



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Recreation and Public Purposes Act

## Frequently Asked Questions

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### *General Information*

#### **Q: What does the Recreation and Public Purposes Act do?**

**A:** The Recreation and Public Purposes (R&PP) Act is a law that allows the lease or sale of public lands by the BLM to state and local governments as well as nonprofit organizations, for recreation or public purposes. Approved uses include recreational facilities (e.g., parks, trails, campgrounds) and public purposes (e.g., schools, fire stations, utilities.) Commercial uses and private development are not allowed under the R&PP Act.

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### *Application Process*

#### **Q: How do I submit an R&PP application?**

**A:** Applicants must submit an application to their local BLM field office. The application must include a development plan, proof of eligibility and a detailed description of the intended use.

#### **Q: What is included in the application development plan?**

**A:** The development plan should outline:

- Proposed use and timeframe for development
- Site layout and design
- Funding sources
- Maintenance and operational plans

#### **Q: Are there application fees?**

**A:** Yes, there is a non-refundable \$100 application fee. Additional processing fees may apply and are determined by the BLM based on the scope of the application.

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## *Leases and Patents*

### **Q: What is the difference between a lease and a patent under the R&PP Act?**

**A:** A lease allows the use of the land for a specified purpose and duration. Lessees must meet development milestones to maintain the lease. A patent transfers ownership of the land to the applicant once all terms and conditions of the lease are fulfilled.

### **Q: How long can an R&PP lease last?**

**A:** Leases are typically issued for a term of up to 25 years, with the potential for renewal if the conditions of the lease are met.

### **Q: Can an R&PP lease be converted to a patent?**

**A:** Yes, once the lessee fulfills the terms of the lease and the development plan, the lessee can apply for a patent.

### **Q: Can R&PP lands be sold or transferred?**

**A:** R&PP lands cannot be sold, transferred, or used for purposes other than those approved by the BLM. Any changes require BLM approval.

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## *Reversionary Interest*

### **Q: What is a reversionary interest?**

**A:** A reversionary interest means the land will revert to the federal government if it is not used for its intended public purpose or if the lease/patent terms are violated.

### **Q: Can the reversionary interest be removed?**

**A:** Yes, applicants can apply to purchase the reversionary interest. The decision to remove this condition is at the discretion of the BLM and may require additional fees and justification.

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## *Third-Party Uses*

### **Q: Can third-party uses be allowed on R&PP lands?**

**A:** Third-party uses may be allowed if they align with the original purpose of the lease or patent and are approved by the BLM.

### **Q: How do I get approval for third-party use?**

**A:** Approval requests must include a description of the proposed use, an analysis of its compatibility with the original R&PP purpose and supporting documentation. Request should be submitted to the local BLM office.

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*Compliance and Monitoring*

**Q: How does the BLM monitor compliance with R&PP leases and patents?**

**A:** The BLM conducts periodic reviews to ensure the land is being used as agreed upon in the lease or patent. Lessees or patentees must provide updates on their development progress and land use.

**Q: What happens if I fail to comply with the terms of my lease or patent?**

**A:** Failure to comply can result in:

- Termination of the lease
  - Reversion of the land to the federal government
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