

**EASTERN REGION RECREATION  
RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 24-25, 2007**

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The first meeting of the Eastern Region Recreation (RRAC) convened at 9:00 am on Tuesday, April 24 at Wisconsin (Erie Room). Ten of the eleven members so member unable to attend the first day of the meeting. Designated Federal Official for the meeting to begin

Resource Advisory Committee the Comfort Inn in Milwaukee, the RRAC participated. The one g had expressed support to the n that day.

**RRAC members in attendance:** Randy Harden, Christine Jourdain, Ronald Craig, Nicholas Manjerovic, John Schnorr, Craig Schowalter, Dana Johnson, Rosemary Mape, JoDeen Lowe, Ted Sutton.

**USFS attendees included:** Caroline Mitchell, Marcia Heymen, Cheryl Chatham, Dave Dillard, Ann Christensen, Julie Cox, and Rick Lowe.

Facilitator Rick Lowe welcomed the group to the meeting and announced that he had very recently been offered a new position as Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination in Washington, DC. Dillard discussed his goals for the RRAC meeting and thoughts on the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA, also referred to as the Act).

ting and introduced Dave Dillard, Dillard also welcomed the group and a new position as Director of . Dillard discussed his goals for the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA, also

Cheryl Chatham, Designated Federal Official for the group for their interest in the Committee, and for discussed the history of committee development and the US Forest Service Eastern and Southern Regions Eastern United States.

group, expressed her thanks to the taking the time to attend and serve. She the coordination efforts between in regard to RRAC's in the

Dave Dillard presented each member with a Certificate of Appointments signed by the Chief of the Forest Service and an Eastern Region I

te of Appointments signed by the apelpin.

Committee members introduced themselves. Each person answered the following questions: 1) Name, 2) Where they were from, 3) What their job was, 4) Recreation interests, and 5) Expectations for the group and why the interest to serve on the committee.

on answered the following t their job was, egroup and why the interest to serve

A safety briefing took place, as well as a list of "housekeeping" items discussed, including room temperature, location of restrooms and fire exits, etc. For nighttime walking, it was suggested that it might be best to go out in pairs.

"housekeeping" items discussed, nd fire exits, etc. For nighttime go out in pairs.

The Forest Service staff then introduced themselves to the group.

to the group.

Meeting protocols included turning off cell phones, other's time, returning from breaks on time, and the time frames allotted. Other items discussed included a review of the agenda for the next two days, group plans for the evening dinner and suggested dates for the next meeting with a proposal to check calendars for the next day discussion on future meetings.

being respectful of others and of each lping manage the meeting in the areview of the agenda for the next ggested dates for the next meeting discussion on future meetings.

Travel claim forms were passed out to the members and questions answered.

BREAK

D. Dillard presented a PowerPoint program titled "Director's Thoughts—Recreation Resource Advisory Committee".

Committee discussion included the following:

In the initial pre-work that was mailed to the committee two weeks prior to the meeting, there were some project proposals that the FS withdrew before the committee meeting convened. A question was asked as to why those proposals were referred back to the individual Forests. Dillard explained that upon further review at the FS Regional level, it was determined that some proposals did not fully meet the public participation component of REA, and were sent back to individual Forests to complete additional public participation work prior to bringing them forward for committee considerations.

A question was also asked regarding what happens to the fees that are collected at a site. In response, 80% stays at the forest level and has to be spent at a fee site on enhancements that benefit the public, 15% is authorized for the cost of fee collection, and approximately 5% to the Regions for support of the program, RRAC expenses, etc.

Discussion took place about the Fee Proposal summary spreadsheet that was provided as a handout, clarifications made regarding the information for project proposals. (spreadsheet attached)

A question was posed regarding the distinction between the National Park Service, and the US Forest Service. National Park Service is managed by the Department of Interior, is primarily preservation and recreation-focused while the US Forest Service, under Department of Agriculture, carries a multiple use mandate.

