

american **CAMP** association™
2005 Council of Delegates Meeting
Issue Overview

Issue: Public Lands

SUMMARY

Public land issues are an increasing challenge for many camps and are a priority focus of the ACA National Public Policy Committee. The Committee drafted a position statement on this issue in 1999 but did not bring it to the Council of Delegates for consideration because of more important priorities.

Public land regulation activity has increased. ACA needs an advocacy position that will help focus our response. The attached statement has been redrafted to address the current legislative and regulatory climate.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE COUNCIL OF DELEGATES

Vote to adopt the position statement.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Public lands issues differ slightly in different regions of the country but the regulatory process and overarching concerns are the same. The primary agencies involved include: US Forest Service, National Park Service, and Bureau of Land Management. Priority concerns for ACA are access, recognition of camp contributions to education and stewardship, and promotion of the camp community as partners and stakeholders whose input is essential in decision making concerning those lands.

ATTACHMENTS:

Draft Position Statement

The American Camp Association (ACA) supports a legislative and regulatory approach to public lands that provides nonprofit and for-profit camps with fair and equal access to public lands under conditions and regulations that are consistent from one region to another, and provides access to public lands at a fair price — with simplified and reasonable fee structures — including those for camps based on public lands. Furthermore, public land use strategies should also recognize the occasional need for new or short term access by youth serving organizations. In addition, any legislative or regulatory design for public land use should recognize the contributions made by camps for the preservation and stewardship of natural resources and provide all stakeholders, including camps, with the opportunity to have input before decisions are made. Finally, ACA believes that many members of the public need the support of organizations with outdoor expertise to experience public lands fully, thus any public land use strategies should continue to acknowledge this need.