

Sportsmen's businesses urge backcountry protections

Phil Taylor, E&E reporter

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GREAT FALLS, Mont. -- More than 200 sportsmen-dependent businesses today released a letter to the Bureau of Land Management urging it to protect backcountry hunting and fishing habitat as it seeks to revamp its land-use planning process.

The [letter](#), which was unveiled last night at the tail end of a media summit hosted by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership here, argues that intact backcountry public lands maximize opportunities for hunters and anglers and spur more business for gear manufacturers, retailers, guides and taxidermists, among other sportsmen-dependent companies.

"Sportsmen not only need access to public lands, they need desirable places to hunt and fish after they park their vehicles and head to the fields, forests and waters," said the letter signed by 212 businesses. "From subalpine basins to stream banks, BLM backcountry lands provide world-class hunting and fishing accessible to every American regardless of means."

Sportsmen groups are pushing BLM to enhance protections for primitive backcountry areas as it revises updates to its resource management plans, which determine what can happen, and where, on BLM's 250-million-acre estate. Known as "Planning 2.0," the BLM effort could mark a major shift in how its roughly 160 resource management plans are maintained ([Greenwire](#), April 24).

The agency wants to make the plans more dynamic by ensuring that they are updated more frequently and are more conducive to landscape-level planning and mitigation required under an October 2013 order signed by Interior Secretary Sally Jewell.

The agency in May began asking for formal public comment, but it has set no deadline ([E&ENews PM](#), May 5).

TRCP in April said the planning revision is an opportunity for BLM to recognize the value of public lands to big game and waterfowl by taking stock of important migration corridors and critical stopovers where animals pause for food and rest.

So far, the agency has not said whether it will consider new tools for preserving backcountry lands.

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AMERICAN SPORTSMEN Banking on BLM Backcountry

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) backcountry areas provide top-quality fish and wildlife habitat and exceptional hunting and fishing, thereby benefiting American sportsmen as well as our nation's economy. Therefore, we the undersigned hunting and fishing dependent businesses believe that the BLM must conserve backcountry areas to accomplish the following:

Sustain Public Lands Hunting and Fishing: Sportsmen not only need access to public lands, they need desirable places to hunt and fish after they park their vehicles and head to the fields, forests and waters. From subalpine basins to stream banks, BLM backcountry lands provide world-class hunting and fishing accessible to every American regardless of means. We need to ensure these areas remain intact and full of great fish and wildlife habitat to maximize sporting opportunities for current and future generations of hunters and anglers.

Stand up for Outdoor-Related Businesses: America's \$646 billion per year outdoor recreation-based economy is one of the nation's most stable sources of economic growth. Conscientious backcountry management can maintain strong economic engines in rural communities and sustain stable jobs associated with hunting, fishing and other outdoor recreation. Businesses that provide services and products to sportsmen – everything from guide and outfitter services to sporting goods stores, taxidermists, motels, grocery stores and gas stations – are the lifeblood of many rural communities. Responsible administration of America's backcountry can secure a profitable future for outdoor-dependent industries.

Support High-Quality Habitat: BLM backcountry lands provide important habitat for big-game and upland bird populations and, consequently, outstanding public lands hunting opportunities for American sportsmen. The headwater streams and rivers that flow through the backcountry shelter wild trout and salmon and attract recreational anglers who travel from across the country to ply these healthy waters. Too much development and too many roads can reduce fish and wildlife habitat quantity and quality, increase disturbance, impair spawning grounds, and may result in reduced fish and wildlife populations, shorter hunting seasons, reduced bag limits and diminished hunting and fishing opportunities. Ultimately, backcountry areas offer some of the best remaining hunting and fishing available on public lands in the United States.

American sporting businesses are "banking on BLM backcountry." We request that the U.S. Department of the Interior and Bureau of Land Management safeguard our BLM hunting and fishing legacy by conserving high-value backcountry lands.

