



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

NOV - 6 2006

CECW-CON

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS, CHIEFS,  
OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Day Use Fee Waived on Veterans Day, 11 November 2006

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will offer a Fee Free Day (Day Use) on Veterans Day. The intent is to support and honor the men and women who have served the nation in the armed services. This initiative is in line with the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior announcement that beginning this Veterans Day, 11 November 2006, all veterans, active duty service members, and their families will be admitted free of charge to most public lands managed by those agencies (Encl 1 and 2).
2. Accordingly, all day use fees for all veterans, active duty service members and their families visiting Corps-managed recreation areas will be waived on Veterans Day, beginning this year (Encl 3). However, fees for camping and camping related services will *not* be waived, and neither will fees for specialized facilities, such as picnic shelters.
3. Other agencies that manage recreation areas located on Corps lands are encouraged (but not required) to comply with this Veterans Day waiver of fees in the areas that they manage.
4. I give you my full support to use the trust system on Veterans Day to acknowledge veterans, active duty service members, and their families as they enter the park. Verification will simply be accepted by verbal confirmation, from the individual(s), representing the armed services (past and present).
5. Please note that the memo dated 13 November 2003, SUBJECT: Iraq R&R Recreation Day Use Fee and Camping Fee Waiver remains in full effect (Encl 4).
6. Point of contact in CECW-CON for this matter is Mr. Eugene Goff, (202) 761-4559.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

4 Encls

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don T. Riley", written over a circular stamp or seal.

DON T. RILEY  
Major General, USA  
Director of Civil Works

CF:

Director, National Park Service

Chief, USDA, Forest Service

Director, Bureau of Land Management

Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

U.S. Department of the Interior

USDA / DOI joint news header

Office of the Secretary  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
September 8, 2006

Con  
Shane Wolfe (DOI), 202-208-  
Dan Jiron (USDA), 202-205-

## Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture Announce Waiver of Fees for Veterans and Members of U. Armed Forces on Veterans Day

**WASHINGTON** – Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns today announce that, beginning this Veterans Day (Nov. 11), U.S. veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces and their families will be admitted free-of-charge on Veterans Day to most public lands managed by the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture.

The administrative fee waiver of entrance and/or standard amenity fees will apply annually on Veterans Day to public recreation lands managed by Interior's National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation and Agriculture's U.S. Forest Service.

"The fine men and women of the armed forces, both past and present, have fought to keep all Americans free," said Kempthorne. "Allowing free admission for recreation on our public recreation lands is a small but appropriate way for us to say 'thank you' to these American heroes and their families. My hope is that they experience a day filled with recreational enjoyment."

"This is one small way we can show our appreciation to the men and women who keep America and our public lands free for all to enjoy," said Johanns. "It seems only fitting that we would give our veterans free access to the National Forests and Grasslands on Veterans Day."

Both Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of Veterans Affairs R. James Nicholson applauded the announcement.

"America owes a great deal to the men and women in this country who have worn the military uniform," said Rumsfeld. "I applaud this decision to allow them a day of recreation on the day we honor them for their contributions, past and present."

"Veterans Day is a day to honor the 24 million Americans who have served this nation in the armed forces," said Nicholson. "Waiving the usual fees for veterans on Nov. 11 shows the appreciation of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture for our nation's veterans. I salute Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne and Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and the men and women of their departments for this decision that ensures veterans have the chance to appreciate the grandeur of the nation they have served."

(Enclosure 1)

The announcement came during testimony on H.R. 5452, legislation introduced by U.S. Rep. Thomas M. Reynolds.

"I am proud to have fought for this initial but important change for our nation's heroes, and that my constituent Robert Kupp and all of his fellow veterans will never again have to pay an entrance fee for a national park on Veterans' Day," said Thomas M. Reynolds (R-NY). "This means America's veterans will have easier access to America's great public lands like Joshua Tree National Park in California, Isle Royale National Park in Michigan, Shiloh National Military Park in Tennessee, Theodore Roosevelt Inaugural National Historic Site -- which is my home in Buffalo, New York -- and literally hundreds more federal public lands that charge an entrance fee. Today's announcement by the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture is a fitting benefit for our nation's veterans."

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, passed by the 108th Congress, overhauled the fee system that governs the National Park System, the National Wildlife Refuge System, the National Forest System, certain public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management and recreational lands administered by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Act established a new multi-agency pass to cover entrance fees and standard amenity fees on these lands. The target rollout of the new pass is scheduled for January 2007.

The Veterans Day waiver of fees will apply annually to veterans and members of the U.S. armed forces.

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
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Washington, DC 20240  
[webteam@ios.doi.gov](mailto:webteam@ios.doi.gov)  
Last Updated on 10/25/06

**Date:** October 18, 2006

**Subject:** Fee Free Veterans Day for Veterans and U.S. Armed Forces

**To:** Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs and WO Staff

On September 8, 2006, the Department of Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns and Department of the Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne announced that, beginning this Veterans Day (November 11), U.S. veterans, members of the U.S. armed forces, and their families will be admitted free-of-charge on Veterans Day to public lands managed by the Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior.

