

Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

(Recreation RAC) Meeting Notes

August 27-28, 2018

August 27, 2018

Following a morning field tour of National Forests in NC, the meeting opened at 1:00 p.m.

Present:

- **RRAC Members:**
 - Jim McGarvey – Back Country Horsemen of America Representative
 - Mary Crockett – Congaree Land Trust
 - Alina Shively – Jena Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 - Cheryl Sanders – Franklin County Commissioner, FL
 - Graham Simmerman – Trout Unlimited
 - Illana Burkhardt – National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Raymond Stanley – Southern Four Wheel Drive Association
 - Debi Whitmire – Headwaters Outfitters
 - Lewis Ledford, RRAC Chairman – National Association of State Park Directors
 - Lissette Gonzalez – Friends of El Yunque Foundation

- **FS Staff:**
 - Erika Davis – National Forests in Florida
 - Marc Pons – National Forests and Grasslands in Texas
 - Sarah Belcher – USFS R8 Developed Recreation Program Manager (detailed)
 - Kyle Grambley – Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest, Georgia
 - Amanda Walrod – Fran Marion & Sumter National Forest, South Carolina
 - Jeff Owenby – National Forests in North Carolina
 - Dave Casey – National Forests in North Carolina
 - Thom Saylor - National Forests in North Carolina
 - Chris Spurl – Designated Federal Official (DFO), USFS R8 Director Recreation, Wilderness, Heritage and Partnership/Volunteer Resources
 - Barry Jones – National Forests in North Carolina
 - Bill Jackson – Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - Robert Duggan – Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Arkansas
 - Chris Ham – Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - Caroline Mitchell – Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - Derrick Washington – National Forests in Florida
 - Tiffany Williams (via phone) - USFS R8 Developed Recreation Program Manager

Introductions:

Sarah Belcher shared a printed copy of a comment recently received in the R8 RAC email inbox. DFO Chris Spurl welcomed the group and asked individuals to introduce themselves. Chris thanked Sarah for all her work to pull this meeting together. Quorum is met with 10 of 11 members in attendance.

Public Comment Period:

No public attended the meeting or called in the published conference line to give comments. The DFO checked the phone line for public commenters not only during the official public comment period, but also throughout the day and the following day.

Region 8 Recreation Overview

Chris reviewed the RAC ground rules, FACA rules and regulations as well as the committee make-up and the process for recreation fee recommendations. He also reminded the group of the Southern Region's pricing guide and shared that these proposals all follow that pricing guidance to

provide consistency across the forests in the region. Jim McGarvey asked what percentage of gross revenue is returned from concessionaire? Amount is negotiated and varies, but can range from 6-26%. It is reinvested to the site through Granger-Thye Act.

Proposals:

All proposals were shared in notebooks given to each committee member prior to the meeting. The notebooks contained proposals from 7 forests and included:

- 53 Campgrounds, including one Fee Elimination Proposal
- 28 Day Use areas

Public Involvement Summary

Each national forest representative gave a summary of their public involvement efforts prior to reviewing proposals. *See appendix A for notes on those summaries.*

Comment: McGarvey – Is the FS able to use more prose style in the announcements? If you were able to explain that new showers had been installed, etc., might receive more positive comments and more support.

Fee Proposals:

Sarah reminded group of voting process. Ledford thanked the group for their great work last meeting and for preparing for this meeting.

Sarah provided condensed information from the *Southern Region Pricing Guidance* for overall consideration for campgrounds; and noted there is not a one size fits all and each site must be considered in the forest and regional context. PowerPoint Slide

\$10 Sites

Billy Creek Recreation Area Elimination of Fee – Current \$8; proposed to eliminate fee

- Discussion regarded reduction of services. Eventually, all services will be removed. Some danger of flash flooding in this area. It would become a basic trailhead. Typical users? Doesn't seem to be a desire for use. It has been through many "identities" and no takers.
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal to eliminate the fee.
 - Recommended unanimously

Black Creek Lake Campground. Current \$2; proposed to \$10 incrementally over a 3-year period (\$6, \$8, \$10).

- Discussion on comments received and other elements of proposal. Incremental increase could cause more complaints
- Shively moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Bois D' Arc Campground –Current \$6; proposed to \$10 incrementally over a 3-year period (\$6, \$8, \$10).

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Coffeemill Campground – Current \$4; proposed to \$10 incrementally over a 3-year period (\$6, \$8, \$10).

