

Recreation **R**esource **A**dvisory **C**ommittee



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.*



Biking

Downhill skiing

Camping

Rock Climbing

Picnicking

Boating

Hunting

Cabins

Hiking

Riding
Whitewater Rafting



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



Recreation Overview



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



Recreation Overview



Did you know ...

	FS
Visits per year	205 Million
Acres Managed	192 Million
Campsites	122,000 (+ 11,000 picnic)
Miles of Trail	133,000

**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



Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)



- **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.



Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)



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.



Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)



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



Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)



Committee Members

- Serve 2 or 3 year terms but can be reappointed
- Serve without compensation
- Will be reimbursed for transportation, lodging and meals.



Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)



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



Public Involvement and Your Role



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.



Public Involvement and Your Role



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

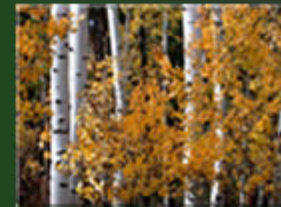


Public Involvement and Your Role



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.



Public Involvement and Your Role



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



Advisory Committee Organization



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



Advisory Committee Organization



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.



Advisory Committee Organization



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**