Sincerely,

Major Retailers and Manufacturers

Clackacraft Drift Boats

Costa Del Mar Sunglasses

Eclipse Broadheads

Farlex Reels

First Lite

Fishpond

KUIU Ultralight Hunting Gear

Minox USA
OnXmaps
Oregon Packworks
Orvis Company, Inc.
Paradox Packs
Pure Fishing
Rajeff Sports
Saracione Mfg.
Scientific Anglers
Seek Outside
Simms Fishing Products
Sitka Gear
Traditional Bowhunter Magazine
Vision Fly Fishing, USA

Local Retailers and Service Providers

Arizona
Arizona Wanderings
Cliff Dwellers Lodge
Bear Mountain Bull
Basin Archery
Desertsportsman
Gary Reeder Custom Guns
Lees Ferry Anglers
Lookout Mountain Outdoors
Mogollon Safe and Gun LLC
Mountain Clan Outfitter
Paradise Creek Anglers Pinetop
Sporting Goods Pistol Parlor
Shake, Rattle and Troll Outdoor Radio

TerryGunn.com
Weller's Wildlife Studio

Colorado
Angler's Addiction
Animas Valley Anglers
Antler Taxidermy

Surprise
Marble Canyon
Mesa
Tucson
Scottsdale
Flagstaff
Marble Canyon
Phoenix
Lakeside
Show Low
Pinetop
Pinetop
Flagstaff
Phoenix
Marble Canyon
Tucson

Pueblo
Durango
Meeker

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Bill Pelligrino's Archery Hut
Bill's Gun Shop
Bucking Rainbow Outfitters
Bullseye Taxidermy Darryl's
Taxidermy
Dogs Unlimited
Drift Flyshop
Duranglers Flies and Supplies
Elkhorn Outfitters Inc.

CO Springs
Pueblo
Steamboat Springs
Craig
Grand Junction
Hudson Pueblo
Durango
Craig

Estes Park Outfitters
Gardenswartz Sporting Goods
Gene Taylor's Sporting Goods
Goods for the Woods Gunsmoke
Taxidermy Johnson's Sport and
Ski Kelley's Gunsmithing
Marchand Taxidermy
Outlaw Bait and Tackle
Peak Fly Shop
Pueblo Sporting Goods Red
Rock Archery Robinson's
Game Birds San Juan Anglers
Stage Stop
Steamboat Flyfisher

Estes Park
Durango Grand
Junction
Durango
Craig
Pueblo
Meeker
Grand Junction
CO Springs
CO Springs
Pueblo
Grand Junction
Durango
Durango Meeker
Steamboat Springs

Straightline Outdoor Sports
Winterhawk Outfitters

Steamboat Springs
Collbran

Idaho
Advantage Archery
Alpha Omega Services
Anglers Habit
Archery Idaho
Avid Sportsman
Anglers
Back Room Shooter's Supply
Backwood Mountain Sports
Buckhorn Gun Shop
Clark's Taxidermy
Clemmens Taxidermy Studio
Dead on Archery
Dreams on the Fly
Elephants Perch
Formula Sports
Greyhouse Inn High
Desert Sports
Howard's Tackle Shop
Ken's Tent & Canvas

Twin Falls

Nampa
Caldwell
Idaho Falls
Buhl Boise
Peck
Ketchum
Boise
Lewiston
Boise
Meridian

Parma
Ketchum
Ketchum
Salmon
Hailey
Nampa
Boise

Idaho Angler
Idaho Archery Company
Idaho Mountain Trading
Imperial Taxidermy
Intermountain Taxidermy
Jimmy's All Season Angler
Larry's Sporting Goods Life
Like Taxidermy Lone Pine
Rifleworks

Boise Boise
Idaho Falls
Caldwell
Twin Falls
Idaho Falls
Nampa
Carmen
Challis

Mountain Village Resort
Old Sawmill Station
Portneuf River Outfitters
Red Shed Fly Shop Red's
Trading Post Ridgerunner
Outfitters River &
Adventure Toys
River of No Return Taxidermy
Rocky Mountain Gun n Pawn
Sawtooth Tack and Feed Silver
Creek Outfitters Simerly's Inc.
Smiley Creek Lodge Sturtevant's
Mountain Outfitters Summer Run
Shuttles
The Benchmark

The Bent Rod Outdoors
The Preparedness Store
Thunder Mountain Tent and Canvas
Torrey's Burnt Creek Inn
T-Bone's Guns
Valley Tent & Canvas Vicker's
Western Store LLC Wild Side
Sports
Wild Touch Archery Will
Godfrey Real Estate

