

Threat to Benefits
12/9/2009

Copied this from the Passport America site. Thought you might be interested and hoped you might be inclined to send a nice, polite message telling this lady how much we'd like to decline her plan to increase PROFITS for the vendors.
Bill

BTW, someone should tell her you don't have to be "disabled" to earn the privileges of the Golden Age and Golden Access cards.

[Forest Service wants to cut discounts to seniors/disabled](#)

By Russ & Tiña De Maris | December 4, 2009 - 6:25 pm - Posted in [Uncategorized](#)

For decades, one of the big "bargains" that senior and disabled RVers could count on was "half off" when camping in US Forest Service campgrounds. But Uncle Sam's forest management agency is now testing the waters to see if they can seriously reduce the discount.

In a notice filed Tuesday on the Federal Register, the agency says it wants to give campground concessionaires the option of giving Senior, Access, Golden Age, and Golden Access pass holders only a 10% discount, while under the current pass system, these receive a 50% discount.

In its rationale, the service says the growing number of senior citizens is cutting into the profit margins seen by campground concessionaires. As a result, the feds say campground fees must be raised in order to "compensate for the loss of revenue," thus causing a greater burden to fall on those who don't have discounts.

Backlash to the announcement has not been long in coming. OregonLive.com, an offshoot of the newspaper, *The Oregonian*, quotes Kitty Benzar of the Western Slope No-Fee Coalition. "No more special honors, no more special breaks. Pay up or stay home now applies to everyone." The coalition is a group that opposes fee charging on public lands.

While the fee change is not set in stone, the public has only until February 1 to make their feelings known to the Forest Service on their proposal. Comments can be directed to the agency via the website, www.regulations.gov, or mailed to the US Forest Service, Attention Carolyn Holbrook, Recreation and Heritage Resources Staff, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Stop 1125, Washington, DC 20250-1125. You can also phone Ms. Holbrook at 202-205-1426.