

ACCESS FUND ◆ AMERICAN RIVERS ◆ AMERICAN WHITewater ◆ CONSERVATION NORTHWEST ◆
EVERGREEN MOUNTAIN BIKE ALLIANCE ◆ NORTH CASCADES CONSERVATION COUNCIL ◆
SEATTLE AUDUBON SOCIETY ◆ SIERRA CLUB – WASHINGTON CHAPTER ◆ THE MOUNTAINEERS ◆
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY ◆ WASHINGTON AUDUBON ◆ WASHINGTON BIKES ◆
WASHINGTON TRAILS ASSOCIATION ◆ WASHINGTON WILD ◆

January 15, 2014

Daniel Picard
Spokane District Manager
Bureau of Land Management
1103 N Fancher Road
Spokane, WA 99212

RE: Request for West Side Public Meetings for Eastern Washington Resource Management Plan

Dear Mr. Picard:

Our organizations are looking forward to the upcoming draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) for the Spokane District this spring. The RMP will have a significant impact on wildlife, recreational and wilderness quality resources on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) managed lands and waters throughout the state.

While we recognize that Washington has just over 400,000 acres of BLM lands – the least of the 12 western states – we also recognize that these lands have considerable values that matter to the members and supporters our organizations represent. These lands include natural and recreational assets like the Juniper Dunes Wilderness, the Chopaka Mountain WSA and Wild and Scenic eligible segments of the Yakima and Similkameen Rivers as well as some of the last best remaining habitat for the imperiled sage grouse. Many of the members we represent use these areas either because of the proximity to where they live or as travel destinations during specific times of the year.

We are writing today to formally request that the public meetings associated with the draft plan for BLM lands in eastern WA include **at least one venue west of the Cascade Mountains**. As federal public lands, there is an obligation to include a reasonably broad perspective in the management of these lands. Because many of our members in the Puget Sound Region often vacation or travel seasonally to eastern Washington, it is reasonable to plan for at least one public meeting during the 90-day comment period for the draft RMP in the Puget Sound region.

Many of our organizations have worked with the Wenatchee-Okanogan National Forest over the past several years to facilitate public meetings in the Puget Sound region for their forest plan revision, travel management process and other forest-wide management decisions. This has worked well and has been much appreciated by our organizations and the members we represent.

Please feel free to contact Tom Uniack, Conservation Director for Washington Wild (206-633-1992, tom@wawild.org) on behalf of the signatories of this letter with any correspondence relevant to this request.

Sincerely,

Tom Uniack
Conservation Director
Washington Wild

Benjamin Greuel
Washington State Director
The Wilderness Society

Thomas O'Keefe, Ph.D.
Northwest Stewardship Director
American Whitewater

Dave Werntz
Science and Conservation Director
Conservation Northwest

Wendy McDermott
Associate Director Washington Conservation Programs
American Rivers

Gail Gatton
Executive Director
Audubon Washington

Karl Forsgaard
President
North Cascades Conservation Council

Glenn Glover
Executive Director
Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance

Andrea Imler
Advocacy Director
Washington Trails Association

Blake Trask
Statewide Policy Representative
Washington Bikes

Harry Romberg
Acting Chair, National Forest Committee
Sierra Club – Washington Chapter

Joe Sambataro
Northwest Regional Director
Access Fund

Susan North
Conservation Manager
Seattle Audubon Society

Katherine Hollis
Conservation and Recreation Manager
The Mountaineers

Organizations To Be Solicited

*Gifford Pinchot Task Force
Washington Climbers Coalition*