



June 11, 2024

The Honorable Debra Haaland, Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW Washington, D.C. 20240
CC: Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management
Nada Culver, Deputy Director of Policy and Programs, Bureau of Land Management

Dear Secretary Haaland,

The below listed local elected officials, who represent communities across the Western U.S., are writing to commend you for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) final Public Lands Rule which will provide a more balanced approach to public lands management for the West. Doing so will protect some of our communities' important wildlife habitat, treasured recreation areas, critical water resources, and Indigenous cultural sites.

Protected public lands are tremendous assets to Western communities. They play a critical role in our way of life and help make the communities where we live what they are, while contributing to a healthier and better tomorrow for future generations. Yet, many of these areas have been left open to extraction and other commodity driven development, and unprotected.

As the largest land manager in the nation and with nearly 40% of all U.S. federal public lands being overseen by the Bureau of Land Management, the agency must play a leading role in protecting our public lands for the future. We see the Public Lands Rule as being a key tool to help conserve and restore more of our nation's lands and waters for residents, wildlife, and future generations while increasing equitable access to nature.

As the world faces staggering nature loss and disappearance of biodiversity, BLM lands are vital "connective tissue" across the Western United States providing essential core habitat and migration corridors that enable wildlife species and entire ecosystems to survive and thrive. These lands between wilderness areas; national parks; national monuments and refuges; and smaller private, state, county, city, and town lands; are integral to an intact ecosystem that make it easier for species to adapt to climate change. Interconnected landscapes that allow species to reach new habitat areas is an important aspect of preserving ecosystems.

These lands also support a diverse array of outdoor recreation activities and create jobs through the tourism sector that are the backbone of many of our communities. Access to Bureau of Land Management Lands for recreational activities contributes about \$11.4 billion to the national economy—critical fiscal certainty for our rural and gateway communities situated near to these lands and waters. Outdoor recreation on public lands creates 5 million jobs across the United States and BLM lands located in our region are favorites for visitors and residents alike for camping, fishing, mountain biking, and hiking.

The Public Lands Rule and new guidance will create opportunities for people to engage and support decision-making about the lands and waters they care about close to home by considering conservation, including watershed and land health, restoration, mitigation, and the protection of critical natural resources. These efforts at the national level will positively impact BLM lands in our communities and across the West.

We applaud the BLM for listening to the voices of our communities and the public with 92% of public comments submitted during the robust comment period being in support of the rule. 82 percent of voters in the west support a national goal of conserving America's lands and waters in the next decade, including bi-partisan support from over 2/3 of conservative Republican voters. We join the overwhelming support for this once-in-a-generation opportunity to put conservation, recreation, and access to nature on equal footing with extractive uses on public lands.

Thank you,

1. Chair-Board of Supervisor, District 2 Jeronimo Vasquez, Coconino County, Arizona
2. Board of Supervisor Patrice Horstman, Coconino County, Arizona
3. City Council Member Gary Gardner, City of Desert Hot Springs, California
4. Council Member John Wentworth, Town of Mammoth Lakes, California
5. Council Member Amanda Rice, Town of Mammoth Lakes, California
6. Commissioner Hardy Bullock, Nevada County, California
7. Former Mayor Devin Middlebrook City of South Lake Tahoe, California
8. Mayor Dave Polivy, Town of Truckee, California
9. Council Member & Former Mayor Courtney Henderson, Town of Truckee, California
10. Speaker of the Colorado House of Representatives Julie McCluskie
11. Mayor Torre City of Aspen, Colorado
12. Mayor Pro Tem Tamra N underwood, Town of Avon, Colorado
13. Mayor David Knight, Town of Basalt, Colorado
14. Council Member Kirk Dieter Schindler, Town of Basalt, Colorado
15. Council Member Hannah Berman, Town of Basalt, Colorado
16. Former Council Member William Infante, Town of Basalt, Colorado
17. County Commissioner Marta Loachamin, Boulder County, Colorado
18. Mayor Aaron Brockett, City of Boulder, Colorado
19. Mayor Pro Tem Nicole Speer, City of Boulder, Colorado
20. Council Member Taishya Adams, City of Boulder, Colorado
21. Council Member Matt Benjamin, City of Boulder, Colorado
22. Mayor Kelly Owens, Town of Breckenridge, Colorado
23. Mayor Pro Tem Dick Carleton Town of Breckenridge, Colorado
24. Town Trustee Colin Laird, Town of Carbondale, Colorado
25. County Commissioner Keith Baker Chaffee County, Colorado
26. County Commissioner P.T. Wood, Chaffee County, Colorado
27. County Commissioner Randy Wheelock, Clear Creek County
28. Council Member Gabi Prochaska, Town of Crested Butte, Colorado
29. Mayor Pro Tem Gilda Yazzie, City of Durango, Colorado
30. Kathy Chandler-Henry, Eagle County, Colorado
31. County Commissioner Matt Scherr, Eagle County, Colorado
32. County Commissioner Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County, Colorado
33. Council Member Geoff Grimmer, Town of Eagle, Colorado
34. Council Member Ellen Bodenhemier, Town of Eagle, Colorado
35. Mayor Rick Ihken, Town of Frisco, Colorado
36. Council Member Daniel Kibbie, Town of Frisco, Colorado
37. Council Member Lisa Holenko, Town of Frisco, Colorado
38. Mayor Ingrid Wussow, Ward 2 Representative, City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado
39. City Councilor At-Large Shelley Kaup, City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado
40. Mayor Abram Herman, City of Grand Junction, Colorado
41. Former Mayor Anna Stout, City of Grand Junction, Colorado
42. Council Member Jason Nguyen, City of Grand Junction, Colorado
43. Council Member Scott Beilfuss, City of Grand Junction, Colorado
44. County Commissioner Laura Puckett Daniels, Gunnison County, Colorado
45. County Commissioner Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County, Colorado
46. County Commissioner Matt Salka, La Plata County, Colorado
47. County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton, La Plata County, Colorado
48. County Commissioner Clyde Church, La Plata County, Colorado
49. Mayor Hollie Rogin, Town of Lyons, Colorado
50. Mayor Pro Tem Scott Pearson Town of Mountain Village, Colorado
51. Mayor Billy Giblin, Town of Nederland, Colorado
52. Council Member Caitlin Carey, New Castle, Colorado
53. Chairman of the Board of Commissioners Greg Poschman, Pitkin County, Colorado
54. County Commissioner Francie Jacober, Pitkin County, Colorado

