From: Smith, Jess (Bennet)
To: Beaudreau, Tommy P
Subject: [EXTERNAL] A few items, if we can connect today:
Date: Thursday, June 24, 2021 11:48:38 AM

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi, good morning!
A couple of things:

1) Tracy Stone-Manning—we're thinking of putting out a statement/ wanted to talk through first
2) Today's trip call with Drew, re: the Secretary's trip. Will you be on, or Larry? I'm wondering if this is just a call to talk logistics and the schedule, or if it's a more in depth conversation about the substance?
   p.s. I'm sending you the ideas that Sen. Hickenlooper's and Bennet's offices sent early on to Drew (see below).
3) Wanted to flag that fire season activity has started, and very prematurely…. By the end of July, it could be significant (let's pray not). Flagging that it might be worthwhile to consider this/ seeing a site/ talking about DOI's fire fighting efforts while in the state….

Cheers- Jess, 202-744-0016

Ideas below that Senators' offices submitted:

1. **Community Meeting Regarding the BLM Headquarters (Grand Junction):** Secretary Haaland could visit the current BLM Headquarters and join a roundtable with key community leaders to discuss the BLM's future as the DOI works to rebuild and restore the agency. This roundtable would include local elected officials, economic development leaders, outdoor recreation business owners, and members of the conservation community.
2. **Ute Mountain Ute and Southern Ute Tribes (Towaoc and Ignacio)** Secretary Haaland could sit down with Southern Ute and Ute Mountain Ute tribal leaders to discuss their priorities and challenges on everything from broadband to water infrastructure to renewable energy development.
3. **Visit to Colorado's North Fork Valley (Paonia).** The North Fork Valley, along the North Fork of the Gunnison River, is an community undergoing an economic transition from reliance on coal to a more diversified economy. This community is also involved in the long-standing Uncompahgre Field Office (UFO) Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was finalized by the Trump Administration despite local objections. Nearby, local stakeholders are interested in projects to capture methane from coal mines to reduce emissions, improve air quality, and further diversify the economy. During this visit, Secretary Haaland would have the opportunity to see the UFO RMP's landscapes, meet key community leaders, and discuss how local solutions can help to tackle climate change.
4. **Western Water Infrastructure Roundtable (Glenwood Springs and Colorado River upstream of Glenwood).** The Secretary could tour the Shoshone Power Plant and follow it

with a conversation about the future of water infrastructure in the West with leaders from across the state. The historic Shoshone Power Hydropower Plant in Glenwood Canyon holds the state's most-senior water right on the Colorado River. As the controlling right on the river, Shoshone plays an essential role in supporting recreational, agricultural, and environmental flows on Colorado's Western Slope.

5. **Equal Access to the Outdoors (Garfield County/Carbondale):** The Secretary could have a conversation with local leaders to discuss expanding opportunities for historically disenfranchised communities to pursue locally-driven public land and outdoor recreation projects that increase equitable access. Garfield County is a location near Grand Junction that has both outdoor recreation and oil and gas development, and is approximately 30 percent Latino. The Latino community experiences ever-present inequities which are emblematic of the inequities other marginalized communities across the state and nation experience.

From: Smith, Jess (Bennet)
To: Wallace, Andrew G; Roberts, Lawrence S; Beaudreau, Tommy P
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM/ TSM continues; can we discuss?
Date: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:34:55 PM

Perfect- thanks, both!

From: Wallace, Andrew G <andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:33 PM
To: Smith, Jess (Bennet) <Jess_Smith@bennet.senate.gov>; Roberts, Lawrence S <lawrence_s_roberts@ios.doi.gov>; Beaudreau, Tommy P <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] BLM/ TSM continues; can we discuss?

I'm flexible from 130pm on. Jess I'll call after then and try and call in Larry.
Get Outlook for iOS

From: Smith, Jess (Bennet) <Jess_Smith@bennet.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:09:39 PM
To: Roberts, Lawrence S <lawrence_s_roberts@ios.doi.gov>; Beaudreau, Tommy P <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>; Wallace, Andrew G <andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM/ TSM continues; can we discuss?

Thanks Larry for the quick response. I'm not in the office today, out for a (b) (6) [redacted]. But, because of it, I can be very flexible today (besides 3:30-5pm). Drew and Larry: let me know what works for both of you. Thanks- Jess, 202-744-0016

From: Roberts, Lawrence S <lawrence_s_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:07 PM
To: Smith, Jess (Bennet) <Jess_Smith@bennet.senate.gov>; Beaudreau, Tommy P <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>; Wallace, Andrew G <andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM/ TSM continues; can we discuss?

Hi Jess,
Yes, the Secretary enjoyed the Colorado trip – thanks for all of your work in making it a productive visit. I'm adding Drew here as he is the best point of contact regarding nominees. I'm happy to jump on the phone with him and you at a time that works for everyone.
Best,
Larry

From: Smith, Jess (Bennet) <Jess_Smith@bennet.senate.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:01 PM
To: Beaudreau, Tommy P <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>; Roberts, Lawrence S <lawrence_s_roberts@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] BLM/ TSM continues; can we discuss?

