

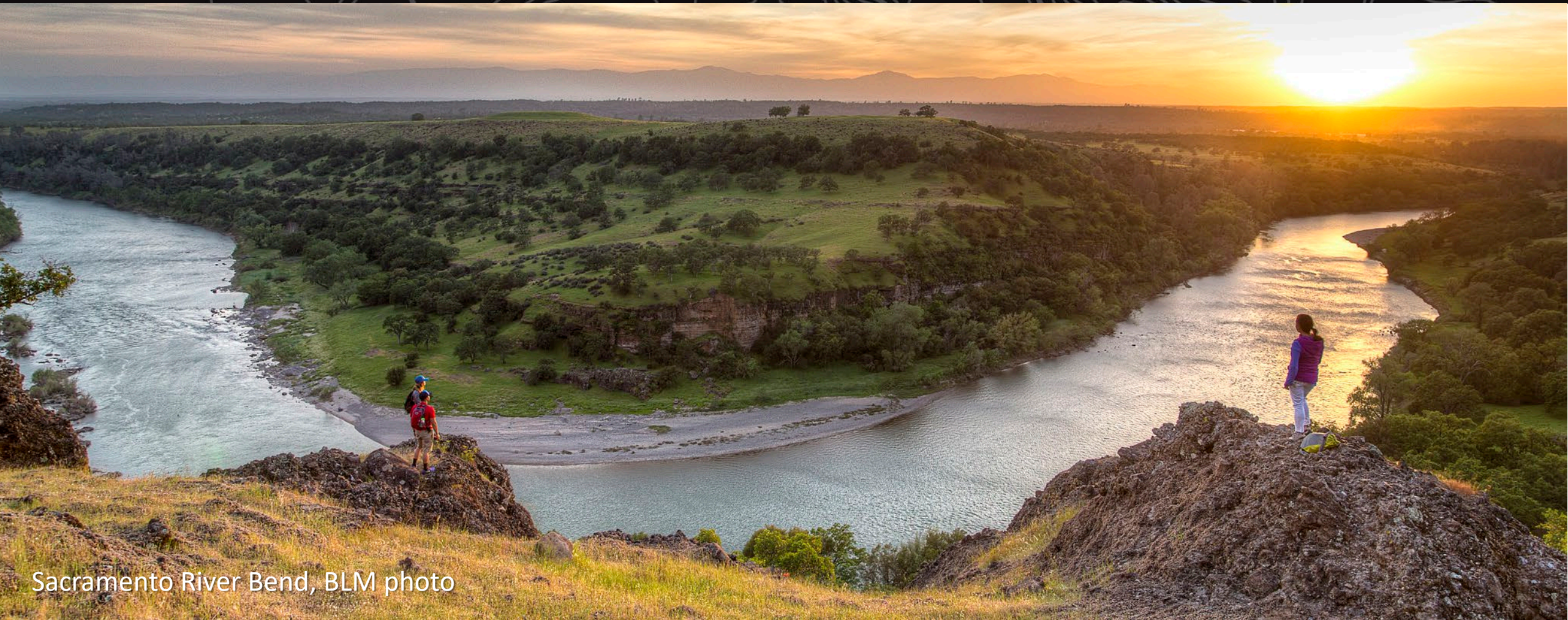


U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Proposed Public Lands Rule

Protecting, Restoring, Making Wise Management Decisions

May 2023



Sacramento River Bend, BLM photo



Agenda

- ✓ Meeting Logistics
- ✓ Welcome and Opening Remarks
- ✓ Informational Presentation
- ✓ Question and Answer





