



Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, Virginia 22207

January 16, 2020

The Honorable Raul M. Grijalva, Chairman
Committee on Natural Resources
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Grijalva,

I am writing on behalf of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) and our eleven partner organizations who joined together to raise our concerns over the Bureau of Land Management reorganization and Headquarters relocation from Washington, DC to Grand Junction, Colorado. The result is the largest land management agency in the country no longer has a seat at the table to develop policy and budgets.

In December 2019, we organized an awareness campaign by placing a full-page advertisement in POLITICO on December 9th, supplemented by a social media campaign. We sought to motivate people to express their views by visiting a webpage we set up — www.SaveBLM.org — where they could sign on to our letter to House and Senate appropriators. Moreover, if they so choose, they could add their own thoughts to the letter.

I want to close the loop on this campaign by sharing the results with you. We had 79 individuals who signed on to our letter. Of those, 68 provided their individual thoughts and ideas. In sum, the comments provided by these individuals largely echoed the key points the PLF and its partners tried to make in our Congressional testimony, meetings with Senators, Representatives, and committee staffs on both sides of the aisle.

Now that appropriations for FY 2020 have been enacted, we will be monitoring the impacts to the agency of scattering the senior policy positions to 11 different locations throughout the West. We continue to remain concerned about a significant loss of current Washington Office employees who will most likely not be relocating and the long-term effects their loss will have on the BLM's mission.

As always, if there is anything more that the PLF can offer in assisting the Congress in its oversight of this important matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Edward W. Shepard
President

Enclosures

POLITICO Advertisement
PLF Letter
Individual Comments

cc: Ranking Member Bishop

245 MILLION REASONS TO SAVE THE BLM

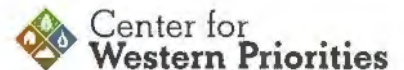


Bob Wick, BLM

CONGRESS: STOP SECRETARY BERNHARDT FROM DISMANTLING THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

The BLM cares for 245 million acres of public land, more than any other federal agency. And it's one of the few agencies that raises more money than it spends. Recently, political appointees in the Department of the Interior have taken steps to dismantle the agency by sending its top leaders and senior specialists to scattered locations in the West, with no public or employee input. This plan only weakens the BLM and its ability to manage the public lands for all Americans. Without a seat at the table in Washington, DC, public lands will be on the menu.

The Public Lands Foundation joins a long list of public land stakeholders who oppose the plan to dismantle the BLM. This land is yours, let's keep it that way.



For more information visit: www.SaveBLM.org



Dear Appropriations Committee Members,

Subject: Stop Interior Secretary Bernhardt from Dismantling the BLM!

As a public lands supporter, I strongly oppose Secretary Bernhardt's plan to relocate the Bureau of Land Management's Headquarters from Washington, DC to Grand Junction, CO and to scatter most of BLM's Headquarters employees across the West. These actions need to be stopped now, and it's up to Congress to act.

While neither the House nor the Senate included any money in their FY 2020 appropriation bills to fund Secretary Bernhardt's dismantling of the BLM, he continues to implement his plans. He's not getting the message that Congress is sending!

I urge you to include language in the FY 2020 Department of the Interior appropriations that blocks Secretary Bernhardt from dismantling the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) headquarters.

[Insert individual comments.]

