

**Mike Crapo**  
**United States Senator**  
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**James E. Risch**  
**United States Senator**  
483 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510



**Mike Simpson**  
**Member of Congress**  
2084 Rayburn House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Russ Fulcher**  
**Member of Congress**  
1514 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning  
Director, Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C., 20240

Dear Director Stone-Manning,

As the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) considers a major shift in the longstanding and well understood multiple-use approach of federal land management, we are discouraged to see Idaho was not listed as one of the sites for in-person public meetings regarding the proposed Public Lands Rule. Further, we were disappointed to see not only was Idaho not included, but the in-person locations are geographically concentrated away from many of BLM's constituents. For example, the closest in-person meeting for Idaho residents is Reno, Nevada, a trip that can take anywhere between five and fourteen hours by car.

Additionally, while significant strides have been made in rural broadband development, some Idaho residents still lack reliable coverage needed to communicate and participate in a virtual meeting. This includes those in sparsely populated areas. With the COVID emergency ending, it is important for the BLM to meet with shareholders in person and face the public.

Idaho has twelve million acres of BLM managed land, and this rule will significantly impact how Idahoans interact with those public lands. By categorizing conservation as a use, rather than an outcome, this rule will effectively ensure the uses Idahoans have traditionally enjoyed on our public lands will be placed in competition with conservation, rather than in harmony. This action is in direct conflict with the congressional mandate to manage public lands for multiple use.

Given the impact this rule will have on all Idahoans, we urge you to hold in-person meetings in Idaho to gather feedback from the stakeholders that this proposed rule will impact. The BLM is proposing extensive management practice changes with the capacity to severely disrupt multiple uses from grazing to recreation as well as other considerations such as Tribal access. Therefore, it is imperative that the BLM hears directly from Idahoans, in the state of Idaho, in-person. We would also encourage you to personally attend these in-person meetings as head of the BLM. That would offer both direct feedback and good interaction with your Idaho State Director and her team. We look forward to a modification of the schedule for in-person meetings soon.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Mike Crapo in blue ink.

Mike Crapo  
U.S. Senate

Handwritten signature of Mike Simpson in blue ink.

Mike Simpson  
House of Representatives

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in blue ink.

James E. Risch  
U.S. Senate

Handwritten signature of Russ Fulcher in blue ink.

Russ Fulcher  
House of Representatives