



## Nevadans Asked to Weigh In on Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands Rule

*Public lands supporters welcome new policies to strengthen stewardship for water, open space and recreation in era of climate change*

March 30, 2023 (Las Vegas, NV) – Nevadans welcomed today's [announcement](#) of a plan that shifts the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) focus to prioritize recreation, conservation and protecting public lands and cultural resources over extraction and development. As the nation's largest land manager (245 million acres) the BLM plays a critical role in Nevada, managing over [48 million acres of lands](#) across the state that are vitally important to the conservation of water, wildlife, and the growing demand for access to the outdoors.

The plan highlights the need for the agency to work with local communities to focus on the conservation of land, water, and wildlife to ensure communities can protect future access to federal public lands while combating the growing impacts of climate change. It also encouraged BLM managers to work more closely with Tribal nations to ensure cultural resource protection in Nevada and across the West.

**Jose Witt, Mojave Desert Landscape Director with The Wilderness Society** said, "In a state like Nevada where extractive interests have taken priority, BLM's new Public Land Rule promises to flip the switch, providing equitable access and protecting public lands for generations to come. Today's announcement is a launching point for local communities and BLM staff to work together to protect the natural and cultural resources that Nevadans cherish, while addressing ever increasing development and climate change that continue to impact the nations' two fastest warming cities, Reno & Las Vegas."

**Russell Kuhlman with Nevada Wildlife Federation** said, "We are excited to see this announcement by the Bureau of Land Management. Nevada's outdoor recreation community supports over 50,000 direct jobs and is a \$2.4 billion industry. As we continue to lose 1.3 million acres of Sagebrush country every year in the west, it's important to identify and conserve valuable wildlife habitat that is home to our state's wildlife and lands that provide outdoor recreation to our residents and visitors."

Lawmakers, [businesses](#), and outdoor enthusiasts across Nevada want to see more administrative protections by the BLM. **Anna Peterson, Executive Director of The Mountain Pact** said, "[Over 120 local elected officials from western states](#) have called on the Biden administration to protect more Bureau of Land Management lands as part of the administration's America the Beautiful initiative. We look forward to the BLM using this rulemaking process to conserve and protect our nation's important public lands, [wildlife](#) and waters in tandem with locally-led efforts to advance conservation across the west."

**Nevada State Assemblyman Howard Watts** said, "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. I was happy to join with over [100 of my colleagues](#) in encouraging the BLM and the administration to do more to protect these important places and we hope the BLM will work with communities across the state to implement these new rules in upcoming plans."

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