

## Question and Answer Part 5

D. Ballenger: Is there a process or guidance for invoking the moratorium on new SRPs until a capacity study can be conducted? Any guidance on how to conduct a capacity study? Hmm. Guidance or process for invoking a moratorium on new SRPs?

J. Jones: I think the initial cut would be if we don't have the resources to adequately analyze and monitor, then we probably shouldn't be issuing permits. I don't know that I would call that a moratorium, because at what point are we as a somewhat underfunded, understaffed agency ever going to have those available resources? That's a tricky one.

A. Bobo: And I wouldn't see anything explicit in the handbook that talks about that. J. Jones: No.

D. Ballenger: Yeah, and I don't think that's-- like you say, explicitly covered there.

A. Bobo: Do you want to share about the capacity studies part?

D. Ballenger: Well, the capacity study certainly takes on a whole new realm to that. You know, that is a larger thing than just SRPs.

J. Jones: I think with the concept of capacity studies, we could talk to some of our neighbors in the Forest Service who have been doing capacity studies for a number of years. We routinely hear through our class that perhaps a course delivered specifically to capacity issues, how to perform studies and how to issue permits accordingly. I think there's a desire for information out there and then this question definitely addresses that issue. If you feel as though you are at a point where you are beyond capacity, my guess is you probably are. So taking a pause to re-evaluate and gather your thoughts before you move forward is probably advisable, but in terms of setting a time period for which you can accomplish, that I would say, let's be careful.

D. Ballenger: Another question. What do you do if you anticipate a group refusing to pay a permit fee when required? I wonder if that's an RUP? Must be an RUP.

A. Bobo: I guess you could consider it an RUP and I guess I could imagine that like in a campground or SRP if you have a group or whatever. It's amazing the creative ways that the people in the field have found to be able to address individuals not paying fees and we understand that we don't have a lot of law enforcement, and sometimes the challenge is compliance. What some sites have done is they have done something simple as created a little note that just says, you know, your fees go to support this site, and, you know, please pay your fee and then give an address where they could mail in their fees. You know, we are trying not to be contentious and similar to capacity use studies. Sometimes there needs to be some compliance studies to find out, you know, sometimes we think that people aren't paying but they are paying more than we think. And so I guess the challenge would be we don't want to

set up a contentious situation, but there are little convenient ways to remind people to pay their fees and when they understand that the benefit of those fees are going right back to the site, sometimes you get more compliance than you would another way.

J. Jones: I would echo what Anthony said. If we have an opportunity to be out in the field with the particular group, maybe we made contact with them out at the camp ground or we made contact with them and they don't currently have an SRP and need one, taking the time to have a conversation with them, be a real human and help educate them as to what our agency mission is, the fact that, we do have the opportunity to keep the fees right here on site, what they actually go to, I think it's well worth our time if we have the opportunity to meet with them in the field.

D. Ballenger: This is our last question that we currently have, and that is, who is authorized to waive cost recovery?

A. Bobo: There's no one authorized to waive cost recovery. Once you go over the 50-hour threshold, it's required.

D. Ballenger: I don't know. Would the BLM Director be able to waive cost recovery?

J. Jones: I would have to guess if the situation is political enough, perhaps it may go down that path but the textbook answer is nobody.

A. Bobo: No one.

D. Ballenger: Great question. Okay. Here's a new question. I wanted to point out that the handbook in figure 10 for bonding for a commercial permit includes establishing a case file for the bond in LR2000. So there may be cases in which they should be entered. Oh, good point. Excellent point.

J. Jones: I think that's a great point. I apologize if I created any confusion there. My guess is we are talking about perhaps a ski area in that situation or a zip line or a situation in which a permanent facility has been established as part of that 2920 lands program and, indeed, in that case, with 2920 lands authorizations they would be required to be in LR2000.

D. Ballenger: Great clarification. Alright. I think we are all done with our questions for today. So before we sign off, let's get some final thoughts from our panelists. Anthony, any takeaways would you like to leave the audience with today?

A. Bobo: Yes, this has been a great time. I am encouraged by the types of questions and I can see that we have a lot of SRP questions, even though we have a lot of training out there. So that was interesting to hear. I guess if I was sharing any closing thoughts, it's communicate with your

state recreation leads. They will be the individuals that will be able to know not only what is going on in the state, but what's happening at a national level and be able to communicate your concerns to the higher levels, so discussions can be had. You would be surprised about the number of issues that bubbled up from individuals communicating from the field to their state rec leads and enabled us to manage the program more appropriately. I also want you to work with your network of rec planners from across the country. We have people that are doing great things in the field and that those ideas can be shared and could save you possibly a lot of headaches and we have things virtually, such as the KRC and other websites and things like that, that can share that information, but there is nothing like picking up the phone and having a voice on the other end that has experience in what you are looking to enter into. And so that's why it's been great to be on this panel and to have the sharing that we have had today.

D. Ballenger: Great. Thanks, Anthony. Jennifer, any final thoughts or comments from you?

J. Jones: You bet. I echo what Anthony said. The questions are great so thanks to all of you for participating. I would simply like to encourage and most importantly empower you to use the revised handbook as a reference tool. I don't know all the answers. We can't possibly know all the answers. So I find myself going to it on a regular basis, and I hope that you do too. It's a powerful resource and can really provide answers to those day-to-day questions. I would also like to emphasize the importance of just being consistent in how we apply our BLM policy and direction. We're a multiple use agency. We work with a wide variety of user groups and when we're consistent, we have a much better chance of building partnerships, relationships, understanding, and also appreciation for our multiple use mission.

D. Ballenger: Thanks, Jennifer. And thank you, everyone, for your time, your participation, and your insights today. If you have additional questions that we haven't answered or covered, you can email them after the show to Mike Brown, the NTC coordinator at [m55brown@blm.gov](mailto:m55brown@blm.gov). Please put broadcast question in the subject line. Well, that's it for this program. Thanks again for joining us and so long from the National Training Center in Phoenix, Arizona.

Announcer: This broadcast has been a production of the BLM National Training Center.