55. County Commissioner Steve Child Pitkin County, Colorado
56. Mayor John Clark, Town of Ridgway, Colorado
57. Council Member Terry Schuyler, Town of Ridgway, Colorado
58. Council Member Polly Kroger, Town of Ridgway, Colorado
59. Council Member Kevin Grambley Town of Ridgway, Colorado
60. Mayor Sean Strode, City of Rifle, Colorado
61. County Commissioner Timothy V. Corrigan, Routt County, Colorado
62. County Commissioner Sonja Macys, Routt County, Colorado
63. County Commissioner Scott Fetchenhier, San Juan County, Colorado
64. Mayor Dan Shore, City of Salida, Colorado
65. County Commissioner Lance Waring, San Miguel County, Colorado
66. County Commissioner Anne Brown, San Miguel County, Colorado
67. County Commissioner Kris Holstrom, San Miguel County, Colorado
68. Retired Town Councilor Bob Sirkus, Snowmass Village, Colorado
69. County Commissioner Eric Mamula, Summit County, Colorado
70. County Commissioner Tamara Pogue, Summit County, Colorado
71. County Commissioner Nina Waters, Summit County, Colorado
72. Former County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County, Colorado
73. Mayor Pro Tem J. Meehan Fee, Town of Telluride, Colorado
74. Council Member Elena Levin, Town of Telluride, Colorado
75. Former Councilperson and Mayor Pro-Tem Todd Brown, Town of Telluride, Colorado
76. Former Mayor Kim Langmaid, Town of Vail, Colorado
77. Council Member Jonathan Staufer Town of Vail, Colorado
78. County Commissioner Angenie McCleary, Blaine County, Idaho
79. County Commissioner Bob Heneage Teton County, Idaho
80. President, City Council Kaz Thea, Hailey, Idaho
81. Mayor Neil Bradshaw City of Ketchum, Idaho
82. Retired Mayor Chuck Tooley, City of Billings, Montana
83. Chair County Commission Tick Segerblom, Clark County, Nevada
84. Councilmember At-Large Devon Reese, City of Reno, Nevada
85. Assemblyman Howard Watts III, District 15, Nevada
86. City Councilor Tammy Fiebelkorn, Albuquerque, New Mexico
87. County Commissioner Shannon Reynolds, Doña Ana County, New Mexico
88. Mayor Pro Tem Johana Bencomo City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
89. Council Member, District 5 Becky Corran, City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
90. Supervisor - DASWCD State of New Mexico, and Former City Council Member Gill M Sorg, Las Cruces, New Mexico
91. County Commissioner Anna Hansen, Santa Fe County, New Mexico
92. Mayor Alan Webber, City of Santa Fe, New Mexico
93. County Commissioner Darlene Vigil, Taos County, New Mexico
94. Council Member Darien Fernandez, Town of Taos, New Mexico
95. Council Member Genevieve Oswald, Town of Taos, New Mexico
96. Council Member Corilia Ortega, Town of Taos, New Mexico
97. Mayor Tonya Graham, City of Ashland, Oregon
98. Mayor Melanie Kebler, City of Bend, Oregon
99. City Councilor Barb Campbell, City of Bend, Oregon
100. Mayor Pro Tem Megan Perkin, City of Bend, Oregon
101. Council Member Anthony Broadman, City of Bend, Oregon
102. Councilor Ariel Méndez, City of Bend, Oregon
103. Council Member Megan Norris, City of Bend, Oregon
104. Council Member Mike Riley, City of Bend, Oregon
105. Former Mayor Harris Sondak, Town of Alta, Utah
106. Former Council Member Margaret Bourke, Town of Alta, Utah
107. Mayor Ann K. Leppanen, Town of Bluff, Utah
108. Former Council Member James Sayers, Town of Bluff, Utah
109. Council Member Pamela Gibson, Town of Castle Valley, Utah
110. Council Member Tory Hill, Town of Castle Valley, Utah

111. County Commission Chair Jacques Hadler, Grand County, Utah
112. County Commissioner Kevin Walker, Grand County, Utah
113. Council Member Michael Lilliquist, City of Bellingham, Washington
114. Mayor Carl Florea, City of Leavenworth, Washington