



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Rocky
Mountain
Region

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Route To:

Subject: Recreation Special Uses Authorized Under the Recreation Enhancement Act

To: Forest Supervisors

I am writing to share information transmitted by the Washington Office regarding enactment of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement (Act) as related to special use authorizations. Please see enclosed memo.

Recreation staff officers met in May, 2005 to discuss implementation of the Act in the Rocky Mountain Region. Agreements were reached related to two areas: expenditures of funds and sharing of funds for multi-unit special use permits. It was agreed that forests in the Rocky Mountain Region would strive to allocate a minimum of 10% of fees retained through the Act to part (A) of Section 8 which reads, "repair, maintenance, and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, and health and safety." Forests can decide whether to pool funds to complete large projects, or let each district use the money for on-the-ground improvements. It is important to improve the visitor experience with the funds retained.

The second agreement related to the administration of multi-unit permits for outfitter guide operations and recreation events. It was decided that funds would be retained by the unit issuing a multi-unit permit. The Act encourages efficiency and visitor improvement. Large scale permits are beneficial to permit holders and the agency as they reduced paperwork and billing efforts. Units already administering multi-unit permits should not consider breaking the permits up.

Many forests in the Rocky Mountain Region have successfully completed capacity and allocation studies. As a result, new opportunities for outfitter guide operations have been offered. I strongly encourage other units to use some of the newly retained funds to address issues of capacity and allocation.

The enclosed memo stresses the importance of billing permit holders through the special uses database. In order to retain the funds, permit administrators must use the rent sheet to calculate fees in SUDS. A few forests have extremely low outfitter guide and recreation event revenue figures, according to the SUDS database. Be sure everyone is billing correctly and only waiving fees as appropriate under Forest Service policy.



The Rocky Mountain Region administers the largest and most complex outfitter guide program in the country. Success of this program depends on accurate accountability of the funds we collect and providing visitor enhancement. For questions, contact Diane Hatching at 303-275-5040 or dhitchings@fs.fed.us.

/s/ Diane Hatching (for)
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Enclosure