



May 10, 2024

Tracy Stone-Manning  
 Director  
 Bureau of Land Management  
 1849 C Street NW  
 Washington, DC 20240

**RE: Support for Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Rule Released on 4/18/24**

Dear Director Stone-Manning:

The 101 conservation, recreation and wildlife organizations signed below are writing to support the recently released final “Public Lands Rule” which provides tools for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to help improve the health and resilience of public lands in the face of a changing climate; conserve important wildlife habitat and intact landscapes; facilitate responsible development; and better recognize unique cultural and natural resources on public lands.

We applaud the Biden administration’s leadership on this rule that balances BLM’s multiple-use mission by putting conservation, cultural lands protection, access to nature, wildlife, renewable energy and climate change mitigation on equal footing with extraction across the West and Alaska. Nearly 40% of all U.S. public lands are overseen by the Bureau

of Land Management. The Public Lands Rule clarifies that managing BLM land for conservation fits squarely within this legal mandate – and that conservation sits on equal footing to other uses. This clarification is necessary, because the vast majority of BLM lands are currently open to extraction and other commodity-driven development.

The BLM’s rulemaking process was transparent and accessible for the public. A 90-day comment period and numerous public meetings provided meaningful opportunities for the agency to hear what recreationists, Tribal communities, ranchers, energy developers, hunters/anglers and many others grapple with on public lands. The proposal was also widely popular with 92% of the public comments supporting the Public Lands Rule. Washington State’s Governor, Jay Inslee, and Attorney General, Bob Ferguson, both wrote detailed comments supporting the draft rule as well as several outdoor industry businesses based in Washington.

Washington State has more than 400,000 acres of BLM lands that support surrounding economies, provide a home for wildlife, ensure access to nature, and safeguard innumerable stories of human experiences on the land. These lands include natural and recreational assets like the Juniper Dunes Wilderness, the Chopaka Mountain Wilderness Study Area, San Juan Islands National Monument, and Wild and Scenic eligible segments of the Yakima and Similkameen Rivers as well as some of the last best remaining habitat for the imperiled sage grouse. Many of the members we represent use these areas either because of the proximity to where they live or as travel destinations during specific times of the year.

Nationally, BLM oversees more public land than any other land management agency: 245 million acres of rolling sagebrush hills, deserts, grasslands, and many other lands valuable for wildlife, recreation, and tourism. Access to Bureau of Land Management lands for recreational activities contributes about \$11.4 billion to the national economy—critical fiscal certainty for rural and gateway communities situated near to these lands and waters. Outdoor recreation like hunting, fishing, boating, hiking and wildlife watching on public lands creates 4.3 million jobs across the United States.<sup>1</sup>

Now is the time for the BLM to implement the Public Lands Rule to address nature loss, preserve cultural areas, better protect wildlife habitat, and safeguard outdoor access and recreational opportunities. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

Sincerely,

Tom Uniack  
Conservation Director  
Washington Wild

Jim Byrne  
Secretary  
Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (Vancouver)

Larry Lober  
President  
Greater Bellingham Running Club (Bellingham)

Stuart Earley  
Executive Director  
Tahoma Bird Alliance (University Place)

John Marti  
Brewer/Owner  
Lowercase Brewing

Joe Cohen  
Sales Manager  
River Barrel Distributing

Susan Saul  
Conservation Chair  
Vancouver Audubon Society (Vancouver)

Molly Whitney  
Executive Director  
Cascade Forest Conservancy (Vancouver)

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blm.gov/blog/2023-02-23/outdoor-adventure-seekers-public-lands-generate-economic-benefits>

Kellen Moody  
Founder and Director  
Alluvium Gatherings (Vancouver)

Peter Bahls  
Executive Director  
Northwest Watershed Institute (Port Townsend)

Kim McDonald  
Founder  
Fish Not Gold

Arthur Campbell  
President  
North Central Washington Audubon Society (Wenatchee)

