

BLM Colorado Checklist for Resource Advisory Committee Fee Review

Name of Project Area: Upper Colorado Special Recreation Management Area
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BLM Field Office: Kremmling Field Office, CO, BLM

Briefly describe the purpose of the proposed fee and benefits to the public.

The BLM Kremmling Field Office proposes two changes to current fees.

First, the BLM Kremmling Field Office proposes to change the classification of day use fees from an expanded amenity fee to a standard amenity fee. The original evaluation of the fee program to ensure compliance with the FLREA classified all fees at the two fee sites as expanded amenity fees. Both the Pumphouse site and the Radium site offer designated developed parking areas, permanent toilet facilities, permanent trash receptacles, kiosks, picnic tables, and security services (BLM law enforcement). With the classification change, the public can now use the America the Beautiful - The National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Annual Pass (Interagency Pass) for access to the site. As an expanded amenity fee, holders of the Interagency Pass and the Volunteer Pass must pay the day use fee, and holders of the Senior and Access passes must pay 50 percent of the day use fee. Under the new classification, holders of the Interagency and Volunteer Passes would not pay a day use fee and would pay full price for camping fees. Holders of Senior and Access Passes would not pay a day use fee and would pay 50 percent of the camping fees. Changing the classification of the day use fee from an expanded amenity fee to a standard amenity fee would have minimal impact to overall fee revenue. The BLM estimates less than 200 visitors currently use the Interagency Passes at the two fee sites. Revenue loss as a result of the classification change would be less than \$1,000 per year.

The second change to the current fees would be to increase the day-use fees. First, based on the market evaluation of other public land fee sites in the area, the BLM sites are undervalued. Surrounding US Forest Service sites are charging \$5.00 for day-use fees. Second, the current day-use fee has not changed since it was first established in 1998. During that time, the BLM's annual maintenance and operations costs have gone up with inflation, while fee income has remained constant. Based on the Consumer Price Index calculator, inflation has impacted the BLM's operating and maintenance costs by 24.3 percent over the past decade. To keep pace with inflation and provide the same level of services, the BLM needs to increase its day-use fees. Taking inflation into account, the KFO proposes raising the user fee for private users from \$3 to \$4 per vehicle per day. The commercial user fee would be raised from \$1 to \$1.25 per person per day. The season pass would be raised from \$15 to \$20. After presenting this business plan to the Resource Advisory Council, they suggested we increase the user fee to alleviate the BLM Kremmling Field Office from needing to go through this process in one or two years because of additional inflation. Accordingly, the BLM Kremmling Field Office is proposing to the Recreation RAC to raising the user fee from private users from \$3 to \$5 per vehicle per day.

For yes or no questions where there is only one correct answer under the Recreation Enhancement Act (REA), the required answer is marked with a check (✓). Be prepared to document the checked response for Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) review.

1. Are you proposing a *Special Recreation Permit Fee* in connection “with the issuance of the permit, for specialized recreation uses of Federal recreational lands and waters, such as group activities, recreation events, motorized recreational vehicle use”? If “yes,” Advisory Committee consultation is not required and no proposal is required. YES NO

2. Is BLM proposing a standard or expanded amenity recreation fee regarding one of the following? Note BLM is not authorized to charge entrance fees.

Standard Amenity Expanded Amenity Neither, RAC consultation not required.

3. Is the proposal for a new fee or to change an existing fee? New Change

4. Describe the fee proposal. Who will be charged? How much will be charged? Etc.

Visitors who use the facilities at Pumphouse and Radium (boat ramps, public water system, trash cans, picnic tables, fire rings, campsites, kiosks, or toilets). All private visitors who use the facilities will be charged \$5 per vehicle, all commercial visitors who use the facilities will be charged \$1 per person.

GROSS COLLECTIONS: Estimated Annual fee receipts. \$120,000

OVERHEAD: Estimated cost of administration, overhead, collection, and indirect costs associated with the fee? \$18,000

NET: Subtract *Overhead* from *Gross Collections*. \$102,000

OVERHEAD PERCENTAGE: Cost of collection as a % of annual fee receipts. *Overhead* divided by *Gross Collections*. 15%

Is the *Overhead* percentage less than 15%? YES NO

5. Does BLM currently charge a fee for the site? YES NO

a. If “yes”, briefly describe current fee: Private: \$3/day/vehicle, Commercial: \$1/person, Pumphouse Campground: \$10/site & \$30/group site, Radium Campground: \$8/site & \$30/group site

b. When was existing fee established? 1998

c. Prior Year *Gross Collection*: \$121,772

d. Prior Year *Overhead*: \$18,265

e. Prior Year Expenditures: \$103,507

f. Prior Year *Overhead* Percentage: 14.9%

6. For a **standard amenity fee**, which one or more of the following applies?

Not applicable.

National Conservation Area.

A destination visitor or interpretive center that provides a broad range of interpretive services, programs and media.

