

NW RAC/North Fruita Desert 18 Road Campground Fee Proposal Timeline

2004 – Recreation Enhancement Act passes allowing land management agencies to charge fee at specific areas if the fees collected are to be used to manage the specific area. It requires fee proposals to go through a FACA-chartered citizen advisory board. The Forest Service forms a Recreation Resource Advisory Council (“Rec RAC”) to hear its fee proposals, and BLM elects to send its fee proposals to this group as well.

The Rec RAC will meet a maximum of twice a year until 2009. The BLM has challenges getting its proposals on the agenda throughout this time.

2006 – The Grand Junction Field Office begins updating the NW RAC about its fee proposal for the North Fruita Desert as part of the field manager updates.

May 2008 – The NW RAC passes a resolution supporting a new fee at North Fruita Desert 18 Road Campground and also increasing the fees at Mud Springs Campground in Glade Park. This resolution, along with other letters of support from Mesa County, the City of Fruita and other groups, will be presented to the Rec RAC as support for the fees.

April 2009 – The Rec RAC hears the Grand Junction fee proposals after several delays getting this on their agenda. It passes the Mud Spring increase but tables the 18 Road Campground proposal because some members want more clarity on dispersed camping.

2009 – The 5-year charter for the Rec RAC expires and it not renewed. Proposals such as the North Fruita Desert Campground are in limbo.

August 2010 – The NW RAC writes a letter to Jamie Connell, the Designated Federal Officer, explaining its frustration with the Rec RAC and offering its willingness to take on the fee proposal responsibility.

February 2011 – The Rec RAC is an agenda item at a Statewide RAC meeting in large part due to the concern from the NW RAC. All three Colorado RACs agree to take on the fee proposal recommendation responsibilities under the Recreation Enhancement Act for a one year trial period. Their charters are amended to reflect the new role.

December 2011 – The NW RAC votes to recommend the North Fruita Desert Campground and the Ruby Horse-thief fee proposals.

June 2012 – BLM begins charging fees to camp at the North Fruita Desert 18 Road Campground.

June 2012-present – BLM is able to provide many new improvements to the Campground as a result of the fee program.