



One reason sportsmen continue to experience high-quality hunting and fishing on public lands is because of intact and undeveloped backcountry areas administered by the Bureau of Land Management. Yet for too long, the debate over backcountry lands management has been limited to a choice between two opposites: high-intensity development or complete preservation. A widely supported middle-ground management approach that conserves appropriate BLM-administered intact lands and habitats does not exist. Consequently, the current system of land management planning leaves valuable fish and wildlife habitat vulnerable to poorly planned development and causes widespread public frustration.

Sportsmen want to see a balanced conservation approach that safeguards intact fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities while allowing reasonable management activities that benefit our traditions and protect the health and safety of the American public.

The undersigned sporting organizations request that the U.S. Department of the Interior establish a multiple-use designation that conserves backcountry BLM lands with high-quality fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities. Areas should be analyzed and designated, where appropriate, through local BLM planning efforts that integrate input from affected stakeholders, including hunters and anglers.

**The BLM should develop a conservation designation that benefits hunters, anglers and many other users of public lands by**

- **Conserving specific, intact and undeveloped BLM lands with high-quality fish and wildlife habitat and/or significant recreation opportunities, such as hunting and fishing.**
- **Keeping areas open to hunting, fishing, trapping and other outdoor recreation and ensuring that state fish and wildlife agencies retain management authority over fish and wildlife populations.**
- **Maintaining roads, ways and motorized trails that are important for sportsmen to access BLM backcountry areas for hunting and fishing.**
- **Limiting the construction of new roads, ways and motorized trails within designated areas and excluding cross-country vehicle travel to conserve unfragmented habitat and hunting and fishing opportunities.**
- **Allowing vegetation management projects that improve fish and wildlife habitat, control noxious weeds, restore forests and rangelands and reduce the risk of wildfire. This could include projects that restore sage brush and quaking aspen or control cheat grass or creosote bush.**
- **Allowing prescribed burning to mimic natural processes, herbicide application to maintain and restore native vegetation and the installation of water developments that benefit wildlife.**
- **Allowing chainsaws, helicopters and equipment for land management projects, while maintaining the character of backcountry areas.**
- **Conserving fish and wildlife habitat by requiring that utility corridors, pipelines and energy development be located outside the boundaries of designated areas.**
- **Honoring valid existing rights, maintaining public lands grazing allotments and protecting the ability of ranchers to maintain agriculture improvements.**

**Signed:**

**National & Regional Organizations**

- American Fly Fishing Trade Association
- Association of Northwest Steelheaders
- Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Berkley Conservation Institute
- International Federation of Fly Fishers
- Invasive Species Action Network
- Izaak Walton League of America
- National Wildlife Federation
- North American Grouse Partnership
- Orion The Hunter's Institute
- Pheasants Forever
- Professional Bowhunters Society
- Quail Forever
- Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
- Trout Unlimited
- Western Native Trout Initiative
- Wildlife Forever

**Alaska**

- Sportsman's Alliance for Alaska

**Arizona**

- Anglers United
- Arizona Antelope Foundation
- Arizona Bass Federation Nation
- Arizona Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation
- Arizona Council, Trout Unlimited
- Arizona Deer Association
- Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society
- Arizona Elk Society
- Arizona Houndsmen's Association
- Arizona Sportsmen for Wildlife Conservation
- Arizona Wildlife Federation
- Coconino Sportsmen

- Northern Arizona Flycasters
- Outdoor Experience 4 All
- Southeastern Arizona Sportsmen Club
- The BASS Federation
- 1-2-3-Go

### **Colorado**

- Colorado Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Colorado Council, Trout Unlimited
- Colorado Wildlife Federation
- Rocky Mountain Bighorn Society

### **Idaho**

- Ada County Fish and Game League
- Backcountry Horsemen of Idaho
- Blackfoot River Bowmen
- Ee Da How Long Rifles
- Idaho Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Idaho Chapter, Safari Club International
- Idaho Council, Trout Unlimited
- Idaho Chukar Foundation
- Idaho Falconers Association
- Idaho Traditional Bowhunters
- Idaho Wildlife Federation
- Nampa Bow Chiefs
- Parma Rod and Gun Club
- Poachers Club (anti-poachers)
- Pocatello Field Archers
- Woolly Buggers

### **Montana**

- Helena Hunters and Anglers
- Hellgate Hunters and Anglers
- Laurel Rod & Gun Club
- Montana Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Montana Wildlife Federation

- Montana Sportsmen Alliance

### **Nevada**

- Coalition for Nevada's Wildlife
- Fraternity of the Desert Bighorn
- Nevada Bighorns Unlimited
- Nevada Muleys
- Nevada Sportsmen Unlimited
- Wildlife Habitat Improvement of Nevada

### **New Mexico**

- Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen
- Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen
- Gila-Rio Grande Chapter, Trout Unlimited
- Las Cruces Chapter, National Wild Turkey Federation
- Mesilla Valley Flyfishers
- Mesilla Valley Longbeards
- New Mexico Council, Trout Unlimited
- New Mexico Shooting Sports Association
- New Mexico Quail, Inc.
- New Mexico Wildlife Federation
- Organ Mountain Bowmen
- Picacho Gun Club
- Wild Turkey Sportsmen Association
- Student Chapter of The Wildlife Society, New Mexico State University

### **Oregon**

- Oregon Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Oregon Council, Trout Unlimited
- Oregon Division, Izaak Walton League
- Oregon Hunters Association
- Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation
- Traditional Archers of Oregon

### **Utah**

- Salt Lake County Fish and Game Association

- Utah Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Utah Bowman's Association
- Utah Council, Trout Unlimited
- Utah Chukar and Wildlife Foundation
- Utah Foundation for North American Wild Sheep

### **Wyoming**

- Bowhunters of Wyoming
- Muley Fanatic Foundation of Wyoming
- Travelle Chapter, Izaak Walton League
- Wyoming Council, Trout Unlimited