



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

F5419(2608)

DEC 21 2004

Memorandum

To: Associate and Regional Directors

From: Director *Jan P. Mandillo*

Subject: Guidance Concerning Title VIII – Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of H.R. 4818 (Omnibus Appropriations Bill for FY 2005)
Reply Due: January 3, 2005

As part of the FY 2005 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) was passed and will replace the current Recreational Fee Demonstration (Fee Demo) Program authority effective December 8, 2004. This act is authorized through December 2014.

One of the primary reasons that the public and Congress have been supportive of the National Park Service (NPS) obtaining permanent fee authority is because the NPS has been successful in demonstrating accountable management practices under the Fee Demo authority. Our past practices and policies will provide the basis for development of future policies in implementing the new FLREA. In order to meet our continuing budgetary and strategic planning commitments, the previously established policies and procedures concerning the Fee Demo and National Parks Pass (NPP) Programs will remain in place, until new policy and guidance are developed and issued. There are a few exceptions that are identified in the attachment.

Since this new fee authority includes other Department of the Interior agencies and the U.S. Forest Service, implementation of the new law will involve interagency coordination. There is already an established interagency workgroup and interagency senior-management council, which will oversee the interagency implementation aspects of the new law. The NPS will form an internal workgroup to evaluate our policies, requirements, and program needs further and to develop consideration implementation recommendations for NPS leadership. We request that each region provide at least two representatives to serve on this workgroup. Each Associate Director should identify one individual. Representatives should be from various disciplines and levels of the NPS. Individuals proposed should represent management (park and/or region), budget, fees, and/or program areas that benefit from fee expenditures. Each member will represent their discipline or function but will work with the group to consider the needs of the NPS as a whole. You are encouraged to recommend individuals with a high level of

involvement or interest in the fee program. The Directorate will ensure that the group is diverse and represents a wide spectrum of the NPS. Participation in this workgroup will require a commitment of time over the next year. **Please submit names of your regional representatives via electronic mail to Sue Masica, Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, by close of business, January 3, 2005.**

The NPS will continue to collect and expend fees under the same policy guidance as the Fee Demo Program until new program guidance is developed and issued. On January 28, 2005, a TELnet broadcast is planned to inform you of progress to date. You will be notified later about the time and details of that broadcast. We will also use the InsideNPS Fee Demo websites under Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, and the Fee Management website under Administration, Business Practices, and Workforce Development as a place to provide information.

If you have questions about this memorandum, please contact Carol Maass (Projects) at 202/513-7072, Jane Anderson (Fee Program) at 202/513-7087, or Geary Fisher (Budget) at 202/209-3276.

Attachment

cc: Comptroller
Associate Director, Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands
Acting Associate Director, Administration, Business Practices, and
Workforce Development

INTERIM GUIDANCE

Servicewide Comprehensive Call

The guidance for the current Servicewide Comprehensive Call (SCC) including FY 2006 Cost of Collection (COC) projects remains intact with the following exceptions:

- No projects will be approved for threatened or endangered species monitoring.
- No projects will be approved for housing.
- No projects will be approved that include personnel awards.
- Each project justification should include a statement about how the project has a **direct** visitor connection. Projects that do not have a **direct** visitor connection should not be approved. There is a heavy emphasis on “recreation” in this bill. It is important that all projects have either a deferred maintenance or recreation/visitor emphasis.
- Every effort should be made to ensure efficiency of **COC** expenditures. Currently, the law does not specify that “direct” costs be limited to 15 percent however; there could be more definitive report language given later.

The following items in the guidance for the current SCC need to be re-emphasized:

- New project approval is dependent on a park’s completed Comprehensive Plan.
- “Facility” project approvals in Project Management Information System (PMIS) require the identification of the associated FMSS parent workorder.
- The NPS will follow the established approval-process. All projects must be in the PMIS and sent to the Washington Office (WASO) for concurrence or approval until a new process is established.

Budget and Accounting

All current accounts and any new accounts established needs to include the alpha/numeric IWPB in the Federal Financial System, which represents the park alpha code and the PMIS number.

- Until the Treasury Department decides whether the fund type will change, the PWE’s will remain the same for fund types Recreational Fee Demonstration (Fund 25) and the National Parks Pass (Fund 22).
- Parks must stop expending any unobligated fee revenues for housing, threatened or endangered species monitoring, and personnel awards.
- Previously approved projects that do not have a **direct** visitor connection should not be funded and obligated until the project has been reviewed for consistency with the new expenditure criteria by the region and WASO.
- Regions and WASO Fee Projects will identify and stop expending any unobligated fee revenues for projects that are now outside the new expenditure parameters.

National Parks Pass and New Federal Lands Pass

A new interagency, ***America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass*** is under development that will replace the current National Parks Pass. We will begin designing and implementing the pass in CY 2005, but is not expected to be ready for sale until FY 2006 or FY 2007. The National Parks Pass Program will be in place until the new pass is developed and advertised in the *Federal Register*.

Current Servicewide Funds

Review and approval of the 20 percent and the 30 percent projects to be funded from the remaining FY 2004 and FY 2005 revenues will proceed with the incorporation of changes in the expenditure categories.