

BROADCAST - QUESTIONS and ANSWERS

Q: Also, I would like some clarification about the charging of \$105 for multi-year permits even if the permit does not have any use, insurance etc. for that year. It is unclear why we would charge if there is no use or administration required for the permit. We don't charge a grazing fee for non-use on their permits so why would it differ for Recreation?

A: Recreation is different and the minimum annual use fee is exactly that as stated on pages 1-23 through 1-25 in the Handbook.

Q: This seems to somewhat defeat the purpose of multi-year permits as the SRP cannot be authorized for that year without insurance and payment of a use fee anyway.....

A: Issuing a multi-year permit is an efficient way to minimize paperwork including the application, operating plan and NEPA but is subject to annual authorization and may be canceled if the permittee does not provide the required information such as current insurance and minimum annual use etc. Page 1-16 and 17 in the Handbook.

Q: Does the Handbook discuss this? Also, does the Handbook discuss the \$10 Renewable Fee for an SRP? It was my understanding that from the call made on the webinar, the answer was that we charge a \$10 Renewable fee and the \$105 fee for new SRPs?

A: This question may be referring to the application fee. Currently Colorado is the only state with an application fee. During the Broadcast we responded to a question that asked if the \$50 renewal fee was due each year of a 5 year permit, or if it would simply be a \$50 renewal fee that would be due at time of renewal but could be made more palatable to the permittee by saying they are essentially paying \$10 a year for that 5 year duration permit. Yes – the minimum annual use fee and an application fee (currently only able to be charged in Colorado) are separate fees. Page 1-26 in the Handbook.

Q: Also, there was mention of Statewide SRP stipulations on the KRC site. I thought that the Handbook said that we were “not to issue statewide blanket” SRPs so why the need for statewide stipulations?

A: Statewide stipulations are not the same as a statewide SRP. I believe that Wyoming is the only state in which they are issuing statewide SRPs and it is only for commercial hunting. Page 1-42 and 1-57 in the Handbook.

Q: Is the Indirect Cost Rate of 22.9% and other discussion about costs included in the Handbook? If not, it should be for reference.

A: Page 1-29 and 30 in the Handbook.

Q: Is the “updated wording for insurance” included in the revised Handbook? If not, it should be.

A: Page 1-49 N (2)

Q: Strongly support posting good examples of Operating Plans on the KRC website by activity-OHV Races, Outfitting (hunting), Mt. Biking, Climbing, etc.

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A: The KRC is a great resource and individuals with quality examples should either share them with Mike Brown and their state lead in order to get that information posted on the KRC, and possibly even on share point sites hosted by the individual states.

Q: Jennifer mentioned that Insurance is discretionary (optional) for Organized Group SRPs but strongly encouraged. If insurance is strongly encouraged, then why isn't guidance directing us toward that?

A: This points to the Manager's perceived risk, financial capability of the organized group, the type of activity and other reasons specific to each SRP

Q: In a discussion on "Monitoring" it was mentioned that "creativity is essential"; could you all be more specific (Jennifer) on some examples of creativity? I encourage our permitted outfitters and guides to turn in (a form of monitoring) other unauthorized Outfitters utilizing areas of BLM land they are also using legally.

A: Permittees are a great source of information so keep encouraging that dialogue with your current permittees! I find many unauthorized outfitters by simply watching BLM trailheads and high use areas as well as surfing the internet and social media and meet-up web sites. As for monitoring current permittees and events, you may visit with clients and participants while they are out in the field or they may contact you with concerns, BLM staff or volunteers may participate in trips or events as monitors etc.

Q: Hopefully, the still photography issue is discussed in the Handbook? I was a bit confused to hear that no SRP or fee would be required for still photography yet I feel that if an individual is taking paying customers out on to BLM land to take pictures, that person is running a commercial operation that would require an SRP.....Is that the case?

A: It is important to distinguish between a commercial still photographer acting alone, and what you describe as guided still photography. The later would almost certainly require an SRP. Also, remember that if there are clear and articulated reasons (resource concerns, health and safety, specific management issues etc.) for requiring an SRP then you should require an SRP. An example that I can share is a commercial photography business that operates along a stretch of river and various land trails. There is not a demand, or public interest, in having more than one of these operators. We have also determined that for visual as well as safety reasons we do not want more than one of these permittees. I permit about a dozen photography workshops and another handful of commercial photography tour operators. PL 106-20- Page 1-5 and 1-6 in the Handbook.

Also would suggest more marketing of the KRC on Home Pages etc. as I don't believe it is well known to some employees etc.

Q: Will the WO or NOC be working to create RMIS Reports to extract SRP Data? Currently BLM does not have the ability to run the data on SRPs.

A: Yes, We are planning to create a new report in RMIS that would let offices query SRP permits to look at visitation and recreation visitor days by site, activity and fiscal year. Depending on our funding we hope to get this done before the end of fiscal year 15.

Q: Does the new Handbook address how long we must retain SRPs?

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A: I looked in the General Records Management Schedule and I believe that section 4/14 addresses this question. We are instructed to retain the SRP case files for three years following the expiration of the permit. At that time we are instructed to send the case files to the Federal Records Center who retains the files for 30 years.

Q: If a permit is for 5 years, don't they pay the \$50 renewal fee \$5/per year, or are they saying they have to pay the \$50 annually?

A: An application, renewal and transfer fee is currently only applicable in Colorado.

Q: Is cost recovery considered a fee?

A: Cost recovery is reimbursement to the government for costs incurred (beyond 50 hours) to process, administer, and monitor an SRP. The SRP will convey or allow the permittee to do something that benefits that permittee only, and not the general public. When I think of fees, I generally think of the permit costs associated with RUP's and SRP's.

Q: SRP's for BLM guided tours? (This one was a lengthy question; I just summarized the main topic)

A: We would need specific information in order to properly address this question. Would not expect BLM to be leading any tours unless they were perhaps interpretive in nature and did not involve a fee for the activity.