- Discussion of elements of proposal
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Tadra Point Campground – Current \$4; proposed to \$10 incrementally over a 3-year period (\$6, \$8, \$10).

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Noted that the forest is staying on low end of other providers
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Valley View Campground – Current \$4; proposed to \$10 incrementally over a 3-year period (\$6, \$8, \$10).

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

West Lake Davy Crockett Campground – Current \$4; proposed to \$10 incrementally over a 3-year period (\$6, \$8, \$10).

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Barkshed Campground – Current \$3; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Comments were supportive
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Bayou Bluff Campground – Current \$7/single; \$10/double; proposed to \$10/Single; \$15 Double

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Haw Creek Falls Campground – Current \$4; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- No water? Old well was removed due to state regulation. Hard to get a good well in area.
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Sorghum Hollow Campground – Current \$5; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Typical to have no water at campground? Many do have water, but it is not expected for the remote areas.
- Pleased to see a comment from Back Country Horsemen of America.
- Gonzalez moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Spring Lake Campground – Current \$7; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Wolf Pen Campground – Current \$3; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

New Fees

Wine Spring Horse Camp. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- How many sites are there? Current, 5. Hope to add 5 more.
- Only 2 comments received, both positive
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Wolf Ford Horse Camp. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Cobb Hunt Campground. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Access Pass discount does apply
- Some users try to occupy site entire hunting season; this would help alleviate that.
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Hog Pen Landing Campground. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Day Use free if paid camper? Yes.
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

West Tower Campground. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Wiggins OHV Campground. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Wood Lake Campground. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Richland Creek Campground. New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$10

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Original toilet built in 1960s. Recently replaced.
- Pass discount does apply.
- Shively moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

\$15 Sites

Whetstone Horse Camp. Current \$12; proposed to \$15

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Cherry Hill Campground. Current \$10; proposed to \$15

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Blanchard Springs Campground. Current \$10; proposed to \$15

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Gunner Pool Campground. Current \$7; proposed to \$15 April 1 to November 1/\$10 for November 2 – March 31

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- How do they know what to pay? It is posted on board. Does cause some confusion.
- Water is turned off in November, thus the lower fee. Working to find a way to have water all year.
- McGarvey made a motion to have \$15 year round and to recommend the updated proposal. Crockett and Shively oppose the motion.
- NOTE: Due to public involvement not involving this component, RAC must vote as proposed.
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal as proposed by the forest.
 - Recommended unanimously

Redding Campground. Single Site: Current \$10; proposed to \$15. Double Site: New Fee. Proposed to \$25

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Usual charge for double sites
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

BREAK

\$20 Sites

Buckhall Campground. Current \$15/site and \$5 Hookups; proposed to \$20/site and \$8 Hookups

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Other provider summaries comment: Myrtle Beach lot more developed. Huntington Beach not close. Others are similar. Discussion about location of comparable providers.
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Horsehead Lake Campground. Current \$10/site and \$0 Hookups; proposed to \$20/site and \$5 Hookups

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Shively moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Lake Wedington Campground. Current \$10; proposed to \$20

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Revenue numbers don't reflect proposed. Calculation Error.
- Stanley moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Moccasin Gap Campground. Current \$3/site; proposed to \$20/single site and \$30/double site. Would be implemented over a 3-year period, beginning in 2019 through 2021.

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Could be the broadest range RAC has reviewed.
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Long Pool Campground. Current \$7/single site and \$15/double site and \$5 Hookups; proposed to \$15/single site and \$30/double site and \$10 Hookups

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Shores Lake Campground – Current \$12/site \$0 Hookups; proposed \$15/single site and \$30/double site \$5 Hookups.

