

Upper Colorado River Special Recreation Management Area Fee Increase Proposal- Public Comment Summary 10/21/10-9/28/11

Date	Person	Support Increase	Support if Changed	Against Increase	Commerical Outfitter	Private Day-Use	Comments
10/21/2010	Zeke Hersh			X	X		<p>I personally say no way! I would not like a few raise! The reason why-</p> <p>The BLM at Kremmling has in the past few years because of light or non use in past years took away my access from Burns to Dotsero.</p> <p>The problem with this is that my guides years ago had not discovered the good fishing there. In recent years they have started to enjoy fishing in that area and want to take clients to that area and get off the OVER FISHED and USED Pumphouse and Radium access.</p> <p>However the BLM says no way. They say we took that away for non use, but you can float the Heavily fished Pumphouse and Radium areas.</p> <p>Even though we are trying to ease overuse by fishing other areas the BLM says no. Because it is not in the plan!</p> <p>What gives??</p> <p>So that is why I say no! If I am going to be pushed into having to fish an area and then forced a fee raise to fish this area. I don't feel that is quite fair.</p>
10/21/2010	Greg Kelchner	X			X	X	As a commercial, and private users of these areas I support the fee increase

10/22/2010	Andy Neinas	X			X	X	<p>we are Colorado's largest outfitter accommodating over 30,000 visitors this year. My comments also come from the perspective of having boated the Upper C consistently since the late 80's and I usually make about two trips a year, once in mid May and once a bit later in the summer. I also usually go all the way to Catamount vs. half or full day trips.</p> <p>Anyway, nobody likes to see fee increases and usually I would make this one of the core elements of my discussion. However, I believe there may be a need for some improvement on this river and dollars are needed accordingly. My intent is not to bad mouth the private boating community because I myself am a private boater first at least in my mind. With that being said the private boating community on the Upper C is different that the private boating community I encounter in places like Lodore, Cataract, Dolores, Taos Box, Westwater, The Royal Gorge, Numbers and other longer and more challenging sections of water. The Upper C is accessible to the masses which is a great thing but it does bring in a wide spectrum of user including the complete novice who is poorly equipped on the river and lacking knowledge about what protocols should be followed. For instance I have seen many examples of either ill informed or "just don't care" on the Upper C which admittedly is visible on all river but the Upper C has a much higher propensity for this type of user. The amount of toilet paper in the bushes and other trash is indicative of this. Just a few years ago my family of five boated in the middle of the week around mid August in an effort to see a little traffic as possible. Besides seeing a fair amount of refuse especially above State Bridge we actually had a three boat trip stop in our camp so they could go to the bathroom in the bushes. Despite peeing on the ground all over the place no more than thirty feet from our clearly well established camp they were a complete circus. My kids have grown up in the boat yard so they merely laughed recognizing this group for what is was. I have over sixty guides on my staff and I know all about "partying" on the river and despite my twenty five years as an active guide I also enjoy having a good time when boating. However, the competent private boater is able to do this and ideally leave the river in as good a shape as when they got there if not better.</p> <p>My point is perhaps the day use fee for privates should be increase even further in order to fund better education and monitoring of this user group. Now this is when I want to draw a distinction between private boaters as I would imagine those who have a season pass value the resource and a committed enough to visit the Upper C regularly and desire to have the best experience possible time and again. These are the same people who are efficient getting on and off the water quickly with a minimal amount of impact. This is kind of a bold statement and it is not unique to me but I can stand at the boat ramp and watch a group prepare to launch and probably tell you before they hit the water just what type of boater they are and how</p>
10/22/2010	Jeff Gibson	X			X		<p>I think an increase is fair considering the nice work that is being done, \$25 for an annual permit is still a deal so \$20 is even better thanks</p>
10/25/2010	Bob Bond	X			X		<p>The BOEC supports the fee structure as it generates funds to directly impact the upper Colorado and the experience boaters have while on that river section. We will support a fee increase to commercial outfitters in this spirit.</p> <p>Revising the fee classification to allow day use fees to be covered under other passes certainly makes sense in many ways, but my understanding of the fee program was that it was tied directly to the Upper C. If you choose to utilize the upper Colorado you pay a dedicated fee to help fund operations and maintenance. Won't opening up day use fees to the other passes mentioned undercut this premise? If fees paid to purchase one of the passes mentioned in your email would not directly go to support the Upper C then I, personally, would be against changing the fee classification.</p>
10/25/2010	Dominic Mauriello	X				X	<p>What? These fees are outrageous. Ok, just kidding. They seem reasonable to me.</p>

10/26/2010	Brenda			X	X	<p>I think any increase to small business expenses in this economic climate is unwarranted. I would like to see the BLM conserve & use the same fiscal responsibility that the business community has to use. A 25% increase in commercial day use is a huge "hit".</p> <p>If you had 60,000 visitor's & only collected \$48,000 - I'd be trying to find the "hole". I don't think it's up to the commercial outfitters to make up the difference. I would be looking at increasing camper fees - you current rates seem incredibly cheap to me, season passes & public per car rates also seem quite inexpensive.</p>	
10/28/2010	Marty Genereux	X			X	<p>I'm writing in response to your inquiry regarding the Pumphouse run on the Colorado River. I'm a permitted outfitter that offers guided canoe trips from State Bridge to Dotsero. Granted, the fee increases don't affect my business but at the same time appear very reasonable since prices have not increased since 1998. Speaking for myself and probably many other Colorado outfitters, I can tell you that I've raised our trip prices at least four times in the last 12 years strictly out of necessity. The \$116,000 yearly deficit (164K minus 48K) that you mention in your email clearly indicates that an increase is needed.</p>	
10/28/2010	Cory Glackin	X			X	<p>We have no opposition to the increased rates as an outfitter.</p> <p>My only comment as a private boater would be to require the use of groovers and firepans on all overnight trips and to have a log or sign-up system similar to Ruby-Horsethief.</p>	
10/25/2010	Jim-Jim Kirschvink	X				X	<p>As an avid private boater, I support the BLM's proposal to raise fees on the Upper Colorado River. As a former Colorado State River Ranger, I have seen a great deal of improvements to the area since the early 1980's. Without proper funding, you can't have proper management. I like the idea of accepting the "America the Beautiful" passes.</p>
11/3/2010	Stephen Lee	X				X	<p>Regarding the proposal to increase the day-use fee at Pumphouse and Radium recreation areas. We think that this is a necessary increase and should be put into effect. A \$1.00 fee increase per car is not too hard to take and \$.25 extra for commercial use is quite reasonable.</p>

