



RESOLUTION 2016-04
EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S
PROPOSED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLANNING RULE (PLANNING 2.0)

Whereas, the Western States Land Commissioners Association (WSLCA) and its member states manage over 440 million acres of public trust lands, minerals and waterways that are interspersed with federal lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and

Whereas, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands and waterways for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

Whereas, planning and management decisions made by the BLM have significant impacts on WSLCA members' ability to effectively manage trust assets for their constitutional beneficiaries; and

Whereas, the BLM has issued a Proposed Rule entitled "Resource Management Planning" popularly known as Planning 2.0 that would amend the BLM's established land use planning procedures; and

Whereas, the BLM must conduct federal land use planning and management under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 pursuant to the Congressional mandate of multiple use and sustained yield and must coordinate planning and management with state and local governments; and

Whereas, the Proposed Rule fails to respect and follow the Congressional mandate requiring the BLM to consider and coordinate with State Governments, and to the extent practical, resolve inconsistencies between Federal and non-Federal Government land planning; and

Whereas, many state land management agencies are often separate entities from a state governor with unique state constitutional powers and should automatically be granted cooperating agency status and additionally should be provided with "early public notice of proposed decisions which may have a significant impact on non-Federal lands"; and

Whereas, the Proposed Rule will significantly reduce the role of State and local governments in federal land planning, inventory, and management decisions by granting equal status to any commenting entity—regardless of their connectivity or proximity to the federal lands; and

Whereas, the Proposed Rule pushes federal land planning, inventory, and management decisions further from local BLM managers creating centralized decision making by BLM political appointees located in Washington DC; and

Whereas, the Proposed Rule would implement landscape-level resource management plans, crossing multiple state and local government jurisdictions, which will greatly inhibit the BLM's ability to craft management strategies consistent with state and local land planning as required by FLPMA; and

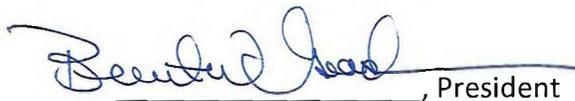
Whereas, the Proposed Rule attempts to enact through regulation the President's mitigation policy and justify the Department of Interior's recent landscape planning scheme in regard to species management across 10 states and impacting over 165 million acres of land in the name of Greater sage grouse protections; and

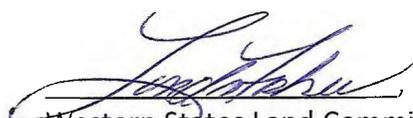
Whereas, the Proposed Rule neglects to address the BLM's failure for decades to satisfy and respect the land grants to states to support funding of critical state government functions and constitutionally granted beneficiaries, primarily K-12 public education; and

Whereas, WSLCA having reviewed the Proposed Rule has filed public comments opposing various aspects of the new rule.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the WSLCA does hereby oppose the implementation of Planning 2.0 and urges the BLM to withdraw the Proposed Rule as currently drafted and work with state trust land managers to craft provisions to streamline resource management planning in a way that honors states' rights and addresses the many deficiencies in the Proposed Rule.

Adopted this 13th day of July, 2016.


_____, President
Western States Land Commissioners
Association


_____, Secretary
Western States Land Commissioners
Association