Thank you for your time and consideration of my views. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
George and Frances	Alderson	Catonsville	MD	<p>The Bureau of Land Management manages millions of acres of our most beautiful public lands. We have made vacation trips to southern Utah and western Colorado specifically to enjoy those lands. Putting BLM headquarters employees in western cow towns would make it easier for the oil/gas industry, livestock industry, and mining industry to put pressure on BLM policy decisions. They should be in Washington DC, our national capital.</p> <p>BLM protects our public lands for sustainable use. Unlike other public lands BLM land can actually be used for resources. It is by its very nature a bridge between industry and environmental groups. Without it we will have neither land nor resources.</p>
Nicole	Allard	Raleigh	NC	<p>I know this because my dad worked for the BLM his whole career out West and in DC. Though most of the land is our West the BLM was not and is not cut off from headquarters in DC. But to take the BLM out of DC undercuts all ability for the BLM to properly manage public lands for everyone, industry included. Please stop trying to weaken the BLM it is on everyone's side.</p> <p>I worked for the Bureau of Land Management for over 30 years with assignments at every level of the organization including two tours in Washington D.C., one as a staff member on the then Alaska Programs Staff and the other as the Chief, Division of Fire and Aviation management. What I learned is that the work I did at the Headquarters office could not have been done from a remote location for many reasons. My expertise was often requested to participate in discussions and meetings that were unplanned and happening within a short time frame (say 1 hour or less). The discussions and meetings would take place whether or not I was available and decisions would be made with or without my expert input. I will not take your time to go through all the reasons not to move the BLM headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado and assign other Headquarter staff throughout the western states. Others have provided that information. I would only add that the public lands of the United States are managed for the benefit of ALL Americans, not just for those living close to them. Please take actions to prevent Secretary Bernhardt from destroying the BLM. Please feel free to contact me for additional detailed examples of why this action is irresponsible.</p>
Lee	Barkow	Golden	CO	
Sue	Bellew	Rocklin	CA	<p>Please leave the headquarters for the BLM in Washington DC, and stop weakening the environmental protections that are used to protect wild life, plants, and people. Let the professional, educated employees of BLM remain in their jobs in DC. Do not splinter the agency.</p>
Ray	Brady	Oak Hill	VA	<p>I had the privilege to work for the BLM for over 40 years at the Field, State, and Washington Office levels of the agency and served in 8 different administrations under both Republican and Democrat leadership. By working together with various constituent interests at the local and national level I was able to reach the most equitable resource decisions for land uses on the public lands. The senior career professional staff in Washington, D.C. were critically important in helping to resolve issues that required legislative or regulatory fixes and facilitating policy and budget needs with political leadership. That lifeline is being eliminated by this dismantling of the BLM. The threat posed by Secretary Bernhardt's transfer of BLM's headquarters' functions is real and the consequences will be serious, and perhaps, irreversible. Stop the dismantling of the BLM. This land truly is your land, and I hope you care.</p>
Elaine	Brong	Washougal	WA	<p>This move out of DC is a blatant desire to control the BLM public lands for special interests not public interests. Why can't you see that??</p>
Peggi	Brooks	Alexandria	VA	<p>I recently left my position as a BLM Washington office employee, due to the pending "Management directed relocation." I served as a Sr. Planning and Environmental Analyst and Project Manager in the Decision Support, Planning and NEPA division. Before that I worked as an Outdoor Recreation Planner in the national Recreation and Visitor Services Division. Both positions involved national level program leadership and expertise, policy analysis, review of proposed legislation, as well as frequent coordination with other federal agencies and stakeholders, and daily interaction with the other BLM program and leadership staff here in DC. I frequently briefed BLM leadership on current issues and possible impacts of decisions. All of these functions are most effectively performed in the Washington DC location, interacting with other Washington level staff. Moving BLM leadership to Grand Junction while all the other national staff are scattered across the west will have the effect of disintegrating the form and function of the national office. This will come at great cost to the agency's efficiency and knowledge-base, and will not serve the public lands management interest. In fact, the impacts from this action will cause great harm to the natural and cultural resources, and the uses of these resources by the public, for decades to come. Please find a way to stop this action immediately and preserve the BLM national office before it is too late.</p>

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
Linda	Castro	North Hills	CA	I spend a significant amount of time camping, hiking and 4-wheeling on lands managed by BLM. Places like Alabama Hills, Afton Canyon, and other amazing BLM lands need to be protected by BLM not leased to oil and gas or mining companies for little to no benefit to taxpayers. The best way to do that is for BLM DC staff to stay there, not in Colorado in the same building as an oil company or scattered throughout states.
David	Cooper	Gerlach	NV	The BLM public lands are an important part of our American heritage and liberty. The public lands are also very important to the local gateway communities that rely on these lands for economic stability. These lands and resources must stay in public hands for the benefit of the public that owns them. Please stop the efforts to breakup BLM management by moving the headquarters out of Washington DC where it belongs. Please Block secretary Bernhardt from destroying the agency by scattering the leadership and the brain trust to the states where it will weaken the ability of the agency to effectively manage our public lands.
Pamela	Corrado	Sierra Vista	AZ	It's perfectly clear to me and many others that your decision to relocate the BLM is hateful and evil!! You, somehow, cannot think outside the box and are so hampered with securing your own job and lively hood, you don't see the big picture! Why are you supporting a United States Dictator wannabe???? We'll see where we stand in the next election.....I think you're going to be surprised!!! And, hopefully, your children and grandchild will find it in their hearts to thank you for doing the right thing by standing up in support of our NPL.....and the people that make it a wonderful experience to visit them.
Helena	Coughlin	Sparks	NV	Our Public Lands should be treasured, protected, and correctly managed for current and future citizens. In Nevada, our BLM lands should be fully funded to allow for proper management and protection. Do not allow dismantling of Bill's management.
Truman	Dean	Las Cruces	NM	The Trump Administration continues to dismantle so much of what has in good faith and practice what has been accomplished by previous Administrations that moving BLM Headquarters to Grand Junction, CO is just another move on this Administration's to upset the Apple cart so to speak. A rogue Administration that willy-nilly dismantles Government entities is not acceptable.
J David	Dorris	Anchorage	AK	
Carolyn	Droscher	Wheatland	WY	The BLM manages these lands on behalf of the owners- the taxpayers of the United States. As a an owner and taxpayer I want the mission of the BLM to remain intact.
Carl	Fagerskog	Crescent City	CA	I support our public lands staying public and free. I support the BLM! We need more open places in the world, not more pollution and destruction. This plan is nothing short of the first step to dismantle a very necessary agency and give the spoils to the spoilers. It must be stopped!
JOHN	FEND	Eagle	ID	As a former 32+ year BLM employee this is very troubling to me, lack of transparency, lack of consultation with stakeholders and most of all the timing of this action on those DC based employees who have kids in schools and spouses working in the area. Please take a breath, stop and rewind. While I strongly oppose this whole-scale relocation effort, I do support a system that involves public constituencies and employees input and comments regarding such proposed relocation proposals.

