

To the responsible? Officials: US Forest Service

I am embarrassed, ashamed and mad as hell about the proposed policy that would change the discount for seniors and disabled folks that have purchased the America the Beautiful "Lifetime " Pass and were told that it would provide for a fifty percent discount to camp in Forest Service campgrounds. Now, due to pressure from Concessionaire Operators, the proposal is to arbitrarily reduce their discount to ten percent simply to increase profits on the backs of elderly and handicapped individuals. You should be ashamed of even considering such a proposal!

I am a second generation Forest Service retiree as was my father and once took great pride in the Agency I grew up in and in turn dedicated my career. The Agency I worked for would not have condoned a blatant disregard of agreements made to the seniors and handicapped purchasers of the pass simply to pad the pockets of Concessionaires! My observation is that there has been a continuous erosion of the developed infrastructure of Concessionaire operated facilities not to mention the loss of Forest Service personnel interacting with the public to improve their outdoor experience on public lands and now we propose to give them a huge profit increase for the fine job they are doing??? The facilities that are being run by Concessionaires were all constructed with tax dollars on Public Lands and due to current policy they have a sweet deal of operating them and gleaning the profits from the public that paid for the facilities in the first place. Now they would like a significant tip and want those least able to pay more to foot the bill??

All of you need to redeem your responsibilities and quit caving in to pressure from Concessionaires for increased profits that are not warranted. I also suggest you need to take a very serious look at the growing privatization of public lands and infrastructure. My Grandsons would appreciate their outdoor heritage not be parceled out to private enterprise!

Very Sincerely,  
John Holt, USFS Retired