

Committee on Natural Resources
Rob Bishop, Chairman
Markup Memo

April 27, 2015

To: House Committee on Natural Resources Members
From: Federal Lands Subcommittee Republican Staff
Hearing: April 29-30, 2015 Markup of H.R. 1991 (Bishop, UT), “*Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Extension Act.*”

To extend the authority of the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, and for other purposes.

“Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act”

Bill Summary

H.R. 1991 would amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA), 16 U.S.C. 6809, and allow the authority contained therein to stay in place for one additional year.

Cosponsors

Rep. Raul Grijalva (D-AZ)

Background

FLREA provides an authority for federal land management agencies to manage recreation sites with fees received from visitors. Specifically, it allows for the collection of fees for certain types of developed recreation sites and requires that the collected funds be used for operation, maintenance and improvement of those sites. The proposed legislation would allow federal agencies to continue to implement FLREA for one additional year while a bill to further extend existing authority or provide for permanent authority can be developed. One reason the authority needs to be extended from September 30, 2016 until September 30, 2017 is so that those purchasing “America the Beautiful–National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands annual passes” in FY 2016 would have the full year to utilize the benefits of the annual passes they purchased.

Cost

There would be no change in revenues collected and utilized on site or deposited to the US Treasury which would differ from the current situation as the bill is a one year extension of existing authority.

Administration Position

Federal land management agencies have expressed strong support for continued ability to utilize the authority provided by FLREA.

Effect on Current Law (Ramseyer)

§6809. Sunset provision

The authority of the Secretary to carry out this chapter shall terminate on September 30, [2016] 2017.

(Pub. L. 108–447, div. J, title VIII, §810, Dec. 8, 2004, 118 Stat. 3389 ; Pub. L. 113–235, div. F, title IV, §422, Dec. 16, 2014, 128 Stat. 2449.)