

**Colorado RRAC: Attachment B
US Forest Service - Region 2
BLM - Colorado
Recreation Fee Proposals
Summary of Public Involvement**

Date: September 18, 2010 to Present
Unit: San Luis Valley Field Office (LLCOF03000)
Proposal: New Fee _____ Fee Change X

Summary of Fee Proposals:
(for multi-fee structure, replace with other graphic if needed)

Site/Service	Current Price	Proposed Price
Penitente Canyon Campground	\$5/15	\$11/20

Public Participation (List of Potential) Activities:

Public Participation Tasks	Date(s)
Posted notice at San Luis Valley Public Lands Center Monte Vista office inviting comments on fee proposal.	September 18, 2010 - Present
Posted notice at Saguache Field Office and Ranger District inviting comments on fee proposal. Posted at Campground.	September 18, 2010 - Present
Published press releases announcing fee proposal in Valley Courier and other local papers.	<p>9/21/10 Press Release</p> <p style="text-align: center;">--FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE--</p> <p style="text-align: center;">September 21, 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BLM Seeks Public Comment on Campground Fees</p> <p style="text-align: center;">SAGUACHE - The San Luis Valley Public Lands Center is seeking public input on two fee proposals: one to increase overnight camping fees for the Penitente Canyon Campground and the second to establish overnight camping fees at the new Zapata Falls Campground.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Penitente Canyon Campground</p>

is located west of the town of La Garita. Zapata Falls Campground is currently being constructed near the trailhead to Zapata Falls. Both are on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Fees at the Penitente Canyon Campground have not been raised since 1997 and maintenance costs have increased significantly since then. The fee increase would enhance BLM's capacity to maintain and improve this recreation area.

The current fee charges are \$5.00 per night for a standard campsite and \$15.00 per night for a large group campsite. The proposed fee is \$11.00 per night for a standard campsite and \$20.00 per night for a large group campsite. The proposed fee is comparable to facilities offering similar amenities on public lands throughout the state. The additional fees would support operation and maintenance of the campground as well as upgrades to the restrooms, campsites, roads, trails and signs.

Construction of Zapata Falls Campground should be completed by June 2011. BLM must start the process to establish an overnight camping fee now in order for it to be operational by next summer. Fees at this campground would be the same as at Penitente: \$11.00 per night for a standard campsite and \$20.00 per night for a large group campsite. The fees would support operations and maintenance of the campground. Written comments may be submitted to: Outdoor Recreation Planner, Saguache Field Office, 46525 Hwy 114, Saguache, CO 81149, or email with "Campground Fees" on the

	<p>subject line to snoonan@blm.gov. Comments must be received by December 1, 2010. For further information, contact Sean Noonan at 719-655-6136.</p>
<p>Article published in the Pueblo Chieftain explaining benefits of fee revenues.</p>	<p>9/22/10 News Story - Pueblo Chieftain by Matt Hildner</p> <p>Higher Fees Sought for Recreation Spots</p> <p>MONTE VISTA - The Bureau of Land Management has issued fee proposals for a pair of recreation areas in the San Luis Valley.</p> <p>The agency wants to set the fees at the future Zapata Falls Campground and at Penitente Canyon to \$11 per night for a standard campground and \$20 per night for a large group campground.</p> <p>Last year, 40,000 visitors made it to the recreation area at Penitente, which is a popular spot for climbers, mountain bikers and hikers, said Mike Blakeman, a public affairs officer for the agency.</p> <p>The agency argues that the current fees of \$5 per night and \$15 per night for large groups have not kept pace with the cost of maintaining the area, which sits near La Garita in the northwestern corner of the valley.</p> <p>The new fees would support campground operations and upgrades to restrooms, campsites, roads, trails and signs.</p> <p>Work crews are still constructing the Zapata Falls Campground, which is</p>

	<p>expected to open in June.</p> <p>The campground, which is being built thanks to federal stimulus dollars, would sit in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, roughly five miles south of the Great Sand Dunes National Park.</p> <p>Comments on the proposals can be sent by Dec. 1 to Outdoor Recreation Planner, Saguache Field Office, 46525 Colorado 114, Saguache, CO 81149, or via e-mail, with "campground fees" on the subject line, to snoonan@blm.gov.</p>
Internal memo sent out to San Luis Valley Public Lands Center employees announcing proposed fee changes.	September 21, 2010
Posted information on fee proposal on BLM's web site and USFS RRAC website.	February 3, 2011
Posted Federal Register notice of proposed new fees (if appropriate) as per REA, Sec. 4 (b).	N/A
Letter sent to residents near the Penitente Canyon CG announcing proposed new fee.	
Briefed local Congressional Staff on fee proposal. Included Senators Udall and Bennett's offices and Congressional Representative Salazar's offices.	September 17, 2010
Briefed local County commissioners on fee proposal.	September 17, 2010
Personal contacts were made with interested individuals about the fee proposal.	June 2009 - Present
E-mails with the attached Press Release were sent to individuals and organizations (Del Norte Trails Organization, Adams State College, Prescott College, Kent Mountain Adventure Center, Outpost Wilderness Adventures, and Camp ID-RA-HA-JE) about the fee proposal.	September 21, 2010

Public Participation Results (include # of responses/category):

Method of Communication	Summary of Comments- as of December 2, 2011
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<p>Posted On-site Notices - (Penitente Canyon CG)</p>	<p>10/6/10 "More than doubling camping costs @ Penitente Canyon without specified upgrades to basic camping facilities seems absurd. \$11.00 night is a very high charge for very little amenities in this location of the state. From personal observations, a fee of \$6-\$8/night seems more reasonable to account for increased maintenance and for the new camping area. Too high of fees will encourage people to camp on open lands, this will increase impacts on the fragel environment in this area."</p> <p>?/?/11 "With the economy like it is leave the fees the way they are. This is one of the few places people can enjoy a reasonably priced vacation. I'm sure you realize most young people do not have much money and are thus priced out of State and National Parks. With the fees in a park like Yellowstone \$25 just to enter and \$18+ for campers many younger/older people can't afford to visit."</p>
<p>Posted on-site notices - (Penitente Canyon CG)</p>	<p>9/5/11 Do not raise camping fee. I can handle paying \$5 to camp a night or two but if the price was raised to \$11 I would not camp or visit penitente canyon."</p>
<p>Press Releases & News Story of User Benefits</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Web Site Posting</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Federal Register Notice</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Letters to Neighbors</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>Congressional Staff Briefing</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>County Commissioners Briefing</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>General Customer Contact Feedback</p>	<p>5 Comments-Either no issues with the proposed fee increase or merely stated they understood the need for the increase.</p>
<p>E-mail Responses</p>	<p>9/22/10 "Good Morning, I object to campground fee increases for one major reason, the campground Nazis. It galls me to go to a campground in my own backyard and find a campground "host" flying an Oklahoma or Texas state flag, no Colorado state flag or US flag in sight, and have them lording it over me like little dictators. If they love their own state so much they can go back and fly their flag there, or at least have the respect for their host state to fly our Colorado flag and the national ensign</p>

as well as some foreign flag! If you will fire all campground hosts and give the money to the BLM or USFS it would be fine if you need a minor increase. The way things are being run now I will camp only outside campgrounds."