Meeting Logistics

Zoom Etiquette



Presentation portion will be recorded



Microphones are muted



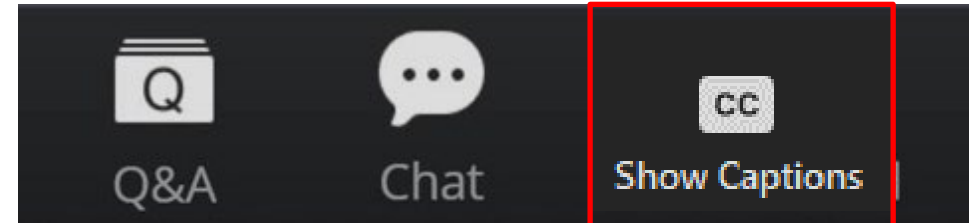
Chat feature is turned off



Submit questions via Q&A during the presentation

How to Turn On Closed Captioning

- Click “CC” to turn on/off captions





Meeting Logistics (Continued)

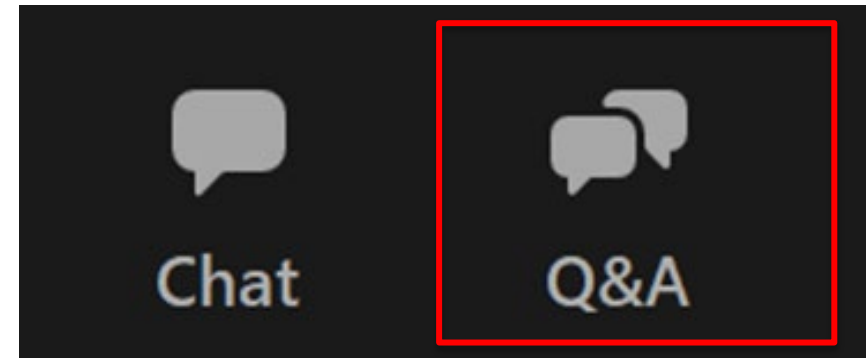
The purpose of this meeting is to provide information about the Proposed Public Lands Rule and answer questions from the public

Comments will NOT be recorded at this meeting, but you can ask questions about the rule

You can ask questions at any point during the presentation.

How to Ask a Question in Zoom

- Submit Questions using the Q&A feature

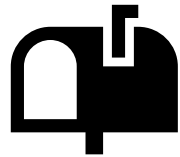




How to Comment on the Proposed Rule



The Proposed Rule is posted to the Federal eRulemaking Portal (www.Regulation.gov) at: <https://www.regulations.gov/document/BLM-2023-0001-0001>.



Submit by mail:

Attention: 1004-AE92, Director (630)
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C St. NW, Room 5646
Washington, DC 20240



**Comment
Deadline is
June 20th!**





Welcome and Opening Remarks



Proposed Public Lands Rule

Refines the framework for managing our nation's public lands to ensure healthy landscapes, abundant wildlife habitat, clean water and balanced decision making.





The Three Main Components of the Proposed Public Lands Rule

Protect the most intact, healthiest landscapes

Protect Intact Landscapes

Manage landscapes for wildlife habitat and clean water.



Restore landscapes back to health

Restoration

Identify priority landscapes, develop restoration plans, and put people to work restoring America's public lands.



Ensure wise decision making, based on science and data

Make management decisions informed by the health of lands and waters using science and data.



Designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC)

Use this existing tool to protect and manage important landscapes for natural, cultural, scientific, and other values.



Mitigation

When permitting development, avoid damaging lands, reduce damage where possible, and direct companies to offset damage when necessary.



Expand land health assessments beyond the grazing program to all BLM-managed public lands.



Use Conservation Leasing

Allow this tool for two uses: restoration and mitigation. Partners like conservation districts and sporting groups could lease public lands to make investments in restoration. Conservation leases could also be used to balance the impacts of development elsewhere.

