

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

November 10, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Bill Groffy
Acting Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Subject: Proposed Rescission of the Bureau of Land Management Conservation and Landscape Health Rule (Public Lands Rule)

Dear Secretary Burgum and Acting Director Groffy:

As members of Congress collectively representing twenty-one states and over 112.3 million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) land, we write to express our strong opposition to the Department's proposal to rescind the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, also known as the Public Lands Rule. The Public Lands Rule provides BLM with modern, science-based tools needed to restore degraded landscapes, conserve intact habitats, plan for responsible development, and protect cultural and natural resources on the more than 245 million acres of public land managed by BLM.

Passed by Congress in 1976, the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) mandates that BLM manage its lands for multiple use and sustained yield, which explicitly includes conservation.¹ The clear language of FLPMA states that allowed uses of BLM land include "recreation, range, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific and historical values..."² The Public Lands Rule fully reflects this mandate and *does not* come at the expense of other uses, including grazing and energy development. By providing an updated framework in which grazing, energy development, recreation, timber, wildlife, watershed protection and conservation can all be sustained together, the Public Lands Rule follows the law established by Congress almost 50 years ago and ensures that BLM lands continue to provide a balance of benefits for present and future generations.

Specifically, the Public Lands Rule:

- Advances planning standards for responsible development by establishing fundamentals for land health and watershed assessments, so BLM is able to advance science-based decisions based on high-quality data.

¹ See 43 U.S.C. § 1701(a)(8) (directing BLM to manage public lands "in a manner that will protect the quality of scientific, scenic, historical, ecological, environmental, air and atmospheric, water resource, and archeological values"), and 43 U.S.C. § 1702(c) (defining "multiple use" to include "natural scenic, scientific and historical values" and requiring "harmonious and coordinated management of the various resources without permanent impairment of the productivity of the land and the quality of the environment").

² Id.

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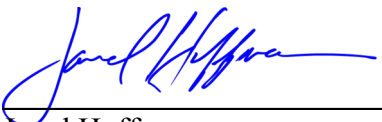
- Fulfills statutory obligations to address Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), as set by Congress nearly 50 years ago through FLPMA.
- Recognizes and reinforces Tribal sovereignty and co-stewardship, allowing Tribes increased opportunity to meaningfully shape conservation leasing, monitoring programs, and restoration projects on BLM land. The Rule also requires the BLM to consider Indigenous Knowledge when advancing land health standards, monitoring, and decision-making.
- Supports and strengthens the \$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation economy by ensuring that recreation and ecological health work hand in hand, allowing hunting and fishing outfitters, the broader outdoor recreation industry, rural communities, and main street businesses that rely on healthy public lands to thrive.

The American people overwhelmingly support the Public Lands Rule. The Rule was promulgated in 2024 following extensive public engagement during a 90-day comment period, which garnered 150,000 comments, with 92 percent supporting the adoption of the Rule. In addition to a vast majority of comments being supportive, the Rule also received letters and statements of support from numerous local and state officials, Tribal governments, scientists, businesses, and other stakeholders throughout the West.

Rescinding the Public Lands Rule would undermine the long-term resilience of BLM lands at a time when wide-ranging stressors – including climate change, biodiversity and habitat loss, and increasing public demand for access to public lands – require stronger, not weaker, management frameworks. Rescinding the Rule would also create greater uncertainty for a wide range of stakeholders, including ranchers who rely on healthy rangelands and hunters and anglers, who depend on intact wildlife habitats across BLM lands. Finally, rescinding the Rule would increase administrative strain and reintroduce regulatory gaps, running counter to the Administration's stated goal of improving government efficiency.

We urge you to withdraw the proposed rescission and continue to fully implement the Public Lands Rule. The Rule is critical to meeting BLM's statutory obligations, sustaining and realizing the benefits of multiple uses compatible with public lands, and ensuring these special landscapes remain healthy and productive for all Americans to enjoy for years to come.

