### COMMITTEE MATTERS

As outlined in the Charter, Spori explained that a RRAC must appoint a Chairperson and may adopt bylaws or rules of operation to further guide their efforts. Decisions, such as these, require a majority vote, or 6 members.

Lewis Ledford was elected Chairperson of the RRAC, and Myron "Pete" Rosenboro was elected Co-Chairperson. The RRAC asked to have the USFS provide a note taker for meetings.

After lunch, the RRAC reviewed draft bylaws. There was a motion made by Simmerman and seconded by Burkhardt to adopt as amended. Motion passed. The amended version will be sent out members prior to the next meeting.

Williams gave an introduction to the Southern Region Fee Pricing Guidance, and Cox identified the steps of the Fee Proposal process.

- Step 1 – Identify the proposal
- Step 2 – Work with region to determine viability
- Step 3 – If a 'go,' place information in fee proposal tool
- Step 4 – Conduct public participation; develop final proposal
- Step 5 – Develop presentation materials
- Step 6 – Present proposal to regional fee board
- Step 7 – Present proposal to Recreation RAC

#### Factors to Consider:

- Is fee change based on recent site improvements or will they improve the site?
- Is the change consistent with forest/regional pricing?
- Is there strong public demand for the site?
- Do special resource or historic concerns affect the site?
- Does the proposed change create a more sustainable future for the site?
- How will the fee revenue be spent?

#### Fee Proposal Document

- Was developed via a national tool
- Keeps track of all fee proposals
- Reflects what USFS has heard RRACs want to see
- Makes it easy for RRACs to quickly see the key points of each proposal
- Enables consistency in RO/WO review

An example of a Fee Proposal Form was shown in the PowerPoint.

#### PUBLIC FORUM

It was explained that, under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, federal agencies sponsoring advisory committees must open committee meetings to the public, with few exceptions. When the Public Forum portion was called for at 4:00 pm, one member of the public was identified on

the call: Kitty Benzar with Western Slope No-Fee Coalition. Benzar asked if the USFS might be putting charter renewals on hold until September as the Bureau of Land Management has done. Julie Cox responded that the USFS has not been given that direction. The current charter expires in June.

As the agenda stated a Public Forum time of 4:15 pm, Chairperson Ledford asked again at that time if anyone wished to address the RRAC. There was no response.

#### TRAVEL CLAIMS & FORMS

Williams explained that part of the Agency responsibility, with regard to the RRAC, is to ensure Committee members are reimbursed for travel and per diem costs. A form will be provided at each meeting. Members should fill out and sign the form, authorizing USFS to file a travel claim for that member.

#### ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 pm.

#### FIELD VISIT

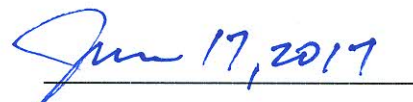
On May 10, 2017, the RRAC went on a field visit to sites on the Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest.

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I certify that each member of the Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee has been given an opportunity to review and comment on the May 2017 meeting notes; and I officially approve the above notes.



LEWIS LEDFORD  
Southern Region RRAC Chairperson



DATE