NORTH FRUITA DESERT

CAMPGROUND FEE PROPOSAL
AREA DESCRIPTION

- North Fruita Desert SRMA
  - Multi-use recreation
  - World class mountain biking
  - Tourism market
Use Numbers (Trailhead)
- 2011 50,000
- 2010 35,000
2011 Ranger Weekend Observations (Campground)
- April, May, October and November – FULL
- Overflow averages around 40 camps
PROPOSED FEE SITE

- 37 unit campground on 40 acres of public land
- Installed in 2006
FACILITIES
HISTORY OF PROPOSAL

- Business Plan
  - Finalized 2008
  - Updated 2011
- Public Involvement
  - Initiated 2008
  - Updated 2011
- Recreation RAC
  - Presented April 2009

- Recreation RAC
  - Numbered sites
  - Dispersed camping
  - Trash Services
  - Convenient access to trailheads
  - Capacity issues
  - Tabled
$10 per campsite per day (2 car max per site)
Projected annual revenue $18,000-$20,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Estimated Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operations and Visitor Services</td>
<td>$4,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collections</td>
<td>$2,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Safety/Security/Law Enforcement</td>
<td>$3,810</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual and Deferred Maintenance</td>
<td>$10,050</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Estimated Annual Total</td>
<td>$20,820</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**FAIR MARKET VALUE**

- **Highline State Park**
  - Tent camping $14 - $22 night
  - Showers with lake front

- **Local Commercial Camping**
  - Tent camping $29
  - RV Sites $38
BENEFITS

- Unique opportunity to access singletrack trail system directly from campground.
- Increased safety patrols.
- Additional interpretive services and enhanced security.
- Increased facility maintenance and cleaning.
- A beautiful campground setting with opportunities for family togetherness.
- Greater ability to maintain facilities through time to decrease “deferred maintenance” issues in the future.
- Greater ability to increase the capacity of the campground, to reduce crowding and user conflicts.
PRESS RELEASE

Publications

Newspaper
• GJ Sentinel Oct 20, 2011

TV news
• KJCT 8 – Aired October 20, 2011

Forums
• 4X4 Wire April 28, 2008
• Mountain Bike Review - MTBR

Websites and Social Media
• COPMOBA Facebook October 2011
• BLM GJFO Website 2008-2011
PUBLIC INPUT

- Flyers placed at the following:
  - BLM restroom facilities
  - BLM kiosks
  - Browns
  - Grassroots
  - Ruby Canyon
  - Single Tracks
  - Over the Edge
  - Hot Tomato

- Distributed by rangers and on BLM website
COMMENT CARDS

• Comment Box with Flyer at the following business locations
  • Browns
  • Grassroots
  • Ruby Canyon
  • Single Tracks
  • Over the Edge
  • Hot Tomato

• Distributed by rangers and on BLM website
VISITOR FEEDBACK

- 15 total comments
  - 10 in favor
  - 3 not in favor
  - 2 unclear
I camp in Fruita once or twice every year. I don't really mind if there is a fee, but if a fee is instituted I have opinions about how the revenue should be sent. It would be a great shame if the campground lost its current character. I travel to Fruita not only to mountain bike, but also enjoy the rugged outdoor experience. I don't want to see paved-over campsites and RV hookups, as these would absolutely ruin the camping experience. There are already plenty of hotels and even an RV park in town for people who enjoy more civilized vacations. Please leave the North Fruita campground unimproved for those of us who enjoy that type of experience. I am happy with the pit toilets, and don't think anything else is necessary in the area. If a fee is imposed I hope the revenue is used towards maintaining the existing area, and not on 'upgrades' that destroy the area's current character.

I am all for charging a reasonable fee for the use of campgrounds in the 18 rd. area. I believe fees should be commensurate (or slightly less than) local campgrounds/state parks in the area.

I agree - the fees will only aid in the upkeep and improvements.

I welcome the fee proposal for 18 road, as it will help manage the area, keep it clean, and help inform users of the fragility of the desert ecosystem.
I am in support of a camping fee on BLM lands, including 18 Road. I also think it is time to have permitting for mountain biking, from $15 to $25 annual fee. There are a ton of bikes on the trail system in Colorado, especially in Grand Junction, and it should not be a free ride as I see BLM out on the trails all summer and winter and always ask myself who pays for all this, US tax payers that for the most part do not mountain bike. The users should help pay to maintain the trail system and build new trails.

I truly appreciate all that the BLM does and the great trail system we have in GJ.

This letter is to let you know that the Mesa County Commissioners support your proposal to charge fees at the North Fruita Desert Campground.

With the increased usage of the 18 Road area for camping, we feel it is important that the camping facilities be maintained in that area for citizens. We fully support your idea of charging a $10.00 fee to allow the Bureau of Land Management to maintain a camping facility with a campground host, clean toilets, and trash containers.

I am strongly in favor of a $10 per campsite each night at the North Fruita Desert campground at instead of 18 road.
Fee access is a poor idea. No wonder every kid in America is sitting on their ass playing video games, quit nickel and diming us to death. With all these gas and oil leases plus cattle leases on our land do you not make any money from being a landlord full time?

I vote a strong no against this idea. I can't believe you're even asking. Our public lands are being destroyed from gas rigs, trucks, new roads, dust, etc. What does all that lease money go towards? ?????????

Please do not raise or establish fees at BLM campgrounds. There ought to be some basic things we can do without paying fees, there are so many expenses already.

Maintenance can be accomplished by volunteers rather than campground hosts who take up a valuable site and by volunteers and community service workers from the court system.

Please consider these comments and thanks for taking input from the public.

To all the people who use Bureau of Land Management land and camping areas: It costs money for upkeep and picking up trash that other people leave. If you don't like the cost of a campsite, I suggest you should not use it. You say money to stay in a motel; you pay money to go to a movie. If you don't want to pay for use of our BLM resources, hen don't use them.

There has been recent discussion regarding the proposal to establish a usage fee for the campground on 18 Rd that serves the North Fruita Desert recreation area. This campground and surrounding areas experience significant mountain bike visitor use during the peak season. As a very important part of the camping and riding experience in the North Fruita Desert area, COPMOBA believes that it is important for the BLM to maintain this campground in a suitable manner. COPMOBA supports the implementation of a modest user fee to aid in allowing BLM to maintain the campground, provide toilet and trash services, and possibly even establish a campground host. Discussions within COPMOBA have centered around fee amounts in the $8 - $12/day range.

COPMOBA also supports further expansion of the campground as informal camping in adjacent areas has expanded to extreme levels in recent years. We believe that it would improve the sanitation and sustainability issues associated with dispersed camping if the campground area were to be expanded at the earliest possible time.