



Public Lands Foundation Statement on Returning the BLM HQ to Washington, D.C.

The PLF supports returning the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leadership to Washington, D.C. We have long held that the BLM needs a strong leadership presence in Washington, D.C. where they can support the Administration's priorities by collaborating with sister agencies, the Secretary's office, and the Congress. In addition, a strong cadre of senior BLM staff will be needed to support the leadership. The recent move of the BLM's Headquarters Office to Grand Junction, Colorado and dispersal of many other positions to numerous western cities has resulted in many senior staff resigning or transferring to other Federal agencies, creating a shortage of expertise that has not yet been replaced. If the Headquarters is returned to Washington, some of these former employees may be convinced to return to the BLM to support the Directors staff, while other positions could be filled by moving employees from the field to the Washington Headquarters Office. Furthermore, any of these positions still vacant, whether in Grand Junction or in other western locations, should be closely reviewed for potential return to Washington, D.C. before they are encumbered.

The recent move to Colorado created a lot of upheaval, uncertainty, and disruption in the BLM organization and we would encourage the Department's new political leadership to work with the BLM career leaders to minimize further disruption with any reorganizational moves.

November 17, 2020