

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

Date: 09/19/08

Unit: Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre and Gunnison National Forest

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
Christmas Tree Permits	\$8.00	\$10.00*

Public Participation (List of Potential) Activities:

Public Participation Tasks	Date(s)
Posted notice at (Unit Location) inviting comments on fee proposal.	9/10/08
Posted notice at (Field locations) inviting comments on fee proposal.	Sent to District Rangers on 9/19 for posting. Included a questionnaire with each permit package for voluntary comment.
Published press releases announcing fee proposal in (Newspaper of Record).	Submitted to 20+ papers, radio stations and tv stations on Sept 17
Article published in the (Newspaper, etc) explaining benefits of fee revenues.	Published in Daily Sentinel on September 21
Internal memo sent out to (Unit) employees announcing proposed fee changes.	e-mail sent to districts on increasing fees; sent public input document to hand out with all Christmas tree permit sales during November/Dec 08.
Posted information on fee proposal on (Unit's) web site.	Press release added to www website 9/19/2008
Posted Federal Register notice of proposed new fees (if appropriate) as per REA, Sec. 4 (b).	N/A
Letter sent to residents near the (Fee Area) announcing proposed new fee.	N/A

Briefed local Congressional Staff on fee proposal. Included Senators (List) offices and Congressional Representative (List) offices.	Briefed congressional contacts
Briefed local County commissioners on fee proposal.	Briefed commissioners
Personal contacts were made with (List) interested individuals about the fee proposal.	Every person who came into purchase a Christmas tree permit was informed of the proposed fee increase. Of the 1,000+ people, only 15 provided written comment
E-mails were sent to (List) individuals and organizations about the fee proposal.	

***This fee increase will match those charged on adjoining forests (White River and BLM field units). Public Participation Results (include # of responses/category):**

Method of Communication	Summary of Comments- as of (Date)
Posted On-site Notices - (Location)	See above.
Press Releases & News Story of User Benefits	A published article.
Forest Web Site Posting	Posted on the website. Received 3 e-mail responses that did not support an increase. One commenter indicated the fee would continue to go up each year by \$2 which was concerning.
Federal Register Notice	N/A
Letters to Neighbors	No specific letters were mailed due to the nature of the proposal.
Congressional Staff Briefing	
County Commissioners Briefing	Commissioners commented that \$2 increase was not unreasonable since no fee increased had occurred since before 1995.
General Customer Contact Feedback	Of the 18 comments received, 5 did not favor an increase of \$2. See attached comment letters (hardcopy only). Of the positive comments, most thought it was not an unreasonable increase (as long it was staying at the unit to be used in the program). Several commented that we should definitely increase because BLM charges \$10 and "FS trees are a lot better than BLM" !
E-mail Responses	Refer to website posting info, above. Comments are attached (hardcopy only).