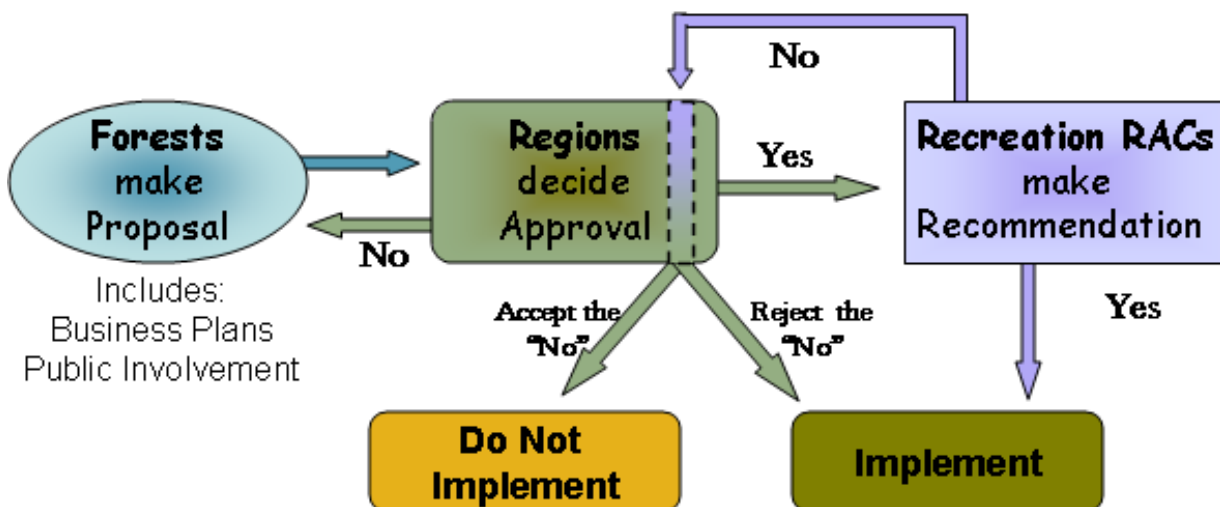




Recreation Fee Proposals Step-by-Step Process For National Forests

Regions and Recreation RAC members will develop the details of their process and how they will work best together, but in general the process includes:

1. Forests develop proposals, which include:
 - A. Business plans (as required regionally and/or nationally)
 - 1) Description of the new recreation fee area.
 - 2) Financial analysis.
 - 3) Analysis of existing private and public facilities or services.
 - 4) Description of how the unit will inform the public about expenditures.
 - B. Public involvement *(Note: Full guidelines available at: fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/rhwr/recfee/direction-tools).*
 - 1) Fee proposal notice on site
 - 2) New fee notices in the Federal Register
 - 3) News stories or paid ads in local media.
2. Forests present proposal to Regions for approval through Regional Fee Board, Recreation Director and/or Regional Forester.
3. Region determines if proposal goes to Recreation RAC for recommendation.
4. Recreation RAC makes recommendation.
5. If the recommendation matches the proposal, the proposal can be implemented.
6. If the recommendation does not match the proposal, the Regional Forester must determine if the Region would still like to move forward with the proposal. If yes, the Secretary must issue a notice that identifies the reasons for rejecting the recommendation to both a House and Senate Committee.





Questions and Answers:

1. Do I have to bring normal fee changes, like one dollar campground increases, to a Recreation RAC?

If the campground is not managed by a concessionaire, yes. However, Recreation RACs may determine what sorts of fee changes they do and do not want to review. A Recreation RAC could, for example, write a letter to the Region stating that normal, small inflationary increases in campground and cabin rental fees do not require their recommendation before moving forward.

2. Will Recreation RACs review fees that are already in existence?

No, with one major exception. Regions with High Impact Recreation Areas (HIRAs) must share their HIRAs with the Recreation RAC. HIRAs were formed after REA was established and must be shared with a Recreation RAC because they represent a change to how fees are charged. In some cases, site-by-site fees became area fees and in some cases the size of the fee areas were greatly reduced.

3. Can Recreation RACs bring forward their own proposals?

Yes. Recreation RACs can bring forward proposals on fee changes in the same manner as any member of the public. That proposal would then need to go through the same proposal process, with all the accompanying documentation that agency proposals have, including being approved by the regional fee board, Regional Recreation Director and Regional Forester, as appropriate. The proposal would come back to the Recreation RAC, with possible changes, for recommendation.