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
				<p>I am a retired BLM law enforcement employee. I served as a uniformed Law Enforcement Ranger and a Special Agent (Criminal Investigator) for 20 years. I spent my career protecting the public lands from illegal acts by the public, as well as from those of a few BLM managers who thought the laws and regulations were optional guidelines to be ignored when convenient.</p> <p>The Secretary's thinly-disguised excuse (passing no test of logic whatsoever) for relocating the BLM headquarters to a backwater Colorado town (and the parceling out of other Washington Office employees across other western BLM State and District offices is unacceptable, unethical, an abrogation of his responsibilities as Secretary, and totally inimical to sound public land management.</p> <p>Since the Secretary and political cronies clearly have demonstrated their intent to undermine the effectiveness of BLM as an agency, using ludicrous and erroneous judgment, it is the responsibility of Congress to provide the oversight and direction the Secretary is incapable of demonstrating on his own.</p> <p>The Secretary's actions prove he is unfit for the office he holds and is a textbook example of why anyone with such a mindset and negative agenda should never be placed in control of federal public lands.</p> <p>It is time for Congress to intercede a prevent the Secretary from advancing expensive and unnecessary actions having zero probative value to federal public land management.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
Stephen	Fleming	Los Lunas	NC	
Scott	Florence	Ivins	UT	
Shaine	Gans	Dolores	CO	The BLM headquarters relocation is a disastrous executive order and it is up to the legislative branch to prevent the implementation of this plan.
Michael	Hardy	La Sal	VA	<p>PO Box 91</p> <p>Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee,</p> <p>Interior Secretary Bernhardt's plan to damage the BLM by moving its headquarters to Grand Junction is so out of keeping with the responsibilities of the Bureau as to be nearly criminal. Already staff are leaving, which is a good measure of the value of this plan. It appears that the Secretary and the administration are attempting to weaken the BLM to benefit industries they favor, namely oil and gas. Please add language to the appropriation bill for the Department of Interior that prevents the Secretary from carrying out this planned move. James Hickerson, Cedar Crest, NM</p>
James	Hickerson	Cedar Crest	NM	
James	Higgs	Prescott	AZ	I am a retired BLM employee. I was a grade 14 personnel manager and administrative officer who worked for BLM in California, Nevada and Washington D.C. Secretary Bernhardt's ill-conceived plan to reorganize BLM and move the headquarters to a diminutive office in Colorado while dispersing other employees presently working in Washington D.C. to various state offices in the west to be nothing more than a naked attempt to ensure that the Bureau fails in its mission. This idea is contrary to established position management principles and organizational effectiveness. It will cause grade misalignment in field offices and morale problems among the workforce. BLM is the successor to the General Land Office which was established in 1812, and has served the nation and the public professionally and efficiently for over 200 years. This proposal is inconsistent with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and MUST BE STOPPED IN ITS TRACKS NOW!
JOHN	HOFFA	RENO	NV	
John	Holland	Tropic	UT	The dismantling of BLM affects people in my community. Here in southern Utah the BLM is a big employer and their work remains critically important to our tourism based economy. Moving BLM managers from D.C. places the possibility of effective management out of reach. Please don't allow the move. Further, I ask Congress to move swiftly to pass laws to require a fully functional BLM with equal consideration for multiple uses and to honor and codify the National Landscape Conservation System to prioritize conservation values where appropriate and to preserve critical landscapes and National Monuments.

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
Edwin	Hymas	Ogden	UT	<p>Honorable congress members; Please vote against the reorganization of the BLM. This is an unnecessary expense to our country.</p> <p>The present system where small district offices are talking to and working with the people they serve out here in the western United States is working smoothly for the most part and needs no change. In my opinion this a huge blunder about to be forced upon a knowledgeable an resistant public. Stand up for what's right please.</p>
Eric	Janes	Mancos	CO	<p>Dear Committee Members: Forty years of my career life and all of my undergraduate and graduate education have been dedicated to the public lands and the ecological/hydrological processes which affect plant growth, clean water production, and watershed stability. I worked in the BLM Headquarters in Washington DC for six years as a program leader for water, soil, and air resources. Because all of the BLM's multiple use programs affect, or are affected by many aspects of soil (productivity, soil loss, sedimentation), water (availability, water quality standards, aquatic life), and air (emissions, fugitive dust, wind erosion) I interacted every day with specialists in range and wildlife management, recreation, oil and gas, abandoned mine-land assessment and remediation, lands and realty staff. Most collaborations were face to face across staffing Division lines, and usually questions and issues were clarified and resolved because I had a personal working relationship with these colleagues. Secretary Bernhardt's present dismantling of the BLM Headquarters and relocating Headquarters functions to over a dozen western cities will destroy the collaboration that I and many other program leaders in Headquarters relied upon as we did our program budgeting, policy development, and exchange of information with senior managers political leaders in the DOI, OMB, Congress, and other federal agencies. As Appropriators, you have the power to stop the Secretary from seriously damaging the BLM's most seasoned and professionally competent staff in DC, who serve a critical role as a kind of check and balance on the DOI politically appointed leadership. Department of the Interior perspectives and decisions are most often strengthened and substantiated by close cooperation with a BLM headquarters in Washington, DC. Professional land management of the public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management is at great risk, if Secretary Bernhardt's proposal is not halted. How much sense would it make for the entire United States Forest Service Headquarters in Washington, DC to be relocated to Albuquerque, NM, thereby leaving the Secretary of Agriculture to make the most important decisions regarding the management of our National Forests from Washington, DC? This is essentially what Secretary Bernhardt is doing with the public lands and the BLM. Please consider the long-term view of our public lands in your deliberations, and insist upon input from the public, users of the public lands, and sound financial analysis in your decisions. Thank you.</p>
william	kuntz	REDDING	CA	<p>Stop this ridiculous move to Grand Junction. It will not save money and set BLM management back 10 years. I've seen the quality of BLM resource management improve over the past 20 years. If you care about good government, leave the headquarters folks at the WO headquarters.</p>
John	Kwiatkowski	Powell	WY	<p>I am deeply concerned that public land under Bureau of Land Management will be dismantled with Washington staff mostly being moved out west. I ask that you take a close look at this action as it relates to the history of public land. These lands provide jobs, recreation and resources for the American people. This great legacy must be retained and managed for all. Dismantling the management will have a devastating effect on the future use of these lands. I ask that you take action to make sure this does not occur.</p>
Bill	Lamb	Centerville	UT	<p>Thank you</p> <p>Bill Lamb</p>
Diana	Lea	Ogden	UT	<p>2352 Mountain road</p>
george	lea	mclean	VA	<p>This action will make BLM totally ineffective in management of the public lands and destroy its professionalism. If the problem is "too many people in the Washington Office" that is easily solved without tearing the agency apart and the employees lives. George Lea, retired Deputy Director, BLM</p>

