Appendix 8

2342.1 - Exhibit 01

Law Enforcement at Concession Campgrounds

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Concessionaires. In responding to violations of Federal, State, and local laws, ordinances, and regulations, concessionaires have the same authority as a private citizen. Concessionaires generally cannot enforce Federal, State, or local laws or regulations, including 36 CFR part 261, Prohibitions on National Forest System lands. Concessionaires should be knowledgeable of applicable Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, including 36 CFR part 261, and should report violations of these laws and regulations to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

Concessionaires may enhance public safety at concession campgrounds in a number of ways. For example, they may hire a private security firm, hire off-duty State or local law enforcement personnel, or enter into a cooperative agreement with the county for additional patrols.

Under the terms of the campground concession permit, the authorized officer may allow or require a concessionaire to establish certain restrictions on conduct or rules of use. For instance, the concessionaire may establish a rule of use that limits the number of vehicles per campground site, establishes a limit on the length of stay, or prohibits washing food at a water hydrant. The rules of use may be incorporated into the concessionaire's operating plan, and the concessionaire may be held accountable for ensuring compliance under the terms of the special use permit.

Conduct that violates rules of use may also violate Federal, State, or local laws. When such conduct occurs, the concessionaire should report those violations to the appropriate law enforcement authority. For example, violation of a rule of use may constitute a disturbance of the peace in violation of State law or disorderly conduct in violation of Forest Service regulations at 36 CFR 261.4

To minimize confusion between criminally enforceable Federal, State, and local laws and concessionaire-established rules of use, each should be separately posted within the campground.

2. State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies. Generally, State and local law enforcement agencies have authority to enforce applicable State and local laws, ordinances, and regulations on National Forest System lands. Under 16 U.S.C. 480, States retain their civil and criminal jurisdiction over persons on the National Forests. Thus, crimes involving persons and their property are generally the primary responsibility of State and local law enforcement authorities.

Where a concessionaire has established rules of use, there is no authority for a State or local law enforcement agency to take enforcement action, unless the conduct giving rise to the violation of a rule of use also constitutes a violation of State or local law.

There is no authority for the Forest Service to allow State and local law enforcement personnel to enforce Federal laws and regulations, including 36 CFR part 261. Some conduct may be prosecuted under Federal or State law because the conduct violates both Federal and State law. However, State and local law enforcement officers may enforce only State and local law.

3. Forest Service. The Forest Service retains all its authorities and responsibilities for enforcing Federal laws and regulations relating to administration of National Forest System lands. The role and responsibilities of the Forest Service do not change simply because the Forest Service has issued a special use permit to a concessionaire. Forest Service personnel should continue to enforce all Federal laws and regulations relating to administration of National Forest System lands within concessionaire-operated campgrounds.

Forest Service personnel should not assume, however, that all laws and regulations applicable to facilities operated by the Forest Service are also applicable to sites operated by concessionaries. For example, as a matter of policy the Forest Service does not interpret failure to pay a camping fee charged by a concessionaire to be a violation of 36 CFR 261.15 because the camping fee charged by the concessionaire is not an admission or recreation use fee for a "site, facility,... or service furnished by the United States." The agency construes "furnished by the United States" to mean "owned and operated" by the United States." Therefore, the Forest Service would not cite someone for failure to pay a camping fee at a concession campground because the site is operated by a concessionaire, rather than the Forest Service, and the concessionaire, rather than the Forest Service, retains the campground fees.

The regulations at 36 CFR part 261, subpart A, apply at both Forest Service and concessionaire-operated campgrounds. In contrast, orders issued under 36 CFR part 261, subpart B, may or may not apply at concession campgrounds. A subpart B order must clearly state the area to which it applies. 36 CFR 261.50(c)(1). If the order is forest-wide, it applies to all campgrounds, including concession campgrounds, within the forest. Operating plans for concession campground permits should be consistent with any orders that apply. A concessionaire may not allow an activity prohibited by an order. However, a concessionaire's rule of use may be stricter than an order.

The Regional Forester or Forest Supervisor may exempt concession campgrounds from an order and may want to exempt them to place more responsibility for the site on the concessionaire. Rules of use rather than the order would then govern. This approach is consistent with one of the
purposes of the campground concession program, which is to reduce expenditure of limited Forest Service resources in administering developed recreation sites.

When issuing a subpart B order, the Regional Forester or Forest Supervisor should consider whether the order should apply at concession campgrounds.

If concession campgrounds are exempted from a subpart B order, the rules of use established by concessionaires may differ from the restrictions contained in the order that applies elsewhere. For example, the restriction established by an order on the number of vehicles allowed per campsite at a Forest Service-operated campground may differ from the same type of restriction adopted as a rule of use at a concession campground. Forest Service personnel should ensure that they enforce only those subpart B orders that apply to concession campgrounds.

36 CFR part 261, subpart C, regulations should be handled the same way as subpart B orders. Subpart C regulations are issued by the Chief or Regional Forester to prohibit acts or omissions in all or any part of an area over which the Chief or Regional Forester has jurisdiction.

Forest Service law enforcement personnel should cooperate with State and local law enforcement agencies to the extent authorized by Forest Service policy (FSM 5360) and State and Federal law, such as 16 U.S.C. 559g(c), which authorizes acceptance of a law enforcement designation from States, and 16 U.S.C. 553, which authorizes the Forest Service to aid in the enforcement of State laws in certain respects.

Prospectuses and permits for concession campgrounds should clearly describe the respective responsibilities of Forest Service law enforcement personnel, State and local law enforcement authorities, and concessionaires.

SUMMARY

Crimes involving persons and property are generally violations of State law. State and local law enforcement authorities have jurisdiction to enforce State laws at concession campgrounds. Forest Service personnel have the responsibility to enforce Federal laws and regulations relating to the administration of National Forest System lands. Concessionaires may establish and enforce rules of use that are subordinate to Federal, State, and local laws and regulations. Rules of use are not enforceable by Federal, State, or local law enforcement authorities unless violations or rules of use constitute violations of Federal, State, or local laws.

Concessionaires should contact Federal, State, and local law enforcement authorities to address criminal violations under their respective jurisdictions. Concessionaires may also consider hiring a private security firm or contracting with off-duty State or local law enforcement personnel to address day-to-day public safety concerns at concession campgrounds.

Campground concession prospectuses and permits should clearly describe the respective responsibilities of Forest Service law enforcement personnel, local law enforcement authorities, and concessionaires. In order to minimize visitor confusion between criminally enforceable Federal, State, and local laws and concessionaire-established rules of use, each should be separately posted within a campground.