



File Code: 2340

Date: May 16, 2012

Route To:

Subject: Proceeding with Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Area Implementation

To: Regional Foresters

On March 25, 2011, I issued guidance for reviewing our 97 large standard amenity recreation fee areas with multiple recreation sites or complexes. That guidance resulted in proposals to remove the large area designation from 73 of these areas and reduce most of the remaining 24 areas, which were concurred with in letters from my office in December, 2011 and February, 2012. As a result, many lower developed recreation sites are proposed for elimination from the recreation fee program. This is a significant change to our recreation fee program, one that puts us on sound footing for future success, and I want to applaud you for your hard work and diligence.

I recognize that public participation, including Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) review, is required by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA) to implement these proposals. However, it is important that we demonstrate commitment to this approach.

To that end, I am directing that you not enforce standard amenity recreation fees or issue notices of required fees for any portion of a large area that has been proposed for elimination from the recreation fee program. If a large area is being divided into smaller areas with a single recreation site or tight cluster of sites, ensure that all these sites contain all the required amenities and services before continuing to enforce fees or issue notices of required fees at those sites. Sites may include some designated overflow parking areas if they are key to the function and use of the site.

You may convert a standard amenity recreation fee for an area to another type of recreation fee, such as an expanded amenity recreation fee or special recreation permit fee, provided there is no change in the fee amount and the criteria for charging that type of fee under REA and the Forest Service's Interim Implementation Guidelines on REA are met.

I have discussed this change in enforcement strategy with the Law Enforcement and Investigations Staff (LEI) in the Washington Office. Please work with your local LEI and forest protection officers to implement this change in approach.

This direction will remain in effect until you have completed public participation and Recreation RAC review for affected standard amenity recreation fee areas. At that time, you will follow requirements applicable to Recreation RAC recommendations for these areas. Additional materials for implementing this direction are enclosed.



Please direct any questions you may have to Assistant Recreation Director Ken Karkula at (202) 205-1358.

/s/ James M. Pena (for)
LESLIE A. C. WELDON
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

cc: Ken Karkula
Julie A Cox