Committee members were provided a notebook of information regarding the RRAC process, a copy of the Act, charter, draft by-laws, Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), etc. Cheryl Chatham went through the notebook to orient the committee to what was included and how it would facilitate their work and participation as a member of the RRAC.

Additional Committee discussion included a question about how does the public know they can comment on proposals. Each Forest has a public participation strategy they implement to share information with the public through news releases, websites, informational signs posted at recreations sites, the Federal Register, etc.

Also, how are the project proposals readied for committee work, and how does the committee know that the public participation requirements have been met? The Requirements are provided in the Act, forests adhere to them, and each

Regional Fee Board has the responsibility to ensure that compliance with the Act has been made.

Chatham then presented a PowerPoint on:

- The Recreation Enhancement Act
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
- Public Involvement & your role
- Advisory Committee Organization
- Charter

Committee Discussion included the definition of a National Recreation Area (NRA) which is an area of public land that includes unique, special features and has received Congressional designation.

Discussion continued regarding the history of REA, which grew from the 1994 recreation fee demonstration program that initially included 100 sites across the nation. REA was designed against the backdrop of the recreation fee demonstration program that included public and Congressional involvement.

REA benefits the public and visitors to Federal public lands by reinvesting a majority of fees back to the site of collection to enhance visitor services and reduce the backlog of maintenance needs for recreation facilities. Discussion continued regarding the RRAC role in making recommendations on implementing or eliminating standard amenity fees, expanded amenity fees, and non-commercial individual special recreation permit fees; expanding or limiting the recreation fee program; and fee level increases and/or decreases.

In some recreation areas, the lack of trash cans is an issue. Much more work is being done to encourage the public to use the "pack it in - pack it out" ethic. Trash cans are required for the Standard Amenity Fee to be in place.

The Corps of Engineers (COE) and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) were not included in REA, thus not subject to the provisions of REA.

Standard Amenity Fee: Day-use fee where certain services and facilities must be in place at individual recreation sites or areas. Requirements are: permanent toilet, permanent trash removal, picnic table, parking, security, interpretive signs.

Expanded Amenity Fee: This allows fee to be in place for facilities or services that provided direct benefits to people. This includes developed campgrounds, highly developed boat launches, cabin rentals, hook-ups, dump stations, transportation services, and reservations services.

A question was raised that if the RRAC were contacted by an external group for input or information, how should be handled. It was agreed that they would share the information with either the Chairperson, or the DFO, who would forward as appropriate to the Committee.

Discussion regarding the voting process for recommendations was brought up and the role of the alternate members play. A quorum of 8 members is required for a meeting to be held, and voting on a recommendation requires a majority in each of the three

categories. Alternates are available to serve if a member is unable to attend a meeting. The RRAC members as an avenue for additional public input, in each of the three categories and discuss project choices; however, most Committee work will include a member has to resign, but does not fill. C can make contact with alternate if they choose to do so. The members proposals within their group if they so he full committee.

Discussion also took place regarding other RRACs around the country. Five new RRACs have been established, two in the eastern US, three in the west. Many other states and FSR Regions are relying on existing Bureau of Land Management/US Forest Service RRACs to accomplish their recreation work.

Question was asked: "Fees are becoming more important in public recreation areas, are Friends of..... (this group or that group) becoming more common." Yes, the Forest Service relies on them a great deal.

Break for lunch at 11:30.

The DFO provided comments that were received from the public through email a few days prior to the meeting. Comments were primarily focused on the legitimacy of fees for public use on public, and concerns for continued future access to public lands.

The group worked through the draft bylaws incorporating edits and suggestions to custom fit them for this committee's operations.

The group then voted on a Chairperson—the vote was a tie again between Rose Mape and Dana Johnson. The group decided to have a Chairperson and a Vice-Chair. The two would switch roles for the second year. Mape will serve as Chair for this year and Johnson will serve as Vice-Chair. Next year, the two will switch roles with each other.

