



# United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE  
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**FEB 06 2019**

To: All NPS Employees

From: Deputy Director  
Exercising the Authority of the Director

SUBJECT: Good News on FLREA Funds Used during the Lapse in Appropriations.

I wanted to share an important update with you related to the use of Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) funds during the lapse in appropriations.

As you may know during the recent lapse in appropriations we worked with the Department of the Interior to make recreation fee revenue available to many of our national parks. This allowed us to provide additional staff to address the mounting maintenance and sanitation issues that arose at a number of highly visited parks across the country. As a result, parks were not only able to quickly address these issues, but also provide necessary protection for park resources. This solution allowed us to keep our commitments to the American public to ensure they have access to their parks while protecting the resources under our care.

I am thankful to all of you who quickly used these funds to restore accessibility and basic services including maintaining restrooms, trash collection, road maintenance, campground operations, law enforcement and emergency operations, and distribution of critical safety information at entrance gates.

In the FY 2019 Further Additional Continuing Appropriation Act (Public Law 116-5), Congress extended appropriations through February 15 and wisely made such funds available to cover the period during which there was a lapse.

We have confirmed with the Office of Management and Budget that the NPS can move obligations made during the appropriations lapse from the FLREA fee account and apply those obligations to the National Park Service annual operating account. In short, Congress has enabled us to fully restore the FLREA account to pre-lapse levels.

Restoring these FLREA balances enables us to maintain our commitment to the visitor experience at parks by using these funds for important projects at parks moving forward.

Parks that were approved to use FLREA during the lapse in appropriations for basic visitor services and excepted activities where appropriate should not move any charges to or from FLREA accounts until further guidance is provided.

We are still working to address issues related to the lapse in appropriations, most importantly ensuring that every employee receives their pay as soon as possible.

I want to thank you for the professional and dedicated manner in which you all have resumed the important work at parks and programs after a long and difficult lapse in appropriations.

We are most grateful to have you back.