Review of Standard Amenity Recreation Fee Areas

To: Regional Foresters

REPLY DUE MAY 18, 2011

The recreation fee program is a collaborative effort between visitors and the Forest Service to provide and maintain high-quality recreation opportunities on national forests and national grasslands. One aspect of the recreation fee program that has at times caused confusion for visitors is High Impact Recreation Areas (HIRAs). Calling these areas “HIRAs” can create the impression that the Agency has created a new type of fee, even though these areas meet all the requirements for charging a standard amenity recreation fee. To eliminate confusion and ensure that fees continue to be charged appropriately, the regions will review all HIRAs over the next 3 months using the enclosed guidance. Secondly, we will phase out the use of the term “HIRA” and will simply refer to these areas as “standard amenity recreation fee areas.”

Upon completion of the reviews, the Washington Office will review regional findings and proposed changes and work with regions and units to reach agreement on any proposed changes. Regions will present their findings to their Recreation Resource Advisory Committee after the review.

Please direct any questions you may have to Recreation Fee Program Manager Katie Donahue at (202) 205-1169.

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cc: Katie Donahue