



June 15, 2023

Chairman Bruce Westerman
House Natural Resources Committee
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Raul Grijalva
House Natural Resources Committee
1332 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Support for BLM Public Lands Rulemaking Process

Dear Chairman Westerman and Ranking Member Grijalva,

As coalitions of businesses and outdoor recreation organizations that rely on healthy, protected public lands to support our companies and local economies, we strongly support the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Public Lands Rulemaking and oppose any efforts to short-circuit this public process.

The proposed BLM Public Lands Rule is a critical step towards ensuring that conservation and recreational opportunities are ingrained as key priorities for the agency. By updating the BLM Public Lands Rule to ensure the equal consideration of conservation values, the agency highlights the importance of protecting public lands while acknowledging the need to balance multiple uses, including their "sustained yield" mandate. Given the toll of resource extraction on our public lands, and the growing and unprecedented impacts of climate change – from wildfires to droughts to invasive species – this strategy will ensure the BLM can protect the most vulnerable and unique landscapes and manage our public lands sustainably into the future.

As the BLM determines how best to manage its 245 million acres of public lands, and as the Committee considers H.R. 3397, access to recreation and the contributions of the outdoor recreation industry on local, state, and national economies should not be overlooked. Outdoor recreation is a significant economic driver, particularly in the West, creating jobs and supporting businesses large and small. The members of our organizations – outdoor recreation businesses and advocacy groups – collectively help drive an \$862 billion outdoor recreation economy that employs 4.5 million people throughout the United States. We support millions of people who head into the outdoors every year to hike, hunt, bike, and fish – activities that rely on public lands access and healthy ecosystems. Firmly establishing conservation as an important use of public lands allows the BLM to sustainably manage lands while supporting recreation access that boosts the economy. We support the BLM's efforts to establish conservation as an important land



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management tool and to gather public comments as they work towards finalizing the Rule. We look forward to a productive dialogue to make sure the Final Rule works for the recreation community.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit written testimony, and we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you and your colleagues on the Committee, as well as with Congressman Curtis, to discuss the BLM Public Lands Rulemaking and the importance of conservation and recreation in the sustainable management of our public lands.

Sincerely,

Shoren Brown
Vice President, Public Affairs
The Conservation Alliance

Richard W. Harper
Director, Government Affairs
Outdoor Industry Association

Louis Geltman
Policy Director
Outdoor Alliance

The Conservation Alliance (TCA) is an organization of like-minded businesses whose collective contributions support grassroots environmental organizations and their efforts to protect wild places where people and wildlife thrive. Alliance grant funding has played a key role in protecting rivers, wildlands, and climbing areas throughout North America. Since 1989, we have contributed over \$30,000,000 in grants to conservation organizations whose collective efforts have helped protect 81 million acres of land and 3,587 miles of rivers; stop or remove 37 dams; acquire 21 climbing areas; and designate five marine reserves.

Based in Boulder, Colo., with offices in Washington, D.C., Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is the leading trade association for the outdoor industry. For more than 30 years, OIA has served as the trusted convenor, resource, and voice of the outdoor industry. OIA unites and serves manufacturers, suppliers, sales representatives, and retailer members through its focus on trade and recreation policy, sustainable business innovation, and outdoor participation. The association provides its members with insights, advocacy, and opportunities for action that support the long-term success of outdoor businesses and ensure the outdoor experience for all. For more information, visit outdoorindustry.org.



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Outdoor Alliance is a coalition of ten member-based organizations representing the human powered outdoor recreation community. The coalition includes Access Fund, American Canoe Association, American Whitewater, International Mountain Bicycling Association, Winter Wildlands Alliance, The Mountaineers, the American Alpine Club, the Mazamas, Colorado Mountain Club, and Surfrider Foundation and represents the interests of the millions of Americans who climb, paddle, mountain bike, backcountry ski and snowshoe, and enjoy coastal recreation on our nation's public lands, waters, and snowscapes.

Cc: Rep. John Curtis