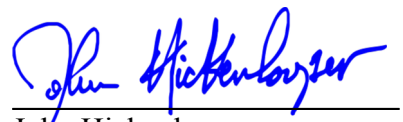
Sincerely,



Jared Huffman

Member of Congress

Ranking Member, Committee
on Natural Resources



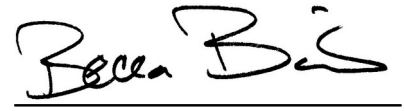
John Hickenlooper

United States Senator

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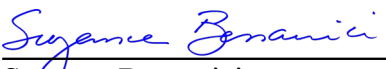
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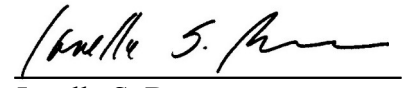

Yassamin Ansari
Member of Congress


Becca Balint
Member of Congress


Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator


Donald S. Beyer Jr.
Member of Congress

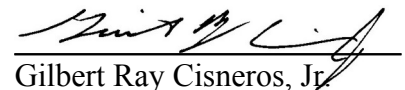

Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress

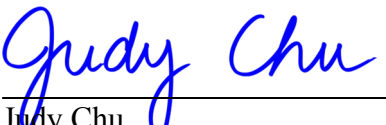

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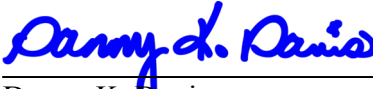
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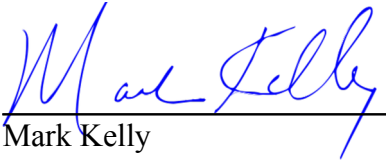
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



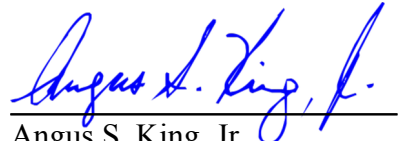
Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

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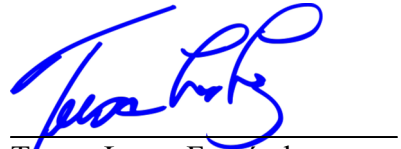
Mark Kelly
United States Senator



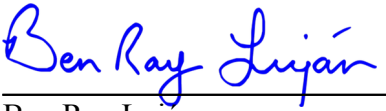
Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator



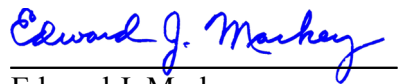
Raja Krishnamoorthi
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Teresa Leger Fernández
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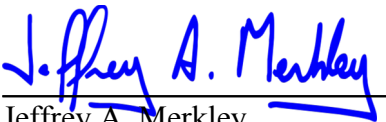
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



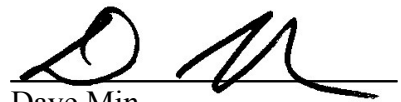
Doris Matsui
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Betty McCollum
Member of Congress



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Dave Min
Member of Congress



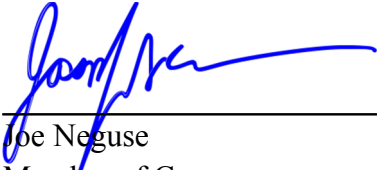
Kelly Morrison
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Seth Moulton
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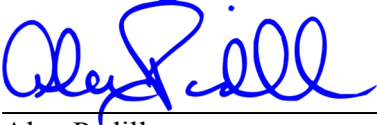
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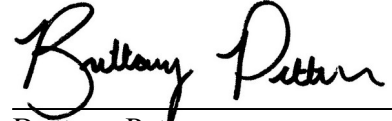
Joe Neguse
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



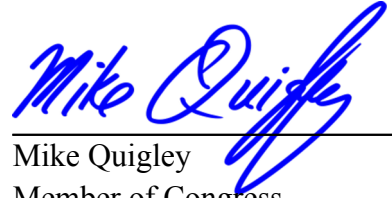
Alex Padilla
United States Senator



Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress



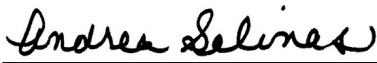
Mike Quigley
Member of Congress



Luz M. Rivas
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Deborah K. Ross
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Andrea Salinas
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Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator



Kim Schrier, M.D.
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon
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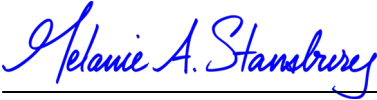
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Rashida Tlaib
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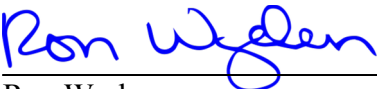
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Peter Welch
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