

Recreation Resource Advisory Councils

March 9, 2011

CURRENT STATUS

Due to circumstances beyond the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) control, the Recreation Resource Advisory Council (RRAC) has not met since April 21, 2009. It is unlikely the RRAC will have another meeting until at least April 2011.

The BLM Colorado now has five proposals waiting for RRAC review.

At the Colorado Statewide RAC Meeting Feb. 23-25, 2011, the BLM's Northwest, Southwest, and Front Range RACs passed a resolution to take on the RRAC role in their respective geographic areas. The BLM is currently working on implementing this resolution by amending existing RAC charters.

BACKGROUND

In February 2006, the Department of the Interior and Department of Agriculture (USDA) developed an initial organization of RRACs nationwide. The initial organization identified that BLM Colorado would use its three existing RACs to address recreation fees.

In August 2006, BLM Colorado and Region 2 of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) agreed to jointly lead an advisory committee, using the USFS process. The Secretary of Agriculture made the initial RRAC appointments in August 2007.

The 11 Colorado RRAC members were drawn from interest groups across the state and appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture to two- or three-year terms. The Colorado RRAC is one of five in the country. The RRAC differs from BLM's traditional RACs in appointing authority, scope, and organization. Currently, the RRAC only deals with questions concerning fees assessed by the BLM and the USFS for recreational use of public lands.

The RRAC can make its recommendations to the Secretary of Agriculture through the USFS Regional Forester or the Secretary of the Interior via the BLM State Director, depending on which agency's lands are involved in the fee recommendation.