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Deferred Maintenance high, what is the need? New Bathroom needed.
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Ouachita

Charlton Campground – Current \$16/single and \$23/double; proposed to \$20/single and \$40/double

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Lake Sylvia Campground – Current \$15/single and \$15/double; proposed to \$20/single and \$25/double

- General discussion of elements of proposal and comparable providers
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Little Pines Campground – Current \$17; proposed \$25

- General discussion of elements of proposal and comparable providers
- Season listed as all year? Last year, it was closed seasonally as a trial.
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Shady Lake Campground – Current \$15-17/single (seasonal) and \$21/double; proposed to \$20-25/single (seasonal) and \$40/double

- General discussion of elements of proposal and comparable providers
- Dam was built 1940 by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Rehab on gate system recently.
- Why not on reservation system? Strong desire of local community to stay first-come, first-serve.
- March 1 to November 1 – Loops do close at different times.
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Cedar Lake Campground – Current \$6/primitive; \$10-\$21/single (depending on loop) and \$23/double; proposed to \$15-25/single (depending on loop) and \$50/double

- General discussion of elements of proposal and comparable providers
- Wastewater treatment plant, \$375,000
- Gonzalez moved to recommend the proposal
 - Recommended unanimously

Cabin

McCall Cabin – New Fee. Current \$0; proposed to \$30/night and \$200/week (implement 2019-2020)

- General discussion of elements of proposal and comparable providers
- Chimney torn down and reconstructed with new foundation.
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Meeting broke for the day at 4:02 pm.

Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee

(Recreation RAC) Meeting Notes

August 27-28, 2018

August 28, 2018

The meeting opened at 8:30 a.m.

Present:

- **RRAC Members:**
 - Jim McGarvey – Back Country Horsemen of America Representative
 - Mary Crockett – Forester for the Congaree Land Trust
 - Alina Shively – Jena Band of Choctaw Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
 - Pete Rosenboro – Tennessee Department of Tourist Development
 - Cheryl Sanders – Franklin County Commissioner, FL
 - Graham Simmerman – Trout Unlimited
 - Illana Burkhart – National Wild Turkey Federation
 - Raymond Stanley – Southern Four Wheel Drive Association
 - Debi Whitmire – Headwaters Outfitters
 - Lewis Ledford, RRAC Chairman, National Association of State Park Directors
 - Lissette Gonzalez – Friends of El Yunque Foundation

- **FS Staff:**
 - Erika Davis – National Forests in Florida
 - Marc Pons – National Forests and Grasslands in Texas
 - Sarah Belcher – USFS R8 Developed Recreation Program Manager (detailed)
 - Kyle Grambley – Chattahoochee Oconee National Forest, Georgia
 - Amanda Walrod – Fran Marion & Sumter National Forest, South Carolina
 - Jeff Owenby – National Forests in North Carolina
 - Dave Casey – National Forests in North Carolina
 - Thom Saylor - National Forests in North Carolina
 - Chris Spori – Designated Federal Official (DFO), USFS R8 Director Recreation, Wilderness, Heritage and Partnership/Volunteer Resources
 - Barry Jones – National Forests in North Carolina
 - Bill Jackson – Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - Robert Duggan – Ozark-St. Francis National Forests, Arkansas
 - Chris Ham – Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - Caroline Mitchell – Ouachita National Forest, Arkansas and Oklahoma
 - Derrick Washington – National Forests in Florida
 - Tiffany Williams (via phone) - USFS R8 Developed Recreation Program Manager

Group Camps

Poulous Loop – Current \$5; proposed to \$30/Single and \$60/Double

- How many sites? 13
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Cedar Lake Campground. Current \$25; proposed to \$35

- Discussion elements of proposal
- Electric included in price? Yes
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Charlton Campground. Current \$35; proposed to \$40

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Appletree Group Camp –Current \$50; proposed to \$75 per 25 person site. Larger sites Current \$100-\$150 per 50-person double site.

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Badin Lake Group Camp – Current \$40; proposed to \$75

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Shively moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Rattler Ford Group Camp – Current \$50; proposed to \$75

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Deferred maintenance need? Restroom
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Buck Lake Group Camp - Current \$50; proposed to \$75

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Lakeshore Group Camp – Current \$50; proposed to \$100

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Is group camp part of a larger complex? Yes
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Mill Dam Group Camp – Current \$50; proposed to \$100

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Contract maintenance work or performed by FS? Both
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

The Landing Group Camp – Current \$50; proposed to \$100 and \$10 hookup fee for RV sites

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Boat ramp fee? Yes, was proposed last meeting.
- Occupation policy of forest; districts were using different times, forest is moving towards a 14-day occupation limit for entire forest.
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

River Forest Group Camp – Current \$150; proposed to \$200

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Does price change with size of group? No
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Doe Lake Group Camp –Current \$150; proposed to \$350

- General discussion of elements of proposal and comparable providers
- Any cabins? No, but can bring RVs and tents. There is lots of mixed use.
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Cabins

Lake Wedington Cabins – Current \$70/\$80; proposed to \$90/\$115

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- This is a Regional Priority Site; Business plan has been done for area.
- How many do they sleep? Around 4-8. There is linen/cleaning service.
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Lake Wedington Lodge – Current: \$150 Proposed: \$350, phased implementation over four years.

