

- **What we want**

Recreation on America's public lands should not be managed for private profit. Pay-to-Play will result in increased commercialization and development and will forever alter the recreation experience. These fees will also put access out of reach as the price of admission and services rises to meet the demands of the market.

Some say that the public lands are under-appreciated and require bigger and better developments. We say that fancy facilities and high-priced adventure tourism detract from the enjoyment of the great outdoors and serve the needs of a select few. We seek to preserve the tradition of free access to wild nature and to ensure that all Americans are free to appreciate the natural beauty of our unspoiled and undeveloped public lands.

- **What more you can do:**

When you write a letter to your local newspaper you are having an enormous impact. Not only are you educating your community, you are educating your elected officials. The way to end Fee-Demo is to be seen and heard. So please write a letter today and protest Fee-Demo on June 15, 2002. To learn more contact Wild Wilderness.

This flyer was distributed by:

**Wild
Wilderness**

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Fee-Demo is Un-Democratic because it denies all citizens equal access to enjoy their public lands.

Fee-Demo is Exclusionary because lower income citizens specifically can no longer afford such basic rights as the freedom to walk in a forest which they, as citizens, own.

Fee-Demo is Discriminatory because it creates access barriers only for those persons who are unable, or unwilling to pay a separate user-fee in addition to the taxes they've already paid.

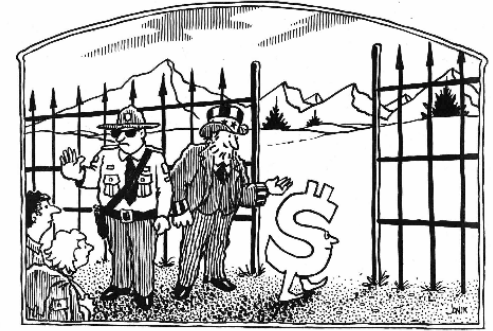
Fee-Demo is Un-American because it violates this nation's long held tradition of free access to wild nature.

Here is exactly what is at stake:

"Have we fully explored our gold mine of recreation opportunities in this country and managed it as if it were consumer product brands? How could it be done? As federal agencies and others transition from providing outdoor recreation at no cost to the consumer to charging for access and services, we can expect to see many changes in the way we operate. Selling a product, even to an eager customer, is very different from giving it away."

- ❖ Francis Pandolfi, Chief Operating Officer, USFS (retired), Chairman, Recreation Roundtable (retired)

JUNE 15, 2002
will be a day to
PROTEST FOREST FEES



FEE DEMO IS UNDEMOCRATIC

Please join us on June 15th to protest Fee-Demo and to urge Congress to restore funding necessary to maintain appropriate levels of recreational infrastructure on, and adequate protection of, America's public lands.

- **Where we started**

One hundred years ago, the bull-headed rough rider, Teddy Roosevelt, inspired by the tree-hugging mountaineer, John Muir, began what has become an American legacy of conserving our natural resources for future generations. Roosevelt told Congress:

"Some at least of the forest reserves should afford perpetual protection to the native flora and fauna...and free camping grounds for the ever increasing numbers of men and women... [they] should be set apart forever for the use and benefit of our people as a whole and not sacrificed to the shortsighted greed of a few."

- **Where they want to take us**

Today, forces in government and the private sector want to abandon these ideals. An industry association called the American Recreation Coalition (ARC), has lobbied Congress for fees on all public lands for years. In 1996, their efforts paid off with the creation of the Recreational Fee Demonstration Program (Fee Demo). Created as a rider added to the Omnibus Appropriations Act of 1996, Fee Demo allows the Forest Service, Park Service, Fish & Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management to charge fees for admission to, or use of, public lands. For the National Parks, this meant increasing existing fees and imposing new fees for access to parks that previously had no fees. The other three agencies, historically, had fees only to use some developed campgrounds.

In addition, the affected public lands agencies can engage in partnerships with private entities to provide services relating to Fee Demo projects. The Forest Service's first partnership, according to its first Fee Demo brochure, was with the ARC.



"The National Recreation Fee Demonstration Program...is the direct result of our efforts."

- ❖ The American Recreation Coalition's Recreation Roundtable, in a 1998 letter to Secretary of Agriculture Dan Glickman

The ARC and the recreation industry have set their sights on exploiting public lands for private gain. The recreation industry wants to move public lands agencies away from the concept of "the public trust" and towards "pay to play." A 100-year legacy of lands preserved for all, not only people of today but of future generations, is being boiled down to the vulgar concept of an amusement park.

"The American public feels that recreation on public lands is an incredible bargain, and is willing to pay substantially more."

- ❖ Derrick Crandall, President of ARC in an October 29, 1999 LA Weekly article

- **How they work to destroy our American legacy**

In the same week as our National Day of Action, the ARC will stage a major event in Washington, D.C. called *Great Outdoors Week*. During their event lobbyists will have exclusive access to key members of government. They will try and sell ARC's ideas for "improving" recreation on public lands and they will push hard for permanently authorizing Fee Demo.

In addition to *Great Outdoors Week*, each January for the past 11 years, ARC has sponsored an event called *Partners Outdoors*. At these meetings, from which the public has been barred, recreation lobbyists and public land managers have developed strategies for commercializing, privatizing and developing recreational opportunities on America's public lands. These events undermine democracy and erode our public lands heritage.

"The Partners Outdoors VII program opened with an excursion to Disney University where Teri Yanovich conducted a very informative session on Walt Disney World's cast-training program, especially the means used to introduce and reinforce appreciation and understanding of the company's corporate culture... Following the return to the hotel, each of the federal-agency and private-sector groups involved in the conference met briefly to discuss plans and assignments..."

- ❖ Partners Outdoors VII Summary Report



These annual affronts to democracy in America scream out the reason why Fee Demo should be cancelled and not fixed. Permanent authorization would boost the recreation lobbies' efforts to promote new programs to benefit their member corporations and associations - all in the supposed name of public interest. Permanent fee authority would commercialize public lands, opening the way for our priceless American heritage to be squandered at the expense of working Americans and for the profit of recreation corporations. These forces and their efforts are precisely what Theodore Roosevelt warned about as the "shortsighted greed of a few."