

**EASTERN REGION RECREATION  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TELECONFERENCE MEETING  
FEBRUARY 26, 2008**

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The third meeting of the Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) met at 9:00 a.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, February 26, 2008. Ten of the eleven members of the RRAC participated in the teleconference meeting.

**RRAC members in attendance:** Randy Hardin, Christine Jourdain, Ronald Craig, Nicholas Manjerovic, John Schnorr, Craig Showalter, Susan Arnold, Dana Johnson, Rosemary Mape, and Jo Deen Lowe.

**USFS attendees included:** Leslie Russell, Marcia Heymen, Melanie Fullman, Caroline Mitchell and Cheryl Chatham.

Rosemary Mape, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. and proceeded with a roll call to ensure all Committee members were in attendance, and that a quorum was present. Ted Sutton was unable to join the meeting

#### REGIONAL UPDATE

Les Russell, Acting Director of Recreation, Wilderness & Heritage programs for the Eastern Region updated the Committee on Regional activities that included a summary of the Agency's reorganization (transformation) activities and potential changes primarily in Washington, DC and Regional offices across the US. Further, he announced that newly selected Regional Forester Kent Connaughton was now at the helm of the Eastern Region for the US Forest Service. Les will complete his "Acting Director" assignment at the end of this week. It is anticipated that a Director will be selected in the near future to fill that position for the next year, as the Agency makes organizational decisions through their transformation work.

#### PREVIOUS PROJECT UPDATES

- Recommended 8 forest proposals.
- No feedback has been received on the 4 proposals that will be implemented this summer.
- The other 4 proposals have been implemented, and all have had positive feedback.
- Ottawa NF – no further input from the public as the public involvement phase ended (advertised in the federal register), with comment period concluding in early February 2008.

#### PUBLIC INPUT OPPORTUNITY

Chairperson Mape noted the agenda provided an opportunity for the public to provide input to the Committee, and that no one had requested time nor submitted information for this meeting.

## PROJECT PROPOSAL

Melanie Fullman, Regional Fee Board Chairperson, presented some background information on the Hiawatha National Forest (NF) proposal which requests a fee increase at 56 campsites across the forest. Following some committee discussion, Jourdain made a motion with a second by Johnson for the committee to recommend the fee increase as requested by the Forest (rate of \$8.00 per site per night).

Chairperson Mape called for a vote by roll call. All Committee members voted in favor of the recommendation. (10-0; 1 person absent)

## UPCOMING PROPOSALS

Fullman updated the Committee on proposals expected to be submitted for the next meeting (Fall 2008). The following projects are under consideration for the Committee to review:

- Huron-Manistee NF proposal will include campgrounds and day use areas;
- Monogahela NF is working on a fee increase proposal for campgrounds;
- Mark Twain NF is working on a proposal;
- Shawnee NF is preparing a proposal for developed recreation sites and equestrian use on designated trails. The RRAC has received 16 letters from the public regarding fee proposals on the Shawnee NF and will discuss that input once the fee proposal has been submitted for their consideration. Chairperson Mape will respond to those letters for the committee. Public input can be forwarded directly to the Forest through mid-April.

## COMMITTEE BUSINESS

The committee was informed about legislation introduced into Congress last session that would impact the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). S.2438 i.e. the Baucus Bill, co-sponsored by Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Senator Mike Crapo (R-ID), Senator John Tester (D-MT) with support from Senator Ken Salazar (D-CO) would repeal certain provisions of REA. The committee asked to be kept informed on progress of this legislation over the next few months.

## COMMITTEE TERMS

The term of service for committee members is either 2 years or 3 years. Current terms of service expire in February of 2009, requiring soliciting applications from both interested citizens and committee members whose two-year terms expire, but are interested in serving an additional 2-3 year term. This process will be discussed in more detail at the September 2008 meeting. Current terms of service (number of years) which were determined at the first committee meeting in April are as follows:

Jourdain – 3	Schowalter – 2	Mape - 3
Manjerovic – 3	Arnold – 2	Lowe - 2
Harden – 2	Johnson – 3	Sutton - 2
Craig – 3		
Schnorr - 2		

NEXT MEETING

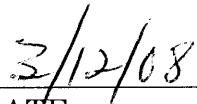
The fall meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 6 to Wednesday, October 8. A field trip to the Huron-Manistee NF is being planned as part of the meeting. Public input opportunities will be included in the final meeting agenda.

Chairperson Mape asked the committee for additional business. Hearing none, a motion was made by Christine Jourdain to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

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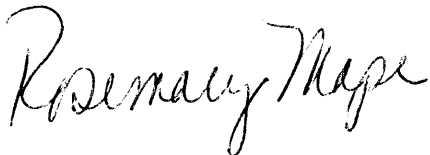
I certify that each member of the Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee has been given an opportunity to review and comment on the February 26, 2008 meeting notes; and I officially approve the above notes.

  
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Rosemary Mape  
Eastern Region RRAC Chairperson

  
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DATE

Date: February 26, 2008  
Subject: Recommendation of Recreation Fee Change  
To: Cheryl Chatham, Designated Federal Official

The Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) held a teleconference February 26, 2008. The Committee reviewed a proposal from the Hiawatha NF, to increase the fee at 56 campsites. The fee was \$10 for stays of 1-3 nights and \$20 for stays of 4-7 nights. The Forest proposed a fee of \$8 per night. The Eastern Region RRAC formally recommends the Forest's proposed fee change to \$8 per night.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosemary MaPe".

ROSEMARY MAPE  
Chairperson  
Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee