



United States Department of the Interior  
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
<http://www.blm.gov>



May 5, 2022

In Reply Refer To:  
8300 (HQ400)

The Honorable Joe Manchin  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Manchin:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the attached priority access list in conformance with Section 4105 of Public Law 116-9, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act (Act).

The Act instructs the BLM and other Federal land management agencies to identify opportunities for public recreation, hunting, and fishing and to develop a priority list of Federal lands of at least 640 contiguous acres with significantly restricted or no public access. The Act also directed the agencies to identify options for providing access to these parcels and report back to Congress.

In January 2020, the BLM sought public comments for 30-days, asking the public to nominate public land parcels meeting the Act's criteria. The BLM received 6,662 nominations from 37 stakeholder groups, 5 state fish and wildlife agencies, 2 universities, 1 local government and 188 individuals. From the total nominations, 712 distinct parcels of BLM-managed public lands are included on the priority access list and 2,841 public nominations continue to be evaluated by the BLM. The BLM also eliminated 3,109 nominations from consideration because they were duplicate submissions, did not contain sufficient information, or did not meet the Act's criteria.

The 712 parcels identified on the priority access list represent approximately 3.5 million acres in 13 western states with significantly restricted or no legal access. This attached list will be updated biennially for 10 years and can be found online at <https://www.blm.gov/about/laws-and-regulations/dingell-act/biennial-summary>. Detailed parcel information, including options to provide access are provided and are organized by BLM State Offices. The BLM developed an interactive web-map for stakeholders to see where each of the 712 priority list parcels are located: <https://www.arcgis.com/home/item.html?id=5ae3f84cd97c49559b5782dc73868ec1>. The BLM expects to use the priority access list to inform planning and future land use decisions and to prioritize land and easement acquisition opportunities in the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

Similar letters have been sent to the chairs and ranking members of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees and the relevant authorizing committees. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 208-3801, or your staff can contact Patrick Wilkinson, BLM Legislative Affairs Division Chief at 202-631-6346.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Stone-Manning", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Tracy Stone-Manning  
Director

Attachment

cc:

Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Honorable John Barrasso  
Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Honorable David Joyce  
Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Honorable Lisa Murkowski