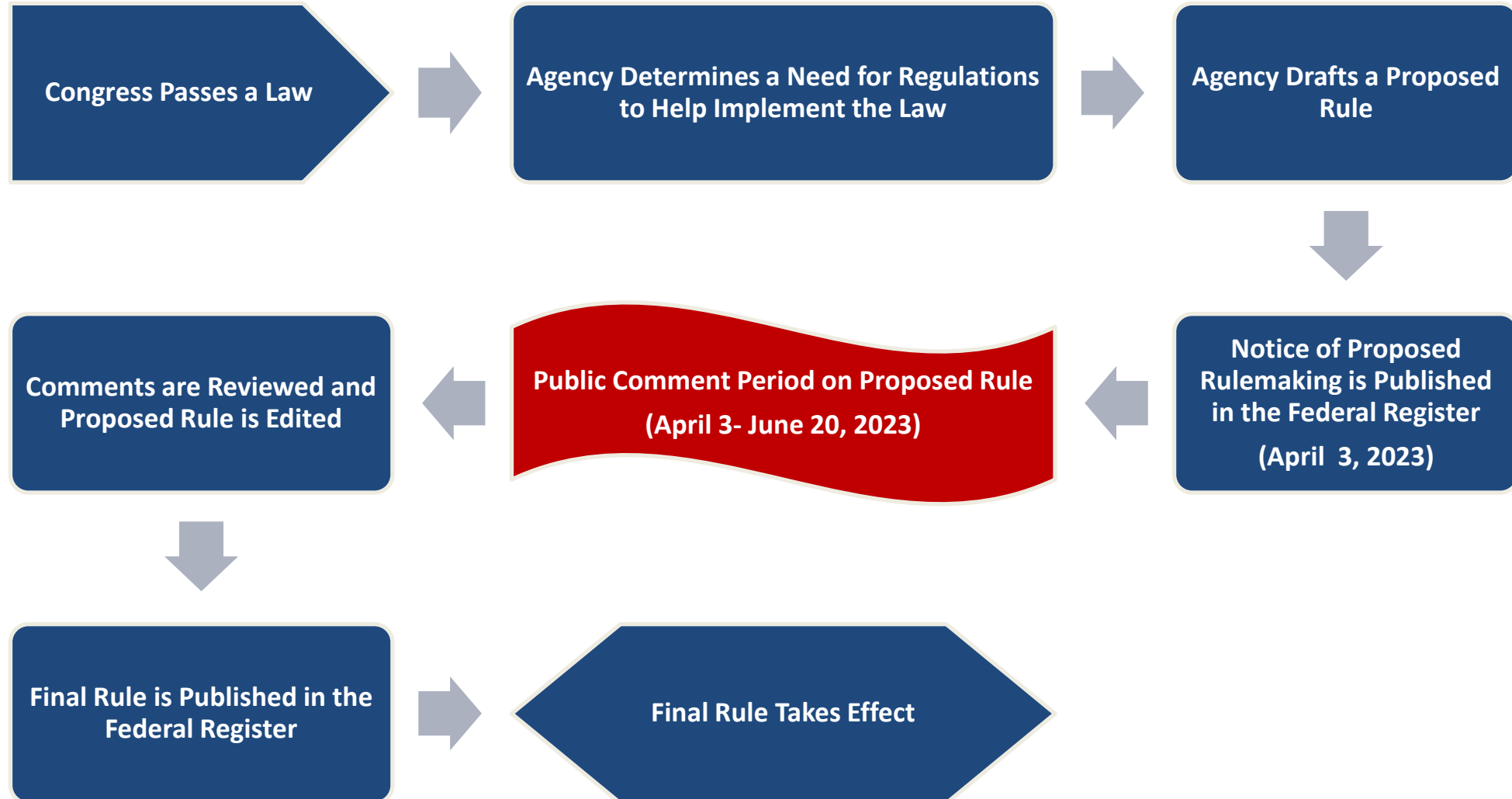


Ensure science drives decision making, by incorporating assessment, inventory, and monitoring information.





