

Congress of the United States
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Small Business
2561 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-6515

May 18, 2023

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

Dear Ms. Stone-Manning:

The House Committee on Small Business (the Committee) writes to inquire about the recent rule change to the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Public Lands Rule, particularly the new Conservation and Landscape Health rule. This rule would apply land-health standards and designate conservation as a formal use of public lands to all BLM-managed public land.¹ It appears that the BLM may not have properly considered small entities during this rulemaking process.

It is important for agencies to properly consider small businesses interests, which make up 99.9 percent of all businesses in the United States, when passing any new rule. America's small businesses deserve to have their voices heard and considered. We therefore request the following information as soon as possible but no later than June 1, 2023:

1. What are your statutory requirements to examine this rule's impact on small businesses?
2. How many small businesses will be impacted by this rule?
3. What additional compliance costs on small businesses are associated with this new rule?
4. Where can small businesses go to examine your analysis on the impacts this rule will have on their operations?
5. What alternatives have been considered to lessen the impacts on small businesses?

To schedule the delivery of your response or ask any related follow-up questions, please contact Committee on Small Business Majority Staff at (202) 225-5821. The Committee on

¹ Conservation and Landscape Health, 43 CFR § 1600.6100 (2023).

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Small Business has broad authority to investigate “problems of all types of small business” under House Rule X. Thank you in advance for your cooperation with this inquiry.”

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

Roger Williams
Chairman
Committee on Small Business

cc: The Honorable Nydia M. Velasquez, Ranking Member
Committee on Small Business