Understanding the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act
Millions of people recreate on federal public lands each year.

The Forest Service takes the responsibility of managing these opportunities very seriously.
DISCUSSION TOPICS

- Recreation Overview
- Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
- Public Involvement and Your Role
- Advisory Committee Organization
- Charter, By-Laws, and Responsibilities
What do you want to do?

- Auto Touring
- Biking
- Boating
- Camping
- Climbing
- Historic/Cultural Sites
- Educational Programs
- Fishing
- Hiking
- Horseback Riding
- Hunting
- Lodging
- Off-Highway Vehicle Access
- Recreational Vehicles
- Museum/Visitor Centers
- Water Sports
- Wildlife Viewing
- Winter Sports
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits per year</td>
<td>205 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acres Managed</td>
<td>192 Million</td>
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<tr>
<td>Campsites</td>
<td>122,000 (+ 11,000 picnic)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Miles of Trail</td>
<td>133,000</td>
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America’s largest source of outdoor recreation opportunities.
Recreation Overview

Did you know . . .

...the **Forest Service** has 201 units:
  155 National Forests
  20 National Grasslands
  20 National Recreation Areas
  6 National Monuments
Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)

10-year authority for National Park Service (NPS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), Bureau of Reclamation (BOR), and Forest Service (FS)

Permits these agencies to continue charging fees at developed recreation sites such as:

- Campgrounds
- Rental cabins
- Day-use sites
Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)

Kinds of Fees Authorized for the FS:

- Standard Amenity Fees
- Expanded Amenity Fees
- Special Recreation Permits
Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)

- **Standard Amenity Fees:**
  Day-use fees where certain services and facilities must be in place at individual sites or areas.

**Requirement are:**
- Permanent Toilet
- Permanent Trash
- Picnic Table
- Parking
- Security
- Interpretive Sign
Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)

- **Expanded Amenity Fees:** Fees for facilities or services that provide direct benefits to people. **Examples include:**
  - Developed campgrounds
  - Highly developed boat launches
  - Cabin rentals
  - Hook-ups
  - Dump stations
  - Transportation services
  - Reservation services
Special Recreation Permits
Where extra measures are needed for natural and cultural resource protection, the health and safety of visitors, to allocate capacity or disperse recreation use. **Examples include:**
- Wilderness Areas
- Shooting ranges
- Specialized trails
Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)

Fee Restrictions or Prohibitions for the FS:

- Entrance fees
- Standard amenity fees for people under 16
- Activities such as –
  - Parking along roads or trails with no facilities
  - Stopping at overlooks or scenic pullouts
  - Pass-through travel
Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)

- Continues to require a majority of revenue to be reinvested in fee sites
- Merges current nation-wide interagency passes into one pass called the “America the Beautiful Pass”
- Has public involvement criteria for new fees & fee changes
- Requires use of Advisory Committees to make recommendations on certain aspects of the fee program.
The Recreation RAC is a FACA Committee

- The Secretary of Agriculture has appointed you to make recommendations on certain aspects of recreation fees.

- Recommendations will be forwarded to the Regional Forester.
Why FACA?

• So that no one interest group has undue influence on a decision maker.

• FACA assures that if an interest group does have special access to the decision maker, they are a balanced group and all their work is done in the open with public access (FACA Committee).
Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)

What must all FACA Committees have?

- Balanced representation
- Open meetings
- A charter that clearly outlines the committees work
- An ending date for their work
- A Designated Federal Official and a Chairperson
Committee Members

• Serve 2 or 3 year terms but can be reappointed

• Serve without compensation

• Will be reimbursed for transportation, lodging and meals.
Meetings

- Must be held at a reasonable time and place so the public can attend
- Must have a public comment period
- Must be published in the federal register (15 days prior to the meeting)
- Must have minutes taken and available for the public
A Recreation RAC will make recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture on:

- **Implementing** or **eliminating** standard amenity fees, expanded amenity fees, and non-commercial individual special recreation (special use) permit fee;
- **Expanding or limiting** the recreation fee program; and
- **Implementing** fee level changes.
A RRAC may **not** make recommendations regarding:

- Sites operated by a concessionaire or contractor.
- Commercial and group special recreation permits (special use permits) such as outfitting and guiding or recreation events.
Recreation RACs are part of a larger public involvement effort:

- FS must conduct public involvement when making recreation fee changes. These may include steps like newspaper articles and posting notices on-site.

- Identifying general public support is part of the recommendation process.
Committee Members will:

- Provide local and user group perspective, input, and collaboration
- Encourage accountability and oversight
- Represent local interest and concerns
- Be flexible in membership and location to accommodate different interests
A Recreation RAC has 11 members in the following three categories:

- **Five persons who represent recreation users, as appropriate** –
  - Camping
  - Hunting and Fishing
  - Wildlife Viewing/Visiting Interpretive Sites
  - Non-Motorized Recreation
  - Motorized Recreation

- **Three persons who represent, as appropriate** –
  - Outfitter & Guides (1)
  - Local Environmental Group
  - Outfitter & Guides (2)

- **Three persons who are** –
  - State Tourism Official
  - Local Government Official
  - Indian Tribe Representative
A Recreation RAC will meet at least annually, but may meet as often as needed to deal with citizen concerns about the recreation fee program in a timely manner.

Committee members will serve two or three year terms for the first term and three-year subsequent terms.

Members may apply for reappointment.
A Recreation RAC *quorum* is *eight* members.

**Recommendations** must include a majority of members from each of the three member categories—seven members.

**Decisions**, such as electing a chairperson or adopting by-laws, require a majority of members—*six* members.
Thank You!

We look forward to the advice and assistance you provide on Recreation Fees!

Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act