

Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Committee



**PRESENTATION TO
BLM COLORADO RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCILS**

Recreation Enhancement Act (REA)



- **Enacted in 2004**
- **10-year authority**
- **Extended through September 30, 2020**
- **Secretary creates advisory committees**
- **Advisory committees review fees**

Colorado Recreation RAC (RRAC)



- **BLM Colorado originally elected to use same RRAC as Forest Service**
- **Never effective for BLM fee proposals**
- **RRAC charter expired in 2009, not meeting**
- **BLM fee proposals in limbo (loss of potential money, resource damage)**

Using BLM RACs as RRACs



- 4(d)(1)(D) **USE OF OTHER ENTITIES.**--In lieu of establishing a Recreation Resource Advisory Committee under subparagraph (A), the Secretary may use a Resource Advisory Committee established pursuant to another provision of law and in accordance with that law or a recreation fee advisory board otherwise established by the Secretary to perform the duties specified in paragraph (2)

Colorado RRAC



- **Colorado BLM RACs voted in 2011 to take on RRAC responsibilities for one year**
- **Colorado BLM RACs voted to make RRAC function part of charter indefinitely in 2012**

Recreation RAC Does...



Make recommendations on:

- **Standard Amenity Fees**
- **Expanded Amenity Fees**
- **Special Recreation Permit Fees (Individual permits for special areas)**

Standard Amenity Fee



- National Conservation Area;
 - Visitor or interpretive center with services; or
 - An area with:
 - Significant opportunities for outdoor recreation;
 - Substantial federal investments;
 - Efficient fee collection opportunities; and
- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------------|
| Developed parking | Permanent toilet facility |
| Trash collection | Interpretive signs |
| Picnic tables | Security services |

Expanded Amenity Fee

Any 1 of:

- Built up boat launches
- Cabins, shelters, boats, stock animals, historic structures...
- RV Hookups
- Sanitary dump stations
- Robust interpretive sites
- Reservation services
- Transportation services
- Staffed first-aid services

- Developed campgrounds with at least 5 of:

Tent or trailer spaces—Picnic tables—Access roads—BLM fee collection—Visitor protection—Drinking water—Refuse containers—Toilet facilities—Campfire containment

- Developed swimming sites with at least 4 of:

Bathhouses—Trash bins—Lifeguards—Picnic Tables—Swimming area—Paved parking—Swimming deck

Special Recreation Permit Fees



- **Permits issued for non-commercial, individual or group use of special areas**

Recreation RAC Does Not...



Make recommendations on:

- **Concession sites**
- **Commercial permits (outfitting)**
- **Special recreation permits for organized group activities (Burning Man) and events (races).**

RAC Fee Review Process



- 1. Field Office develops proposal**
- 2. Field Office seeks public input**
- 3. Field Office presents to State Director**
- 4. Washington reviews**
- 5. BLM forwards to RAC**
- 6. RAC Coordinator Posts Notice in FRN and Local Paper at least one week prior to meeting**
- 7. RAC reviews and recommends**
- 8. BLM implements, modifies, or withdraws**

