

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 4, 2024

The Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Director Stone-Manning:

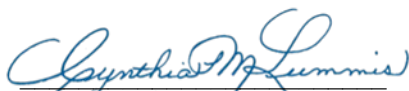
As the Chairs of the Senate and Congressional Western Caucus, we write to express concern with the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Greater Sage-Grouse Proposed Resource Management Plan Amendment (RMPA) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), published on November 15, 2024. The RMPA will impact 77 different resource management plans across 69 million acres in ten Western states. Even though it is common practice for agencies to expedite regulations during the lame duck period, we call on you to immediately cease any work on the RMPA, including signing Records of Decision (RODs).

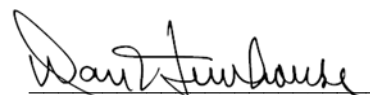
The proposed RMPA is a top-down, one-size-fits-all approach to an issue that spans several states and regions. Impacted stakeholders, including federal land grazing permittees, energy producers and Western Governors, expressed strong opposition to the draft RMPA that was released earlier this year. Your agency's Preferred Alternative, Alternative 5, ignored the input of these impacted stakeholders in favor of extreme environmental activists who actively oppose the multiple use of our public lands. Further, if finalized, the RMPA would effectively remove the power of Governors in western states to manage the lands in their states as they see fit.

As leaders in Congress on Western issues, we believe that the greatest threat to sagebrush habitat is your agency's mismanagement and encroachment on the rights of the states. Whether its rampant wild horse and burros destroying sagebrush habitat, out of control wildfires caused by poor rangeland management, or a concerted effort to plaster the West with solar panels, the BLM has failed its purpose to manage public lands on the basis of multiple use and sustained yield.

We call on you to not sign the RODs for the RMPA, which will ultimately be overturned by the incoming Trump Administration or by a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act. Doing so would cause uncertainty for landowners, industry, and states who have adamantly opposed this effort throughout the regulatory process.

Sincerely,


Cynthia Lummis
United States Senator


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress