

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 17, 2024

Heather Gottry, Departmental Ethics Office Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Gottry:

The Department of the Interior (Department or DOI) is charged with the task of fairly administering multiple-use activities on nearly 250 million acres of land across the west. Given the recent news that Tracy Stone-Manning, Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), has accepted a position as President of The Wilderness Society, we request that you immediately identify conflicts of interest like this throughout the Department and advise the BLM Director and others to recuse themselves from any pending business the agency is set to approve before January 20, 2025.

Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), DOI is tasked with balancing multiple-use and sustained yield of public lands. The mission of your Department is to manage land in a way that allows for various activities like recreation, grazing, timber harvesting, and energy development while ensuring that the land remains healthy and productive for future generations.

The objectives and practices of The Wilderness Society fly in the face of FLPMA's multiple use mandate. Instead, groups like The Wilderness Society seeks to destroy the economic livelihood of the west by curtailing energy development, mining, grazing, timber, and even recreation on public lands, all in the name of conservation. Instead of seeking ways to properly conserve the natural beauty of our public lands, The Wilderness Society instead seeks to preserve our public lands from any sort of multiple use.

Over the last four years, the American West has suffered greatly as the BLM has imposed policies straight from the playbook of the BLM Director's future employer. Across the west, those who live near and rely on public lands for their economic livelihood have suffered from new resource management plans that choose preservation over multiple use. Communities have languished from the BLM's flat-out refusal to follow the law that mandates onshore oil and gas lease sales. Ranchers have struggled with grazing permit renewals all while staring down a new rule that improperly puts "conservation" on equal footing with multiple use activities and threatening to end their businesses.

While we are not surprised to learn of this career move, we are strongly concerned about the conflict of interest that has arisen given the competing missions of her current job and her future job. As such, we again respectfully request you immediately take steps to identify conflicts of interest arising from outgoing political staff and advise they refrain from any decision-making process affecting public lands during the remainder of their tenure.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



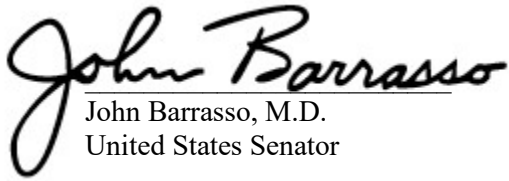
Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator



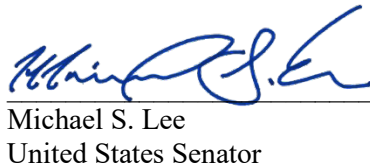
Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress

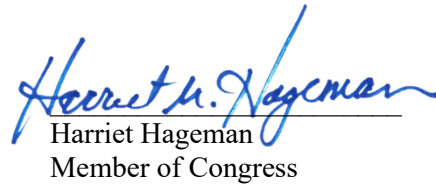
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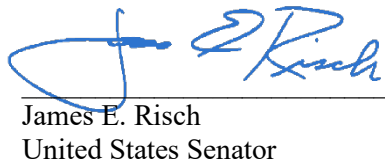
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John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator


Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress

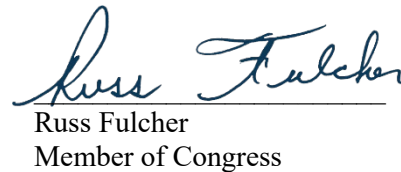

Michael S. Lee
United States Senator

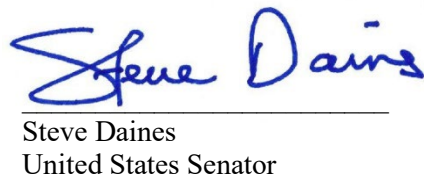

Harriet Hageman
Member of Congress

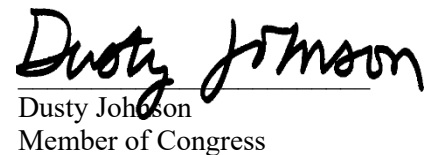

James E. Risch
United States Senator

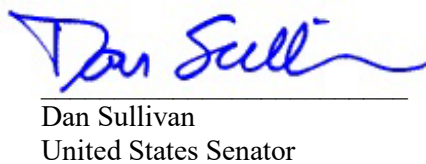

Cliff Bentz
Member of Congress

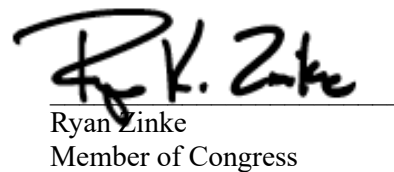

Mike Crapo
United States Senator

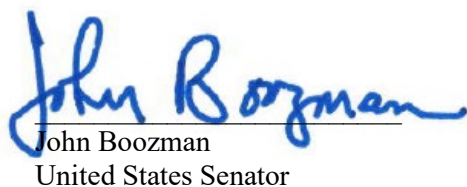

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Steve Daines
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Dan Sullivan
United States Senator


Ryan Zinke
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United States Senator

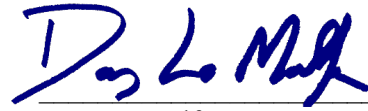

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