



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across The West

COLORADO NORTHWEST RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2011-01

Resolution in Support of Recommending to Congress that the Instant Study Area Designation be Removed from the North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area

Whereas: The Colorado Northwest Resource Advisory Council has a long history of supporting appropriate recreation management of public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in northwest Colorado.

Whereas: There are an estimated 20,000 annual visitors to the 1,450 acre North Sand Hills Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), including 200 acres of active sand dunes, resulting in resource damage, user conflicts, and public health and safety concerns.

Whereas: A portion of the North Sand Hills SRMA was designated as an Instant Study Area (ISA) under the BLM's wilderness study process.

Whereas: Meanwhile, portions of the area are administered to study and protect sand dune morphology and cultural resources, and to provide for appropriate protective management for those unique features.

Whereas: The BLM, in its subsequent wilderness evaluation report, recommended the area designated as an ISA at the North Sand Hills as not suitable for wilderness designation by Congress.

Therefore be it resolved that the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports action by Congress at the earliest time possible to release lands in the North Sand Hills ISA from further consideration for wilderness designation.

Be it further resolved that the Northwest Colorado Resource Advisory Council supports continued sound and protective management for the remaining undisturbed sand dune morphology and cultural resources within the area.

Passed, approved, and adopted February 25, 2011.

Received by Designated Federal Officer
Steve Bennett

Pat Kennedy, Chair
Northwest Resource Advisory Council