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi, both. Thanks for a constructive trip this past week. I know it was an intensive planning exercise, but I do think it was orchestrated as well as possible. Thanks for your partnership.
We are now getting a lot of incoming, re: TSM. We have been supportive and want to stand by the

nominee, AND this is what we're facing. Another round coming today with the R's saying that we're on the hook. I'd like to talk today when possible: 202-744-0016
Thanks- Jess

EDITORIAL: Bennet and Hickenlooper should defend Colorado

he Gazette editorial board

Despite fanfare about her visit to Colorado last week, the decision to keep the Bureau of Land Management headquarters in Grand Junction does not begin and end with Interior Secretary Deb Haaland. The BLM's future rests in the hands of Sens. Michael Bennet and John Hickenlooper. They must use their power to do the right thing or get the blame for another Colorado loss.

Visiting Grand Junction on Friday, Haaland said she will decide on the location of the BLM headquarters after assessing what's best for the agency's employees.

"We need to put the BLM employees first and do what is right for them," Haaland said during a news conference.

Bad answer, and one that signals the return of the BLM to Washington. Taxpayers fund federal agencies to benefit the public and public property, not government employees who feel most at home inside the Beltway. Federal bureaucrats have clamored to return the BLM to Washington ever since former Sen. Cory Gardner, R-Colo., persuaded former President Donald Trump to move it here. The decision was a small part of draining the swamp and putting the people who manage federal lands smack in the middle of the lands they manage.

Keeping the BLM in Colorado should be an easy decision based on merit alone. Sadly, it is power — not the integrity of an idea — that determines outcomes in Washington. Regarding the BLM, Colorado's two Democratic senators have all the power they need.

"I am calling on Sens. Bennet and Hickenlooper to place a hold on the Tracy Stone-Manning confirmation until they can secure a commitment to keep the BLM headquarters in Grand Junction," said U.S. Rep. Lauren Boebert, the Republican representing Grand Junction and the rest of Colorado's Third Congressional District, in a Sunday discussion with The Gazette. "They

have the leverage right now to stand up for Colorado and do the right thing."

Indeed. With a 50-50 Republican-Democrat split in the Senate, Democrats could confirm Stone-Manning on a party-line vote with Vice President Kamala Harris breaking the tie. Without support from Bennet and Hickenlooper, the nomination goes nowhere. They can say no to any confirmation unless and until Haaland, President Joe Biden, and his prospective director of the BLM agree to leave the headquarters where it is.

Advocates of returning the agency to Washington argue that few BLM employees want to live in Grand Junction, where the office mostly sits empty. This is a ruse. Federal office buildings have been mostly vacant for the past year because of the pandemic. Furthermore, any BLM employee who rejects living in the western United States is probably in the wrong line of work.

"The time for federal employees to get back to the office was months ago and they shouldn't use Biden's basement strategy to be picking on Grand Junction," Boebert said.

"They want to continue working from their basements, and that's why there are so few employees at the office. The DOJ (Department of Justice) just two blocks from the White House is a ghost town and they don't plan to return to work until September."

Aside from helping Colorado, blocking a left-wing extremist from running the BLM should be a pleasure. In fact, it is hard to fathom why Hickenlooper supported this nominee in the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee. Stone-Manning was a member of the radical, left-wing, anarchist Earth First "environmental group," and critics suspect her involvement in spiking trees and putting loggers in harm's way.

Bennet and Hickenlooper don't need spikes to stop this confirmation. They only need the peaceful process of casting their votes. It is what opponents of Trump's agenda advocated when Republicans had a two-vote advantage in the Senate after Democrats picked up a seat with the 2017 election of Doug Jones in Alabama.

"What this means is that every GOP senator, including our own Cory Gardner, has a little more muscle to guard constituents' interests," said a Grand Junction Sentinel editorial titled "Be a leader, Cory" in 2017.

“Once Jones is seated, the GOP can only afford for one Republican senator to break ranks and still pass a bill. Two defectors will kill a bill. Gardner has an opportunity to demand certain assurances in exchange for his support of any measure.”

Coloradans, including Democratic Gov. Jared Polis, should pressure Bennet and Hickenlooper to lead like never before and demand the BLM remain in place. They have the power to do this, and it shouldn’t be difficult. Next, they should find another bill to obstruct until Biden agrees to reverse Trump’s decision to move Space Command from Colorado Springs to Alabama — a solidly Republican state.

Bennet and Hickenlooper can solve this problem and affect the proper outcome. They should do so boldly and unapologetically, boasting of how they use power to do what’s best for Colorado. If they don’t, they will own the loss of the BLM and Space Command. That’s a legacy they need to avoid.

