



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 100 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.¹

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)

¹ <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

Jamie Reed
Owner
Thatcher's Coffee (Vancouver)

Colleen Kuehl
Owner
Wander Brewing (Bellingham)

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
Executive Director
Issaquah Alps Trails Club (Issaquah)

Thomas Furrey
Owner
Halcyon Brewing

Connie Galant
President
Olympic Forest Coalition (Quilcene)

Amanda Parrish
Executive Director
The Lands Council (Spokane)

Kevin and Meghann Quinn
Owners
Bale Breaker Brewing Company (Yakima)

Steve Jones
President
Washington Council Fly Fishers International

Amy Grondin & Greg Friedrichs
CO -Owners
Duna Fisheries

Lance Reif
Owner
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

Layne Carter
Operations Manager
Aslan Brewing Company (Bellingham)

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

Russell Everett
Owner
Bainbridge Brewing (Bainbridge Island)

Craig Nobley
CEO
Lighthouse Roasters

Matt Hanson
Brewer/Owner
Whistle Punk Brewing (Spokane)

Peter Tryon
President
Nooksack Nordic Ski Club (Bellingham)

Betsy Robblee
Program Manager

Outdoor Alliance Washington

Grayl
Travis Merrigan
Co-Founder

Lee First
President
Twin Harbors Waterkeeper (Cosmopolis)

Brian Stan
Owner
Old Stove Brewery

Meghan Wolf
Senior Manager Enviro Campaigns
Patagonia

Aaron Blonden
Head Brewer
Three Magnets Brewing

Art Wolfe
Owner
ARTWOLFE.COM

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)