

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, 2017
- Secretary creates advisory committees
- Advisory committees review fees

Colorado Recreation RAC (RRAC)



- Purpose to provide fee recommendations
- Citizens advisory committee
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA)
- 11 members from legislated interest groups

Colorado Recreation RAC (RRAC)



- 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)

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**
- **3(h) Special Recreation Permit Fee.**--The Secretary may issue a special recreation permit, and charge a special recreation permit fee in connection with the issuance of the permit, for specialized recreation uses of Federal recreational lands and waters, such as group activities, recreation events, motorized recreational vehicle use.
- **Definition: Section 3(h)**
- **Special Recreation Permit Fees (SRP):** SRPs are authorizations which allow specified recreational use of the public lands and related waters. They are issued to:
 - Control visitor use;
 - Protect recreational, natural, and cultural resources; and
 - Provide for the health and safety of visitors.
- SRPs are also a mechanism to authorize:
 - Commercial and vending use;
 - Competitive events;
 - Organized group activities and events; and
 - 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).

BLM RAC Personnel



BLM Designated Federal Official

- District Manager

BLM RAC Coordinator

- Public Affairs Officer

State Office coordination

- State Director (Social & Cultural Resources)

Field Office proponent

- Field Manager (Recreation lead)

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

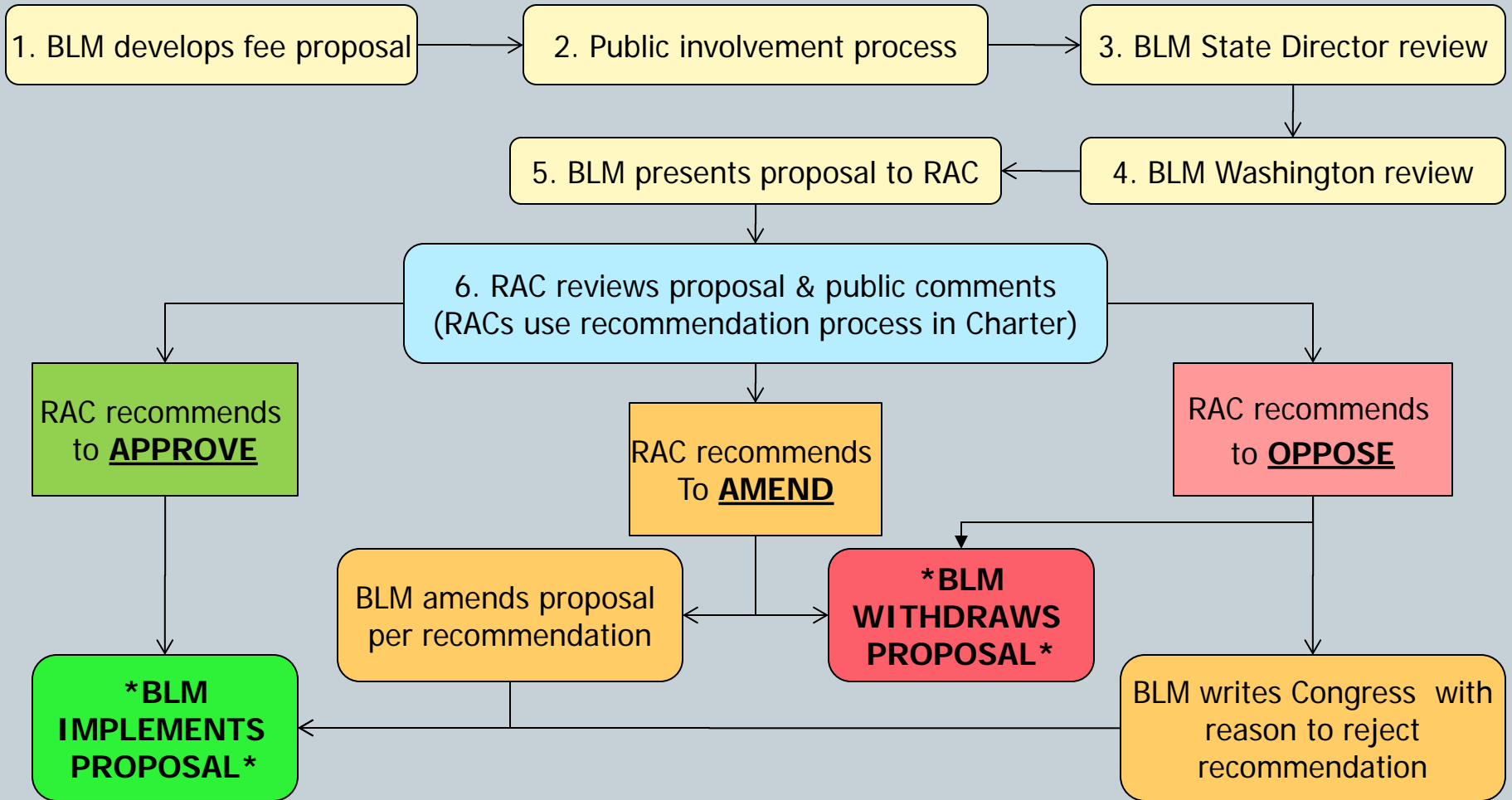
Outcomes of RAC Recommendation



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?

Recent Fee Proposals



Field Office RAC	Fee Site Name	Fee Type	Existing or New Fee:	Fee Level & Proposed Increase
RECENTLY APPROVED				
Grand Junction NW RAC	North Fruita Desert Campground	Expanded	New	\$7 – \$10 per campsite
Royal Gorge FR RAC	Sand Gulch Campground	Expanded	Existing	\$4 per site to \$10, Group Sites from \$8 to \$20
Royal Gorge FR RAC	The Bank Campground	Expanded	Existing	\$4 per site to \$11, Group Sites from \$8 to \$20
San Luis Valley FR RAC	Zapata Falls Campground	Expanded	New	\$11 per campsite, Group Sites \$20
San Luis Valley FR RAC	Penitente Campground	Expanded	Existing	\$5 per site to \$10, Group Sites from \$15 to \$20
Gunnison SW RAC	Oh Be Joyful Campground	Expanded	New	\$10 per campsite, \$5 per overflow site, \$30 per group site (If and when potable drinking water is provided, all site fees would increase by \$5 per night)

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

Jack Placchi, REA Coordinator, 303-239-3832,
jplacchi@blm.gov