



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

National Headquarters
Washington, DC 20240
<https://www.blm.gov>



In Reply Refer To:
8300 (HQ400)

JUL 30 2026

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Westerman:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the enclosed 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.

From August 1 to August 30, 2024, the BLM sought public comments asking the public to nominate public land parcels meeting the Act's criteria. The BLM received a total of 114 nominations: 42 from the BLM and 72 from outside the BLM. External nominations were received from a variety of sources including individuals (35), recreation user groups (9), conservation organizations (8), other Federal Government agencies (7), and state, county, or local governments (13). From the total 7,019 total nominations received in 2020, 2022, and 2024, 1,016 distinct parcels of BLM-managed public lands are included on the priority access list and 90 nominations continue to be evaluated by the BLM. The BLM successfully removed 7 nominations on prior lists in Arizona (3), Idaho (2) and Oregon (2) as the restricted or no public access has now been resolved. The BLM also eliminated 5,906 nominations from consideration because they were duplicate submissions, did not contain sufficient information, or did not meet the Act's criteria.

The 1,016 parcels identified on the priority access list represent approximately 5.79 million acres in 13 western states with significantly restricted or no legal access. This enclosed 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>. The BLM will continue a biennial public nomination process which includes an interactive web-map for interested parties to submit nominations. Since nominations for the priority list may occur until 2030, the BLM has provided a dedicated email, BLM_HQ_Dingell_Act@blm.gov, giving the public the opportunity to easily contact that agency for questions or comments outside of the nomination period. Detailed parcel

information, including options to provide access, are provided and are organized by BLM State Offices. 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 Public Lands Access program which includes the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program.

Similar letters have been sent to Ranking Member Huffman of the House Committee on Natural Resources; Chairman Lee and Ranking Member Heinrich of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; and the chairs and ranking members of the Interior Appropriations Subcommittees.

Sincerely,



Bill Groffy
Principal Deputy Director

Enclosure

cc:

Honorable Jared Huffman
Honorable Tom Cole
Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Honorable Mike Lee
Honorable Martin Heinrich
Honorable Susan Collins
Honorable Patty Murray