

File Code: 2700 (8894902)**Date:**

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Ranking Member Grassley:

Thank you for your letter to Secretary Vilsack dated May 25, 2023, cosigned by your colleague, regarding the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (FLREA) and the Recreation.gov contract with Booz Allen Hamilton Inc. (Booz Allen). I am responding on the Secretary's behalf.

Recreation.gov is a one-stop trip planning and reservation service for Federal recreational lands and facilities managed by multiple Federal agency partners to serve the public. Partnering with private companies to provide this service ensures its operation in the most efficient, effective, and technologically advanced way. Recreation.gov is not funded by taxpayer dollars. Federal agency partners set all fees on the Recreation.gov platform, via the terms of the Recreation.gov contract, which pay for the entire Recreation.gov program. The Federal Government collects the reservation service fees charged on Recreation.gov and sends them directly to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, which then reimburses the contractor pursuant to the terms of the contract. A portion of the collected reservation service fees is also distributed to the agencies that offer reservations on the system.

The contractor supporting Recreation.gov operates under a competitively awarded, performance-based contract. The most recent contract was awarded to Booz Allen in 2016 based on the best value to the Government and the company's technical strength. The reservation service fees collected from the platform by the contractor are used to cover the cost of website and internet application development, maintenance, system security, hosting, improvements, and operational support, among other things, for Recreation.gov as authorized by Section 806 of FLREA.

The Recreation.gov reservation platform is a critical tool used to manage the number of customers who enjoy recreation activities at any given time—both promoting customer enjoyment during visits and conservation so that recreation areas can be preserved and enjoyed for decades to come. Customer experience is at the heart of the Recreation.gov platform. Federal and contract employees listen to feedback from local managers and public users to enhance their understanding of customer needs and expectations, and improve the platform based on that input.

Again, thank you for writing. If you have any further questions, please have a member of your staff contact the Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. A similar letter is being sent to your colleague.

Sincerely,

RANDY MOORE
Chief

