

Public Lands for the Holidays

The annual America the Beautiful – the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass, which provides unlimited access to public lands, including national wildlife refuges, is one great gift for the holiday season. Starting December 1, you can buy the 2009 annual pass by going online at <http://store.usgs.gov/pass>, send an e-mail to fedrepass@usgs.gov, or call 1-888-275-8747, option 1.

The special holiday offer for the pass is only available through the U.S. Geological Survey. It can be used throughout December and is valid through January 31, 2010. By buying it in December, visitors get 13 months for the price of a 12-month pass.

The pass is good for entry into more than 2,000 federal recreation sites, including national wildlife refuges, national parks, national forests, and lands managed by Bureau of Land Management and Bureau of Reclamation.

The 2009 Annual Passes will not be available at federal recreation sites until January 1, 2009. Passes purchased in person at a federal recreation site will be punched for the month of purchase.

The annual pass covers the pass holder and three accompanying adults, age 16 and older. No entry fees are charged for those 15 and younger. Passes are non-refundable, non-transferable. People who are 62 or older or who receive disability benefits may be eligible for the Senior or Access pass.