



## BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

### Northwest Resource Advisory Council

August 19, 2010

Jamie Connell  
Designated Federal Officer, Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council  
2815 H Road  
Grand Junction, CO 81506

Dear Ms. Connell,

The Northwest RAC is writing to express our concern about the functioning of the Colorado Recreation Resource Advisory Council (Rec RAC), and the consequences that its seeming functionality issues is having on pending fee proposals in the Northwest Colorado region.

The Recreation RAC is responsible for making recommendations to the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management regarding fee proposals on the lands being managed by these agencies. However, the Rec RAC has not met since April of 2009, which has resulted in pending fee proposals that to this day remain stagnant. There are not enough members currently serving on the Recreation RAC to form a quorum, and this RAC cannot therefore vote on pending fee proposal recommendations.

We believe that the process of recommending appointments for vacancies has been completed and the Forest Service is close to sending the names of candidates/alternates forward. However, given the length of time that it takes for appointments to be made, the convening of the Rec RAC could at best be another 3-4 months. It is not clear whether the Rec RAC will begin meeting regularly at that point, although we are certainly hopeful that this will be the case. Meanwhile, there are fee proposals such as that of the North Fruita Desert Campground which have been on hold for well over a year, waiting for Recreation RAC approval.

Furthermore, since its inception, we believe that the decision-making process for the Recreation RAC has not been clear, and that there have been challenges with dissemination of information to members in order that fee proposals can be considered in a timely matter. We hope that in the process of reinvigorating the Recreation RAC, if this is to be the path forward, these functionality issues can be looked at and resolved.

The Northwest BLM Resource Advisory Council supports the timely appointments of new members to the Recreation RAC, and encourages expeditious consideration of fee proposals that

come to this advisory body. If the Recreation RAC is unable to perform its duties in a more timely manner with its new membership and revised meeting schedule, the Northwest RAC is more than willing to take over the role of recommending fee proposals that originate from the district offices which we advise.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Kennedy", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Patrick Kennedy, Chair, Northwest Resource Advisory Council