						<p>have any real input on any of the permit holders listed on your post, but thought I'd take a few minutes to comment on the Upper C in general if that's alright.</p> <p>I've got a long history there, so my opinions are a little jaded, take them with a grain of salt. I worked as a commercial guide out of Rancho in the late 80's guiding raft and fishing trips. In the early 90's I became an outfitter there and worked it with a partner until 99. I live in Grand County still and still get down there quite a bit. I think I probably floated the Upper nine or ten days this summer. My family and I often meet guides we worked with two decades ago to camp and float for a weekend. So you can probably see how we might get opinionated.</p> <p>My first thought when I saw your post was that, while I have no history or interaction with any of those outfitters, There are too many fishing outfitters there on a daily basis. I know private boater numbers are up considerably over the years, and I think commercial is down, but I'd be willing to bet commercial fishing trips have gone from 6 boats putting in a day in the mid 90's at Pump house (up from 2 in the 80's), to close to 30 these days. Doesn't seem like a lot, but when you line the river with them from Pumphouse to the Lower Gore, kind of feels like a wall of fisherman that don't want you in their eddy. Not to mention the serious decline in the fishing. I can't recall having any conflicts with any of the guides, but always kind of feel like your being rushed down the river by folks protective of their territory. Many of them eddied out in center stream, with slight crusties if you float within a cast length. I'd be in favor of a little attrition with the fishing outfitters.</p>
11/4/2010	Brad White	X			X	
10/25/2010	Randy Rothwell	X			X	\$1.25 is stupid. Charge \$2 for day use and you won't have to raise the price for years. Who has quarters anyway?
2/27/2011	Tim Hood	X			X	Hannah, I saw your post on Mountain Buzz and wanted to offer my support for recognizing the America the Beautiful pass at these locations. The pass is advertised as "recognized at all federal fee areas" so it should be.
3/29/2011	Jeff Gibson	X		X		Rancho is fine with the increase in fees and keep the improvements coming thanks
5/11/2011	John Bailey	X			X	I am a frequent user of the upper Colorado rafting area and I feel the proposed fee adjustments are more than reasonable. We are very fortunate to have such a fantastic stretch of river in our backyard.
5/25/2011	Gary Reinking		X		X	<p>With regard to user fees along the Colorado River, I think the BLM should use the Colorado State Park on the Arkansas River as a model for development. The state park system quickly and aggressively used their fee income to develop improved put-in and take-out sites all along the Arkansas River, from Leadville to Canon City. BLM has been collecting fees for use of the Upper Colorado River FOR YEARS. However, in contrast to the Arkansas system, there have only been two improved put-in and take-out sites (Pumphouse/Radium) along the upper reaches of the river. As a result, boaters must also pay private land owners for the privilege of taking out on their land - doubling or more the day use cost for river activities.</p> <p>Until the BLM can offer more access to the river, particularly along the Rancho to State Bridge area, I don't feel that raising user fees is justified.</p>

12/7/2011	Grand County Commissioners James L. Newberry, Nancy Stuart, Gary Bumgarner	X					Thank you for the presentation given to us by Hannah Schechter of your office on Tuesday, November 16th. The presentation was very informative. Grand County supports the proposed fee increases for the Pumphouse and Radium areas. These highly used recreations sites are well managed and well maintained, and we believe the fee schedule is necessary to maintain the quality of the experience for citizens and visitors alike. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.
9/21/2011	Lurline Underbrink Curran		X			X	<p>I have been aware of the proposed fee increase for Pumphouse and Radium areas and feel they are appropriate. Your staff keeps these areas well maintained and in good shape. I being one of those users, and have been for decades, appreciate the work that has gone into improving these areas.</p> <p>I feel I need to comment on the fee schedule increase given an experience I had at Radium in August of this year. We went to Radium on a Wednesday and rented two camping spaces for four (4) days. Wednesday and Thursday were fairly quite as far as camping was concerned. On Thursday night, several other campers arrived and then on Friday, everything filled up, or at least I thought it was full. Every camping space was rented and occupied. Several campers played music loudly and ran generators late.</p> <p>However, on Saturday night (full moon night) many more campers arrived, infringed on areas rented by others, myself included. I am sure they did not pay. Loud music persisted from numerous camp sites until after 3am on Sunday morning. It was impossible to sleep. BLM staff was there about 4pm cleaning out bathrooms, but the influx did not occur until after 6pm and then continued until after 10pm.</p> <p>If you are going to raise fees, I would suggest that you post regulations which require no music or generators after 10pm and that more oversight of rented campsites be conducted by your staff later into the evening. The use that night was much over what the area could handle, bathroom wise as well as space wise. I have not been at Radium on other weekends to spend the night, so cannot comment on if this is an ongoing issue or an isolated one.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p>
	TOTALS	Support t Increas e	Support if Change d	Again st Incre ase	Commerical Outfitter	Private Day-Users	
		14	2	2	9	10	