The Committee then chose terms for each member:  
Jourdain—3                      Schowalter—2                      Mape-3  
Manjerovic—3                      Arnold-2                      Lowe-2  
Harden—2                      Johnson—3                      Sutton-2  
Craig—3  
Schnorr—2

The group previewed the agenda and schedules for the next day and adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Wednesday, April 25, 2007

The first meeting of the Eastern Region Recreation Resource Advisory Committee (RRAC) continued at 8:00 a.m. on the above date at the Comfort Inn in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. All eleven members of this RRAC participated.

*In attendance:* Randy Harden, Christine Jourdain, Ronald Craig, Nicholas Manjerovic, John Schnorr, Craig Schowalter, Dana Johnson, Susan Arnold, Rosemary Mape, Jo Deen Lowe, Ted Sutton.

US Forest Service representatives included: Carolin Chatham, Dave Dillard, Ann Christensen, Julie Cox,

e Mitchell, Marcia Heymen, Cheryl and Rick Lowe.

The group talked about their "decision making process" and agreed the process for this first meeting would be to make a motion for action decisions for today's meeting.

followed by a vote in order to make

The group previewed the changes made on Tuesday to motion to approve the bylaws as edited. Sutton seconded the motion. The motion passed anonymously.

he bylaws. Schowalter made a seconded the motion. The motion

Mapeth thanked the group for the nomination as Chair to work with both the committee and Dana.

and welcomed the opportunity

There were no members of the public in attendance to request a forum prior to the meeting.

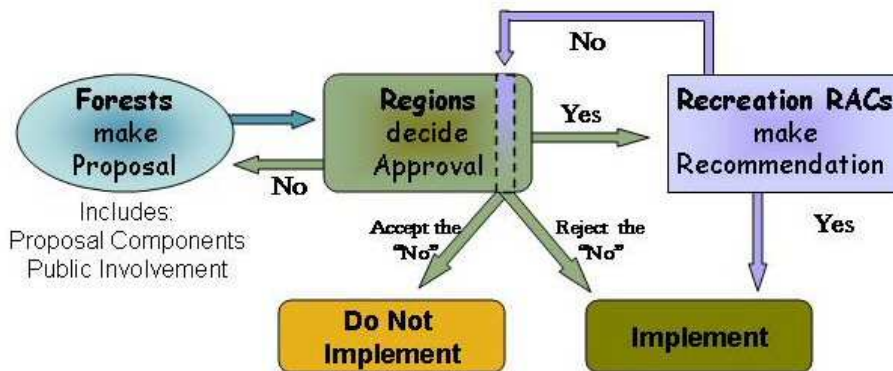
to conduct a Public Forum and no

Chatham shared copies of the email that she received from the public regarding the proposals. The Western Slope No-Fee Coalition responded to the meeting notice in the Federal Register and requested copies of the proposals. They shared the information with their member RRAC. They shared the information with their member additional comments on the proposals, which she shared with the group. Discussion regarding the Committee role in correcting misconceptions normally contact the US Congress, which in most cases, they do.

ed from the public regarding the needed to the meeting notice in the alst to be brought forth before the s. Chatham received three red with the group. Discussion ption with the public, and do the ost cases, they do.

The DFO (Chatham) went over the process for proposals below:

Is, as shown in the graphic



Dave Dillard presented a PowerPoint describing and related to the recreation proposal that had been recommendations. Some discussion took place regarding areas.

showing pictures of the areas provided to the committee for possible ng concessionaire-run recreation

**Proposal1:**

NationalForest,State :Chequamegon-NicoletNF,Wisconsin

ProposedAction :Increasedayusefeesatallcurrentdeveloped sitesfeearasonthe forest.Thefeeisavehiclebasedfeeallowingal lparticipantsinavehicleaccess.Fees areoutlinedbelow.

DayUseFees	CurrentFee	ProposedFee	Change
DailyVehicleFee	\$3	\$5	+\$2
AnnualVehicleFee	\$10	\$20*	+\$10

\*Asecondvehicleannualpassforthesamehouseho ldwouldcost\$10.Limitone\$10 vehiclehouseholdpasspereach\$20passpurchased.

