

BLM PUBLIC LANDS RULE Fact Sheet



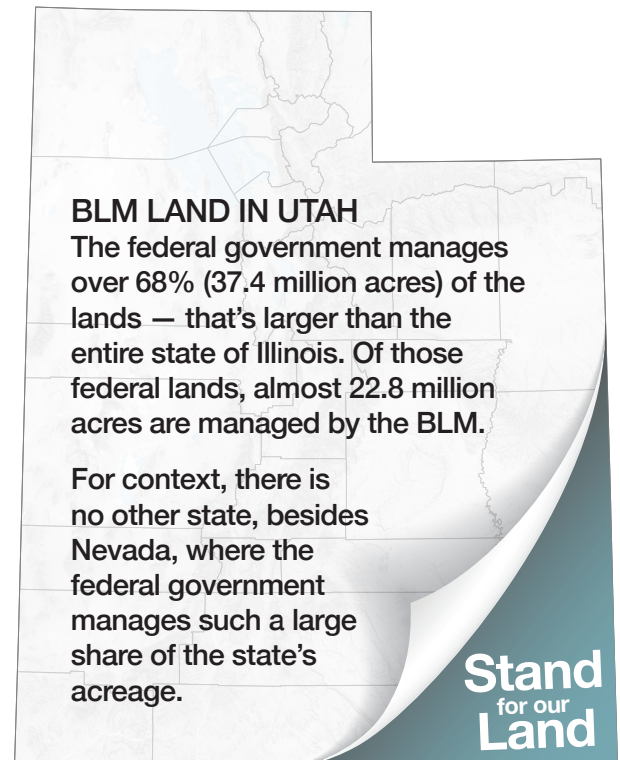
What is the BLM Public Lands Rule?

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Public Lands Rule is a new set of rules that will inform and shape land management decisions. On April 18, 2024, the BLM released the final version of the rule.

The new rule will fundamentally alter the future management of BLM lands to the detriment of wildfire mitigation, watershed restoration, invasive species removal, recreation, livestock grazing, mineral extraction, renewable energy production, and other common uses on BLM lands.

The State of Utah Stands for Our Land

The State of Utah believes in providing the maximum access to our public lands for all users of all ages and abilities, and managing public land for multiple-use and sustained yield. The State adamantly opposes the BLM Public Lands Rule and urges the BLM to focus efforts on working closely with states, local governments, and stakeholders on rulemaking that will truly enhance active management and conservation of BLM lands within the framework of multiple-use and sustained yield.



Why is this an issue?

In 1976, Congress declared in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act ("FLPMA") that the BLM must manage its lands "on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield." This principle requires that lands are carefully managed to balance uses like recreation, ranching, cutting trees, preserving wildlife, and protecting ecosystems. The State's goal is to manage these resources in a way that allows for their renewal and continued availability for future generations to ensure long-term sustainability and maintain access to all public lands.

This is a final rule, so there is NO opportunity for the public to comment. However, you can reach out to your representatives in the U.S. Congress to take action.

What does this mean to me?

1. This rule redefines "conservation" and would prioritize conservation over other Congressionally approved uses established in FLPMA.
2. The rule paves the way for the BLM to adopt a museum type management approach, "just look, don't touch," contrary to the BLM's legal obligation to promote multiple-use and sustained yield.
3. The rule allows for restoration and mitigation leases, a land use authorization that the BLM can utilize to limit approved uses and activities that legally occur on public lands.
4. As an executive rule, the Public Lands Rule circumvents (or violates) existing law and established processes set forth under FLPMA.

The State of Utah believes in protecting access to our public lands for all users of all ages and abilities, and managing public land for multiple-use and sustained yield.



Restoration and mitigation leases:

A restoration and mitigation lease is a way to manage public lands by establishing the type of use(s) permitted on a specific landscape. Once a restoration and mitigation lease is issued, no other activities would be allowed on the leased land that were inconsistent with the terms of the restoration and mitigation lease. This could limit the scope of the successful landscape restoration and mitigation work currently being done.



The State of Utah's collaborative land management efforts, including the Watershed Restoration Initiative, may be hindered by the Public Lands Rule's narrow conservation definition and restrictive leases.



Areas of Critical Environmental Concern:

The BLM Public Lands Rule broadens the application of Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs), allowing the BLM to identify and manage potential ACECs (without following public process) until they are officially designated in a BLM Resource Management Plan. This could increase the coverage and management of environmentally significant areas across the state, before an environmental study has been conducted. The State is supportive of ACECs, but they should only be considered during a public process, based on site-specific needs, based on best science, small in size, and enhanced through active management.

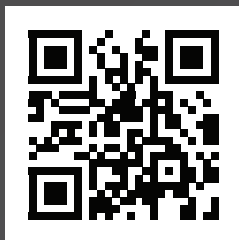


Conservation is more than a closure: To the State of Utah, conservation means active land management — an essential element of the regular activities and proper stewardship that occur on BLM administered lands every day. An effective plan balances both active and passive strategies, benefiting the environment and its users. **Passive land management** takes a hands-off, museum management or “just look, don’t touch” approach where more active uses could be excluded. **Active land management** involves interventions and ongoing human effort to manage ecosystems through prescribed burns for fire mitigation, revegetation after a wildfire, and landscape restoration by removing invasive and encroaching plant species.



Intact landscapes definition ignores generations of good stewardship:

Intact landscapes are areas that are seen as healthy or “in good shape.” This definition ignores generations of good stewardship by the State of Utah, other stakeholders, and its citizens that have rendered those landscapes intact through active land management. Much of the BLM land in Utah could be considered for closures and/or access limitations despite the wise stewardship exercised by a broad coalition of users and stakeholders.



Get Informed

- 📍 The State of Utah believes in providing the most access to public lands, for all users of all ages and abilities. If you, like the State of Utah, oppose this rule, it’s important to reach out to your state senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress. They have the ability to take action and repeal this rule.
- 📍 More information available at publiclands.utah.gov/plr