



# Camping and Occupancy Regulations

Tres Rios Field Office and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument, Colorado

The Bureau of Land Management welcomes campers who recreate on their public lands. Public lands **are not** intended for establishing and maintaining residency. Rules and regulations specifically prohibit residence on public lands.

**BLM Camping and Occupancy Regulations include but are not limited to the following:**

**43 CFR 8365.1-6: Violation of supplementary rule (75 FR 32968):**

- 14-day Camping Limit within a 30-day period. You must not return to the area for a period of 30 days.
- After 14 days, must move at least 30 air miles.
- Personal property or refuse must not be left behind when vacating the campsite, to include property to be used by another user.
- Property must not be left unattended for more than 48 hours.
- You must not establish occupancy, take possession of, or otherwise use public lands for residential purposes.  
**(Camping is for recreational purposes only)**
- If the area charges fees, fees must be paid within 30 minutes of entering the fee area.
- You must not violate any state or county laws or regulations relating to public health, safety, sanitation, building or fire codes while camping, occupying, or using public lands.

**Camping is defined as** – Erecting of a tent or shelter of natural or synthetic material; preparing a sleeping bag or other bedding material for use; parking of a motor vehicle, motor home or trailer; or mooring of a vessel for the apparent purpose of overnight occupancy while engaged in recreational activities such as hiking, hunting, fishing, bicycling, sightseeing, off-road vehicle activities, or other generally recognized forms of recreation.

**Occupancy is defined as** – Full or part-time residence on public lands for non-recreational purposes, such as temporary residence in connection with, or while seeking, employment in the vicinity, or because another permanent residence is not available. It also means activities that involve residence, such as the construction, presence, or maintenance of temporary or permanent structures that may be used for such purposes, or the use of a watchman or caretaker for the purpose of monitoring activities. Residence or structures include, but are not limited to, barriers to access, fences, tents, motor homes, trailers, cabins, houses, buildings, and storage of equipment or supplies.

**43 CFR 4140.1(b)(6); 43 CFR 8365.1-1(b): Sanitation/Dumping/Littering:**

- Camps must be kept clean and free of litter and trash.

**43 CFR 9212: Fire Prevention:**

- Fires must not be left unattended.
- Fires must be completely extinguished when leaving camp. Make sure fire is cold out, use water!

**Day Use Areas**

- Durango Special Recreation Management Area – Animas City Mountain, Skyline and Grandview Recreation Management Zones. (Camping and Campfires Prohibited)
- Cortez Special Recreation Management Area – Phil’s World Recreation Management Zone to include the Simon Draw Trailhead and Cash Canyon Trailhead.
- Canyons of the Ancients National Monument – Visitor Center and Museum, Lowry Pueblo, Painted Hand Pueblo, Sand Canyon Pueblo, Upper and Lower Sand Canyon Trailheads, Sand Canyon-Rock Creek Special Recreation Management Area.

**Day use is defined as** – Areas open for public access only during daylight hours, typically between sunrise and sunset, or where specific hours of operation have been identified. Overnight use in these areas is specifically prohibited.

**More Information**

For more information about BLM Public Lands, Contact the Tres Rios Field Office at 970-882-1120  
**BLM Tres Rios Field Office and Canyons of the Ancients National Monument Law Enforcement Tip Line**

**833-660-5771 toll free – TRFOtpline@blm.gov**

**In case of an Emergency, Call 911**