SiteDescription :Thisproposalaffects77developeddayusesites ontheForest.These sitesincludedevelopedtrailheads,boatlaunches, picnicareas,andbeaches.Allofthe sitesprovidetheRecreationEnhancementActrequir edamenitiesforcharginga standardamenityfee.

CurrentFee :Seetableabove.

*Johnson:theincreasesareveryreasonable.*

*Schowaltermadeamotiontorecommendtheproposal. Jourdainsecondedthemotion.*

*VotingOutcome:*

*Category1:Allapproved*

*Category2:Allapproved*

*Category3:Allapproved*

**Proposal2&3**

NationalForest,State :Chequamegon-NicoletNF,Wisconsin

ProposedAction :Increasecampingfeesatmostcampgroundsonthe forest.The attachedchartliststhecampground,currentfee,a ndproposedfee.

*Thegroupwonderedwhy48campgroundsof53cam pgroundswerebeingproposed toincrease.Whynottheother5?*

*The53numberincludestwoconcessionairesitesand BoulderLake.Theothertwosites arelow-usesitesandtheforestwantstoencourage use.*

*JourdainmadeamotiontorecommendProposal2.Cra igsecondedthemotion. Proposal2–48Campgrounds(asdescribedabove)*

*VotingOutcome:*

*Category1:Allapproved*

*Category2:Allapproved*

*Category3:Allapproved*

*Jourdain made a motion to recommend Proposal 3. Har dence seconded the motion.  
 Proposal 3—Group Camps (except Boulder Lake)*

*Voting Outcome:*

- Category 1: All approved*
- Category 2: All approved*
- Category 3: All approved*

**Proposal 4&5**

National Forest, State : Chequamegon-Nicolet NF, Wisconsin-Boulder Lake  
 Campground

Proposed Action : Increase camping fees at Boulder Lake Campground as shown in the table below.

<b>Campsites</b>	<b>Current Fee</b>	<b>Proposed Fee</b>	<b>Change</b>
Family w/o Electricity	\$12	\$15	+\$3
Family w/ Electricity	\$12*	\$20	+\$12
Small Group Sites Upto 16 People	\$28	\$35	+\$7
Large Group Sites Upto 30 People	\$45	\$60	+15

\*The Forest has not raised family site fees since the campground was remodeled. For this reason the family sites with electricity are recurrently the same as those without electricity.

Site Description : Boulder Lake campground is a 99 unit campground that was completely reconstructed in 2004/2005.

Current Fee : Current Boulder Lake Campground fees are shown in the table above.

*Johnson and Schnorr both expressed how impressed they are with the improvements at Boulder Lake.*

*J. Low made a motion to recommend the proposal. Johnson seconded the motion.  
 Proposal 4-Boulder Lake Group Camps*

*Voting Outcome:*

- Category 1: All approved*
- Category 2: All approved*
- Category 3: All approved*

*Jourdain made a motion to recommend Proposal 5. Craig seconded the motion.  
 Proposal 5-Boulder Lake Campgrounds*

*Voting Outcome:*

- Category 1: All approved*
- Category 2: All approved*
- Category 3: All approved*

**Proposal 6**

National Forest, State : Wayne National Forest - Ohio

Proposed Action : Increase fees at all existing fee campgrounds, picnic shelters, and trails to the level that is comparable with other regional providers or in-line with what the public is willing to support.

Table 1: Current and Proposed New Fee Schedule

Recreation Facilities	Current Fees	Proposed Fees
Family Camp Single (non-electric)-	\$5.00- \$12.00*	\$10.00-\$17.00
Family Camp Single (electric)-	\$13.00- \$20.00*	\$18.00-\$21.00
Group Camp without Shelter-	\$17.00	\$35.00
Group Camp with Shelter-	\$27.00	\$45.00
Group Picnic Shelter - (cap: 60-200)	\$35.00- \$55.00*	\$55.00-\$70.00
Seasonal Trail Permits (4/15-12/15)-	\$25.00	\$45.00
3-day Trail Permit**-	n/a	\$24.00
Daily Trail Permit**-	\$5.00	\$12.00

\*Higher fees within fee ranges are applied to facilities that offer visitors more amenities such as showers, flush restrooms, etc or higher capacity capability (e.g. picnic shelters).

