



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 and critical outdoor recreation areas that are important to RVers can be maintained and improved. H.R. 1991, which would extend FLREA through September 30, 2017, was approved unanimously by the House Natural Resources Committee on April 30.

FLREA 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 by allowing national forests and park to retain entrance fees, campground fees, and other recreation-related charges.

Include the Army Corps of Engineers Recreation Fees in FLREA

The notable exclusion from 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. These recreation areas received over 370 million visits last year. 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 approve H.R. 1991 or other legislation to reauthorize this vitally needed program to allow federal land agencies, in a time of diminishing federal budgets, to continue to serve the visiting public and provide the high-quality visitor amenities RV owners desire. In addition to the renewal, we ask Congress to include the Army Corps of Engineers in FLREA, giving the Corps the ability to retain the recreation fees collected at the park they were collected.

6/3/15



RECREATION VEHICLE INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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