



July 20, 2023

The Honorable Debra Haaland
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

As businesses who rely on the outdoors, protected public lands play a critical role for our bottom line and way-of-life. From the outdoor industry to brewers, bankers, sportsmen, and renewable energy companies, we succeed when we take bold steps to conserve outdoor spaces and wild places. We applaud the Administration's recent release of the proposed [Public Lands Rule](#) for the Bureau of Land Management.

The lands overseen by the Bureau of Land Management represent one of the greatest opportunities to advance conservation in North America. The Bureau manages approximately [250 million acres of America's public lands](#), many of which provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation and provide amenities that are important to our employees and customers.

Outdoor recreation generates [\\$862 billion in economic output per year](#). Conserving public lands brings critical economic benefits through tourism and local recreation for rural and gateway communities situated near to these lands and waters. In addition, outdoor recreation like hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, and wildlife watching on public lands creates [4.5 million jobs](#) across the United States.

Unfortunately, many of these areas and the activities that they support are at risk of being unnecessarily degraded or lost. [90 percent of lands](#) managed by the BLM are currently open to oil and gas development. This includes special recreation areas like southwest Colorado's world outstanding Phil's World mountain bike trails; Montana's iconic Blackfoot River, world renowned for its legendary status for fly-fishing; New Mexico's Otero Mesa, critical to hunters across the southwest; and eastern Oregon's Greater Hart-Sheldon area known across the West for its wild backcountry recreation opportunities. While we support multiple uses on our federal public lands, the current system is out of balance. Conservation and recreation must be put on a level playing field with other uses in the short term.

We support a Public Lands Rule that will ensure that our public lands continue to offer unique recreational opportunities, buffer important habitats against the growing impacts of climate change, and drive economic value and jobs for Americans. We strongly encourage the Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management to do all that it can to better conserve and protect our nation's important public lands and waters by adopting a strong Public Lands Rule.

Sincerely,

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