

January 26, 2022

The Honorable Debra Haaland  
Secretary of the Interior  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C St. NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Haaland:

As outdoor business owners and operators from across the West (and Alaska), protected public lands play a critical role for our businesses and way-of-life. We applaud the Administration's recent restoration of the Bears Ears, Grand-Staircase Escalante, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts national monuments. We hope the administration will continue to prioritize national monuments across our nation's public lands and waters.

We also want to commend the Interior Department for the America the Beautiful report and its focus on ways federal land management agencies can help meet President Biden's goal of conserving 30% of our nation's lands and waters by 2030. This goal is essential to providing opportunities for outdoor recreation, equitable access to nature and ultimately safeguarding the climate. Outdoor recreation is a significant economic driver in the United States, each year generating [\\$689 billion in consumer spending and supporting 4.3 million jobs](#). Our industry is greatly dependent on the many benefits conferred from our nation's open spaces and protected public lands.

The lands overseen by the Bureau of Land Management represent one of the greatest opportunities to advance conservation through the President's America the Beautiful initiative. The Bureau manages approximately 250 million acres of America's public lands, many of which remain in their natural state and provide outstanding opportunities for outdoor recreation, including camping, hiking, paddling, hunting and fishing, and picnicking.

Unfortunately, many of these areas and the activities that they support are at risk of being unnecessarily degraded or lost. We urge you to use all the conservation tools at your disposal to ensure that these important public lands continue to offer the unique recreational opportunities that bring millions of Americans to the great outdoors. When used wisely, these conservation mechanisms will support outdoor recreation, local economies and tourism industries as well as provide certainty for rural and gateway communities to make long-term investments.

Some conservation designations we recommend utilizing include,

- Backcountry Conservation Areas (BCAs)- these areas can be managed to conserve intact wildlife habitat and support high quality wildlife-dependent recreation.
- Recreation Management Areas (SRMAs and ERMAs)- these areas can be managed to support primitive and dispersed human powered recreation opportunities along popular river corridors, and in mountains, canyons, and prairies.
- Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)- these areas offer a respite from the sight and sound of modern society, a refuge for wildlife and opportunities for families to picnic, horseback ride, climb, hunt, paddle and hike.
- Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)- these areas can preserve and protect sacred sites, cultural and historic resources as well as conserve wildlife and wildlife habitat and provide for the outdoor recreation needs of an expanding population and promote the preservation of public access and enjoyment of the open air, outdoor areas and historic resources of the nation.

We are grateful for your leadership and commitment to see the President's America the Beautiful initiative succeed and strongly encourage the Department and Bureau of Land Management to do all that it can to better conserve and protect our nation's important public lands and waters.

Sincerely,



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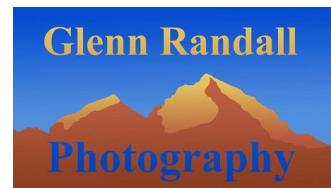


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