



For America's Heritage

Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, Virginia 22207

February 12, 2025

The Honorable Doug Burgum
Secretary of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Secretary Burgum:

I currently serve as the President of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF). On behalf of our organization, I want to welcome you to the Department of the Interior. The Department is a significant entity in the lives of the American public. It contains many bureaus with diverse missions which work together to support the livelihoods and well-being of the country's citizens.

The Public Lands Foundation is a nonprofit that started almost forty years ago. Its membership is comprised primarily of hundreds of retired employees of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Although retired, our members still care deeply about keeping public lands in public hands and ensuring there are highly skilled and dedicated Federal employees to manage those lands. In addition, we fully support the multiple use and sustained yield mandate given to the BLM in its organic act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976.

Since the BLM manages one in ten acres in the United States, its mission requires trained professionals working in multiple disciplines. Their jobs have a profound effect on ranchers, recreationists, miners, oil and gas developers, wildlife and wildlife agencies, cultural and historical resources, homeowners, states, counties, and many more sectors of society. This knowledgeable staff will be critical in meeting the goal of unleashing American Energy and other Administration priorities. Additionally, BLM employee-managed programs represent an excellent value to the taxpayer as the revenues they return to the U.S. Treasury each year far outpace the cost of program management.

The BLM organization has been subjected to structural changes and has experienced significant personnel reductions over the last several years. The PLF strongly believes that additional efforts to reorganize BLM and reduce the number of employees will adversely affect all those who use and rely on public lands.

The PLF would be happy to brief you and the new BLM leadership as they arrive. We are eager to assist you and BLM and look forward to the successes that will be achieved during your tenure. If you have questions, you can reach me by email at mrugwell@publicland.org or by phone at (702) 202-7428.

Sincerely,

Mary Jo Rugwell
President