



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

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



May 17, 2024

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) is pleased to share the enclosed priority access list, which we prepared 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 directs the agencies to identify options for providing access to these parcels and report back to Congress.

In May 2022, the BLM sought public comments for 38 days, asking the public to nominate public land parcels meeting the Act's criteria. The BLM received 502 nominations: 68 from the BLM and 434 from outside the BLM, including recreation user groups (25), conservation organizations (22), other Federal agencies (2), State, county, and local governments (47), Native American Tribes (1), and individuals (337). From the 502 nominations received in 2022, 103 distinct parcels of BLM-managed public lands were added to the priority access list; 255 continue to be evaluated by the BLM; and 329 were eliminated from consideration because they were duplicate submissions, did not contain sufficient information, or did not meet the Act's criteria. Additionally, six parcels that were nominated in 2020 and were previously "under agency consideration" were moved to the 2022 priority access list. From the total combined nominations received in 2020<sup>1</sup> and 2022, 821 distinct parcels of BLM-managed public lands are included on the priority access list.

The 821 parcels identified on the priority access list represent approximately 4.2 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->

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<sup>1</sup> In 2020, the BLM received 6,662 nominations, of which 712 parcels were included on the BLM's 2020 priority access list, and 2,841 continued to be evaluated. In 2022, the BLM moved six parcels that were nominated in 2020 and were previously "under agency consideration" to the 2022 priority access list.

[regulations/dingell-act/biennial-summary](https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e9942573217e443cb79b7fcf39df5602). Detailed parcel information, including options to provide access, are provided and organized by BLM state offices. The BLM developed an interactive web map for interested parties to see where each of the 821 priority list parcels are located: <https://blm-egis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=e9942573217e443cb79b7fcf39df5602>.

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 through the Land and Water Conservation Fund 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 telephone me at (202) 208-3801, or your staff may telephone 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 underline that extends to the right.

Tracy Stone-Manning  
Director

Attachment

cc:

Honorable John Barrasso  
Honorable Bruce Westerman  
Honorable Raúl Grijalva  
Honorable Mike Simpson  
Honorable Chellie Pingree  
Honorable Jeff Merkley  
Honorable Lisa Murkowski