The Gazette Editorial Board

Jess Smith
Chief of Staff, Sen. Michael Bennet
C: 202-744-0016

From:	Beaudreau, Tommy P
To:	Wallace, Andrew G; Schwartz, Melissa A; Roberts, Lawrence S; Daniel-Davis, Laura E
Subject:	RE: [EXTERNAL] Floor Update: Kim nomination confirmed; Schumer moves to discharge Stone-Manning nomination; recess for lunch and photo; roll call vote around 5:00pm
Date:	Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:25:00 PM

Whoo hoo – go Chuck!

From: Wallace, Andrew G <andrew_wallace@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>; Roberts, Lawrence S <lawrence_s_roberts@ios.doi.gov>; Beaudreau, Tommy P <tommy_beaudreau@ios.doi.gov>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Floor Update: Kim nomination confirmed; Schumer moves to discharge Stone-Manning nomination; recess for lunch and photo; roll call vote around 5:00pm
5pm vote on Tracy
Get Outlook for iOS

From: D-ADMINISTRATION <D-ADMINISTRATION@LISTS.SENATE.GOV> on behalf of Watt, Brad (Dem-Floor) <0000013d45159db9-dmarc-request@LISTS.SENATE.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 12:41 PM
To: D-ADMINISTRATION@LISTS.SENATE.GOV
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Floor Update: Kim nomination confirmed; Schumer moves to discharge Stone-Manning nomination; recess for lunch and photo; roll call vote around 5:00pm

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

By a vote of 58-41, the Senate confirmed the Kim nomination.
Then, Senator Schumer moved to discharge the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning, of Montana, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management, from the ENR committee.
We expect the roll call vote on the motion to discharge to occur around 5:00pm today.
The Senate is in recess subject to the Call of the Chair to allow for the weekly caucus meetings and the 117th Congress Official Photograph. Senators should be seated on the floor at 2:15pm.

From: Watt, Brad (Dem-Floor) <0000013d45159db9-dmarc-request@LISTS.SENATE.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:33 AM
To: D-FLOOR@LISTS.SENATE.GOV
Subject: Floor Update: now voting on confirmation of the Kim nomination
At 11:32am, the Senate began a 15 minute roll call vote on Executive Calendar #122, Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

From: Watt, Brad (Dem-Floor) <0000013d45159db9-dmarc-request@LISTS.SENATE.GOV>
Sent: Tuesday, July 27, 2021 11:05 AM
To: D-FLOOR@LISTS.SENATE.GOV
Subject: Floor Update: 11:30am vote reminder

The Senate has resumed consideration of Executive Calendar #122, Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, post-cloture.
At approximately 11:30am, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Kim nomination.

From: Democratic Schedulers <D-SCHED@LISTS.SENATE.GOV> **On Behalf Of** Watt, Brad (Dem-Floor)
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 6:18 PM
To: D-SCHED@LISTS.SENATE.GOV
Subject: Schedule for Tuesday, July 27, 2021

Schedule for Tuesday, July 27, 2021

The Senate stands adjourned until 10:30am on Tuesday, July 27, 2021.
Following Leader remarks, the Senate will proceed to Executive Session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar #122, Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, post-cloture.
At 11:30am, the Senate will vote on confirmation of the Kim nomination.
The 117th Congress Official Photo will take place at 2:15pm. All Senators should be in their chairs on the Senate Floor at that time.
Additional roll call votes are possible during Tuesday's session.
During Monday's session, Senator Schumer filed cloture on the following nominations:
1. Executive Calendar #257, Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.
2. Executive Calendar #258, David M. Prouty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board.

Tuesday, July 27th at approx. 11:30am – 1 roll call vote:

Confirmation of Executive Calendar #122, Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General

Wrap Up for Monday, July 26, 2021

Roll Call Votes

Motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar #122, Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General; invoked: 54-40.

Legislative Business

Adopted S.Res.320, Official 117th Congress photo

Executive Business

Confirmed Executive Calendar #165, Frank Kendall III, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of the Air Force

Brad Watt
Floor Assistant
CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senate Majority Leader
Please visit the following website to view floor updates, roll call vote tallies, and the Senate schedule: https://www.democrats.senate.gov/floor

FW: [EXTERNAL] Tomorrow's DOI nom announcements

Van Der Heide Escobar, Jennifer <jennifer_vanderheideescobar@ios.doi.gov>

Tue 4/13/2021 8:51 PM

To: Haaland, Secretary <(b) (6) [redacted]

1 attachment (139 KB)

Tracy Stone-Manning.pdf;

Tommy Beaudreau, Deputy Secretary of the Interior

Tommy P Beaudreau is an attorney and former Chief of Staff for the U S Department of the Interior under Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. During his nearly seven years with the Interior Department, he also served as the first Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management and as Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management. Beaudreau was born in Colorado and raised in Alaska. He currently is a lawyer in private practice in the Environment, Land and Resources Department at Latham & Watkins, LLP and was a non resident fellow with Columbia University's Center for Global Energy Policy. Beaudreau is a graduate of Yale University and the Georgetown University Law Center He resides in Washington, DC with his wife and two children

Shannon Estenoz, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of Interior

Shannon Estenoz is the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks for the Department of the Interior Prior to being appointed to her current position, Shannon served as the Chief Operating Officer and Vice President of Policy for The Everglades Foundation. Previously, Shannon served as the US Department of the Interior's Director of Everglades Restoration Initiatives and the Executive Director of the South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force. Her previous professional roles also include Executive Director of the Environmental and Land Use Law Center, Everglades Program Director of the World Wildlife Fund, Sun Coast Regional Director of the National Parks Conservation Association and three terms as the National Co-Chair of the Everglades Coalition. Shannon's public service includes appointments to Florida Governor Lawton Chiles' Commission for a Sustainable South Florida, Governor Jeb Bush's Commission for the Everglades, the Governing Board of the South Florida Water Management District, the Water Resources Advisory Commission and the Broward Water Resources Task Force.

Shannon is a fifth generation native of Key West, Florida. She holds degrees in International Affairs and Civil Engineering from Florida State University

Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of Interior

Bryan Newland is a citizen of Bay Mills Indian Community (Ojibwe), and was born and raised on the Bay Mills Reservation on the southern shore of Lake Superior He recently completed his tenure as the elected President of Bay Mills Indian Community, where he previously served as Chief Judge of the Bay Mills Indian Community Tribal Court From 2009 to 2012, Bryan served as a Counselor and Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior - Indian Affairs under President Obama.

Bryan is a graduate of the Michigan State University College of Law, with a certificate from the Indigenous Law and Policy Center He also received his undergraduate degree from Michigan State University He is married to Erica Newland, and they have two children - Graydon and Meredith.

Winnie Stachelberg, Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management, and Budget, Department of Interior

Winnie Stachelberg is the executive vice president for External Affairs at the Center for American Progress Since 2006 she has played an integral role in developing and driving the strategic direction of a multi-issue progressive agenda among elected officials, advocacy groups, and other stakeholders A champion for LBGTQ rights,

Stachelberg has been instrumental in shaping policy victories such as the repeal of “don’t ask, don’t tell” and the passage of the Equality Act in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Prior to joining CAP, Stachelberg spent 11 years with the Human Rights Campaign, serving as both Political Director and the first vice president of HRC’s Foundation Stachelberg started her career as a budget analyst at the Office of Management and Budget. A native New Yorker, Stachelberg taught English at George Washington High School after graduating Georgetown University She earned a master’s degree in public administration from George Washington University.

Tracy Stone-Manning, Director of Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior

Tracy Stone Manning has spent her career devoted to public service and conservation As senior advisor for conservation policy at the National Wildlife Federation, she advocates for the wise stewardship of our nation’s lands and waters Before joining the Federation, she served as Montana Governor Bullock’s chief of staff, where she oversaw day-to-day operations of his cabinet and the state’s 11,000 employees. She stepped into that post after serving as the Director of the state’s Department of Environmental Quality, overseeing the state’s water, air, mining and remediation programs. She served as a regional director and senior advisor to Senator Jon Tester during his first term, focusing on forestry issues Early in her career, she led the Clark Fork Coalition, a regional conservation group, as it advocated successfully for Superfund cleanups that created thousands of jobs and revitalized a river The group also co owned and managed a cattle ranch in the heart of the Superfund site

Raised in a big, Navy family her dad commanded a submarine she was guided into public service from childhood. She is a backpacker, hunter and singer, and has been married to the writer Richard Manning for 30 years She lives in Missoula, Montana and holds a M S in Environmental Studies from the University of Montana and an B.A. from the University of Maryland.

Tanya Trujillo, Assistant Secretary for Water and Science, Department of Interior

Tanya Trujillo is a water lawyer with more than 20 years of experience working on complex natural resources management issues and interstate and transboundary water agreements. During her career, she has worked extensively with technical experts and has been part of diverse interdisciplinary teams to address resource management challenges. Prior to her current role with the Department of the Interior, she worked as a project director with the Colorado River Sustainability Campaign to support philanthropy and non governmental teams working on issues throughout the Colorado River Basin. She previously served as the Executive Director of the Colorado River Board of California working closely with agricultural and municipal water users who utilize water from the Colorado River. In Washington, DC, Ms. Trujillo served as Senior Council to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee for New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman and previously worked with the Department of the Interior as Counselor to the Assistant Secretary for Water and Science during the Obama administration.

Ms. Trujillo is a native New Mexican. She served as general counsel to the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and started her career as a natural resources lawyer in private practice in Santa Fe, New Mexico Ms Trujillo attended Stanford University and the University of Iowa College of Law.

Tracy Stone-Manning
(b) (6)
[redacted]

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCES

Associate Vice President for Public Lands, National Wildlife Federation
9/17 – present

Direct strategy and manage public lands program for country's largest conservation organization. Helped raise national profile of public lands issues, which led to the passage of permanent funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and withdrawal of William Perry Pendley's nomination to head the Bureau of Land Management. Worked to ensure NWF is a trusted voice and thought partner on public lands and the West. Serve on US Forest Stewardship Council board.

Chief of Staff, Governor Steve Bullock, Montana
11/14 – 9/17

Managed the governor's office and 18 Cabinet officials through a successful re-election campaign and two legislative sessions, overseeing day-to-day governing, strategic direction and communications. Helped elevate the issue of public lands as a pillar of the re-election campaign. During my tenure in his office, the governor's legislative wins included passing Medicaid expansion, a campaign finance bill, a tribal water compact and a gas tax to pay for infrastructure through legislatures composed of 2/3 Republicans. Later, served as advisor to the governor's presidential campaign on climate and the environment.

Director, Montana Department of Environmental Quality
1/13 – 11/14

Appointed by Governor Bullock to run environmental regulatory agency with 435 employees and a $50 million budget. Directed the assessment of Montana's potential implementation of the draft Clean Power Plan, leading community conversations from Colstrip to Missoula. Oversaw the adoption of numeric standards for nutrients with support from industry and municipalities. Worked successfully with highly partisan Legislature. Served on Executive Committee for the Environmental Council of the States and as the chair of its Air Committee before moving to the Governor's office.

Acting State Staff Director and Senior Advisor, Senator Jon Tester
1/12 – 12/12

Managed the senator's state staff during his re-election year, served on his senior staff, and advised him on a broad range of issues, with emphasis on the environment.

Travelled with the senator throughout the state, coordinating his official work during his re-election campaign.

Regional Director for Senator Jon Tester and Natural Resource Policy Advisor
1/07 – 1/12

Directed regional office for the Senator and was lead staffer in the state for conservation, natural resources and alternative energy. Served as project manager for the Forest, Jobs and Recreation Act, a place-based collaborative bill that would designate nearly 700,000 acres of wilderness, create recreation areas and mandate forest restoration and timber harvest. The bill garnered overwhelming support in state; public opinion polls showed percentage of support in the 70s, breaking a decades-long log jam in wilderness politics. Advised the senator on other key issues including wolf delisting, HR 1505 (the borderlands "protection" bill), attacks on clean air and sportsmen's issues.

Executive Director, Clark Fork Coalition, Missoula, MT
8/99 – 1/07

Conceived of and managed a successful and bi-partisan campaign to remove the dam at the confluence of Blackfoot and Clark Fork rivers, despite a difficult political climate. Co-directed a campaign with Montana Trout Unlimited that rejected a ballot measure that would have overturned the state's cyanide heap leach mining ban. Clean water took 58 percent of the vote, even though our campaign was outspent 7 to 1. Created a partnership with two conservation donors in order to purchase and manage a ranch in the upper Clark Fork in a Superfund site. Launched an effort bringing together ranchers, economic development specialists, teachers and citizens to use the pending Superfund cleanup as a springboard to economic and cultural revitalization.

Doubled the budget and staff of the modest organization. Launched successful capital campaign to purchase an office building.

Founding Editor, Headwaters News
10/98 – 8/99

Conceived, raised two years of start up funds, and launched Headwaters News, later called Mountain West News, an online source of news housed at the Center for the Rocky Mountain West.

Senior Fellow, Ecotrust, Portland, OR
1/97 – 9/98

Led the strategy of a community-based economic development and conservation program at the mouth of the Columbia River and directed the program from an Astoria-based field office. In a key project, helped a salmon hatchery launch a watershed restoration effort that shifted the hatchery's focus away from producing fish to revitalizing fish habitat. Recruited, hired and trained my local replacement.

Freelance writer and media consultant
6/95 – 1/97

Contributor to *High Country News, Northern Lights, Bloomsbury Review, Summit*. Writer and editor for and editor for Lycos. Web page designer, desktop publisher, video producer and media consultant for conservation organizations.

Knight Fellowship program, Stanford University, CA
9/94 – 6/95

Joined my spouse and 16 journalists and their spouses in studies at Stanford. Attended weekly seminars with journalists and policy leaders. Also took courses in the School of Business, biology and writing.

Executive Director, Five Valleys Land Trust, Missoula, MT
12/92 – 9/94

Transformed small organization. Responsibilities included negotiating land acquisitions and conservation easements; raising yearly budget; outreach to the community through newsletter and media contacts. Launched successful campaign to buy and protect a mountain on the edge of Missoula.

EDUCATION

Graduate	University of Montana, Missoula, Montana M.S. in Environmental Studies, 1992
Undergraduate	University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland B.A. in Radio-Television-Film, 1987 University of Exeter, England, 1985 - 86

PUBLICATIONS

Editor, *The River We Carry With Us, Two Centuries of Writing from the Clark Fork Basin*, Clark City Press, 2002

PERSONAL INTERESTS

Backpacking, hiking, hunting, and exploring wild country. Cooking. Reading. Singing.

From: Cherry, Tyler A
To: Schwartz, Melissa A
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Wash Times inquiry/Tracy Stone-Manning
Date: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:44:00 PM

Flagging – will decline comment

Tyler Cherry
Press Secretary
Office of the Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
(c) 202-549-2988

Follow us at @USInteriorPress and sign up here for updates from Interior.

From: Valerie Richardson <vrichardson@washingtontimes.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 8, 2021 2:40 PM
To: Cherry, Tyler A <tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wash Times inquiry/Tracy Stone-Manning

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi, Tyler, I wanted to see if DOI had any concerns about the disclosure at today's hearing that Tracy Stone-Manning took out a personal below-market loan in 2008, while she was working for the Sen. Tester, from Stuart Goldberg, a Montana developer and Democratic donor who gave to the Tester campaign in 2016. The loan was not paid off until 2020.

Did she disclose this loan while working for Sen. Tester to the Senate Ethics Committee?

Thanks very much,

Valerie

--
Valerie Richardson | National Reporter / Denver and the West
Cell 303-507-3856 | @ValRichardson17

3600 New York Ave NE | Washington DC, 20002
Error! Filename not specified.washingtontimes.com

The information contained in this electronic transmission is intended for the exclusive use of the individuals to whom it is addressed and may contain information that is privileged and confidential, the disclosure of which is prohibited by law. If the reader of this transmission is not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. In addition, any unauthorized copying, disclosure or distribution of the material in this e-mail and any attachments is strictly forbidden.

From: Schwartz, Melissa A
To: Zack Budryk; Interior Press
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Bob Abbey"s comments on Tracy Stone-Manning
Date: Monday, June 21, 2021 3:27:50 PM

We do not, thanks

From: Zack Budryk <zbudryk@thehill.com>
Sent: Monday, June 21, 2021 3:16 PM
To: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Bob Abbey's comments on Tracy Stone-Manning

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi,
This is Zack with The Hill. Reaching out to see if the department has any comments on former BLM director Bob Abbey's comments on Tracy Stone-Manning's nomination.
Thanks,
Zack

--
Staff writer, The Hill
571-991-6049
@BudrykZack
“That's all we have, finally, the words, and they had better be the right ones.”
— Raymond Carver

From: Grandoni, Dino
To: Schwartz, Melissa A
Cc: Interior Press
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Question from WaPo about BLM and Tracy Stone-Manning
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:54:56 PM

Thanks so much

Dino Grandoni
716-818-0825
The Washington Post
Energy and environmental policy reporter

From: Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:43 PM
To: Grandoni, Dino <Dino.Grandoni@washpost.com>
Cc: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Question from WaPo about BLM and Tracy Stone-Manning

CAUTION: EXTERNAL SENDER

The Interior Department stands by Tracy's statements and written submissions. We have no update on timing for the oil and gas report. Thanks

---

From: Grandoni, Dino <Dino.Grandoni@washpost.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:41 PM
To: Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>; Tracy Stone-Manning <stonemanningt@nwf.org>
Cc: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Question from WaPo about BLM and Tracy Stone-Manning

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Melissa and Tracy,

Hope you're all well. We're preparing a story for tomorrow on the Tracy Stone-Manning's (CC'd) vote in the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee — and wanted to check in.

I'm wondering if DOI or Tracy has any comment on the letter from Michael Merkley recently

sent to the committee. The former USDA investigator says that Tracy was an initial target of investigation — seemingly in contradiction to Tracy's written answers to the Senate.

https://www.energy.senate.gov/services/files/03E32662-AF39-43BE-9109-48809E1E56EB [gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com]

I'm also wondering if DOI can provide any update on when the review of the oil and gas leasing program will finish and be released.

All the best,
Dino

Dino Grandoni
716-818-0825
The Washington Post
Energy and environmental policy reporter

From: Schwartz, Melissa A
To: Amanda E; Cherry, Tyler A
Cc: Interior Press
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Arrange interview with BLM nominee Tracy Stone-Manning
Date: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:49:37 PM

We have no comment on the letter, thanks

Melissa Schwartz (she/her)
Communications Director
Office of the Secretary
Department of the Interior
Cell: (202) 538-2214

From: Amanda E <(b) (6)
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:45 PM
To: Cherry, Tyler A
Cc: Interior Press
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] Re: Arrange interview with BLM nominee Tracy Stone-Manning

Hi Tyler,

I'm reaching out to see if the DOI has a statement or information to offer on the letter Republican members of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources issued to President Biden yesterday urging him to rescind Tracy Stone-Manning's nomination. This is for a story I'm working on for Montana Free Press about that development.

