



U.S.D.A. Forest Service State and Private Forestry

Briefing Paper

Date: March 17, 2010

Topic: Proposal to change discounts for pass-holders, including Seniors and people with disabilities, at concession-operated campgrounds

Issue: The USDA Forest Service will not move forward with a proposal to change discounts offered to holders of passes at Forest Service campgrounds operated by private concessions. Current policy remains in effect (FSM 2344.311). Seniors and people with disabilities who are pass holders will continue to receive a 50% discount at Forest Service campgrounds run by private concessions.

Background: The Forest Service published a notice in the Federal Register December 1, 2009, requesting public comments on a proposal to change how private concessions honor passes at Forest Service campgrounds. The 60-day comment period closed February 1, 2010. The agency received approximately 4,100 comments.

The Forest Service had proposed changes to current policy that requires concessioners to provide discounts to holders of Golden Age and Golden Access Passports and Interagency Senior and Access Passes. Under the proposal, discounts in campgrounds operated by private concessions would have changed from the current 50 percent to 10 percent. After considering many public comments, the Chief determined the proposed changes are not the best way to address growing challenges regarding services provided by private concessions at Forest Service recreation facilities.

Key Points:

- Forest Service permits issued to concessioners for campground operation will continue to require concessioners provide a 50 percent discount to holders of Golden Age and Access Passports and Interagency Senior and Access Passes.
- There is no requirement for concessioners to honor any passes for Standard Amenity Recreation Fee day-use sites.

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