



Public Lands Foundation Urges Congressional Subcommittee to Fund Efforts Critical to BLM Public Lands

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WASHINGTON, D.C. – Members of the non-profit Public Lands Foundation today urged Congress to fund programs and efforts vital to the health and productivity of the country’s most diverse public landscapes managed by the Bureau of Land Management.

“Communities throughout the nation are supported and strengthened through the BLM’s mission to manage public lands for all Americans and for multiple environmental and commercial uses,” PLF Vice President Don Simpson told members of the House Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies. “In fact, BLM is one of the few federal agencies that raises much more money than it spends, which represents an excellent return for all taxpayers. Supporting the BLM is a smart investment for the nation.”

Simpson noted that while the administration has yet to release the FY21 BLM budget, he outlined key priorities for funding that would ensure healthy and resilient landscapes that promote conservation and economic objectives, as well as assuring the well-being of Western rural communities.

These priorities are:

Balanced Energy Development: To provide funding for renewable and traditional energy development with a focus on expanding solar and wind development in designated leasing areas.

Sage Grouse Habitat: To increase funding for the BLM so that BLM can coordinate activities on public lands with all private, state, and local partners to restore habitat damaged by wildfire, weed invasions and development. Sage Grouse habitat is a key indicator of the overall health of the lands. Without such healthy habitat, so goes the ability for public lands to support clean water, wildlife species, livestock grazing, and other commercial uses.

Wild Horses and Burros: To fund a multi-year strategy for humane removal and fertility control to reduce wild horse and burro herd levels; now almost four times target management levels. The number of wild horses that roam public lands now is four times more than the land can sustain.

Recreation: To increase funding to allow BLM to maintain and add outdoor recreation opportunities for growing Western populations.

Wildlife Migration Corridors: To promote cooperative work with state and private groups to identify wildlife migration corridors for species such as mule deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope.

Headquarters Functional Elimination: To eliminate funding for the directed reassignments of BLM headquarters employees to 11 different Western states.

The Public Lands Foundation is a national, non-profit organization of more than 600 members comprised principally of retired BLM employees. Collectively, the PLF has unparalleled land management experience and seeks to provide objective, non-partisan expertise on land management.

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