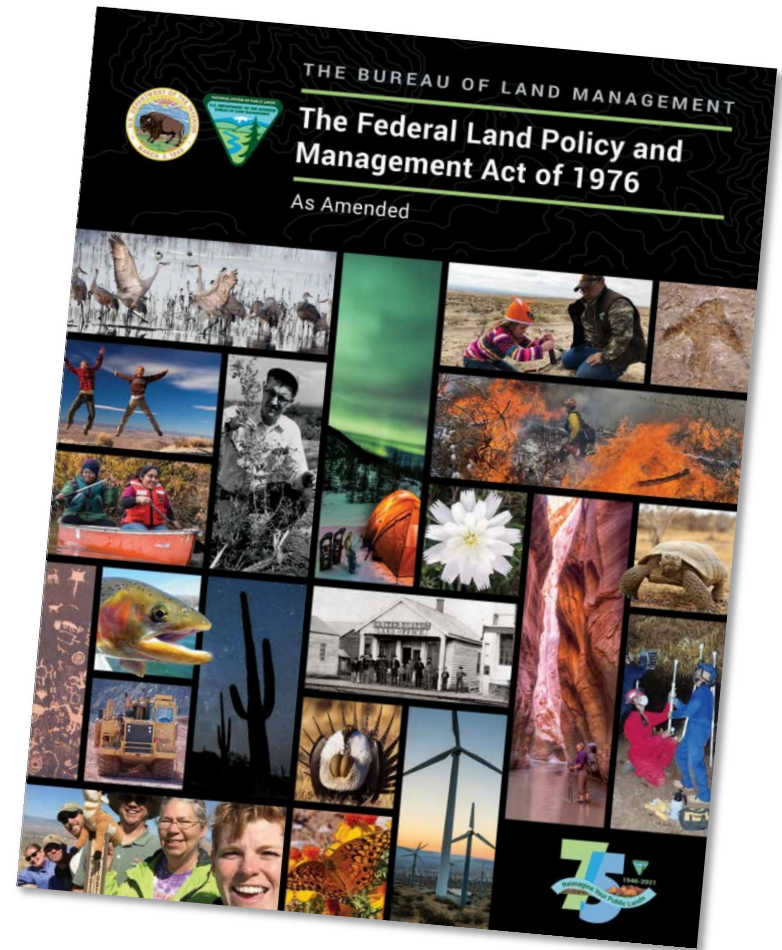
The Federal Rulemaking Process





Federal Land Policy and Management Act

- FLPMA was passed by Congress in 1976 and directs that public lands be managed under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield
- The proposed Public Lands Rule will provide additional clarity about the implementation of these principles





Proposed Public Lands Rule – Why Now?

- Delivers on the Bureau's promise to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of public lands for present and future generations
- Provides tools for BLM to address unprecedented drought, increasing wildfires, and the declining health of public lands
- Clarifies conservation (restoration and protection) as a use within FLPMA's multiple use and sustained yield framework



Proposed Public Lands Rule – Objectives



Protect intact landscapes



Restore lands back to health



Ensure wise decision making



Protecting Intact Landscapes – FLPMA Authority

- A framework for managing certain landscapes for intactness, with consistent direction to land managers for prioritizing designation and management of ACECs.
- FLPMA articulates a policy to preserve and protect certain lands in their natural condition, and to protect the quality of ecological and environmental values.
- FLPMA also requires the BLM “give priority to the designation and protection of areas of critical environmental concern.”





Protecting Intact Landscapes - What the Rule Does

- Provides process to maintain certain areas with high ecological value and ecological resilience
- Codifies procedures for nominating and selecting ACECs





Protecting Intact Landscapes - What the Rule Does

- Identifies intact landscapes that could be managed to protect landscape resiliency.
- Requires working with diverse local, state, Tribal, and federal partners to identify and evaluate these important areas.
- Works within the established planning process.

