Act Now for Public Lands

**Bureau of Land Management Factsheet**

## Overview:

- The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) oversees nearly 40% of all US public lands (245 million acres).
- The BLM mission is to manage public lands for "multiple use and sustained yield," a mandate that includes conservation.
- Westerners overwhelmingly want strong conservation policies: 80% support achieving the national goal of conserving 30% of lands and inland waters by the year 2030. Conservation is supported by overwhelming majorities of voters in every party.
- BLM lands include habitat for 245 plant and wildlife species listed under the Endangered Species Act and 800 rare plant species, 450 of which are found only on BLM lands.

## Current Management:

- ***The vast majority*** of BLM lands are open to hard rock mining under a 150 year old mining law.
    - Almost 10% of BLM lands have active mining claims.

- The overwhelming majority of all BLM managed lands are open to leasing for oil and gas.
    - A 2016 analysis found ***90 percent*** of all BLM managed lands are open to leasing for oil and gas.
    - Oil and gas leases ***currently lock up nearly 24 million acres*** of public land.
    - ***Over 47 percent*** of all oil and gas leases are unused.
    - The Biden Administration approved more permits to drill on public lands in its first two years than the Trump administration did in their first two.

- ***Over 60 percent*** of BLM lands are leased for livestock grazing.
    - BLM's own analysis shows a large proportion of public lands with grazing leases fail land health standards.
    - A majority of authorized grazing permitting is done without any environmental analysis.

- ***Less than 14%*** of BLM public lands have durable protections that prevent development by extractive industry.

## The BLM Public Lands Rule:

- Puts conservation on an equal footing with other uses.
- It gives the agency guidance and direction to:
    - manage for resilient ecosystems that will endure a changing climate;
    - protect intact landscapes that provide critical wildlife habitat, clean air and water along with other benefits to communities;
    - and apply land health standards, based in part on Indigenous Knowledge.
- The rule continues to allow grazing, drilling and other extraction.

## Conclusion/Talking Points:

- BLM's management of public lands has been wildly unbalanced.
- Conservation should be on equal ground with drilling, grazing and other extractive uses.

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- It’s time to turn the tide.