Montana
Adipose Boatworks
Big Sky Beetle Works
Big Sky Laboratory
Blackfoot River Outfitters
Bozeman Angler
Chuck Stranahan's Fly Shop
Flint Creek Outdoors
Freestone Fly Shop
Frontier Anglers
Game Trails Wildlife Studio
Grizzly Hackle

Stanley
Clayton
Pocatello
Peck Twin
Falls
Kamiah
Twin Falls
Salmon
Emmett
Bellvue
Ketchum
Wendell
Sawtooth City
Ketchum Peck
Boise

Challis
Idaho Falls
Nampa
Stanley
Caldwell
Nampa
Twin Falls
Salmon
Meridian
Lewiston

Helena

Florence
Florence
Missoula
Bozeman
Hamilton
Philipsburg
Hamilton
Dillon
Florence
Missoula

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Riverside Anglers Seacat
Creative
Snowcrest Outdoor Products
Stone Fly Fly Shop Stoneydale
Press
Wilderness Creation Taxidermy
Yellow Dog Flyfishing Adventures

Yellowstone
Bozeman
Stevensville
Butte
Stevensville
Corvallis
Bozeman

Nevada

A+ Taxidermy	Las Vegas
A-Bar-L Western Store	Tonopah
Cedar Creek Clothing Company – Elko Fly Shop	Elko Reno
Donnelly Creek Taxidermy	Reno
House of Arrows Archery	Reno
Martin’s Wildlife Studio Taxidermy Mark	Reno
Fore and Strike Sporting Goods Great	Reno
Basin Taxidermy	Henderson
Cactus Meadows Taxidermy	
New Mexico	Las Cruces
High Desert Archery	
Rough Country Outdoors	Silver City
Trophy Country	Las Cruces
The Reel Life	Santa Fe
Oregon	Rogue River
Anderson Custom Rods	
Brad Staples	West Linn
Broken Arrow Archery Inc.	Milwaukie
Creekside Flyfishing	Salem
Dean Finnerty Guides and Outfitters	Cottage Grove
Deep Timber Sounds	La Grande
Deschutes Steelhead Adventures	West Linn
Donald Nelson	Beaverton
Fish Rite Boats	Medford
Field and Dream Kennels	Sweet Home
Fly and Field Outfitters Fish	Bend
the Swing	Eagle Creek
Flybook	Bend
Fly Water Travel Herzcoff	Ashland
Kennels	Prineville
High Life Pudel Pointers	Redmond
Idylwilde Flies	Portland
Lake in the Dunes Ranch LLC Little	Summer Lake
Creek Outfitters	Condon
Meiser Rods	Medford White
On the Fly Guide Service	City Bend
Predawn Adventures	

River Gold Outfitters
Robert Crandell-Water Time Outfitters Silvey's
Flyfishing
Tye One On
Larimer Outfitters True
West Fly Rods Soul River
River Run Outfitters

Portland
Oregon City
Maupin
Hermiston
Hood River
Eugene
Portland
Maupin

Utah Anglers
Den
Braggin Rights Taxidermy
Custom Taxidermy
Fergusons Taxidermy
Fall River Flyrods Fish
Tech Outfitters
Four Seasons Fly Fishers
High Country Horns Taxidermy
IBOHUNT
Taxidermy Art Studio
Trout Bum

Roy
Glendale
Salt Lake City
Harrisville
Heber City Salt
Lake City
Heber City
Alpine Heber
City West
Jordan Park
City

Virginia
The Middle River Group

Verona

Washington
Al Lind Gunmakers
Brian Styskal (Speycaft)
Cascade Powder Cats Emerald
Water Anglers
Emerging Rivers Guide Service
Evening Hatch
Olympic Peninsula Skagit Tactics
Pacific Northwest Spey Guides
Swing the Fly
Trans Northwest
USWP MFG
Wave Wash

Tacoma
Issaquah
Leavenworth
Seattle
Snoqualmie
Goldendale
Seattle
Seattle
Seattle
Olympia
Spokane
Olympia

Wisconsin
Blue Sky Furled Leaders

Pulaski

Wyoming
Irma Hotel
Ovis Consulting, LLC
Tim Wade's Northfork Anglers Sports
Lure
Sunlight Sports

Cody
Cody
Cody
Buffalo
Cody

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