In a strongly worded decision last month, a federal court ruled that Forest Service-contrived HIRAs are in direct violation of the law. Last week the Forest Service’s Washington office issued a response in the form of a press release stating that they would continue collection of these illegal HIRA fees and will only consider changes to their HIRA program after they have consulted with their self-appointed Recreation Advisory Committees. (This will not happen before April 6, the day the court’s ruling takes effect.)

As a teacher at Camp Owen, I see all kinds of kids serving time - and rightly so - for crimes they have committed. While at Camp, any sort of lying, cheating, or manipulation is unequivocally not tolerated. Is it not unreasonable then to expect that an agency of the federal government should be held, at the very least, to the same set of standards that society demands from a 16-year-old boy?

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