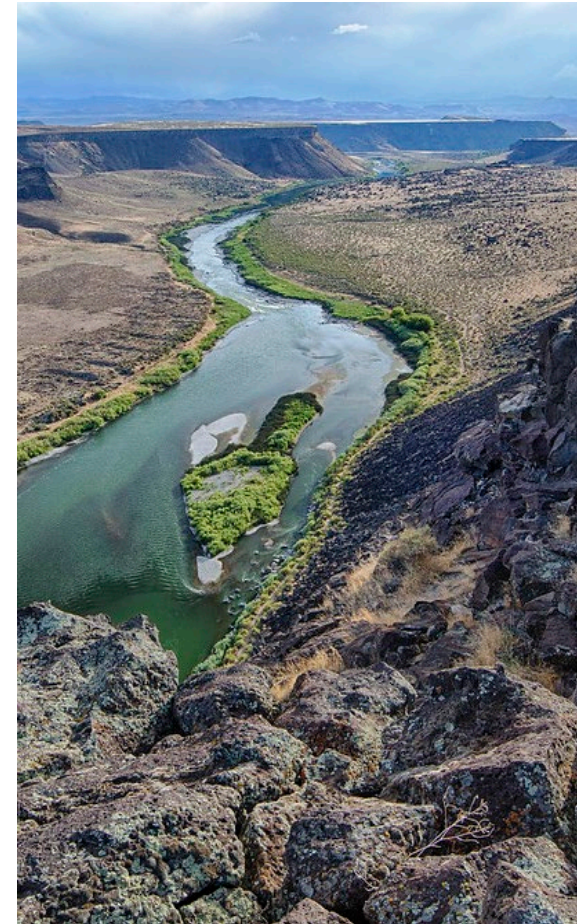




Protecting Intact Landscapes - Question

Would the rule require BLM to immediately initiate RMP amendments or revisions to incorporate intact landscapes or ACECs?

- **No.** The proposed rule would require considerations to be brought into the planning process at the time the BLM initiates a plan revision or amendment. Updates to ongoing RMP processes will be on a case-by-case basis.

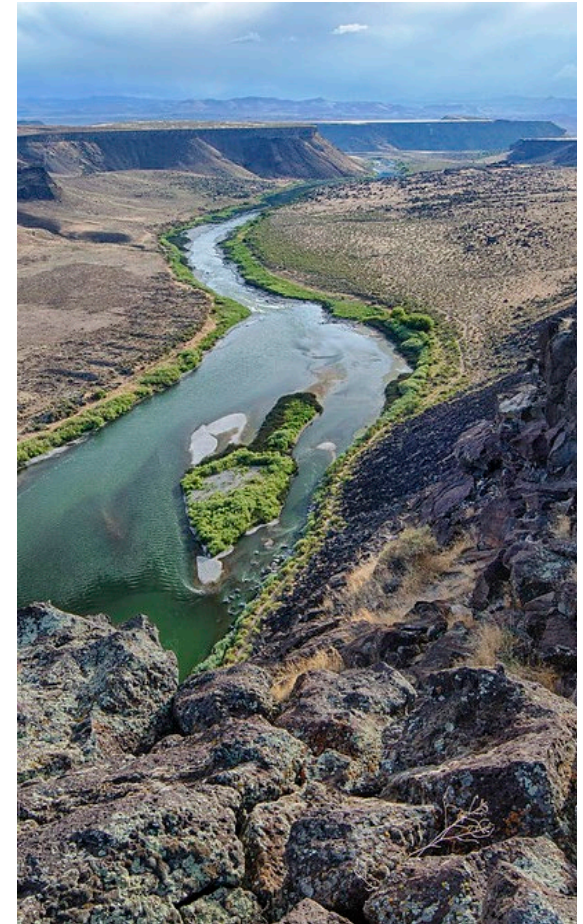




Protecting Intact Landscapes - Question

Will development be allowed if an area is identified as “intact” in a resource management plan?

- The proposed rule would not prevent all development in areas identified as intact. It would simply require BLM to avoid impairing ecosystem resilience or provide an explanation when impairment cannot be avoided.



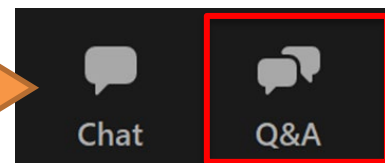


Other Questions?



Protect intact landscapes

Submit Questions using the Q&A feature





Proposed Public Lands Rule - Objectives



Protect intact landscapes



Restore lands back to health



Ensure wise decision making



Restoring Lands and Waters – FLPMA Authority

Federal Land Policy and Management Act establishes a framework to:

- Manage public lands on the basis of multiple-use and sustained yield.
- Protect the quality of resources and, where appropriate, preserve certain values.
- Regulate through appropriate instruments (like leases) the use, occupancy, and development of the public lands.