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
Tarey	Lea	McLean	VA	We need some of BLM's representatives and spokespersons to be part of policy making in the Government. Please keep the main office in DC. Dddo not fund the move to the west.
William	LeBarron	Worland	WY	<p>This is plan was developed by Robber Barons! This plan was developed with the intent of destroying the BLM. It is a step to state control of public lands.</p> <p>When I worked as a Wildlife Biologist for the Wyoming Game and Fish Department we operated under the principle that the state wildlife agency managed wildlife and BLM managed wildlife habitat on public lands. The two functions were interconnected and one would not work without the other. I worked with several BLM Field Office Biologists, State Wildlife Biologists, and national biologists in my career, and recognized that their effectiveness was dependent upon support from the national BLM office in Washington D.C. Again, one will not work without the other. As a state agency biologist I witnessed too often to count instances in which local politicians and businessmen, mining corporations, and ranchers tried to influence public land decisions for their personal gain and cut the public out of the decision-making process. Often, public lands were saved from self-serving local governments and politicians by policy, oversight, and coordination with other agencies provided by BLM Washington, D.C. personnel. Americans demand that all federal land management agencies, including BLM, retain a strong presence at the seat of power in the U.S. government where big decisions that affect us all are made. Scattering BLM's top administrators by shipping their jobs to Colorado and other western states works against effective decision-making and conservation of public lands for the future. By effectively dismantling BLM, Secretary Bernhardt is following Donald Trump's agenda to cripple the effectiveness of all federal agencies. Destroying BLM will be followed by the destruction of other federal land management agencies-- so private interests can use our public lands as they please without considering national public interest. Congress should not only NOT fund Secretary Bernhardt's plans, they should actively oppose them. I certainly encourage my political representatives to oppose the plan.</p>
Robert	Luce	Sierra Vista	AZ	
Mark	Mackiewicz	Price	UT	<p>As a Washington Office employee for over 13 years and a BLM employee for over 43 years I urge you to stop this madness as soon as you can. Just one of many examples, my supervisor is scheduled to move to Reno, Nevada. His staff would be located in three different states. Does this sound like a functional organization? Unequivocally no! The Washington Office will be rendered impotent, as there will be little or collaboration with our Federal Agencies in Washington, our Solicitors Office and other essential stakeholders in Washington. Also the inability of our various state offices to get the National guidance that Washington provides will be greatly enhanced by this nonsensical move. I urge you to please do what you can to stop this from happening as a premier agency will be ruined. If this happens Secretary Bernhardt will have his dream come true.</p>
Jerry	Magee	West Linn	OR	<p>As someone who spent over 42 years as a Bureau of Land Management employee, I'm disgusted by the expensive scam being perpetrated by Sec'y Bernhardt and fellow DOI political appointees. While mouthing the words that the move will place decision making closer to the affected lands, I have first-hand experience with land use plan decisions now actually being made by the Sec'y of Interior, who doesn't intend to move "closer to the ground" along with BLM leadership. Longstanding regulations implementing the Federal Land Policy & Mgt Act already place such decision-making authority solely with the BLM State Directors, who are located in the states where the Public Lands exist. Those regulations only authorize the BLM Director to resolve any land use planning Protests, and his protest resolution decisions are "final for the Department of Interior." So the Sec'y is violating the law and regulations by usurping all such decision making and scattering necessary headquarters leadership and staff to remote locations. In the name of fiscal responsibility, please order an immediate stop to spending any further 2019 funds on this costly, baseless, and deceitful move. Thank you.</p>

