



BLM Resource Advisory Councils

Partners Across the West

Northwest Resource Advisory Council

Helen Hankins
Colorado State Director, Bureau of Land Management
2850 Youngfield Street
Lakewood, CO 80215

Re: 30 mile requirement to move after camping for 14 days.

Dear Helen,

Recently the Northwest Resource Advisory Council was made aware of a change in regulations that require the camping public in Colorado to move 30 air miles after 14 days before setting up camp again. While the NW RAC fully understands the need and difficulty of BLM dealing with unlawful and long term camping on our public lands, we are concerned that this regulation will have un-intended consequences to the users of public lands.

The NW RAC was advised that the regulation change was advertised through the Federal Register and may not have been fully disclosed to the general public. The NW RAC also understands that no responses were received on this matter which may indicate that the general public in Colorado did not have ample opportunity to review and comment on the change.

The hunting public has now become aware of and concerned with this change. More specifically hunters are concerned that requiring them to move this distance takes them outside of their desired hunting area. Many areas of the state require long waiting periods to draw licenses for a particular Game Management Unit. Dedicated hunters spend time before season scouting and many hours actually hunting after their season starts. Alan Pennington has asked why the BLM restriction varies drastically from the requirement of the USFS (as we understand it the FS requires a move of 3 miles over system roads).

As a result of this information the NW RAC respectfully requests that the BLM state office take another look at this requirement and see what can be done to adjust for the hunting public. It may be that other user groups could have concerns and be adversely affected as well. The NW RAC would also recommend that enforcement of this move be focused on the target offender (squatters) until another alternative has been identified.

Regardless of the ultimate outcome of this request, the BLM will need to adequately inform Law Enforcement Officers about enforcement action regarding this regulation. Your prompt attention is requested on this issue before fall hunting season is in full swing in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Kennedy', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Pat Kennedy, Chairman, NW RAC