Hilary Eisen  
Policy Director  
Winter Wildlands Alliance

Jennie Goldberg  
Director  
League of Northwest Whitewater Racers

Robert Kaye  
Chair, Conservation Committee  
North Cascades Audubon (Bellingham)

Sarah Kliegman  
Co-Executive Director  
Okanogan Highlands Alliance (Tonasket)

Amy Brockhaus  
Deputy Director  
Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust

Ray Kwan and Barry Chan  
Co-owners  
Lucky Envelope Brewing

Levi Wyatt  
Corporate Social Responsibility Manager  
Yakima Chief Hops (Yakima)

Joseph Bogaard  
Executive Director  
Save Our wild Salmon Coalition

Molly Whitney  
Executive Director  
Cascade Forest Conservancy (Vancouver)

Jamie Reed  
Owner  
Thatcher's Coffee (Vancouver)

John Marti  
Brewer/Owner  
Douglas Lager -The Lager Company

Jesse Swedlund  
Club President  
Paddle Trails Canoe Club

Adam Paysse  
Owner  
Floodland Brewing (Tacoma)

Mark Larabee  
Advocacy Director  
Pacific Crest Trail Association

John Bridge  
President  
Olympic Park Advocates (Sequim)

Brian Nelson  
President  
Wild Sky Community Trails Association (Gold Bar)

Monika Wieland Shields  
Director  
Orca Behavior Institute (Friday Harbor)

Susan Chatlos-Susor  
President  
Friends of Heybrook Ridge (Index)

Betsy Robblee  
Conservation & Advocacy Director  
The Mountaineers

Dave Werntz  
Sr Science and Conservation Director  
Conservation Northwest

Marianne Edain  
Founder  
Whidbey Environmental Action Network (Langley)

Pat Hesselgesser  
Chair  
Washington State Council of Trout Unlimited

Dana C. Ward  
President  
Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society (Richland)

Mark Boyar  
President  
MidFORC Coalition

Colin Lenfesty  
Owner/Head Brewer  
Holy Mountain Brewing Company

CaraMia and Kevin Murry  
Owner  
Hot Cakes Molten Chocolate Cakery

Tom Glade  
Vice President  
Evergreen Islands (Anacortes)

Trish Rolfe  
Executive Director  
Center for Environmental Law & Policy

Sarah Shaffer  
Executive Director  
Wenatchee Outdoors (Wenatchee)

Julian Matthews  
Coordinator  
Nimiipuu Protecting the Environment

Rick McGuire  
President  
Alpine Lakes Protection Society

Arthur (R.D.) Grunbaum  
President  
Friends of Grays Harbor (Westport)

Chris Danforth  
Co-Owner  
Icicle Brewing Company (Leavenworth)

Megan Birzell  
Washington State Director  
The Wilderness Society

Harry Romberg  
Co-Chair, National Forest Committee  
WA Chapter of the Sierra Club

Matt Perkins  
Founder  
Washington Climbers Coalition

Luke Baugh  
Owner  
Triad River Tours (Marblemount)

Steve Loitz  
President  
Kittitas Audubon Society (Ellensburg)

Timothy Manns  
Conservation Chair  
Skagit Audubon Society (Mount Vernon)

J Michelle Swope  
Owner  
Oly Women on the Fly Guide Service (Olympia)

Wayne Balsiger  
President  
Northwest Fly Anglers

Kelsey, Ben, Liz & Craig Curran  
Owners  
Watershed Pub & Kitchen

Brad Benson  
President  
Stoup Distro

Timothy Coleman  
Executive Director  
Kettle Range Conservation Group (Republic)

Renée Paradis  
Board Member  
Washington Kayak Club

Ryan Talbott  
Pacific Northwest Conservation Advocate  
WildEarth Guardians

David Skiba  
Head Brewer/Founder  
No Boat Brewing Company (Snoqualmie)

