

**COLORADO RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY
FEDERAL LANDS RECREATION ENHANCEMENT ACT
NEW FEE OR FEE CHANGE
PROPOSAL FORM**

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Name of Project Area/Site: **Shelf Road Recreation Area**

Project Contact Person: **Leah Quesenberry**

Position Title & Phone #: **Renewable Resources Staff Supervisor, 719-269-8547**

Forest: NA County: **Fremont**

Ranger District: **NA** Congressional District: **5**

BLM Field Office: **Royal Gorge Field Office**

Site Type (Cabin, Campground, Area, etc): **Campgrounds**

Capacity: 31 sites Season of Use: **Year-round**

Fee Type: Standard Amenity___ Expanded Amenity **X** Special Rec. Permit___

Proposed Action: New fee___ Change of fee **X**

Existing Fee: **\$ 4.00 for standard site; \$8.00 for group site**

Proposed Fee: **\$7.00 for standard site; \$14.00 for group site**

Date of last fee increase: **There has never been a fee increase. Fees were instituted in 1995.**

Summary of **benefits** the public receives or will receive:

- **Accessibility improvements (2006)**
- **Improvements to campsites – new fire grates and tables, repairs to tent pads, improved parking spaces (2006)**
- **Signs and maps providing education/information (new kiosks/signs in 2008)**
- **Regular patrols by BLM recreation staff and Law Enforcement Officer**
- **Additional campsites (2006)**
- **Regular maintenance of access roads, trail system, and facilities (vault toilets)**
- **Regular cleaning of campsites and toilets (weekly on a year-round basis)**

Facilities/Amenities Checklist (check all that apply, list each site separately):

Site Name: Shelf Road Recreation Area (The Bank & Sand Gulch campgrounds)

1. **X** Designated developed parking
2. **X** Permanent toilet facility: ___ Flush **X** Vault
3. ___ Permanent trash receptacle
4. **X** Interpretive sign, exhibit or kiosk
5. **X** Picnic tables
6. **X** Security services

Other Amenities: ___ Garbage Removal, ___ Paved Access Road, ___ Drinking Water,

Information/Directional signs, _____ Shower/Bath House, Tent Pads,
_____ Electricity, _____ RV Hookups, Fire Rings/Grills, Other (Trails)

Setting & General Description (include description of the site, natural resources/features, scenic values, recreational attractions, amenities, current/projected visitation, etc.):

The Shelf Road Recreation Area is managed by the Royal Gorge Field Office, near the Cañon City, Colorado. The closest major metropolitan area is Colorado Springs, Colorado. The area is reached via Fremont County Road 9 (known as Shelf Road) approximately 12 miles north of Cañon City. The Shelf Road Recreation Area includes two developed campgrounds, The Bank and Sand Gulch, and a network of designated roads and trails. The limestone cliffs in the area provide regionally and internationally significant sport rock climbing opportunities. Horseback riding, mountain biking, hiking, and motorized recreation (scenic driving, 4WD, ATV, motorcycle) are also popular activities. In 2008, the Shelf Road Recreation Area received approximately 64,000 visits by the public. This is an approximately three-fold increase in visits since 2005.

The Shelf Road Recreation Area is managed in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Field Institute and the Access Fund. These non-profit organizations contribute time, money, volunteers, and expertise to the management and maintenance of the area.

The Bank Campground has 13 standard campsites and Sand Gulch has 16 standard sites. Each campsite includes a tent pad, kitchen area with picnic table and campfire grate, and parking area to accommodate up to two passenger vehicles. Each campground has one group campsite and one vault toilet. Both of these campgrounds provide level shaded sites at locations that are convenient to those recreating at Shelf Road Recreation Area. Each campground also provides visitor information kiosks, access roads, and trails. Both campgrounds are located just minutes from hiking trails that lead to numerous cliffs with hundreds of popular rock climbing routes. Current visitation at the campgrounds is between 11,300 and 12,000 visitor use days. A conservative estimate of the projected increase in visitation is 2 to 3 percent annually.

Shelf Road Recreation Area is adjacent to the Gold Belt Tour National Scenic Byway. This drive is taken by many to enjoy the spectacular views and discover the history of the area.