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
				I am now retired from BLM. However, I worked for the agency for 30 years, both at the national office in Washington, D.C., as well as at all the field organizational levels in several of the western states. So I can speak from first-hand experience about the negative impacts of this proposal. Of course, the proposal will create many hardships in the near term for the affected employees. But the critical fallacy of this proposal is that it puts employees close to the land users and those affected by the agency's decisions. Already 97% of the employees are located in the field offices. The functions of the headquarters are vastly different than those of the field offices. Little can be gained by moving headquarters away from Washington, but much will be lost.
David L.	Mari	Lewistown	MT	<p>When I worked in D.C., I worked primarily in the agency's budget office. I had regular contact with representatives of the Department's budget office. I had daily contact with resource specialists responsible for the programs for which I prepared budgets. When Congress or OMB has questions about budget proposals, the call is almost always for the information immediately; there is no time for calling all over the country in several time zones to obtain information. I had regular contact with attorneys in the Solicitor's office and with other experts in legislation and regulations. When time is of the essence, face-to-face contact is critical. Trying to organize video conferences with several people in different offices in different time zones when there is a short deadline is an exercise in futility.</p> <p>I had many occasions to deal with constituency organizations - there is a reason why every major NGO and industry/business/lobbying organization has an office in D.C. That is where the action is. If BLM moves its national headquarters out of D.C., those contacts will be severely hampered. There is a saying that if you are not at the table, you are on the menu.</p> <p>This is a really bad proposal. You need to take action to prevent it.</p>
Jeff	Mc Cusker	W. Springfield	VA	I've worked for the BLM for 18 years, and am now in the Washington Office. I've been given a letter saying that I have to be in Salt Lake City by March 1. People I meet and work with every day are being sent to Santa Fe, Reno, Denver, Boise, and Sacramento, and my boss will be in Grand Junction, CO. People I meet and coordinate with regularly in interest groups, the Forest Service, Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service are all in Washington, DC. Working long distance by phone and email with all these folks will greatly hurt my ability to fully interact and engage with them. Technology will not replace face to face meetings, and my effectiveness will be needlessly diminished. The rationale for this move is that we will be closer to stakeholders, but that's wrong-the line officers and staff in the field, over 90% of our workforce, are the ones, who at least in normal times, make the vast majority of the decisions affecting management on the ground. This administration requires small scale decisions, and even local press releases to be cleared by political appointees in DC-that's completely the opposite of the Secretary of Interior's stated priorities. I'm looking for another job, as are about 85% of the Washington Office BLM staff. Until 2017, The BLM was performing admirably, managing vast resources and activities under FLPMA with a small workforce. That's been hampered by a lack of engagement with other agencies and political decision makers, lack of consistency across the field, and too much political meddling. This reorganization and relocation will magnify those issues, and take years to undo. What a waste of taxpayer dollars and human resources.
Cheryl	McCaffrey	Newberg	OR	Just as industry has lobbyists in Washington DC it is important for federal agencies to have senior staff in Washington to interact with legislators and with other federal agencies at senior levels. Rapid access to those who influence public land policies and funding is important to support the agency's mission and to best serve the citizens using the National System of Public Lands. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has quite an excellent array of offices with field offices serving the local level of users and state offices addressing issues with other agencies, states, industry, and non-governmental organizations at the state/regional level. We need our national staff in DC to deal in person and in real time with national issues and partners. It can only serve to weaken the BLM by moving the Washington Office staff to a location in CO of less access even than the state office in the Denver suburbs. Please curtail funding of this move. The future of the rural economy, recreation, and ecosystem health depends on your action. THANK YOU.

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
Beau	McClure	Phoenix	AZ	Ten years of my 37-year career with the BLM were spent in the BLM's Headquarters in Washington, D.C., and I know for a fact that having professional experts available that can discuss matters face-to-face is essential to providing informed decisions at the national level. Even with today's technology, having experts scattered throughout the West WILL NOT WORK.
Anne	Mellan	Grass Valley	CA	This relocation effort also will result in the loss of hundreds, if not thousands, of years of institutional knowledge due to retirements or moves out of the agency by personnel that cannot leave the DC area for personal reasons.
Oliver	Mellan	Fremont	CA	Our public lands deserve advocates in Washington. The extensive network of field offices are already acting as the "boots on the ground." The BLM needs to keep it's seat in Washington.
Geoffrey	Middaugh	Bellingham	WA	A garden tended to grows good food. This move by the political appointments in the DOI is the cruelest and stupidest move by DOI that I've heard of. I have had 33 years experience at all levels of BLM and 50 years of experience in natural resources. This move does nothing to promote better management of public lands under the mandate of FLPMA. This action does nothing except pander to western senators and weaken professional management of federal lands
Christina	Miller	Billings	MT	2202 Lyman Ave. Dear Congressman: please do not dismantle the top agency personnel in the BLM groom Washington D.C. They need to meet in person on short notice with other agency lead s (Forest Service, Dept. Of Interior) and OBM to work on business for BLM staff in the state offices and public's. This "one stop shopping" has worked for years, so please keep BLM as it is currently. Thank you, Sincerely, Christina Miller.
Bob	Moore	Morrison	CO	I worked for BLM for 40 years and retired as the Colorado State Director in 1955. My experience working at multiple field locations and twice in the headquarters office in Washington D.C. provided me with an excellent capability to manage the public lands in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act on behalf of all the American public land owners. Eviscerating the Washington Office function as proposed by Secretary Bernhardt would would remove a critical element for effective management of the public lands.
Allen	Myers	Grass Valley	CA	Public lands are our nations current and future heritage. We must not let them become pawns to politics but rather take the long view to preserve this precious resource for all, not the few. As such it is imperative that the current structure of BLM be preserved and the talent and heritage of this great organization be respected.
Samuel	Paden	Garden city	ID	THE DISMANTLING OF THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT (BLM) - A THREAT TO YOUR PUBLIC LANDS -
Phil	Paterno	POWELL BUTTE	OR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is an agency within the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) that manages 243 million acres of public land, primarily in the west. • DOI submitted a reorganization plan to Congress that will dismantle the BLM Headquarters in Washington, D.C. The BLM Director and Assistant Directors will move to Grand Junction, CO and some 250 policy specialists and senior managers will move to 11 western locations. A skeletal staff will be all that remains in Washington, DC. • This is an organizational plan designed to fail. It will: (1) create a weak and ineffective BLM management structure; (2) essentially eliminate interdisciplinary collaboration and coordination in development and implementation of national policies; (3) reduce national level coordination with other federal land and resource management agencies; (4) create a land management organization that will be driven by local interests rather than national interests; (5) constrain the ability to work with national constituency groups; and, (6) weaken the BLM's influence in national public land policies in the Nation's Capitol. • The Public Lands Foundation (PLF) and other public interest organizations oppose the plan. In addition to the reorganization plan, the BLM still has no permanent Director nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. • Together, these actions will sufficiently weaken the BLM's ability to influence the long-term management of the public lands for all Americans. Every citizen, as an owner of the public lands, will have fewer opportunities to be engaged in the national policy discussions regarding the management of these lands.