In keeping with this direction, all day-use fees will be waived on Saturday, November 11 at all standard amenity fee sites as they are defined in the Forest Service's Recreation Enhancement Act Interim Implementation Guidelines (April 2005). Concessionaire-operated day-use sites may be included in the waiver if the permit holder wishes to participate.

The waiving of fees for expanded amenity fees such as overnight camping, rental cabins, etc. operated by the Forest Service will be at the discretion of the Line Officer. It is recommended that sites listed on the National Recreation Reservation Service not be included in the fee waiver due to the difficulties of refunding reservation payments. Concessionaire-operated expanded amenity sites may be included in the waiver if the permit holder wishes to participate. It is important that each forest communicate with local media, concession operators, pass vendors, stakeholders, and others who might have an interest in this effort to minimize confusion over which fees will be waived. We encourage you to work with your local media to prepare press releases of activities that will be taking place locally as a part of Veterans Day.

This annual fee-free day will be in addition to National Public Lands Day in September, the other annual fee-free day. Unlike National Public Lands Day, which is always on a Saturday, the Veterans Day waiver will apply on November 11, regardless of the day of the week. For example, November 11 falls on a Saturday this year, and the federal holiday is Friday the 10<sup>th</sup>. However, the fee-free day will always be November 11.

In order to provide for smooth operations and positive customer service, fee collectors and compliance personnel should err on the side of inclusion rather than exclusion so sites will employ the honor system. Documentation is not required and fee collectors and compliance personnel should not question any visitor's claim to connection with the military.

(Enclosure 2)

Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, Deputy Chiefs

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact Jennifer Eberlien, Recreation Fee Program Manager, via email at [jeberlien@fs.fed.us](mailto:jeberlien@fs.fed.us) or at 202-205-1169.

*/s/ Joel D. Holtrop*

JOEL D. HOLTROP

Deputy Chief for National Forest System

cc: Joni Packard  
Pam DeVore  
Vicki J Lawson  
Jeffrey W Saari  
Tamara Wilton  
Jocelyn Biro  
Rick L Lowe  
Marcia Heymen  
Jeffrey M Miller  
Jennifer Eberlien



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers**

# News Release

Release No. PA-06-00

For Release: September 25

Contact:

David W. Hewitt

202-761-1807

[david.w.hewitt@usace.army.mil](mailto:david.w.hewitt@usace.army.mil)

World Wide Web: [www.usace.army.mil](http://www.usace.army.mil)

News Release: [www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/newsrel.htm](http://www.hq.usace.army.mil/cepa/newsrel.htm)

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## **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Will Waive Day Use Fees For Veterans and Those on Active Duty on Veterans Day**

WASHINGTON, D.C – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will join other federal agencies in waiving day use fees for veterans, active duty service members and their families at its recreation areas nationwide on November 11.

“Our intent is to honor and support the men and women who have served our nation in the armed services,” Major General Don T. Riley, the Corps’ Director of Civil Works, said. “We chose this occasion to encourage our veterans and those on active duty to enjoy our parks and realize the benefits of outdoor recreation activities.”

While waiving day use fees, the Corps also encourages all others to enjoy America's public lands and waters. The Corps is one of the largest providers of outdoor recreation, operating more than 2,500 recreation areas at 456 projects (mostly lakes) and leasing an additional 1,800 sites to state or local park and recreation authorities or private interests.

The Corps hosts about 375 million visits each year at its lakes, beaches and other areas, and estimates that 25 million Americans (one in ten) visit a Corps project at least once a year to recreate. Additional information about the Corps’ recreation program is available at <http://corpslakes.usace.army.mil/visitors/visitors.cfm>

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(Enclosure 3)



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20314-1000

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF:

NOV 13 2003

CECW-ON

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS  
CHIEFS, OPERATIONS DIVISIONS

SUBJECT: Iraq R&R Recreation Day Use Fee and Camping Fee Waiver

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will waive all day use and camping fees for active service personnel on temporary leave from duty in Iraq for the duration of the operation. The intent is to recognize the selfless service of these individuals to our Nation and the world.
2. Corps lakes provide excellent opportunities for individuals to find renewal, solace, and inspiration on our Nation's public lands. Our lands are available for all Americans to use and enjoy, but we are issuing a special invitation to our uniformed personnel from all branches of service on active duty in Iraq.
3. Service persons on R&R will be required to show identification and leave orders to obtain the waiver. The waiver will also apply to all family members accompanying the serviceperson on the visit. The waiver will be applied to daily use fees and camping fees. Camping fees will be waved on a walk up and space available basis, as well as through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS) call center. Camping fees, however, will not be waived for on-line reservations made through ReserveUSA.com. State, local and other managing entities of recreation areas located on Corps lands are encouraged, but are not required to comply with this waiver of fees in the areas they manage.
4. We are currently working with the National Park Service, the USDA, Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and other agencies in an attempt to expand this offering.
5. A press release will be developed for this initiative. It will be issued under routine Public Affairs procedures. POC in CECW-ON is Judy Rice, (202) 761-4751.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*for* CARL A. STROCK  
Major General, USA  
Director of Civil Works

(Enclosure 4)