Restoring Lands and Waters – What the Rule Does

- Directs land managers to identify and prioritize lands and waters for restoration, which benefits local communities
- Supports the resilience of public lands through conservation leasing for the **purposes of restoration or mitigation**
- Provides for durable mitigation to take place on public lands, responding to state, local, and industry partners who requested a clear path for compensatory mitigation to facilitate balanced development





Restoring Lands and Waters – Question

What is a conservation lease?

- A tool to support sustained yield through “restoration or land enhancement” or “mitigation”
- Land-use authorization allowing partners to offset the impacts of other land uses and restore degraded lands
- Responds to partner calls for a reliable path to durable restoration and mitigation efforts on BLM managed lands.





Restoring Lands and Waters - Question

What is a Conservation lease?

- Provides a mechanism for durable mitigation and restoration to occur on public lands
- Leases would **not** override valid existing rights, privileges or preclude other, subsequent authorizations compatible with the conservation use.
- Establishes the process for applying for, analyzing, and granting conservation leases.
- Establishes the process for terminating or suspending them, determining noncompliance, and setting bonding obligations.



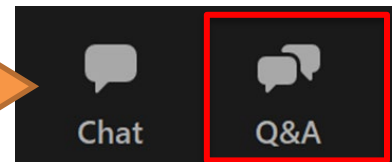


Other Questions?



Restore lands back to health

Submit Questions using the Q&A feature





Proposed Public Lands Rule—Objectives



Protect intact landscapes



Restore lands back to health



Ensure wise decision making



Wise Decision Making – FLPMA Policy

- FLPMA's statements of policy call on BLM to both "protect and provide" Public Lands
- Begin with a clear tasking to conduct inventories of public lands, the resources, intactness, and their use.
- Manage in a manner to protect certain values.
- Provide food and habitat for wildlife and domestic animals.
- Provide outdoor recreation and human occupancy.

Multiple Use and Sustained Yield is challenging! The BLM and the public must know the conditions, resources, and uses of Public Lands to be successful.



Wise Decision Making – What the Rule Does

- Applies existing land health standards across all public lands, in line with best practices and current science.
- Balances development with other uses like conservation, recreation, grazing, restoration, and protection.
- Minimizes impacts that degrade land health and tries to offset impacts with offsite mitigation when unavoidable



Wise Decision Making – What the Rule Does

Promotes Tribal Engagement

- Requires meaningful consultation with Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations during decision making processes and identifies opportunities for Tribal co-stewardship
- Provides opportunity to be co-leads or serve as cooperating agencies in the development of environmental impact statements or environmental assessments;
- Respects and **equitably promotes the inclusion of Indigenous Knowledge** as part of incorporating science and data to support decision making, including:

Encouraging Tribes to suggest ways in which Indigenous Knowledge can be used to inform the development of alternatives, analysis of effects, and when necessary, identification of mitigation measures.





Wise Decision Making—What the Rule Does

Establishes a process to:

Gather high-quality data, including indigenous knowledge.



Assess data to identify high priority areas for protection, restoration and development.



Document the results.



Use results to inform adaptive decisions.

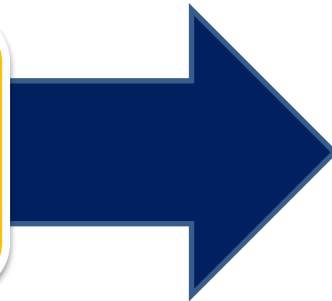




Protection, Restoration, and Making Wise Decisions

- **Identify** and seek to maintain intact landscapes
- **Prioritize** landscapes for restoration
- **Act** on opportunities for multiple-use and sustained yield

Identification and prioritization
based on land health
and watershed assessments



**Manage for healthy lands that ensure
abundant wildlife habitat, clean water, and
balanced decisions.**



Wise Decision Making – Question

Would new assessments need to be completed for all renewable resources before permitting uses, similar to grazing?

