



Dear Secretary Haaland,

Thank you for your commitment to taking an inclusive approach to resource management and your visionary resolution to conserve 30 percent of our nation's lands and waters for biodiversity and climate resiliency by 2030.

As you know, the Trump administration treated our nation's public lands and waters as a special interest playground for the last four years—prioritizing resource extraction, disregarding wildlife, threatening wild places, and zeroing-out conservation management. In Alaska, Montana, Oregon and elsewhere, the Bureau of Land Management released management plans that jeopardize some of our most treasured landscapes and reject decades of progress in public land management. These plans must be a priority for the new administration to review—and build back better.

In Oregon, the Southeastern Oregon Resource Management Plan Amendment (SEORMP) will become the blueprint for managing and conserving 4.6 million acres of rugged and remote desert lands in the far corner of the state, including beloved places in the Owyhee Canyonlands like Leslie Gulch, Three Forks and Birch Creek. This region supports one of the last major sagebrush strongholds for greater sage-grouse in the country, even as it has become the fastest warming swath of the Sagebrush Sea.

An update to the 2002 SEORMP has been decades in the making. Prompted by litigation, the Bureau agreed in 2010 to update its 1980s wilderness inventory in southeastern Oregon and then consider new alternatives in an amendment to the SEORMP for protecting wilderness values, managing livestock grazing and accommodating motorized use on these public lands. In its new inventory, the Bureau identified more than 1.2 million acres of lands with wilderness character in the planning area.

The agency announced a draft plan for public review in May 2019. Although both the local resource advisory council and the Bureau's district office had favored alternatives that emphasized preservation of wilderness values, the Trump administration overruled them and directed the Bureau to advance a preferred alternative that would protect *not one acre of wilderness quality lands*.

Your leadership will be essential to addressing the climate and biodiversity crises in our country. Fixing these errant management plans ensures public lands planning protects wild places, climate refugia and habitat connectivity, which are key to meeting this administration's conservation goals.

Fortunately, it's not too late to correct course on Bureau planning in southeastern Oregon. The Biden administration should set a new direction for this seminal effort that balances multiple uses with wilderness protection, wildlife conservation and climate resiliency on this vital, irreplaceable landscape.

Sincerely,