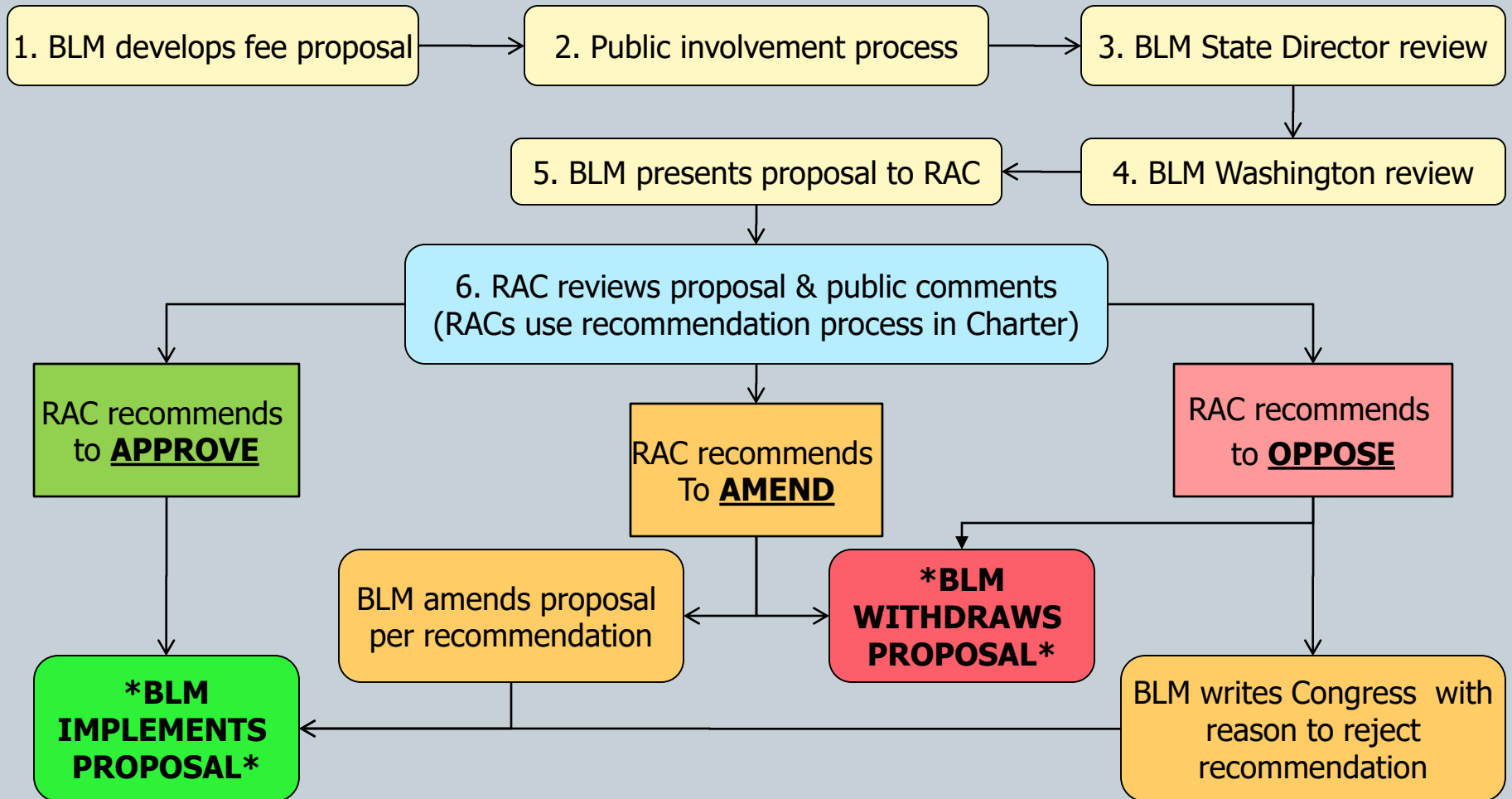
Outcomes of RAC Recommendation



If the RAC recommends:

- **Affirmation**, proposal can be implemented
- **Modifications** our State Director agrees to, proposal can be implemented (or withdrawn)
- **No affirmation**, our State Director must decide whether to withdraw or pursue proposal
 - If State Director wishes to pursue the proposal, BLM will issue REA-required written notification to Congress for rejecting recommendation (*very rare*)

RAC Review Process



BLM Fee Proponents



The BLM proponents will:

- **Comply with REA and agency rules**
- **Develop fee proposals**
- **Ensure public involvement**
- **Coordinate review**
- **Assist with public notification requirements**
- **Provide briefing on fee proposals to RAC**
- **If a new fee is approved, need to post in the FR and have a waiting period for at least 180 days**
- **Existing fee change, no Federal Register Notice is required**

Fee Review Documents



RACs will use RRAC forms:

- **New Fee or Fee Change Proposal**
- **Summary of Public Involvement**
- **Fee Revenue Expenditure**
- **Non-Fee Revenue Expenditure**

BLM fee proposals will include Business Plan

Business Plan



- **Background**
- **Project description**
- **Business rationale and justification**
- **Compliance with REA**
- **Financial analysis**
- **Market assessment of similar sites in region**
- **Social & economic impacts to users & community**
- **No action alternative**
- **Documentation of public participation**

RAC Review & Recommendation



The RAC will:

- **Schedule meetings**
- **Include fee proposals in the agenda**
- **Provide public notice of meetings**
- **Hear presentations from BLM fee proponents**
- **Hear public comments**
- **Approve a motion for a recommendation**
- **Provide any needed reports to comply with REA**
- **Provide public education about the RAC**

RAC Review



- Does the proposed fee comply with REA?
- Is there adequate public support for the fee?
- Will the proposed fee benefit visitors?
- Will the proposed fee benefit communities?
- Is the proposed fee reasonable?
- Does the RAC recommend to affirm, modify, or not affirm the proposal?

Minimally, BLM Must Ensure...



- **80% percent of revenue is spent on site**
- **Revenues and expenses are accounted for**
- **Public notice and involvement occurs**
- **Reporting requirements are met**

Fee Must...



- Be balanced with visitor benefits and services
- Be comparable to fees charged nearby
- Not layer recreation fees (nickel & dime)
- Be used for at least 1 of:
 - Repair, maintenance & facility enhancement for visitor enjoyment, access, health and safety
 - Interpretation, information, service, needs assessments
 - Habitat restoration for wildlife-dependent recreation (hunting, fishing, observation or photography)
 - Law enforcement related to public use and recreation
 - Direct operating or capital costs for the fee program

Fee Must Not Be For...



- General access to the area
- General entrance
- Dispersed areas with little BLM investment
- Driving, walking, boating, horseback riding or hiking through federal lands and waters without using the facilities and services
- Use of overlooks or scenic pullouts
- Travel over any road commonly used as a means of travel between two places

Fee Must Not Be For...



- Access to private property
- Hunting or fishing
- Conduct of official business
- Special attention or services for the disabled
- Any person under 16 years old
- Outings for noncommercial educational purposes by schools

Fee Must Not Be For...



- Any non-recreational activity permitted under any other Act, including valid grazing permits
- Biological monitoring on federal lands and waters under the Endangered Species Act
- Employee bonuses

For more information



http://www.blm.gov/publish/wo/en/prog/Recreation/recreation_national/recreation_fees_/recreation_racs/recreation_rac_org.html

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