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
Dan	Patterson	Boulder City	NV	I work for BLM in Nevada. Moving HQ to W Colorado is not in the overall public interest. BLM is losing good staff at an alarming rate, and most are not being replaced.
Kathryn	Pedrick	Scottsdale	AZ	As a former employee I know first hand how damaging these types of actions are to the ability of employees to do their jobs managing and protecting PUBLIC lands. Moving a national agency headquarters to a relatively remote area of the west makes no sense and will ham string BLM ability to be responsive to Congress. Stop the madness. PS - I oppose relocating BLM's Headquarters to Grand Junction, CO. I served for over ten years in the BLM in Elko, Nevada and Barstow California on over 11 million acres of public lands. It was my honor to work at meeting the BLM's multiple-use mandate along with other outstanding members in the BLM and the public in making all sorts of local land management decisions. Decision making authority is currently in the field but we also need leadership in Washington and moving staff to Grand Junction in my opinion will not serve any legitimate purpose or serve the BLM well.
Zachary	Pratt	Barstow	CA	
Jimmie	Pribble	Lakewood	CO	You cannot comprehend the natural resource damage,including the Republican Party, that will be done with the planned reorganization. If the BLM needs reorganization, it might be best to have a bipartisan approach rather than being one sided.
William	Ragsdale	Phoenix	AZ	Words to the Wise, WJR In 2010, following 30-plus years of service, I retired from the Department of the Interior with the Distinguished Service Award. Twenty-five of those years were with the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming, Washington DC, and Arizona. In retirement I've maintained a close involvement in public land issues, working as a full-time volunteer for the Arizona Trail Association. In this role I frequently encounter international visitors who, almost without exception, are amazed at America's public lands and what a treasure they are.
Michael	Redfield	Phoenix	AZ	I have no doubt that a strong presence in the nation's capital is critical to The Bureau of Land Management's sound care-taking of the citizens' public lands. Throughout American history, the public lands have been attacked and-in all too many instances-squandered by local forces and special interests. Strong national representation is vital to fending off these attacks and protecting, and using, the public lands for ALL Americans. I urge you to do everything possible to oppose this latest attack on the unique national resource that is America's public lands.

