



Reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act

RVIA urges Congress to reauthorize the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), which governs the collection and retention of fees on federal parklands, forests, and recreation areas. FLREA needs to be reauthorized this year so that annual passes to federal recreation lands can continue to be sold in 2015 and critical outdoor recreation areas that are important to RVers can be maintained and improved.

FLREA, which was first approved by Congress in December of 2004, allows the collection and retention of entrance and recreation fees by most of the major federal recreation providers. It also mandates that the fees be used to provide much-needed funding for programming and capital improvement projects, such as rehabilitating campgrounds and updating facilities, in federal recreation areas that are popular with RV owners. FLREA provides more than \$300 million annually through entrance fees, campground fees, and other recreation-related charges.

Include the Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Fees in FLREA

The notable exception to FLREA is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the nation's largest provider of water-based outdoor recreation with over 4,700 recreation areas, including many with RV-accessible campgrounds, which received over 370 million visits last year. Ninety percent of Corps facilities are within 50 miles of a metropolitan area. The Corps collects about \$43 million a year in recreation fees. If the Corps was included in FLREA, those fees would be retained at the parks at which they were collected to help pay for operations and maintenance. RVIA and many other outdoor recreation and conservation groups enthusiastically support including the Corps of Engineers in FLREA to make fee collection and retention policies as unified as possible across all federal land agencies.

Economic Impact of Outdoor Recreation on Federal Lands

Outdoor recreation is by far the single greatest use of the National Forest System and our National Parks, dwarfing every other use. Outdoor recreation is the single greatest employer in the National Forest System, and provides the single greatest stimulus for local economies. Nearly \$41 billion in GDP and 457,000 jobs are attributable to recreation in National Forests and National Parks. Additionally, every dollar invested in outdoor recreation programs generates \$46 in GDP.

Request

We urge Congress to quickly reauthorize this vitally needed program to allow federal land agencies in a time of dwindling federal budgets to continue to serve the visiting public and provide the high-quality visitor amenities RV owners desire. In addition to the renewal of FLREA, we ask Congress to include the Army Corps of Engineers as a land agency in FLREA, giving the Corps the ability to retain the recreation fees collected at the park they were collected.



RECREATION VEHICLE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

1896 Preston White Dr. P.O. Box 2999 Reston, VA 20195-0999 Tel: 703/620-6003 Fax: 703/620-5071 www.rvia.org