



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,

Our nation's protected public lands are tremendous assets to our Western communities. They play a critical role in our way of life and support our outdoor recreation and tourism economies, health, and well-being. They help make the communities where we live what they are while contributing to a healthier and better tomorrow for future generations.

As Western local elected officials tasked with finding creative solutions to the many challenges that come with the ever-increasing popularity of our public lands; our growing infrastructure needs; as well as the devastating and expensive impacts of climate change, we are encouraged by the President's [America the Beautiful initiative](#). We are excited about the initiative's focus on addressing ways land management agencies can help conserve and restore more of our nation's lands and waters. Accomplishing the America the Beautiful goal is essential to providing continued opportunities for outdoor recreation, equitable access to nature, and ultimately safeguarding the climate.

On top of what we are experiencing locally and regionally, [scientists](#) warn that globally [we must conserve and restore at least 30 percent of lands and waters by 2030](#) if we hope to preserve biodiversity and ecosystems as well as mitigate the impacts of climate change. Additionally, [worldwide biodiversity is deteriorating at a faster rate than at any time in human history](#) with [one million species at risk of extinction](#) due to habitat loss, climate change, [loss of connectivity](#), and other factors.

Many of our communities are located near Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands, which include traditional homelands of Indigenous populations, vital watersheds for downstream communities, and outstanding fish and wildlife habitat. They also provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, including camping, hiking, paddling, hunting and fishing, and picnicking. Yet, many BLM lands are at risk. For example, Colorado's BLM lands make up one-third of the federal public lands in the state, but only 8% of these lands are protected, significantly less than the amount of public lands managed by other agencies. Nationally, only 14% of BLM lands are permanently protected. As a result, many of the areas important to our citizens and visitors are at risk of being unnecessarily degraded or lost.

Additionally, just last year, many Western communities were devastated by climate impacts - wildfires forced [evacuations in all Western states](#), entire [communities burned to the ground](#), [floods](#) overwhelmed communities in Arizona, [mudslides closed major highways in Colorado](#) and the Northwest, [smoke-filled air](#) socked in many communities for months, [drought](#) dried up the [West](#), national [forests were closed](#), and [temperatures reached levels](#) never seen before, killing hundreds.

As the largest land manager in the nation, the Bureau of Land Management must play a leading role in protecting our public lands for the future. Because of this, we encourage you to use your authority to advance conservation across the West, by using all of the conservation tools at your disposal. Some conservation designations we recommend utilizing include: Backcountry Conservation Areas; Wilderness Study Areas; Areas of Critical Environmental Concern; and working with The White House to designate national monuments through the use of the Antiquities Act.

When used wisely, these conservation mechanisms will support our local economies, tourism, and outdoor recreation as well as provide certainty for our rural and gateway communities so we can make long-term investments.

Some of the lands that need protection include Vermillion Basin in Colorado, Granite Range in Nevada, the Bodie Hills in California, Hatch Canyon in Utah, Otero Mesa in New Mexico, and the Owyhee Canyonlands in Oregon.

It's time for action - we must do more to protect more of these lands and waters, and in turn, our communities. [80 percent of voters in the Rocky Mountain West](#) support setting a national goal of conserving 30 percent of land and waters in the United States by 2030 and [61 percent](#) of voters are concerned about the future of land, water, air, and wildlife.

We are grateful for your leadership and commitment to see the America the Beautiful initiative succeed and strongly encourage the Department of Interior and Bureau of Land Management to do all that it can to better restore, conserve, and protect our nation's important public lands and waters in tandem with locally-led efforts – our Western communities are depending on it.

