



RESOLUTION 2017-03
EXPRESSING OPPOSITION TO THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S
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 Final Rule entitled "Resource Management Planning" popularly known as Planning 2.0 on November 22, 2016 that amends 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 Final 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 Final Rule significantly reduces 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 Final 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 Final Rule would implement landscape-level resource management plans, crossing multiple state and local government jurisdictions, which greatly inhibits the BLM's ability to craft management strategies consistent with state and local land planning as required by FLPMA; and

Whereas, the Final Rule enacts through regulation the President's mitigation policy and attempts to 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 Final 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

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT the WSLCA does hereby oppose the Planning 2.0 Rule and urges the BLM to vacate the Rule and issue a new planning rule that is within the authorities granted by the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, congressional intent, 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 Final Rule.

Adopted this 11th day of January, 2017.


_____, President
Western States Land Commissioners
Association


_____, Secretary
Western States Land Commissioners
Association