

April 18, 2016

RE: Comments Regarding Senate Bill 16-160 for State Legislature

To whom it may concerned,

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on this well written and factually accurate Bill.

The lack of understanding regarding Legislative Jurisdiction (police power) on public lands in the state of Colorado is alarming. It seems most elected officials and the general public are under the interpretation, that if you are on BLM or USFS lands, those public lands are a Federal Enclave and under the Exclusive Jurisdiction of the Federal Government. This simply is not factually accurate.

I encourage all our elected officials to review the Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 3. There, you will find exactly where the State has ceded Legislative Jurisdiction over public lands in Colorado to the Federal Government.

Two Examples:

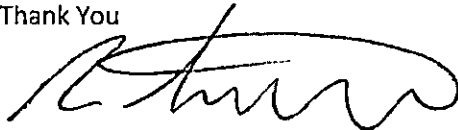
1. In 1929, the State of Colorado ceded Exclusive Jurisdiction over Rocky Mountain National Park and Mesa Verde National Park. Recorded as CRS 3-1-130 and CRS 3-1-131.
2. In 2001, the State of Colorado ceded Concurrent Jurisdiction over the Colorado National Monument, Black Canyon National Park, Dinosaur National Monument and many other National Monuments in Colorado. Recorded as CRS 3-3-101.

SB 16-160 correctly clarifies the status of police power on public lands and justly reminds the State of Colorado and its political subdivisions of their responsibility to protect the health and safety of its residents.

The State and Federal Governments have a duty to work together to protect public lands and the people on and around those public lands. However, understanding who is in charge (chain of command) in the event of fire / emergencies, is paramount. The Federal Government does not claim Exclusive Jurisdiction over all public lands. They fully understand that the majority of the public lands in the United States are held in a "Proprietorial Interest Only" by the Federal Government.

The State of Colorado, in my opinion, has failed to claim its jurisdictional role on Colorado public lands and by doing so has put its residents at risk. SB 16-160 clarifies the States police powers on public lands and in the long run, will help protect Coloradans.

Thank You



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