

May 24, 2017

The Honorable Ryan Zinke  
Secretary of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke:

On behalf of the retired Federal employees of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and other members across the nation that the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) represents, we write today to express our support for the continuation of the numerous advisory boards and councils that provide invaluable local input to land management decisions made by the BLM.

We understand and appreciate the need to ensure the membership on these advisory boards and councils is appropriate and in compliance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act. We also strongly support your efforts to ensure land management decisions are made with full local involvement and input.

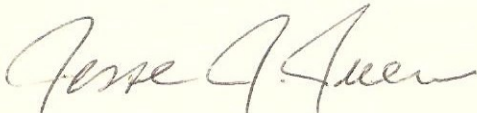
This is precisely the purpose of Resource Advisory Councils. Their strength is in their broad representation of a cross section of public land users. These committees ensure the BLM has local input from all interests without violating the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

In working with various advisory committees and councils over more than two decades, through both Republican and Democratic administrations, our experience has been that they understand working with shifting priorities. Their advice frequently leads to better, more sustainable decisions.

We understand and appreciate the need to periodically review the membership and operation of various advisory committees and councils across the government. Our request is that this review be conducted as expeditiously as possible. Land management decisions are made daily. We believe these decisions are much more reflective of local needs when the BLM has the benefit of input from its Resource Advisory Council and other advisory committees.

The PLF is a nonprofit national organization incorporated in 1987 to support keeping public lands in public hands, embracing multiple use management of the public lands managed by the BLM, as prescribed by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and following sound environmental principles. We are a membership organization whose members are predominantly retired former employees of the BLM. As such, our membership represents a broad spectrum of knowledge and experience in public land management.

Sincerely,



Jesse J. Juen, President