
Re: BLM Letters

From Margaux Kambara Tom Lajcik [REDACTED]
Date Tue 6/17/2025 23:52
To Davis, Colin W <cdavis@blm.gov>

Colin,

I want to thank you for taking the time to discuss our concerns and thank you for sending both documents. I have a follow-on questions and comments from our conversation.

You mentioned both Mendocino County and Sonoma County cannabis permitting programs categorically deny cannabis permits where the applicant needs to cross federal lands to get to their project site and to your knowledge Lake County is the only one that continues to grant permits under the same or similar scenario. Do you happen to have contacts or recommendations in either Mendocino or Sonoma County that I may discuss their policy further?

Also, as we discussed, I am considering contacting the US District Attorney's office to get them to weigh in on the topic. If successful, I think it will go a long way changing the mindset of Lake County. The County already has an ordinance requiring applicants to get permission to cross property they do not own. It seems strange that Lake County would treat the federal government property any differently. Even though I believe BLM is in the right, and all case law I could find clearly shows the BLM is in the right, sometimes it takes having the same message come through on legal letterhead to get the County's attention. I plan to frame it as a general property right question but I will confer with my team to see if they want to include getting the US District Attorney's position on the indemnification topic you brought up that Lake County tries to use to shield itself from liability. I'll keep you posted.

Also, as an FYI, after doing some research on the topic of road ownership, it looks like—even if the County owns or maintains the road—the federal government still retains full authority to enforce its laws on any portion that crosses BLM land. Ownership of the road doesn't override federal jurisdiction. For example, the U.S. Forest Service exercises similar authority on its segments of High Valley Road, including closing gates across the road during emergencies without needing County permission—The USFS, at best, just provides notice to the County. It seems clear that federal land management agencies aren't obligated to defer to County control in these situations. I hope this information proves useful—based on what I've found, it seems you're on solid ground to assert federal authority over activities on BLM land if you so choose, regardless of who maintains the road.

Finally I know these are incredibly challenging times for federal agencies, especially BLM, and I just want to say how much we admire the work you and your colleagues are doing under such pressure. Your dedication really makes a difference on the ground. The community really appreciates your efforts.

Warm Regards,
Thomas Lajcik
[REDACTED]

From: Davis, Colin W <cdavis@blm.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 17, 2025 18:00
To: Thrive95453@outlook.com <Thrive95453@outlook.com>
Subject: Fw: BLM Letters

Hope this helps. Best of luck.

Colin W. Davis
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