BLM Recreation Fee Proposals
Step-by-Step Review & Approval Process

Following is a general outline of BLM's recreation fee review and approval process. This process applies to new fee proposals as well as adjustments to existing fees. State Directors and Recreation RAC (RRAC) / Resource Advisory Council (RAC) members will develop the details of State-specific processes, but in general the process includes the following:

1. Field Offices develop proposals to present to the RRAC/RAC, which may include:
   A. Business plans.
      1) Description of the new recreation fee area or proposed fee adjustment.
      2) Financial analysis.
      3) Analysis of existing private and public facilities or services, including fees charged.
      4) Description of how the unit will inform the public about expenditures.

   B. Public involvement *(See related BLM IM and attachments.)*
      1) Fee proposal notice (general public outreach).
      2) New fee area notices in the Federal Register at least six months prior to establishment.
      3) News stories or paid ads in local media.

2. Field Offices present proposal to State Director, or designee, for review.

3. If the State Director, or designee, approves of the proposal, it then goes to BLM's National Recreation and Visitor Services Division (WO 250) for review.

4. National Recreation and Visitor Services Division reviews proposal and, in consultation with the Field, determines if the proposal is sent to RRAC/RAC for recommendation.

5. RRAC/RAC makes recommendation.

6. If the RRAC/RAC recommendation matches or affirms the proposal, the proposal can then be implemented.

7. If the RRAC/RAC recommends a modification to the proposal and the State Director, or designee, agrees with the recommended modification, the proposal can then be implemented (or it can be withdrawn).

8. If the RRAC/RAC recommendation does not affirm the proposal, the State Director, or designee, must determine if the Field Office would still like to move forward with the original proposal. If the State Director, or designee, wishes to pursue the original proposal, the National Recreation and Visitor Services Division will coordinate with the Field and DOI to issue the REA-required written notification to Congress for rejecting the RRAC/RAC recommendation.

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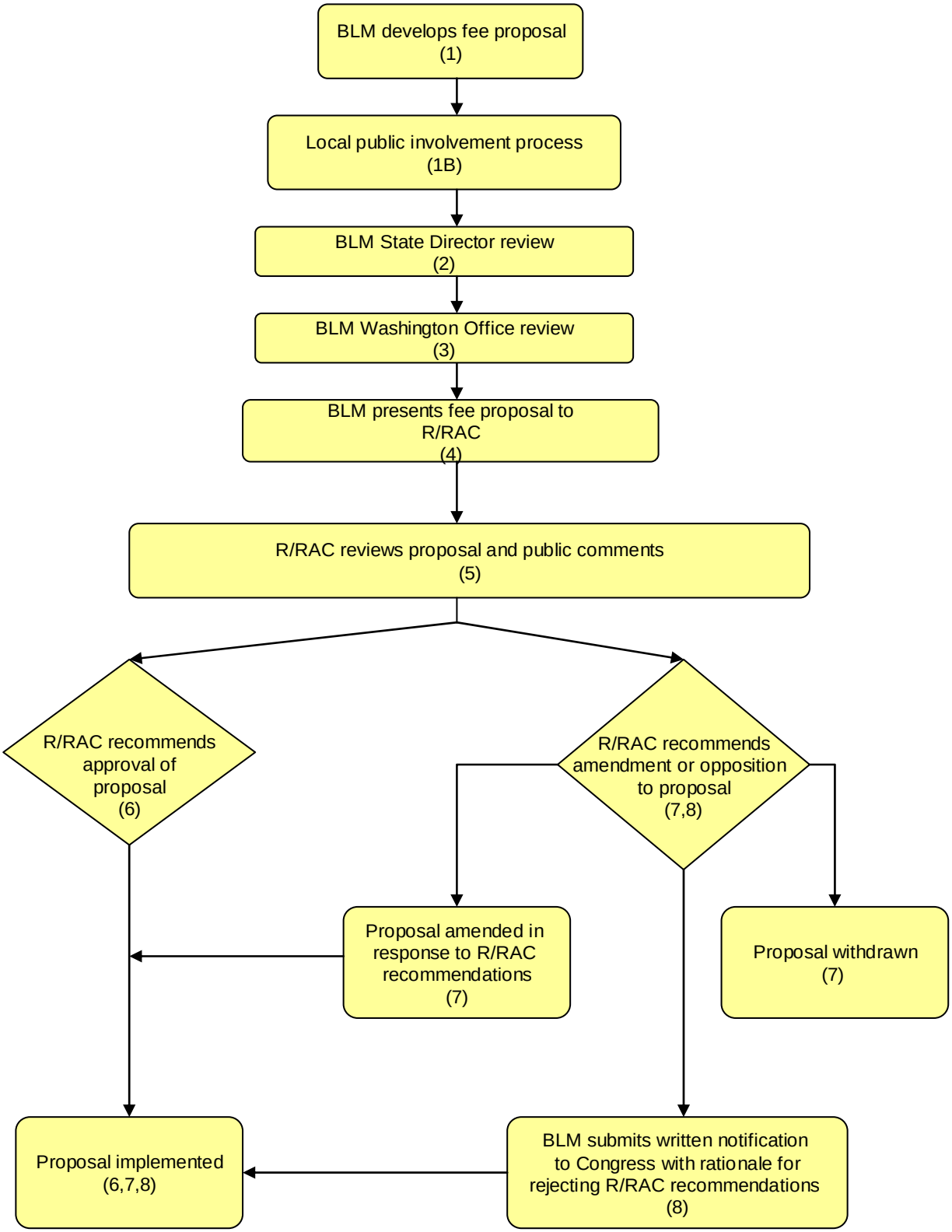
Flowchart


BLM develops fee proposal
(1)
Local public involvement process
(1B)
BLM State Director review
(2)
BLM Washington Office review
(3)
BLM presents fee proposal to
R/RAC
(4)
R/RAC reviews proposal and public comments
(5)
R/RAC recommends
approval of
proposal
(6)
R/RAC recommends
amendment or opposition
to proposal
(7,8)
Proposal amended in
response to R/RAC
recommendations
(7)
Proposal withdrawn
(7)
Proposal implemented
(6,7,8)
BLM submits written notification
to Congress with rationale for
rejecting R/RAC recommendations
(8)

Questions & Answers:

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

Yes. However, RRACs/RACs may determine what sorts of fee changes they do and do not want to review. A RRAC/RAC could, for example, write a letter to the State Director stating that normal, small inflationary increases in campground or cabin rental fees do not require their recommendation before moving forward.

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

No, their responsibilities are limited to review of new fee areas or fee changes.

3. Can RRACs / RACs bring forward their own proposals?

RRACs/RACs can bring forward proposals on fee changes in the same manner as any member of the public. If the agency is supportive of the proposal, then it would need to go through the same review and documentation process used for agency proposals -- including being approved by the State Director and National Recreation and Visitor Services Division. After that, the proposal would be submitted back to the RAC, with possible changes, for recommendation.

4. Which Special Recreation Permit (SRP) fees are to be brought before the RRACs/RACs?

Only the recreation fee associated with an individual use SRP for a Special Area, as described in H-2930-1, Chapter III, G.2.e must be reviewed by RRACs/RACs. Other fees that may be associated with such SRPs – such as cost recovery, application, assigned site, exclusive use, or grazing fees which are described in H-2930-1, Chapter III, G.1.and G.2.f – are exempt from REA's RRAC/RAC public involvement requirements.