John McGlenn  
President  
Washington Wildlife Federation

Thomas O'Keefe, Ph.D.  
Pacific Northwest Stewardship Director  
American Whitewater

Jack Guinn  
Owner  
Hellbent Brewing Company

Alex Dittmar  
President  
Airways Brewing Company (Kent)

Brandon Wiley  
Manager  
Bottleworks

Rosa Vissers & Howard Kuo  
Co-Owners  
Hildegard Ferments & Botanicals

Mari and Will Kemper  
Co-Owners  
Chuckanut Brewery (Burlington)

Rob Smith  
Northwest Regional Director  
National Parks Conservation Association

Mike Morrison  
Board President  
Pacific Rivers

Nicole Assumpcao  
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Issaquah Alps Trails Club (Issaquah)

Thomas Furrey  
Owner  
Halcyon Brewing

Connie Galant  
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Olympic Forest Coalition (Quilcene)

Amanda Parrish  
Executive Director  
The Lands Council (Spokane)

Kevin and Meghann Quinn  
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Bale Breaker Brewing Company (Yakima)

Steve Jones  
President  
Washington Council Fly Fishers International

Amy Grondin & Greg Friedrichs  
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Duna Fisheries

Lance Reif  
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Wild Water River Guides (Leavenworth)

Jill Silver  
Executive Director  
10,000 Years Institute (Forks)

Bill Derry  
President  
Pilchuck Audubon Society (Snohomish)

Janet Strong  
President  
Grays Harbor Audubon Society (Montesano)

Colleen Kuehl  
Owner  
ROAM Coffee and Beer (Bellingham)

Andrew Puhl  
Policy Volunteer  
American Alpine Club - Cascade Section

James Alexander  
Owner/Founder  
Structures Brewing (Bellingham)

Caitlin Singer  
Sustainability Coordinator  
Georgetown Brewing Company

Rodney Hines  
CEO  
Metier Brewing Company

Sarah Moorman  
Sales & Operations Manager  
Fast Fashion Brewing

Paul Fish  
Founder  
Live To Play, LLC (Spokane)

Bruce McGlenn  
Founder, CEO  
Human Nature Hunting

Grayl  
Travis Merrigan  
Co-Founder

Layne Carter  
Operations Manager  
Aslan Brewing Company (Bellingham)

Lee First  
President  
Twin Harbors Waterkeeper (Cosmopolis)

Brad Benson, Lara Zahaba, & Robyn Schumacher  
Co-Owners  
Stoup Brewing

Brian Stan  
Owner  
Old Stove Brewery

Russell Everett  
Owner  
Bainbridge Brewing (Bainbridge Island)

Meghan Wolf  
Senior Manager Enviro Campaigns  
Patagonia

Craig Nobley  
CEO  
Lighthouse Roasters

Aaron Blonden  
Head Brewer  
Three Magnets Brewing

Matt Hanson  
Brewer/Owner  
Whistle Punk Brewing (Spokane)

Colleen Kuehl  
Owner  
Wander Brewing (Bellingham)

Peter Tryon  
President  
Nooksack Nordic Ski Club (Bellingham)

Art Wolfe  
Owner  
ARTWOLFE.COM

Betsy Robblee  
Program Manager  
Outdoor Alliance Washington

CC: Principal Deputy Director Nada Wolff Culver  
U.S. Senator Patty Murray  
U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Representative Suzan DelBene (D-WA01)  
U.S. Representative Rick Larsen (D-WA02)  
U.S. Representative Maria Gluesenkamp-Perez (D-WA03)  
U.S. Representative Dan Newhouse (R-WA04)  
U.S. Representative Cathy McMorris-Rodgers (R-WA05)  
U.S. Representative Derek Kilmer (D-WA06)  
U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal (D-WA07)  
U.S. Representative Kim Schrier (D-WA08)  
U.S. Representative Adam Smith (D-WA09)  
U.S. Representative Marilyn Strickland (D-WA10)