NRHP Eligibility (Cabins/Structures): _____ Archeologist's concurrence: _____Y N
Comments: **Not Applicable**

2. CURRENT AND PROJECTED REVENUES and ANNUAL OPERATION & MAINTENANCE COSTS

See Attachments A & AA

3. COST OF BACKLOG WORK NEEDS:

Roads/Parking Areas:	\$ 35,000
Building/Facilities:	\$ 8,000
Water/Waste water Systems:	NA
Associated Trails:	\$ 5,000
Signs:	\$ 1,000
Other (list): fencing	\$ 5,000
Total:	\$54,000

4. FEE COLLECTION METHOD AND ESTIMATED FEE COLLECTION COSTS

Method: On-site self pay stations. Fee envelopes are collected regularly and transported to Royal Gorge Field Office where the collections officer processes and deposits the fees.

Costs: Average annual cost: \$1,300 (salaries, equipment, supplies)

Note: No collection costs are incurred for sites under the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS).

5. FEE DETERMINATION PROCESS SUMMARY

Fair Market Value Comparison (compare similar fees at other FS, state, federal, or private recreation sites in the area with similar facilities & services):

Facility type(s): Colorado State Parks (Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area) campgrounds with parking, fire grates, tent pads, information kiosks, and vault toilets charge \$14.00 per night per site. These sites are approximately 20 miles from the project site.

Campgrounds located on the Pike San Isabel National Forest charge \$11.00 to \$17.00 per night per site. Sites provide parking, fire grates, tent pads, information kiosks, vault toilets, potable water, and trash receptacles.

6. PLANNED USE OF FEES RETURNED TO SITE (list by priority; include daily O&M if appropriate; add to list if appropriate)

- 1) Accomplishment of deferred maintenance projects (campground access roads, trails, fences, and parking areas).
- 2) Capital improvements such as the installation of shade ramadas, additional campsites, and additional vault toilets.
- 3) Replacement and maintenance of signs and visitor information.
- 4) Weed control.
- 5) Enhanced visitor services, safety, and security through frequent patrols by BLM recreation staff and RGFO Law Enforcement Officer.
- 6) Cleaning and maintenance of campsites.
- 7) Cleaning, servicing, and maintenance of toilets.

7. CUSTOMER/PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MECHANISM TYPES

- Site Monitoring
- Customer Survey Card
- Comment Log / Cabin Guest Book
- Newspaper Articles
- Website Listing
- E-mails
- Direct Mail
- Personal Contacts
- On-site Posting
- Other (list): _

See Attachment B: Summary of Public Involvement for details.

8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION RESULTS

See Attachment B: Summary of Public Involvement for details. Due to public comments received, the proposed fee increase was adjusted to a lower amount than first proposed in the news release. Approximately one half of the comments received opposed the proposed amount. Many comments also stated that they would support an increase of \$6-7 for individual sites and \$12-15 for group sites. After further analysis, our numbers were adjusted.

9. ADDITIONAL ATTACHMENTS

List and reference additional information (documents) that can be provided upon request to document this project proposal and the public response.

Refer to business plan.

10. PROJECT SUBMITTAL & CERTIFICATION

Project Submittal:

This recreation site is already, or being submitted for inclusion as, a fee site under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (REA). This proposal has been reviewed by representatives on the unit. I understand that any reservations must be made through the NRRS system. I also fully understand and agree to comply with the accounting and reporting requirements necessary to participate in the fee program.

\S\ Linda McGlothlen _____
BLM Field Manager (Acting)

8/28/09 _____
Date

Project Certification:

This recreation site is already, or is now forwarded as, a fee site and the proposed fee schedule is forwarded to the RRAC for their review under REA.

Recreation Fee Board Chair

Date

BLM Washington Office Review ____Y ____N

RRAC Project Recommendation:

This site and proposed fee schedule is ____ / is not ____ recommended as a fee site.
This recreation site is already a fee site and the proposed fee schedule is ____ / is not ____ recommended to the Secretary for acceptance under REA.

Colorado Recreation RAC Chair

Date

Project Acceptance:

This site and proposed fee schedule is ____ / is not ____ accepted as, a fee site.
This recreation site is already a fee site and the proposed fee schedule is ____ / is not ____ accepted by the Secretary under REA.

Regional Forester/BLM State Director

Date