

America the Beautiful The National Parks & Federal Recreational Lands Pass

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THE NATIONAL PARKS AND FEDERAL RECREATIONAL LANDS PASS

Background

- Authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act of 2004 (REA)
- REA repeals the National Parks Pass, Golden Eagle, Golden Age and Golden Access Passports.
- Interagency organizational structure
- Workgroup actions



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Objectives of this training

- Introduce the new Interagency Passes
- Discuss ordering, sales and validation procedures for the passes
- Describe eligibility requirements for each type of pass
- Describe how to handle refunds, exchanges, lost, stolen, upgrades and damaged passes
- Provide general parameters for 3rd party resell agreements



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Fee Categories

- Entrance
- Standard Amenity
- Expanded Amenity
- Special Recreation Permit



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Entrance Fees

- Fee charged to access lands managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Vehicle and per person fees



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Standard Amenity Fees

- Fee charged for use of Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Forest Service (USDA FS), and Reclamation sites that have a combination of basic amenities – picnic tables, trash receptacles, toilets, developed parking, interpretive signing, and security
- Vehicle and per person fees



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Expanded Amenity Fees

- Fee for specialized facilities and services beyond entrance fees and standard amenity fees
- Examples include: camping, boat launch, tours and recreation rentals



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Special Recreation Permit Fees

Allow specified recreational use of the public lands and related waters. They are issued to:

- Control visitor use
- Protect recreational, natural, and cultural resources
- Provide for the health and safety of visitors

Used to authorize:

- Commercial and vending use, special events, organized group activities, as well as the use of special areas

The Interagency Passes generally do not cover these fees



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Key Points

- New passes will be introduced January 1, 2007 - existing passes will be honored until expired
- Passes will be honored at Federal Recreation sites that charge an entrance or standard amenity fee
- National Parks Passes, Golden Eagle, Age and Access Passports **may not be sold after Dec, 31, 2006.**



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Federal Interagency Passes

- Annual Pass
- Senior Pass
- Access Pass
- Volunteer Pass

Supplemental Materials

- Hangtags
- Decals



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Interagency Annual Pass - \$TBD

Benefits

- Covers entrance to FWS and NPS sites and use of BLM, Reclamation, and USDA FS sites that charge a Standard Amenity Fee.
- Valid for 12 months from the date of purchase.
- Admits pass holder/s and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicles fee areas and pass holder + 3 persons, not to exceed 4 persons, (16 and older) at per person fee areas.
- Available from all participating federal agencies




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Selling & Validating the Annual Pass

- Collect the money for each Annual Pass sold
- Validate the pass by punching out current month
- Have the visitor sign the pass
- Explain to the visitor how to use and display their pass
- Provide the pass and brochure to the visitor (Hangtag and Decal if needed)




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Interagency Supplemental Materials

- Hangtags** – to display passes at sites that are not regularly staffed
- Issued **free of charge**
- Visitor must have valid Interagency Pass
- Not valid alone for entry at staffed areas – must have valid pass
- Validate the Annual Hangtag by punching the same expiration date as the Annual Pass (month and year)




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Interagency Decal – Free

Benefits

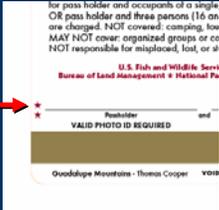
- Covers entrance to **un-staffed** FWS and NPS sites and use of **un-staffed** BLM, Reclamation, and USDA FS sites that charge a Standard Amenity Fee
- Available with Annual and Volunteer Pass
- Must be punched with the same month as Annual Pass
- Use only with open top vehicles or motorcycles at sites that are not regularly staffed (Lifetime decals are not available at this time)




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Interagency Decal

- Limit of two decals per Annual Pass, one per Volunteer Pass
- Passes must be punched when a decal is issued.




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Issuing & Validating a Decal

- Verify that vehicle registration matches the Annual Pass holder's signature
- Record vehicle license plate number on Decal
- Validate the Decal by punching the same expiration date as the Pass
- Decals must be displayed in the lower right corner of the windshield (auto), visible from the front (motorcycle)
- Explain to the visitor how to use their Decal




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Interagency Senior Pass

Benefits

- Covers entrance to FWS and NPS sites and use of BLM, Reclamation, and USDA FS sites that charge a Standard Amenity Fee.
- Valid for pass holder's lifetime
- Admits pass holder and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per vehicles fee areas and pass holder + 3 persons (16 and older) at per person fee areas
- Available from participating federal agencies
- Discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees
- Non-transferable




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Selling & Validating the Senior Pass

- Pass may only be purchased in person
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident 62 or older
Proof of age required, state driver's license or ID, birth certificate, or similar document
- Collect \$10 for each pass
- Have the visitor sign the pass
- Issue the pass (Hangtag if needed)
- Explain to the visitor how to use and display their pass




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Interagency Access Pass - Free

Benefits

- Available to permanently disabled U.S. citizens or permanent residents, regardless of age.
- Covers entrance to FWS and NPS sites and use of BLM, Reclamation, and FS sites that charge a Standard Amenity Fee Valid for pass holder's lifetime
- Admits pass holder and passengers in non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 person (16 and older) at per person fee areas
- Discount on some Expanded Amenity Fees
- Non-transferable
- Available from all participating federal agencies




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Issuing & Validating the Access Pass

- Pass may only be issued in person
- Must be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident with a permanent disability
- Must have a medical determination and documentation of permanent disability
- Have visitor sign the pass



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Acceptable forms of Documentation

The applicant **must submit one** of the following documents (a, b or c) or the applicant can complete the Statement of Disability as described in (d).

