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

JUN 30 2009

CECW-CO

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

SUBJECT: Recreation Day Use Fee Waiver, 01 through 09 August 2009

1. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will waive all day use fees normally charged at our recreation areas during the week of 01 - 09 August 2009. This waiver encompasses only day use fees for swimming beaches and boat ramps. Fees for camping, specialized facilities such as picnic shelters and for other special use/events will not be waived.

2. Waiving day use fees presents an incentive for the public to visit our lakes. Visitors provide significant economic benefits and any increase in visitation helps stimulate local economies. Free day use may also attract new visitors and offset any small losses in revenues during a traditionally low-use time period.

3. This waiver of day use fees for swimming beaches and boat ramps does not apply to recreation areas managed by third parties. However, Commanders should assure that communication takes place with these important partners advising them of the waiver and its intended purpose.

4. Information and implementation packages are being supplied to the projects for public, lessees, and partner notification and implementation guidance. Because this waiver will not apply to camping, there will be no impact to the NRRS reservations system or camping fee collection processes.

5. The waiver should be given maximum publicity through local media, lake associations, project web sites, and at fee collection locations as early as possible.

6. The point of contact for the recreation use fee program in CECW-CO is Pep Persio, (202) 761-0036.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

STEVEN L. STOCKTON, P.E.
Director of Civil Works

Recreation Day Use Fee Waiver
Frequently Asked Questions

Q1. What are the dates when the day use fee waiver will be in effect and which fees are waived and which are not?
A1. The Corps of Engineers is waiving day use during the period of August 1-9, 2009, where fees are charged for swimming beaches and boat ramps at Corps managed parks. Fees for camping, specialized facilities such as picnic shelters and for other special use/events at Corps managed parks will not be waived. The waiver does not apply to Annual Pass purchases.

Q2. Why is the Corps implementing the waiver?
A2. The intent of the waiver is to highlight recreation opportunities available at Corps lakes and draw in more visitors during a historically low use period. Visitors to Corps parks have positive impacts to local communities and an increase in visitors can provide additional economic benefits to local economies during this time.

Q3. What is the amount of day use fees the Corps normally collects during this time period?
A3. During this period, it is estimated that $325,000 in day use fee revenue will be foregone. This is a very small amount of the total fees collected during a year (.007). Free day use may also attract new visitors during other times of the year and offset any small losses in revenues.

Q4. How does this day use waiver impact areas managed by third parties?
A4. Recreation areas managed by third parties are not included in this waiver of day use fees for swimming beaches and boat ramps. However, Commanders should assure that communication takes place with these important partners advising them of the waiver and its intended purpose.

Q5. How is the waiver being advertised?
A5. Corps Districts and projects will issue local news releases and any other public notices as needed. Brochures and posters will be distributed by HQ electronically for local publication and they will be transfered to local project web sites. A notice about the waiver will also be posted on Recreation.Gov and CorpsLakes.us Web sites.

Q6. Will signs about the waiver be posted at fee collection facilities, including the honor vaults?
A6. Yes. The poster and brochures referenced above should be posted at all day use fee collections sites and honor vaults as early as possible to maximize public awareness. It is recommended that these be posted and

available prior to the 4th of July weekend to get maximum exposure to visitors.

Q7. How do we handle the waiver in ORMS?
A7. Attendants will input the customer under the appropriate day use POS item and change the fees to $0. This will allow us to estimate the value of the fee waiver to the public and give some indication of the success of the program.

Q8. Should I dismiss my contract gate attendant for this time period since fees will not be collected?
A8. No. The attendants will still be needed to attend to the normal business of greeting customers and explaining the fee waiver to them. If possible, attendants should try to identify and track the number of first time visitors, which could provide more information for evaluation of the program.

Q9. Will an After Action Report be required?
A9. Yes. Field offices should make every effort to determine the impacts, both positive and negative, as a result of the fee waiver. Comparisons can be made from historic OMBIL data without requiring new data calls. Any comments received from customers or partners concerning the fee waiver should also be recorded.