I am a public school teacher who also worked for the USFS for over 10 years. I completely oppose the proposal to change the rules for acceptance of lifetime passes at concessionaire-managed campgrounds and day-use sites and what this will bring about in comparison to what the rules require for agency-managed sites.

This change is just a clever way for the USFS to circumvent the law. The USFS is prevented from charging for parking under U.S.C. 6802(d)(1)(A) So now the parking lot can be put under a concession and let the concessionaire charge for parking - and a lifetime pass would not be required to be honored by the concessionaire.

The Forest Service is also prohibited from charging for scenic overlooks. 16 U.S.C. 6802(d)(1)(F) So now the agency can simply put the overlook under a concessionaire and let them charge for the overlook - and seniors would not even have the discount to which they are entitled.

The Forest Service must provide six specific amenities before they can charge a day use fee. 16 U.S.C. 6802(f)(4)

No problem now, the agency can just give it to a concessionaire, and they don't have to provide anything in order to charge. And seniors could be charged full fee too.

Not only is this a way of circumventing the law, it is horribly unfair. Many citizens like me have paid taxes and worked long, hard hours for many years looking forward to being able to afford to go camping for long periods of time during our retirement. My retirement will not be large. I fear I am saying goodbye to a long-standing dream; there are others who will be far less fortunate than I am, due to their income level.

I am disillusioned, angry, and disgusted by this proposal.

Sincerely yours,
Isabelle Spohn