Name (First)	Name (Last)	City	ST	Comments
				I am a life long hunter, fisherman, hiker, backpacker and recreational user of public lands. But I also came from a background of public land extractive use. My father was a natural gas pipeline superintendent who had regular dealings with BLM and public lands. I worked my way through college and after in the oilfields of eastern New Mexico. Much of my work during those days was on public lands managed by BLM. This experience served me well during my chosen career with BLM.
Skip	Renchler	Hines	OR	<p>As a retired BLM employee at the local level I can tell you it is important that the agency still have a voice in Washington DC. During my 34 year tenure with the BLM I can tell you that with 97% of the BLM workforce at the local level, there is already plenty of opportunity for decision making at that level. In my career I saw, nearly during every change in administration, new efforts to reorganize the agency. None of them were fully successful and only resulted in confusion, concern and low morale for employees and their local constituents and stakeholders. In every case these reorganization efforts failed and agency evolved back to it's natural and most efficient organizational equilibrium which was generally the same as prior to the reorganization. These efforts only only resulted in a significant loss of taxpayer funds and agency efficiency. The current effort at reorganizing the agency by Secretary Bernhardt is particularly egregious. I urge you to place language into the FY2020 appropriations bills stopping the relocation of key BLM headquarters functions to remote locations in the West.</p> <p>Please forward this message to the Oregon congressional delegation, specifically, Greg Walden, Senator Wyden and Senator Merkley.</p>
Robert	Robinson	Wheat Ridge	CO	
Alan	Sands	Boise	ID	<p>As a retired career employee of the BLM who worked at the field level, the state level, and the national level, this proposal is the worse organizational decision I've ever seen. Even in this day of expanded information technology, it is essential that agencies have their director and associated staff located in Washington D.C. to lead the agency and be present to respond face-to-face to all policy and legislative matters affecting the agency.</p> <p>As president of the Public Lands Foundation and a retired career professional with the BLM for 38 years, with experience at all levels of the organization from the field to Washington, D.C., I urge you to block this ill-conceived plan to dismantle the BLM by severing and scattering the parts across the West. This will leave the agency without a voice in Washington as important natural resource policies and decisions are being made. 97% of the employee are already located in the west and directors already located in the states have the delegated authority to make decisions. This will not improve service to the public and public land stakeholder.</p>
Ed	Shepard	Newberg	OR	The relocation plan is already having a detrimental impact to the agency and the management of public lands as many senior professionals have already made the hard decision to leave the agency. Many more are likely to leave adding to the "brain drain" of experience and institutional knowledge. The relocation WILL NOT result in the objectives espoused by the Secretary to get employees to improve the western culture in BLM (most employees come from the west and worked in the west before going to DC as senior-level employees) or to get decision making closer to the lands.
Craig	Sorenson	ESCALANTE	UT	This is an ill-conceived plan to move BLM national headquarters to Grand Junction Colorado. BLM leadership positions needs to be connected with Headquarters at the National level. Creating a weak and ineffective BLM and reducing national level coordination and interagency collaboration is wrong and counter productive. Our public lands are very important to us. Congress needs to stop this nonsense.
Elbert	Spencer	Cheyenne	WY	As a retired employee, I am still interested in the management of our public lands. From what I Read in the news, the moving of most or all resource managers west will result in total disarray of any uniform policy, directions and priorities. If only budget and OR positions are left, hoe will the necessary coordination occur on a regular basis?
Tom	Steger	Big Horn	WY	I worked in Congress and also retired from the BLM from the Headquarters office in Washington, DC. Moving the BLM headquarters to Colorado would dilute the impact and effectiveness of the agency and I believe sends a poor message to our public constituents. Please suspend your decision to move the headquarters office to Grand Junction. Thank you

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Mike	Stewart	Cody	WY	<p>As a retired BLM employee of 34 years, I urge you to please stop this egregious plan to relocate the BLM headquarters out of Washington D. C. This plan will not serve the American people nor the proper long term management of public lands. I believe it to be a short sighted and dangerous move that will have significant costs to the agency and taxpayers over time as the failed organizational structure is ultimately returned to one similar to what we have today. As those costs are felt and appropriations for on the ground activities are reduced to cover those inevitable impacts, service to local communities, commodity interests and the recreating public that depend on public lands will be significant as staffing becomes even more limited to cover these totally unnecessary costs.</p> <p>With all due respect, I strongly urge you to please do what you can to stop this ill conceived plan and terrible disservice to the American public.</p>
Renell Kirk	Stewart Stitt	Sierra Vista Hereford	AZ	<p>There are many community volunteers, including our family who serve the public on BLM managed properties. They assist visitors (TAXPAYERS)with nature and history. The BLM is a steward of public lands. I strenuously object to the privatization of public land.</p>
Linda	Stitt	Hereford	AZ	<p>As a BLM retiree, I have many concerns about the proposed reorganization: the loss of expertise when senior scientists and planners in the Washington Office decide to leave rather than move; the negative effects of splitting up the experienced teams that guide the development of national policies and procedures in compliance with the laws; the resulting loss of professionalism; and the lack of a need to do this with 97% of employees already in western states and offices. It is a strategy of "divide and conquer" that will cripple the agency and render decisions that are pressured by local political interests, rather than policy-based decisions and public involvement. I believe that the Washington Office employees stationed in the field will be pressured by local managers to assist with local projects, rather than those based on national priorities. This is inevitable given the chronic understaffing of the field offices. In the case of the cultural heritage program, the work of specialists will be consumed by the need to respond to local proposals and political pressures for development and resource use, to the detriment of tasks designed to find and protect archaeological and historical sites, foster their study by universities and museums, enhance public education and heritage tourism, and maintain productive relations with Native American nations. These priorities, based on Section 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act, will be neglected in response to the need to respond to development proposals in compliance with Section 106. On a more personal note, I feel that removing employees from Washington, as well as opportunities for temporary work assignments there, will affect morale by removing the inspiration and motivation that is inherent in our wonderful national capital. All of you can identify with this sentiment. My own brief experiences in Washington instilled a renewed awe and respect for the importance of our work and pride in the BLM's mission in service of our great country. Please don't let us lose this benefit, as intangible as it may be. Thank you.</p>
Connie	Stone	Phoenix	AZ	
Cyndi	Stone	Lake Frederick	VA	<p>BLM personnel located in Washington DC are an integral part of decision making with other federal partners. Moving them to remote locations will dismantle the effectiveness of these partnerships and ensure that the Bureau of Land Management input will no longer be sought or wanted.</p>
George	Stone	Lake Frederick	VA	<p>I served as a national program lead in the BLM's Washington Office. As such, I represented both the BLM and the Department of the Interior on or at many inter-departmental, inter-agency and inter-governmental committees and events. Most were held in the DC Metro Area. Dispersing Headquarters managers, program leads and expert staff to the West while continuing to expect them to conduct Headquarters functions will not work. My prediction is that they will be subsumed into the BLM State Office organization. However, the Headquarters workload will not go away! The remaining 60-some odd BLM employees in DC are highly-dependent on quick and easy access to Headquarters staff. I truly believe Secretary Bernhardt's plans, if implemented, will prove disastrous for the BLM. Moreover, you will lose the access Congress needs!</p>