Sincerely,

1. Council Member Joni Giacomino, City of Bisbee, Arizona
2. Mayor Paul Deasy, City of Flagstaff, Arizona
3. Council Member Adam Shimoni, City of Flagstaff, Arizona
4. Council Member Jim McCarthy, City of Flagstaff, Arizona
5. Council Member Alan Lee, City of Big Bear Lake, California
6. County District 5 Supervisor Hardy S. Bullock, Nevada County, California
7. Council Member Cody Bass, South Lake Tahoe, California
8. Mayor Courtney Henderson, Town of Truckee, California
9. Council Member David Polivy, Town of Truckee, California
10. Council Member Jan Zabriskie, Town of Truckee, California
11. Council Member Anna Klovstad, Town of Truckee, California
12. Mayor Sarah Smith Hymes, Town of Avon, Colorado
13. Mayor Pro-tem Amy Cramer Phillips, Town of Avon, Colorado
14. Council Member Chico Thuon, Town of Avon, Colorado
15. Mayor Torre, City of Aspen, Colorado
16. Mayor Pro Tem Ward Hauenstein, City of Aspen, Colorado
17. Council Member John Doyle, City of Aspen, Colorado
18. Council Member Rachel Richards, City of Aspen, Colorado
19. Council Member Skippy Mesirow, City of Aspen, Colorado
20. Council Member Glenn Drummond, Town of Basalt, Colorado
21. Council Member Elyse Hottel, Town of Basalt, Colorado
22. Council Member David Knight, Town of Basalt, Colorado
23. Former Council Member Bill Infante, Town of Basalt, Colorado
24. County Commissioner Claire Levy, Boulder County, Colorado
25. County Commissioner Matt Jones, Boulder County, Colorado
26. Mayor Pro Tem Rachel Friend, City of Boulder, Colorado
27. Council Member Lauren Folkerts, City of Boulder, Colorado
28. Mayor Eric Mamula, Town of Breckenridge, Colorado
29. County Commissioner Keith Baker, Chaffee County, Colorado
30. County Commissioner Randall Wheelock, Clear Creek County, Colorado
31. Council Member Gabi Prochaska, Town of Crested Butte, Colorado
32. Mayor Barbara Noseworthy, City of Durango, Colorado
33. County Commissioner Jeanne McQueeney, Eagle County, Colorado
34. County Commissioner Matt Scherr, Eagle County, Colorado
35. Mayor Hunter Mortensen, City of Frisco, Colorado
36. Mayor Pro Tem Jessica Burley, Town of Frisco, Colorado
37. Council Member Rick Ihnken, Town of Frisco, Colorado
38. Council Member Andy Held, Town of Frisco, Colorado

