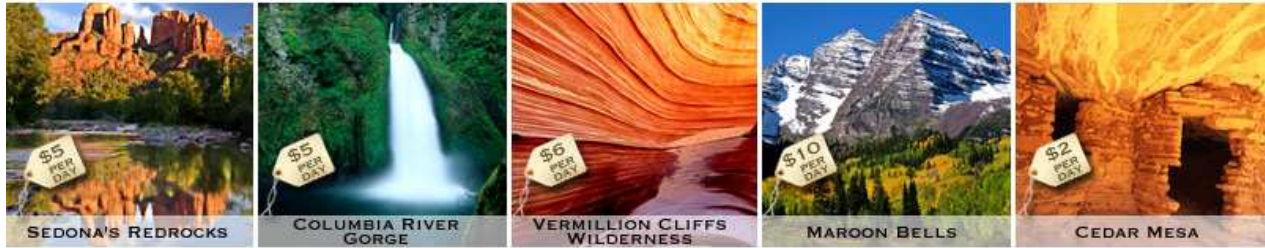


WESTERN SLOPE NO-FEE COALITION



June 11, 2013

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THE FEE-FREE PRESS



DEAR PUBLIC LANDS SUPPORTER
Kitty Benzar ,

Recreation fees on federal public lands are governed by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, or FLREA. The FLREA will sunset at the end of 2014 unless Congress acts to renew or replace it.

The US House is holding a hearing to take a look at how the FLREA is being implemented and consider whether to make changes to it, renew it, or allow it to sunset.

The hearing will be on Tuesday, June 18, 2013, at 10 am EDT. This is the best chance in years to send your thoughts to Congress.

PLEASE ACT NOW! DETAILS BELOW.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PUBLIC LANDS TO HOLD HEARING ON RECREATION FEES JUNE 18

Testimony By WSNFC President Kitty Benzar Will Highlight Agency Abuses Of Their Fee Authority

An oversight hearing to examine the implementation of recreation fees on federal public lands will be held in the Subcommittee on Public Lands and Environmental Regulation of the US House of Representatives this

coming Tuesday, June 18, 2013.

The hearing, "***Citizen and Agency Perspectives on the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act***," is scheduled to begin at 10 am EDT, and is expected to be webcast at [THIS LINK](#) It should be video archived within a day or so later.

Witnesses will include Western Slope No-Fee Coalition President Kitty Benzar, who will focus her testimony on the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Between them those two agencies manage over 400 million acres of federal public land. In many places they charge the public fees for general access, roadside parking, scenic overlooks, passing through without using facilities, and dispersed areas with little or no federal investment. All such fees were prohibited by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) when it was enacted in 2004, but have continued nevertheless.



ACT NOW to urge Congress to put an end to scenes like this one in New Hampshire!

Benzar will emphasize that congressional intent was clear in the FLREA: on National Forests and BLM public lands, only those who use developed or specialized facilities should have to pay a fee. She will also describe for the committee how the Forest Service is engaging in rampant privatization of publicly owned recreation sites. Finally she will call on Congress to adopt legislation to tighten restrictions on where fees are charged, what activities they are charged for, and how the revenue is spent.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Contact members of the subcommittee. Ask them to attend this important hearing. Tell them briefly and politely that you want the Forest Service and BLM to stop charging for general access to undeveloped public lands. Members of the subcommittee along with links to their contact information are shown at

[THIS LINK](#)

If your US Representative is one of the subcommittee members, you can use his or her website contact form to send them an email. Otherwise you will need to phone or fax their Washington office. Phone and fax numbers can be found in the contact information at each member's site. Call or fax as many of them as you can.

If your own Representative is not on the subcommittee, contact him or her through their website and bring this hearing to their attention. Ask them to make reform of recreation fees a priority issue. All the contact information can be located through the [main House website](#).

However you contact Congress, **contact Congress!** Let them know that public lands are an important issue for you, and that you oppose fees for access to National Forests and BLM public lands by those who are not using developed or specialized facilities.

DO IT TODAY!

The Western Slope No-Fee Coalition is a broad-based organization consisting of diverse interests including hiking, biking, boating, equestrian and motorized enthusiasts, community groups, local and state elected officials, conservatives and liberals, Republicans and Democrats, and just plain citizens.

Our goals are:

- To eliminate recreation fees for general access to public lands managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management
- To eliminate backcountry fees and interpretive program fees in National Parks
- To require more accountability within the land management agencies
- To encourage Congress to adequately fund our public lands

Thank you for your support!

Sincerely,

Kitty Benzar
Western Slope No Fee Coalition

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