- No. BLM will use existing assessments to the maximum extent possible to evaluate land health
- The proposed rule would require authorized officers to consider land health assessments and evaluations, across all program areas to inform decision-making
- As warranted, the BLM would continue focusing new Land Health Assessments and Evaluations on the highest priority areas.





Wise Decision Making – Question

Where will the underlying data come from?

- Assessment, inventory, and monitoring data
 - Terrestrial
 - Aquatic
 - Riparian
- Remote imagery
- Local observations and Indigenous Knowledge





Wise Decision Making – Question

What benefits will this rule have on the BLM's grazing program?

- Provides opportunities for permittees to enter into a conservation lease to improve land health.
- Conservation leases would generally be a compatible use with a grazing allotments meeting land health standards.
- Facilitates opportunities to restore degraded rangelands.

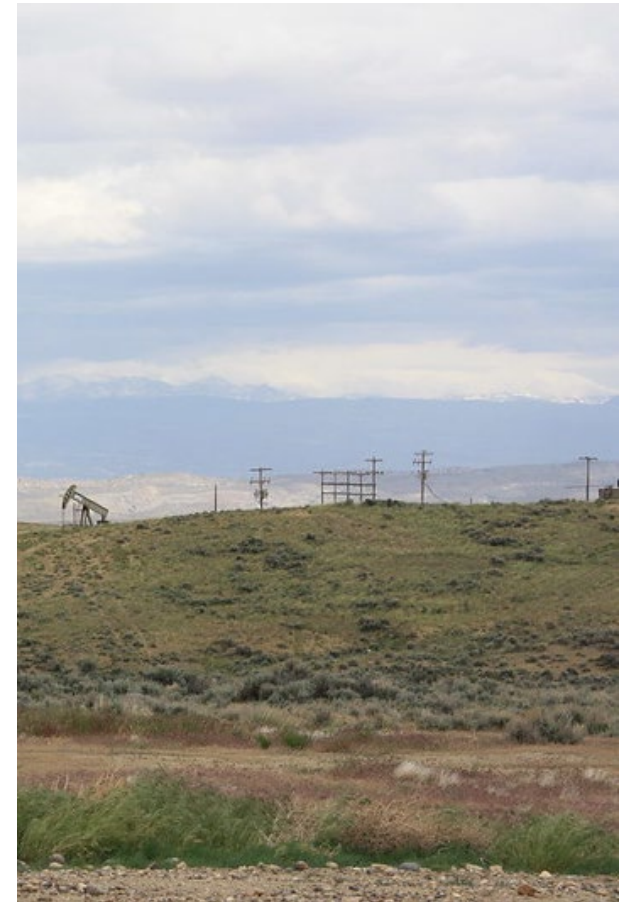




Wise Decision Making – Question

What impact will this rule have on the BLM's oil & gas program?

- Will not impact current oil and gas operations.
- BLM will continue to implement the Mineral Leasing Act.
- Provides additional tools to offset unavoidable impacts.





Wise Decision Making – Question

How does this rule benefit recreation?

- Inventories help identify areas with minimal conflict for trail, off-road, and recreational access.
- Provides a mechanism to offset unavoidable impacts.
- Promotes stewardship opportunities for the recreational community.
- Encourages resilient and sustainable recreation on healthy lands.



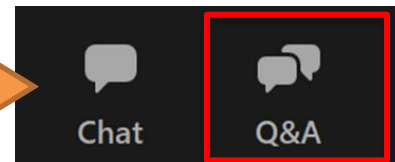


Other Questions?



Ensure wise decision making

Submit Questions using the Q&A feature





Next Steps

- Today's meeting marks the beginning of important conversations with partners, stakeholders, and the public.
- *Federal Register* publication initiated 75-day public comment period ending on **June 20th**.
- More information forums upcoming in Denver (May 25), Albuquerque (May 30), and Reno (June 1)

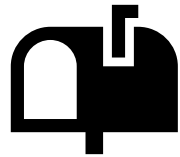




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Thank You