\*\*Trail permit vendors would be reimbursed \$2.00 for each permit sold. Currently, vendors receive \$1.00/permit sold.

Site Description : Fee areas include the following recreation facilities and trails:

Recreation Areas:

- Two single family camps, two group camps, and two group picnic shelters within the 143-acre Lake Vesuvius Recreation Area. The area also offers horse and hiking trails, a beach, and a boat launch; A single family picnic shelter, highly developed camp on the bank of the Ohio River, which offers a playground, an accessible trail, and two group picnic shelters; A single family camp adjacent to Burr Oak State Park which offers a 664-acre lake for fishing and swimming and horse and hiking trails; and a horse camp with corral that is connected to 19 miles of horse trails.

Trails:

- ATV/Off-highway motorcycles-121 miles; Horse-74 miles; Mountain Bike-211 miles

In 2006, over 21,500 trail permits were sold to visitors from 41 different states. Approx. 98% of permits were sold to OHV riders, 1% to horse backriders, and 1% to mountain bikers.

Current Fee : See table above.

*Manjerovic: Why the variance between camp sites? Will there be the difference between sites with or without electricity at the same campground? Yes, there will be... Tiered pricing.*



Schowalter made a motion to recommend Proposal 6.5  
Proposal 6—Five Family Campgrounds at Vesuvius Re  
Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved  
Category 2: All approved  
Category 3: All approved

Sutton seconded the motion.  
creation Area

### Proposal 7

Arnold: Have to remember that these are group camps  
between several.

—the increase will be shared

Manjerovic made a motion to recommend the Proposal  
Proposal 7—Two group camps at Vesuvius Recreation  
Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved  
Category 2: All approved  
Category 3: All approved

7. Sutton seconded the motion.  
Area

### Proposal 8

Manjerovic: Does the F Stake care of trash? Yes.

Sutton made a motion to recommend the Proposal 8.J  
Proposal 8—Picnic Shelters at Vesuvius and Leith  
Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved  
Category 2: All approved  
Category 3: All approved

ourdain seconded the motion.  
Run

### Proposals 9&10

Johnson: Ohio state law? Lose state tort law protec

tion?

Harden: Called Recreation Hold Harmless Law. Diffe

rs by state.

Sutton: Who does Search & Rescue? Answer: State doe

s this.

Harden: State money could be available through stat

e ATV grants.

Johnson: Trail maintenance covered by? Variety off

unds.

Dillard said the forest has asked to provide a dail

ypass of \$12 and 3-day for \$24 pass

Harden made a motion to recommend the Proposal 9 an  
motion.

d 10. Schnorr seconded the

Proposals 9 and 10—Season or Annual Use; Special  
Daily pass of \$12 and 3-day for \$24 pass

Recreation Permit Trail System.

Voting Outcome:

Category 1: All approved  
Category 2: All approved  
Category 3: All approved

Break and then the RRAC gathered for a group photo.

Next meeting date: September 18 and 19 in Milwaukee

Additional Agenda items besides Proposals:

- Arnold requested a bigger picture of FS budget for the forests. Budget and Recreation Fee Program history for the past 5-6 years and how the money is being used.
- Jourdain requested that Fire Budget be included also.
- Manjerovic questioned the impact that the Committee could have on the budgets. The Committee is chartered to recommend or deny fee changes.
- Sutton mentioned the power of the committee. Balances is being shifted from budget to fees. Need to see the big picture.

Meeting critique:

Facilities—Fine

Data/Information (pre-meeting and at meeting)—Lumping proposals if needed is fine; pictures are a great asset.

Meeting Format—Fine

Pace—Fine

Other Suggestions—None

The group thanked Marcia Heymen for her help with pre-meeting materials and travel questions.

Dillard thanked the group for their work.

The meeting adjourned at 11:40 am.