An area that meets all of the following:

- Significant opportunities for outdoor recreation.
- Substantial federal investments.
- Fees can be efficiently collected.
- Contains all of the following amenities:

<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ Designated developed parking	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ Interpretive sign, or kiosk
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ Permanent toilet facility	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ Picnic tables
<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ Permanent trash receptacle	<input type="checkbox"/> ✓ Security services

7. For an **expanded amenity fee**, which one or more of the following applies?

- Not applicable.
- Use of developed campgrounds that provide at least 5 of the following:

<input type="checkbox"/> Tent or trailer spaces	<input type="checkbox"/> Reasonable visitor protection
<input type="checkbox"/> Picnic tables	<input type="checkbox"/> Refuse containers
<input type="checkbox"/> Drinking water	<input type="checkbox"/> Toilet facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Access roads	<input type="checkbox"/> Campfire containment
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee collection by BLM	
- Use of highly developed boat launches with specialized facilities or services.
- Cabin rentals, trail shelters, boats, stock animals, lookouts, historic structures, group day-use or overnight sites, audio tour devices, or other equipment.
- Use of hookups for electricity, cable or sewer.
- Use of sanitary dump stations.
- Participation in an enhanced interpretive program or special tour.
- Use of reservation services.
- Use of transportation services.
- Use of areas where emergency first-aid services are provided from staffed facilities.
- Use of developed swimming sites that provide at least 4 of the following:

- Showers and flush toilets
- Refuse containers.
- Picnic areas
- Paved parking
- Attendants, including lifeguards
- Floats around swimming area
- Swimming deck

8. Is the fee commensurate with visitor benefits and services? YES NO
9. Are locally charged fees by agencies and private sector comparable? YES NO
10. Does the proposed fee avoid layering fees, or the appearance of nickel and diming visitors (avoids layered fees)? YES NO
11. Which of following services does BLM provide at the fee site (must check at least one)?
 Parking Picnicking along roads or trails
 Undesignated parking
12. Is the fee solely for parking, undesignated parking, or picnicking along roads or trailsides? YES NO
13. Is the fee for general access to the area? YES NO
14. Is the proposal for an entrance fee to access federal recreation areas? YES NO
15. Is the fee to access dispersed use areas with low or no BLM investment unless specifically authorized under fee authority for standard or expanded amenity recreation fees, or SRP fees? YES NO
16. Is the fee for driving, walking, boating, horseback riding or hiking through federal recreational lands and waters without using the facilities and services? YES NO
17. Is the fee for the use of overlooks or scenic pullouts? YES NO
18. Is the fee to travel over a road commonly used for travel between two places either or both of which are outside any area where recreation fees are charged? YES NO
19. Is the fee for access to any land where a person has a property right? YES NO
20. Is the fee for any person with a right of access for hunting or fishing privileges under a specific provision of law or treaty? YES NO
21. Is the fee for any person engaged in the conduct of official Federal, State, Tribal, or local government business? YES NO

22. Is the fee for special attention or services for people with disabilities? YES NO
23. For standard amenity fees only:
- Is the fee for any person under 16 years of age? YES NO
 - Is the fee for non-commercial educational purposes? YES NO
 - Is the fee for a person engaged in a non-recreational activity under a valid permit issued under other authority (e.g. valid grazing permit)? YES NO
24. Will at least 80% of the recreation fees be spent at the fee site? YES NO
25. Will the fee be accounted for separately from the amounts collected? YES NO
26. Will the fee be used for one or more of the following? YES NO
- Repair, maintenance and facility enhancement related directly to visitor enjoyment, visitor access, health and safety.
 - Interpretation, visitor information, visitor service, visitor needs assessments and signs.
 - Habitat restoration directly related to wildlife-dependent recreation limited to hunting, fishing, wildlife observation or photography.
 - Law enforcement related to public use and recreation.
 - Direct operating or capital costs associated with the recreation fee program.
27. Will the fee be used for biological monitoring on federal lands and waters under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 for listed or candidate species? YES NO
28. Will the fee be used to pay for employee bonuses? YES NO
29. Will your office collect fee data and provide an Annual Report? YES NO
30. Have you developed a business plan to accompany the fee proposal? YES NO
- Does the business plan clearly answer the following questions and demonstrate that the fee is consistent with these criteria? YES NO
 - Are the fees proportionate to the benefits and services provided to the visitor?
 - What is the aggregate effect of fee on recreation users and service providers?
 - How is the fee comparable to fees charged by other public agencies and nearby private sector operators?
 - What are the public policy or management objectives served by the fee?
 - How does the fee avoid the collection of multiple or layered recreation fees for similar uses, activities, or programs?
 - Have you attached pictures of the site? YES NO
 - Have you attached a map showing boundaries and amenities? YES NO
 - Did you provide a general description of the setting and site (natural resources, natural features, scenic values, recreational attractions, amenities, current/projected visitation, etc.)? YES NO
 - Public notice, proposal publication, and communication plan? YES NO