



## Public Lands Foundation

P.O. Box 7226 Arlington, Virginia 22207

For America's Heritage

May 30, 2026

The Honorable Steve Pearce  
Director  
Bureau of Land Management  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Director Pearce:

I currently serve as the President of the Public Lands Foundation (PLF). On behalf of our organization, I want to welcome you to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). As you already know, the Bureau is a significant entity in the lives of the American public. It has a diverse and crucial mission in managing BLM-administered public lands to support the livelihoods and well-being of the country's citizens.

The Public Lands Foundation is a nonprofit that was 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 which was given to the BLM in its organic act, the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976.

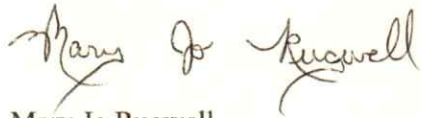
Since the BLM manages one in ten acres in the United States, this mission requires trained professionals working in multiple disciplines. Their jobs have a profound effect on ranchers, recreationists, miners, oil and gas developers, wildlife and wildlife agencies, cultural and historical resources, homeowners, states, counties, and many more sectors of society. BLM employees annually return much more money to the U.S. Treasury than it costs to cover their salaries. This staff, with its knowledge of the laws and resources, will be critical to your success in meeting the Administration's priorities, particularly the goal of unleashing American Energy.

The BLM organization has been subjected to structural changes and experienced significant personnel reductions over the last few 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 has the capacity to be of real value to you in assuming your new duties at the BLM. We would like very much to have an introductory meeting with you and then host a virtual meeting a couple of times a year to hear about what is happening and offer our assistance and perspective. In addition, we want to invite you to attend our annual meeting in the fall. This year's meeting will be held in Phoenix, Arizona, on September 15-16. The theme for this year's meeting is "Urban Interface and Public Land Management." We would be happy to provide your staff with the details if you are able to work this into your schedule.

We are eager to assist you and the BLM and look forward to the successes that will be achieved during your tenure. If you have questions, I can be reached via email at [mrugwell@publicland.org](mailto:mrugwell@publicland.org) or by telephone at (702) 202-7428.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Jo Rugwell". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Mary Jo Rugwell  
President