

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Nevada State Office
P.O. Box 12000
Reno, Nevada 89520-0006

IN REPLY REFER TO:
8370 (NV-930) P

EMS TRANSMISSION

Instruction Memorandum No. NV-2002-009

Expires 09/30/2003

To: Field Managers, Nevada

From: Deputy State Director, Natural Resources, Lands & Planning

Subject: Recreation Fee Waivers, Veteran's Day Holiday Weekend

Program Area: Recreational Fee Demonstration Program Management

Policy/Action: To encourage visitation to our nations's public lands, the BLM is joining other Interior agencies and the U.S. Forest Service in waiving entrance fees, day use or service fees during the three-day Veteran's Day weekend, for November 10 - 12, 2001. This does not include overnight camp ground fees.

Time-frame: November 10-12, 2001.

Budget Impact: Minimal, except at Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area.

Contact: Please contact Chris Miller (acting Recreation Lead) in the Nevada State Office regarding questions or concerns. Chris may be reached at 775-861-6628.

1 Attachments:

1. WO Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-028 (3 pp)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240
November 2, 2001

In Reply Refer To:
8370 (250)P

EMS TRANSMISSION 11/05/01
Instruction Memorandum No. 2002-028
Expires: 09/30/2003

To: All State Directors
Attn: External Affairs Chiefs and Recreation Advisors

From: Assistant Director, Renewable Resources & Planning

Subject: Recreation Fee Waivers, Veteran's Day Holiday Weekend

Program Area: Recreation Fee Sites

Purpose: During this time of national crisis reconnecting with the natural world can bring solace to those affected by recent events. To encourage visitation to our nation's public lands, the Bureau of Land Management is joining other Department of the Interior Agencies and the U.S. Forest Service (FS) in waiving entrance fees during the three-day Veteran's Day weekend, for November 10-12, 2001. This Instruction Memorandum (IM) provides additional guidance to the Field for implementing this special event.

Background: Secretary Norton issued a press release on October 4, 2001, announcing that National Park's fees would be waived over the Veteran's Day holiday weekend, November 10-12, 2001, in honor of the victims of the terrorist attacks. A Department wide news release will be issued closer to the Holiday announcing the inclusion of the BLM and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service(FWS) as part of the event.

This event was discussed with the FWS, the National Park Service(NPS), and the FS at an Interagency Fee Committee Meeting on October 18, 2001. Among the Agencies affected by the fee waiver, the BLM has six entrance fee areas, the FWS has 35, and the FS has 18. Agencies are generally limiting the waiver to entrance fees but do include some day use fees. The FS might select a few other sites where their day use fees look like entrance fees to the public. No Special Recreation Permits(SRP's), overnight camping, or other special service fees are included in the fee waiver in any of the other Agencies. Waiving fees for overnight camping and SRP's or Special Use Permits have many logistical problems within the affected agencies. Waiving fees in these situations would result in greater confusion to the public. Our national Public Affairs Office will provide each State Office with a template for a news release, along with additional materials about the event.

We recognize that there may be some coordination issues, revenue impacts and logistical challenges, but this is an opportunity to provide service to the American people at this difficult time, and we expect that these special concerns easily can be overcome. We have an opportunity to promote unity, hope, and healing through this fee waiver for the use of BLM public lands, parks, refuges, and forests.

Policy/Action: Entrance Fees - All BLM entrance fees, including commercial tour entrance fees, will be waived for all three days of the Veteran's Day weekend, November 10-12, 2001. The fee is waived regardless of whether it is based on the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act or the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program. The entrance fee sites that the BLM has on record are: Anasazi Heritage Center, Colorado; Milner Historic Recreation Area, Idaho; Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Nevada; National Historic Oregon Trail Visitor Center, Oregon; Yaquina Head Outstanding Natural Area, Oregon; and Wildwood Recreation Area, Oregon.

Please note that it is our intent to include in this special waiver fees for those sites which appear to the public to have an entrance fee, but which might not be considered such at the local level. Use your judgment as to whether to waive the fee in those cases, erring on the side of fee waiver.

Use Fees

In addition to the entrance fees above, you are asked to include day use or service fees, except for sites that require a reservation, in the fee waiver for the three-day Veteran's Day holiday weekend. The fee waiver does not include fees under the BLM's SRP authority or for overnight camping fees.

It is important that each State and Field Office communicate with local media, stakeholders, and others to minimize confusion over which fees will be waived.

Time Frame: This IM is effective for the 2001 Veteran's Day holiday weekend only, November 10-12, 2001.

Budget Impact: At the macro level, waiving fees at affected BLM sites would be minimal. However, the loss of revenues could be important at the Field Office level or for individual sites. The largest loss of revenue would be most likely occur at the Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area, Nevada. They would forgo, at a minimum, approximately \$13,000 for waiving the fees during the three day holiday weekend.

Manual/Handbook: The request is in harmony with the intent of the 8370 regulations and according to established BLM guidance.

Coordination: This IM has been coordinated with the NPS, FWS, FS, Legislative Affairs, Public Affairs, and the National Landscape Conservation System Groups.

Contact: If you have any questions, please contact Lee V. Larson at (202) 452-5168.

Signed by:
Henri R. Bisson
Assistant Director, Renewal
Resources and Planning

Authenticated by:
Vincent C. Chapman Jr
Policy & Records Group, WO-560