39. Mayor Jonathan Godes, City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado
40. Council Member Shelley Kaup, City of Glenwood Springs, Colorado
41. Chair/County Commissioner Jonathan Houck, Gunnison County, Colorado
42. County Commissioner Marsha Porter-Norton, La Plata County, Colorado
43. County Commissioner Matt Salka, La Plata County, Colorado
44. County Commissioner Clyde Church, La Plata County, Colorado
45. Mayor Joan Peck, City of Longmont, Colorado
46. Council Member Marcia Martin, City of Longmont, Colorado
47. Council Member Patrick Berry, Town of Mountain Village, Colorado
48. Mayor Kristopher Larsen, City of Nederland, Colorado
49. Trustee Dave Knutson, Town of Paonia, Colorado
50. County Commissioner Greg Poschman, Pitkin County, Colorado
51. County Commissioner Francie Jacober, Pitkin County, Colorado
52. County Commissioner Steve Child, Pitkin County, Colorado
53. Mayor John Clark, Town of Ridgway, Colorado
54. Council Member Beth Lakin, Town of Ridgway, Colorado
55. County Commissioner Beth Melton, Routt County, Colorado
56. Mayor Dan Shore, City of Salida, Colorado
57. Council Member Harald Kasper, City of Salida, Colorado
58. County Commissioner Scott Fetchenhier, San Juan County, Colorado
59. County Commissioner Lance Waring, San Miguel County, Colorado
60. County Commissioner Hilary Cooper, San Miguel County, Colorado
61. Mayor Bill Madsen, Town of Snowmass Village, Colorado
62. County Commissioner Josh Blanchard, Summit County, Colorado
63. County Commissioner Elisabeth Lawrence, Summit County, Colorado
64. County Commissioner Tamara Pogue, Summit County, Colorado
65. Former County Commissioner Karn Stiegelmeier, Summit County, Colorado
66. Council Member J. Meehan Fee, Town of Telluride, Colorado
67. Council Member Lars Carlson, Town of Telluride, Colorado
68. Former Town Mayor Pro Tem Todd Brown, Town of Telluride, Colorado
69. County Commissioner Angenie McCleary, Blaine County, Idaho
70. Mayor August Christensen, City of Driggs, Idaho
71. Former Mayor Hyrum F. Johnson, City of Driggs, Idaho
72. City Council President Kaz Thea, City of Hailey, Idaho
73. Mayor Neil Bradshaw, City of Ketchum, Idaho
74. County Commissioner Cindy Riegel, Teton County, Idaho
75. County Commissioner Bob Heneage, Teton County, Idaho
76. Representative Alice Buckley, Montana State House of Representatives, House District 63, Montana
77. Representative Connie Keogh, Montana State House of Representatives, Montana
78. County Commissioner David Strohmaier, Missoula County, Montana
79. County Commissioner Juanita Vero, Missoula County, Montana
80. Mayor John Muhlfield, City of Whitefish, Montana
81. Assemblymember Howard Watts, Nevada Legislature, Nevada
82. Assemblymember Rochelle Nguyen, Nevada State Legislature, Nevada
83. State Senator Fabian Doñate, Nevada State Legislature, Nevada
84. Assemblymember Venicia Considine, Nevada Legislature, Nevada
85. Assemblymember Lesley Cohen, Nevada State Legislature, Nevada
86. County Commissioner Tick Segerblom, Clark County, Nevada
87. Councilmember At-Large Devon Reese, City of Reno, Nevada
88. Mayor Daniel Corona, City of West Wendover, Nevada
89. Council Member Becky Corran, City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
90. Council Member Johana Bencomo, City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
91. Council Member Kasandra Gandara, City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
92. County Commissioner Anna Hansen, Santa Fe County, New Mexico
93. County Commissioner Hank Hughes, Santa Fe County, New Mexico

94. Mayor Alan Webber, City of Santa Fe, New Mexico
95. Councilwoman Renee Villarreal, City of Santa Fe, New Mexico
96. Supervisor Doña Ana Soil and Water Conservation District and Former Mayor Pro Tem Gill Sorg, City of Las Cruces, New Mexico
97. Council Member Tonya Graham, City of Ashland, Oregon
98. Council Member Barb Campbell, City of Bend, Oregon
99. County Commissioner Joe Berney, Lane County, Oregon
100. Mayor Roger Bourke, Town of Alta, Utah
101. Former Mayor Harris Sondak, Town of Alta, Utah
102. Former Council Member Margaret Bourke, Town of Alta, Utah
103. Council Member Sheridan J. Davis, Town of Alta, Utah
104. Mayor Ann Leppanen, Town of Bluff, Utah
105. Council Member Pamela Gibson, Town of Castle Valley, Utah
106. Council Member Robert O'Brien, Town of Castle Valley, Utah
107. Council Member and Treasurer, Tory Hill, Town of Castle Valley, Utah
108. County Commissioner Chairman Jacques Hadler, Grand County, Utah
109. County Commissioner Sarah Stock, Grand County, Utah
110. County Commissioner Kevin Walker, Grand County, Utah
111. County Commissioner Gabriel Woytek, Grand County, Utah
112. County Commissioner Evan Clapper, Grand County, Utah
113. County Commissioner Mary McGann, Grand County, Utah
114. County Commissioner Trisha Hedin, Grand County, Utah
115. County Commissioner Josephine Kovash, Grand County, Utah
116. County Attorney Christina Sloan, Grand County, Utah
117. Council Member Kalen Jones, City of Moab, Utah
118. Council Member Rani Derasary, City of Moab, Utah
119. Council Member Luke Wojciechowski, City of Moab, Utah
120. Mayor Pro Tem Max Doilney, Park City, Utah
121. County Council Member Glenn Wright, Summit County, Utah
122. Mayor Carl Florea, City of Leavenworth, Washington
123. Mayor Sally Ranzau, Town of Winthrop, Washington