

RECREATION FEE PROPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION TO TAKE FEE PROPOSAL TO RECREATION RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (R-RAC)

Region-Forest: R4 – Manti-La Sal National Forest

Proposal Name: Seely Guard Station

Proposal Type: Fee Increase from \$30/night to \$50/night for recreation rental

Group I Type:

- Recreation RAC documented public support and approved by Regional Forester.
- Public involvement completed and general public support identified.
- Response to publicly-identified need or opportunity.
- Required to open facility – Recently (re)constructed, but currently closed.
- Related to changes identified in Area Review.
- Judged as high priority and low controversy.

Recommendation: Recommend to take proposal to increase fee at the Seely Guard Station from \$30/night to \$50/night to the R-RAC at their scheduled February 21, 2013 meeting.

Justification for Recommendation:

- 1) The regional recreation director approved this proposal to move forward on May 25, 2012.
- 2) This is a fee increase for a recreation cabin rental which has recently received upgrades including a solar power system that provides lights for the cabin and has fully restored the horse barn which has utilitarian purpose and enhances the overall setting. The cabin was originally restored in 2008 and established as a rental cabin at that time. The current fee was set at a minimal rate (\$30/night) because there was no power and the site was not fully restored.
- 3) The fee increase to \$50 per night is comparable with other recreation rentals. Based on the amenities, the Fee Index rating came out to \$65-\$80. The cabin can accommodate up to 6 people and also provides camping outside for up to 24 people. There is a vault toilet, but no water or garbage.
- 4) The Manti-La Sal National Forest conducted public involvement beginning in October, 2012. Two comments were received from renters, including: 1) Willing to pay a fee of \$40.00 per night, but thought \$50.00 was too much; 2) Really enjoyed using the cabin and would pay the \$50.00 fee “in a heartbeat”. PIT volunteers involved with the cabin renovation are supportive of the fee increase. It was through their interest and enthusiasm, as well as the interest and support of a local newspaper reporter and television station that initiated this fee increase proposal.

Conducted the following public involvement tasks:

- News releases were sent out on September 30, 2012. The news releases were published in three local newspapers (one in each of the counties).

- Posted notice on site on October 2, 2012.
- Posted notice on the forest website on October 1, 2012.
- Briefed the county commissioners and congressional staff at the Public Lands Council in Emery County on March 6, 2012. There were no concerns raised by the commissioners or congressional staff. The commissioners have been partners in the original renovation, recent renovation and use of the cabin, and are on board with the forests efforts.

Concerns: One comment received that indicated \$40/night was preferable. Upon review of the market comparisons the rate of \$50/night is well supported. The amenities, improvements and enhancements, setting, and location all contribute to the visitor experience.

Recommended by: Tamara Wilton, Fee Proposal Review Coordinator

Concurrence by: Ken Karkula, Assistant Director, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Services

Recommendation Accepted?

Yes No (Please explain)

SM 

Robin Morgan, Deputy Director, RHVR

2/11/2013

Date