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Paul	SUMMERS	LAKEWOOD	CO	This plan is a catastrophe for public lands management. It effectively eliminates what has been a carefully managed and coordinated BLM multiple use mission. Cutting off the head of the agency is the most effective way to do this and it's been done with the charade of being more cost effective and more efficient. This is a lie. It must be stopped to ensure that Public Lands continue to be managed in the public interest. With the Washington Office Headquarters staff scattered all over the west, it will be impossible to continue the coordinated land management that the BLM organic Act requires. Read the Act. This is simply a way to damage the BLM in the most effective way possible. It is not efficient, it is not effective and it is not in the best public interest.
Peg Joanne	Tileston Volponi	Anchorage Reno	AK NV	
Curtis	Warrick	Layton	UT	As a resident in the West that has and continues to enjoy unrestricted use of the BLM lands, as do millions of other people, and as a wildlife Biologist working to sustain hunt able populations of game animals on those same lands, I am sickened by the lack of vision and privatization of the only lands that generate funding far in excess of what it requires to fund the managing agency, the BLM EVERY YEAR. Please stop actions that are designed to move Or facilitate Washington Staff from moving out west. Thanks Please, Please Please...
Shawna	Warrick	Layton	UT	Stop trying to dismantle the BLM and cede the management to the States. There is no possible way the states can manage all 245 million acres for the multitude of values that exist in pristine conditions. There is NO way the states can fund, fight, and conduct rehab on the inferno of wildfires each year. The BLM NEEDS TO STAY INTACT. As board president of Friends of the San Pedro River, I serve as the point of contact with the BLM Tucson Field Office on matters relating to our interpretive mission and to advocate for good stewardship and river protection here in southeast Arizona. I am very concerned that good stewardship on BLM-managed federal lands will suffer severely from a lack of visibility of senior BLM staff with other agency and government leaders who remain in DC. Please don't let that happen if you care about stewardship of our public lands.
Robert	Weissler	Sierra Vista	AZ	
Clark	Whitehead	Lewistown	MT	As a former BLM employee (38 years - retired 6/3/2006), I strongly urge you to keep the BLM Headquarters Office in Washington DC. Budgeting and direct face to face contact is key for coordination efforts of BLM's mission. In my opinion, this can be best accomplished by being located in the nation's capitol. Plus why go to all the expense of uprooting an efficient working system. Thank you for allowing me to comment on this very important issue.
Sheldon	Wimmer	Alpine	UT	The BLM needs your attention not distraction by an ignorant Secretary of the Interior. Please study the history of BLM and the reasons the organization is in it's present form. The Washington Office has gone through several reductions sending some responsibilities to the field. Those changes to the Washington office have never been productive, and those responsibilities have always been returned to Washington.
Terry	Woosley	Reno	NV	Please do not go through the expense and disruption of an exercise that will probably be altered in the future.
Jenna	Yeager	GOLDEN	CO	I had the privilege of working for the BLM for more than 30 years, at the District Office, State Office, and Washington Office levels. I can personally attest to the critical need for the WO staff to be located in Washington DC. Not a faceless, nameless bureaucrat, my role was to look over my Deputy Directorate's IT spending and provide detailed staff work for senior program leaders and executives, who made frequent trips to The Hill and OMB. I agree with many other voices that the proposed relocation to Grand Junction and other states will eviscerate the agency and destroy what so many of us dedicated civil servants have spent decades to develop – public lands for the benefit of ALL Americans.

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Elaine	Zielinski	Scottsdale	AZ	<p>As a former BLM State Director of Arizona and Oregon/Washington and a public servant with over 30 years of experience, I strongly oppose this reorganization. It is a poorly disguised plan to dismantle the Bureau of Land Management. The proposal is being implemented today, despite serious concerns raised by many entities. Moving the headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado is ludicrous. The BLM Director and the highest level career staffers will be removed from Washington, D.C. where key decisions on policy and budget are made. Where Congress, the Office of Management Budget, other federal agencies, NGOs and various interest groups have their headquarters, thus stifling coordination and relationship building with those entities. The program leads for the BLM Washington Office will be scattered over several states. The BLM has been set up to fail in its multiple use mission. Decisions will be made without the input of professional career employees and will most certainly be made by the Department of Interior political employees. This situation is contrary to the Secretary's position that decisions will be made "closer to the ground". Examples of decisions made by the Department that are contrary to what was developed in working with local communities are numerous, including examples in Colorado, Montana and Oregon, to name a few. Please stop the implementation of this reorganization. It is not in the best interest of the public lands. These lands are posterity's property and must be managed as such.</p>