

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
COLORADO STATE OFFICE
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LAKEWOOD, COLORADO 80215-7076

October 10, 1996

In Reply Refer To:
9015 (CO-932) P

Instruction Memorandum No. CO-97-005
Expires: 09-30-97

To: District Managers and Area Managers

From: Deputy State Director, Resource Services

Subject: Guidance on Issuing Permits to Authorize Use of Non-Certified Hay
on BLM Lands in Colorado

Colorado is the first State in the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to issue a statewide regulation requiring the use of certified weed free hay, straw, and mulch on BLM lands. BLM is implementing the same regulation that Region Two of the United States Forest Service implemented in 1994. In 1997 the Colorado State Land Board will adopt a certified weed free hay requirement. Rocky Mountain National Park requires the use of certified weed free hay and other national parks in the state are looking at requiring this regulation. The Colorado Coordinated Weed Working Group will continue to encourage other state and federal land managing agencies to require the use of weed free hay to prevent the spread of weeds.

Attached is the new guidance to be used when considering an exemption to the weed free hay regulation. The purpose of having a regulation requiring weed free hay is to prevent the spread of weeds. This regulation is for all users of BLM public lands, and there should be very few exemptions to this policy. Because this policy is for all users of public lands, and because preventing the spread of weeds is always an important management objective, the regulation should always be implemented when feeding hay within an allotment to achieve a range management objective. Issuing exemptions should be considered if hay is unavailable, and there is a chance that animals could starve as a result of a natural diasaster before certified weed free hay can be found.

Two sections from the draft policy have been dropped. The section on cost recovery is not included because exemptions should not be given in very many instances. The cost of administering the program would out weight any amount of money collected, considering the number of exemptions expected. Once the program has been in place for a few years we will look at the number of exemptions given and reconsider cost recovery measures if necessary.

The section on participation in weed management areas is also ommitted. When a true weed management partnership exists, implementing this regulation within the boundaries of that weed management area is the norm, and exempting the requirement will not help manage weed problems.

If you have questions concerning implemeting this new regulation, please contact Carol Spurrier, Botanist, at (303) 239-3725.

Signed by
Frank A. Salwerowicz
Deputy State Director,
Resource Services

Authenticated by
Sharon Deuter
EMS Operator

Attachments

Colorado Guidance for Issuing Permits to Exempt the Use of Certified Weed Free Hay (including sample format)
Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Weed Free Forage Crop Certification Act