

Coburn Amendment 3460- Raise the Senior Interagency Lifetime Public Lands Pass from \$10 to \$80

The Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act(FLREA) provides a vital funding source for federal lands agencies, including the National Park Service

- Congress passed the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) in 2004, which authorized recreation fees to be collected and retained without separate appropriation by the National Park Service and other land management agencies.
- Recreation fee revenues, comprised of entrance fees, service-wide passes or other recreational related fees, can be used by NPS to “repair, maintain and enhance facilities; provide interpretation, information, or other park visitor services; restore habitat directly related to wildlife dependent recreation; and provide law enforcement related to public use and recreation both at the park where the fee is collected and throughout the national park system.”<sup>1</sup>

The cost of the senior lifetime interagency parks pass is far too generous, especially considering the resource constraints faced by the agencies

- An annual interagency parks pass costs Americans \$80 per year.
- Congress mandates that the federal land management agencies sell a lifetime interagency parks pass to anybody over the age of 62 for only **\$10**.
- The NPS sold 500,446 senior lifetime passes in FY2012, generating \$5 million in receipts.
- If the cost of the senior lifetime pass matched the annual “America the Beautiful” pass, an additional \$35 million could have been generated in FY2012.
- While it may be appropriate policy for seniors to qualify for a discount on park entrance passes, the current lifetime fee structure is far too generous and should be reformed.

Coburn #3460 would increase the price of the senior lifetime pass from \$10 to a still very generous \$80

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<sup>1</sup> “Budget Justifications and Performance Information Fiscal Year 2014,” National Park Service, 2013; [http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/upload/FY\\_2014\\_greenbook.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/aboutus/upload/FY_2014_greenbook.pdf).