- A statement signed by a licensed physician attesting that the applicant has a permanent physical, mental, or sensory impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, and stating the nature of the impairment;

OR

- A document issued by a Federal agency, such as the Veteran's Administration, which attests that the applicant has been medically determined to be eligible to receive Federal benefits as a result of blindness or permanent disability. Other acceptable Federal agency documents include proof of receipt of Social Security Disability Income (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI);



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Documentation Continued

OR

- A document issued by a State agency such as the vocational rehabilitation agency, which attests that the applicant has been medically determined to be eligible to receive vocational rehabilitation agency benefits or services as a result of medically determined blindness or permanent disability. Showing a State motor vehicle department disability sticker, license plate or hang tag is not acceptable documentation;

OR

- If a person claims eligibility for the Access Pass, but cannot produce any of the documentation outlined, that person must read, sign and date the Statement of Disability in the presence of the officer issuing the Pass. If the applicant cannot read and/or sign someone else may read, date, and sign the statement on his/her behalf in the applicant's presence and the presence of the officer issuing the Pass.



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Interagency Volunteer Pass - Free

- Available to Volunteers who work 500 hrs. (earned after Jan. 1, 2007)
- Covers entrance to FWS and NPS sites and use of BLM, Reclamation, and FS sites that charge a Standard Amenity Fee
- One signature permitted on pass
- Admits pass holder and passengers in non-commercial vehicle at per vehicle fee areas and pass holder + 3 person (16 and older) at per person fee areas
- Valid for 12 months
- Non-transferable




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Issuing & Validating the Volunteer Pass

- Federal volunteer coordinator or fee manager must issue the pass to an individual in person **free of charge**
- Validate the pass by punching out current month
- The volunteer must sign the pass




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Ordering products

- Only designated points of contact may order passes from the USGS fulfillment house
- User ID's and passwords should be received by November 10, 2006
- Use official order form
- Many field sites will order through their designated agency point of contact, not directly through USGS



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Ordering products

- Orders can be placed by:
 - Email: fedrecpass@usgs.gov
 - Phone: 888-ASK-USGS (888-275-8747)
 - Fax: 303-202-4693



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Motorcycles

- At staffed Federal recreation sites where per vehicle fees are collected Interagency Annual pass holder/s may enter on two motorcycles
- At un-staffed Federal recreation sites each motorcycle must display a valid decal
- Only one motorcycle admitted per lifetime pass



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Concessionaires

- Concessionaires honor recreation passes according to the conditions of their contracts
- May or may not honor a discount for camping fees with valid Senior or Access Pass



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Fraud and pass misuse

- Photo ID should be checked
- Agency's will develop their own procedures for identifying fraud and confiscation of passes
- NPS currently uses red check marks to identify misused passes



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Determining the Correct Pass

Key Questions to Ask:

- How often and where does the visitor recreate?
- Are they 62 or have a permanent disability?
- Do they qualify for a Senior or Access Pass?



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Upgrades and Refunds

- Upgrades will be left up to each agency
- If an agency chooses to upgrade it is within the agency only
- Refunds are generally not allowed



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Third-Party Agreements

- National
- Local
- Parameters:
 - All passes must be sold at face value
 - Passes will be purchased up front by third party vendors
 - There will be no refunds or exchanges of unsold stock



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Third Party Parameters Continued

- Vendors will be encouraged to purchase the pass at full face value, however a wholesale rate of 10% may be allowed
- Vendors will be required to validate (punch with expiration date) all passes at the time of purchase
- Vendors will not be allowed to sell passes that do not have a full year of validated use
- Only small cooperating associations/friends or affiliated groups will be allowed to sell passes on a consignment basis on behalf of a recreation site. No wholesale rates will be allowed for consignment stock. The recreation site will be responsible for all reconciliation and accountability of stock.



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2006 Close Out

- If your supplies are running low, share passes among parks and recreation areas
- Old passes must be destroyed – Follow your agency guidelines
- A limited number of old passes should be kept on hand to accommodate exchanging damaged passes or automated fee machine receipts from 2006, check your agency guidelines



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Other Pass Issues

- Passes used for awards, donations to charity, raffle items, etc. must be purchased at full price

– (Golden) Age and (Golden) Access Passports may **NOT** be used as awards, raffle drawings, etc.



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Revenue Distribution

- 100% stays at the agency that sells the pass for the first 3-5 years of the program
- Agencies set policy for how much revenue stays at each site
- Internet and third party sales are kept to pay for administrative costs of the pass program



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For more information:

- Contact your Agency or Regional representative