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Is it per room, per night? Fee is for entire lodge.
- How does Region address high deferred maintenance? The Regional Priority Site distinction allows for additional funding to be put towards it. Inspection cycle for recreation facilities is every 5 years. Some work could have been done since last cycle.
- Historic site, requires extra money and work.
- Foundations for historical structures. HistoriCorps is a service group that specializes in historic restoration work. FS utilizes them when possible. Also utilize “Friends of” groups.
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

OBSERVATION: Predicted revenue numbers consistently show up on proposals as low. Possibly a Fee Proposal Tool error. Forest Service to investigate.

Day Use

Spurl discussed length of stay at day use sites; some sites are only short stops and others are all day. This comes into play when considering a fee. The Forest Service representatives discussed challenges of managing day use sites, such as the contracts for cleaning. These contracts can be complex depending on season. Have to have a presence at these sites. There are health and safety considerations for things such as traffic control, patrols. Fee is for use of area.

*Seasonal pass proposed covers 3 sites (Whiteside, Whitewater Falls, and Dry Falls).

Whiteside Mountain Day Use – Current: \$2 Proposed \$3 and \$15/season*

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Do those who park outside of parking area pay? Not usually. Looking to improve area and add striping.
- Where is fee collection site? At the trailhead.
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Whitewater Falls – Current: \$2 Proposed: \$3 and \$15/season*

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Bundling the sites is a good idea.
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Dry Falls – Current: \$0 Proposed: \$3 and \$15/season*

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Are there other waterfalls in area that are free? Yes
- High visitation site puts a demand on local services – traffic control and EMT services. Also, requires education efforts to warn of dangers involved.
- Lose revenue by bundling? Possibly
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Deep Hole Fishing and Picnic – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Shively moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Desoto Falls – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Dyar Pasture – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Would school groups be charged? They could be; however, school groups can get a Special Use Permit or letter waiving the fee if they contact the forest prior to visit.
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Cedar Lake North Shore and Sandy Beach– Current: \$3/vehicle and \$1/person (walkup/drop-off)
Proposed \$5/vehicle and \$2/person (walkup/drop-off)

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- If pay on one, does you pay again at next for same day use? No
- Shively moved to recommend both of the proposals.
 - Recommended unanimously

Charlton Day Use – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Gonzalez moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Lake Sylvia Day Use – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Little Pines Day Use – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Crockett moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Lake Dorr – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Shady Lake – Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Leons Sinks Geological Area– Current: \$3 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Is there a lot of use? Yes
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

Buckhall Day Use – Current: \$5/day and \$25/season Proposed: \$7/day and \$40/season

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Do you ever have to turn people away? At times.
- Burkhart moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously

BREAK at 10:00 a.m.

New Fee Day Use

Pocket Day Use – Current: \$0 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Rosenboro moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Ravens Cliff Day Use – Current: \$0 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- What is the boundary between day use and dispersed campers? The parking lot.
- O&M cost shown does not reflect a toilet that was replaced.
- Shively moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Cheoah Point – Current: \$0 Proposed: \$5/day and \$30/season

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Discussion of public comments. Relationship with county? Fairly positive
- Sanders moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Woods Lake Boat Landing – Current: \$0 Proposed: \$5

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Fees for maintenance or improvements? Possibly adding a toilet.
- If they pay to camp, do they get access to boat ramp for no additional charge? Yes
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Special Recreation Permits

Sarah reminded group of pricing guidance for special recreation permits.

Atoah Shooting Ranger– Current: \$0 Proposed: \$5/day and \$30/season (implement 2019-2020)

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Discussion of comments received.
- EPA guidance for lead recycling is followed.
- All shooting ranges in R8 have stewardship plans.
- Hours of operation? Sunup to sundown
- Staffed? No, but there are volunteers that help.
- Whitmire moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

South Carolina Shooting Ranges (7): Beaver Dam Creek; Boggy Head; Candy Branch; Fairforest; Indian Creek; Leeds; Philson Crossroads – Current: \$0 Proposed: \$5/day and \$50/season

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Children under 16 are not charged. Must be accompanied by an adult.
- Pass for all locations? Yes, Forestwide.
- McGarvey moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Nantahala River Corridor – Current: \$1/day \$5/season Proposed \$2/day and \$10/season. Outfitter and guides fee from \$0.45 to \$0.60 per person.

- General discussion of elements of proposal
- Class II to Class V rapids. Any liability of FS? At your own risk. There is lot of safety education prior to trip with outfitter/guide. Power company advertises information about release times. Lots of collaboration.
- Protection of cultural resources mentioned in proposal? Lots of folklore regarding corridor. FS has identified eight key points to draft management guidelines for FS to follow. Cultural landscape survey of that area. Curation at Western Carolina. More for interpretation.
- Would For profit business increase too? Yes. They contribute under special use permits and comes back to the site for improvements.
- Most users go through outfitters/guides than private launches.
- Outfitters/guides comments? Nothing official, but there have been discussions with them. They are supportive.
- Discussion about limiting number of boats on river per hour/day? Numbers have become more manageable through coordination between partners. Outfitters/guides have been limited to 13. No more permits given.
- Does permit go with sale of outfitter/guide? Yes
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Blanchard Springs Caverns – See chart below for fee pricing.

Event Type	Current Fee for Activity*		Proposed Fee for Activity*	
Photo Tour	\$20		\$35	
Dripstone Tour	\$10		\$15	
Discovery Tour				
Discovery in Dark Headlamp Tour, only offered Memorial Day - Labor Day				
<i>Various discount prices for Blanchard Cave Tours:</i>				
	Dripstone	Discovery	Dripstone	Discovery
6-15 years old	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$9.00	\$9.00
Group Rate 16 yrs or old	\$7.00	\$7.00	\$12.00	\$12.00
Group Rate 6-16 yrs. old	\$3.00	\$3.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
Under 0 – 5 yrs. old	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Senior Pass (age 62 +)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
Access Pass (Adult)	\$5.00	\$5.00	\$7.00	\$7.00
Access Pass (Youth)	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00	\$2.00
Season Passes for Dripstone and Discovery Tours	Adult Season Pass \$25 Youth Season Pass \$15 Senior Season Pass \$12		Adult Season Pass \$40 Youth Season Pass \$25 Senior Season Pass \$20	
Wild Cave Tour	\$75		\$100	

*The National Recreation Reservation Service system adds a \$0.50 transaction fee to each ticket for on-site field sales.

- A short video was shown of the Blanchard Springs Caverns.
- General discussion of elements of proposal and clarification of proposed fees
- Other commercial caves in area? Some, but they are much smaller.
- Blanchard Springs is a living cave. Living means water is still trickling in and formation are building. No touching allowed. Guide goes ahead and guide behind groups to monitor.
- Located about two hours north of Little Rock.
- Cavern is part of complex – campgrounds, day use, trails.
- Fee increased last around 15 years ago.
- Tour fee also allows access to day use areas in complex with no additional charge.
- Simmerman moved to recommend the proposal.
 - Recommended unanimously.

Wrap-Up:

- Ledford thanked the RAC for their participation and commitment to the business at hand.
- Term limit – four members’ terms will expire September 9, 2018. Asking for applications by October 1, 2018.
- Spori expressed his appreciation for the member’s willingness to meet. Aiming for spring meeting. Daniel Boone, Cherokee, NF in Mississippi, NF in Alabama have not yet come before the RAC.
- Sanders likes the innovative approach to protecting resources and still accommodating visitors. She stated that public dollars buy public lands for public use; however, you have to be able to maintain the resources and ensure safety for visitors.
- Simmerman thanked Lewis for his management of the RAC.
- Shively thanked the forests that consulted the tribes on the proposals. She encourages forests to contact at least once a year for interest in recreation.
- Theme from public seems to be that “we are ok with fees as long as we can see the investments on the ground.”
- RAC feels that field tours are very helpful to allow RAC to see the sites. Members think that two days are a good balance or maybe have a third day as an optional field trip.

Meeting adjourned at 11:46 a.m.

I certify that each member of the Southern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee has been given an opportunity to review and comment on the August 2018 meeting notes; and I officially approve the above notes.

Myron 'Pete' Rosenboro

MYRON "PETE" ROSENBORO
Southern Region RRAC Co-Chairman

9-26-2018

Date