I'm also curious if any votes on her nomination have been scheduled — any update there?

Planning to get this story up by EOD (4:30 p.m. Mountain Time), so I'd greatly appreciate a swift reply.

Cheers,
Amanda

On Mon, Apr 26, 2021 at 1:56 PM Cherry, Tyler A <tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov> wrote:

> Hi Amanda,
>
> Tracy is not doing any interviews at this time. We're happy to circle back if and when she is confirmed.
>
> Thanks,

Tyler Cherry

Press Secretary

Office of the Secretary

U.S. Department of the Interior

(c) 202-549-2988

Follow us at @USInteriorPress and sign up here for updates from Interior.

From: Amanda E <(b) (6)
Sent: Monday, April 26, 2021 3:49 PM
To: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Re: Arrange interview with BLM nominee Tracy Stone-Manning

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi DOI press team,

I'm circling back to follow-up on this interview request that I submitted through this channel pre Ms. Stone-Manning's request. Where do things stand with this?

Cheers,

Amanda Eggert

On Thu, Apr 22, 2021 at 7:38 PM Amanda E <(b) (6) wrote:

> Hi DOI press team,

I'm working on a story for Montana Free Press and potentially also High Country News on Tracy Stone-Manning's nomination to become President Joe Biden's BLM Director.

I would love to set up a phone interview with Tracy. What can I do to help facilitate that?

Cheers,

Amanda Eggert

--

Writer and Editor

ph: 406-370-4936

www.amandaeggertmedia.com

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."

- Ellen Parr

--

Writer and Editor

ph: 406-370-4936

www.amandaeggertmedia.com

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."

- Ellen Parr

--
Writer and Editor
ph: 406-370-4936
www.amandaeggertmedia.com

"The cure for boredom is curiosity. There is no cure for curiosity."
- Ellen Parr

From:	Schwartz, Melissa A
To:	Caitlyn Kim; Interior Press
Subject:	RE: [EXTERNAL] Tracy Stone Manning answers to follow-up questions from the Senate ENR committee
Date:	Thursday, July 15, 2021 12:29:47 PM
Attachments:	Final DOI Stone Manning SENR QFR Responses 7.14.21.pdf

Please see attached

From: Caitlyn Kim <ckim@cprmail.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 11:37 AM
To: Interior Press <interior_press@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tracy Stone Manning answers to follow-up questions from the Senate ENR committee

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi,

Would it be possible to get Ms. Stone-Manning's answers to the follow-up questions she sent to the committee?

Thanks,
Caitlyn

--

Caitlyn Kim
Public Affairs Reporter/Washington, DC, CPR News
Colorado Public Radio
Bridges Broadcast Center
7409 S. Alton Ct. | Centennial, CO 80112
Let's connect: @caitlynkim | Facebook | Instagram
www.cpr.org

...

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Hearing on the Nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning to be
Director of the Bureau of Land Management
June 8, 2021

Questions from Ranking Member Barrasso

Question 1: In 1993, media outlets reported on the conviction of two people for spiking trees in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest on March 29, 1989. They were reportedly the first people convicted under a federal-tree spiking law. The U.S. Forest Service reportedly learned of the spiking in early April 1989 when it received a letter warning that 500 pounds of bridge spikes had been driven into the sp.

On July 26, 1993, the High Country News reported:

> *"John Blount, 32, now of Masonville, Colorado, and Jeffrey Fairchild, 26, of Ashland, Wisconsin, told the court they drove nails into trees on the Post Office Timber Sale near Powell, Idaho, to save the old-growth from logging. A federal jury in Spokane, Wash., convicted Blount and Fairchild of misdemeanor tree spiking and felony charges of willfully destroying government property…*
>
> *"Conspiracy charges against a third defendant, Daniel LaCrosse, 36, of Salem, N.H., were dismissed.*
>
> *"The four-day trial involved testimony from two other men who said they participated in the spiking. They earlier pleaded guilty to misdemeanor tree spiking but have not been sentenced.*
>
> *"Other witnesses included Blount's former girlfriend, Guenevere Lilburn, who said Blount and Fairchild planned the monkey-wrenching in her Missoula, Mont., home.*
>
> *"Tracy Stone-Manning, director of the Five Valleys Land Trust in Missoula, testified that Blount and Fairchild asked her to mail a letter to the U.S. Forest Service warning the trees were spiked when she was a student at the University of Montana.*
>
> *"She said she mailed the letter to warn loggers about the dangerous spikes, which can cause serious injury when a chainsaw hits a spike."*

On June 4th and June 8th, 1993, the Associated Press reported that the two men who pled guilty to misdemeanor tree spiking and subsequently testified against Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse were Alvin E. Hartley and Neil K. McLain, former residents of Missoula, Montana. The Associated Press further reported:

> *"The government's first witness, Tracy Stone-Manning, testified that she was shocked to read a letter given to her by Blount on the steps of the University of Montana's Rankin Hall environmental studies building in 1989.*
>
> *"'I hadn't known this had happened,' said Stone-Manning, who was an environmental studies graduate student and now heads the Five Valleys Land Trust. 'It was news to me.'*
>
> *"She said she retyped the letter correcting spelling errors and deleting some profanity then sent it to the Forest Service, as Blount requested…*

> *"Blount, Stone-Manning and others lived for varying periods of time at a residence called Sherwood House, where they became involved in protests against environmental and forest policies in an activist group called Earth First!, she said.*
>
> *"Stone-Manning was granted immunity from prosecution for her testimony after coming forward last year after Blount was arrested in Colorado in a domestic dispute with a former girlfriend, Guenevere Lilburn…"*

Please respond fully and completely to the following questions:

Just as I don't recall many of the courses I took or the professors I had at the University of Montana 30 years ago, I don't recall details of who I may have been acquainted with or what activities we engaged in then. What follows is the best of my recollection.

a. Did you ever work for Earth First!?

Response: No.

b. Were you ever paid by (including reimbursements) a member of Earth First!?

Response: No.

c. Were you ever a volunteer for Earth First!

Response: Yes.

d. Were you ever an editor for, contributor to, or a member of the staff of "The *Radical* Environmental Journal"?

Response: To the best of my recollection, approximately thirty years ago, I assisted with the design and layout for a single issue of *Earth First! The Radical Environmental Journal*, substituting temporarily for some people who had been in a car accident and was listed as an editor on that issue. I did not have any published writings in that issue or any other tissue.

e. What job titles or roles have you held with Earth First!?

Response: As I indicated in response to a previous question, I never worked for Earth First. I don't think anyone did as it wasn't a formal organization with staff. I recall acting as a spokesperson and copy editor for various events or rallies on campus.

f. Did you ever contribute to or raise money for Earth First!?

Response: No.

g. While you were affiliated with Earth First!, did any members of Earth First! advocate for tree spiking or other ecological terrorist activities?

Response: I can't speak to what others engaged in Earth First! did or didn't espouse. I do not condone tree spiking or terrorism of any kind.

h. Did you have personal knowledge of, participate in, or in any way directly or indirectly support activities associated with the spiking of trees in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest on March 29, 1989?

Response: I had no involvement in the spiking of trees.

i. Did you have personal knowledge of, participate in, or in any way directly or indirectly support activities associated with the spiking of trees in any forest during your lifetime?

Response: No.

j. When you learned that John Blount, Jeffrey Fairchild, and Daniel LaCrosse were involved in the crime of spiking trees, why didn't you turn them into the local police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation yourself?

Response: Although they were boastful and convincing as they handed me the letter, I did not actually know if they had done what the letter described. At the time, I believed that I was notifying the authorities by sending the letter.

k. Please fully and completely describe the details and circumstances of your testimony before the federal court in Spokane, Washington during the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse, and include the case number or other information to identify the public record of the proceeding.

l. Please fully and completely describe the details and circumstances of your immunity from prosecution agreement associated with your testimony before the federal court in Spokane, Washington during the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse, including, but not limited to, a full, complete, and detailed explanation of what charges of violations of law you potentially faced, and what specific activities you had participated in that would have exposed you to potential charges of violations of law.

Response to k and l: My recollection is that Guenevere Lilburn called me one night, sobbing, in early 1993. I had not heard from her in years. She told me that Mr. Blount had assaulted her and kidnapped their baby. She was fearful for her and for the child's safety; he had spent the previous weeks in jail on domestic violence charges.

I recall that she said she told federal authorities about his role in the 1989 tree spiking incident in order to keep him in jail. He had apparently told her that I had sent the letter, and she asked if I would work with the authorities and tell them what I knew about that. I agreed to do that.

Subsequently, a law enforcement officer from the U.S. Forest Service got in touch with me and asked me to come to his office and tell him what I knew. He suggested that I retain an attorney, which I did. The attorney advised me at the time to seek immunity as part of my testimony.

m. Please provide any and all documents associated with your testimony before the federal court in Spokane, Washington during the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse, including, but not limited to:

- **Your testimony before the court;**
- **Your agreement for immunity from prosecution;**
- **The letter, in its original form, that you received from Mr. Blount.**
- **The letter as edited and mailed on behalf of Mr. Blount to the U.S. Forest Service.**

Response: I do not have any of these documents from thirty years ago.

n. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Blount, including, but not limited to:

- **Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. Blount? If so, during what period(s) of time?**
- **Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. Blount's activities associated with the spiking of trees?**
- **Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. Blount?**
- **Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. Blount?**

Response: In August, 1988, when I first arrived in Missoula and was searching for an apartment, I recall staying at Sherwood House for a couple of weeks while I looked for an apartment. I do not recall whether he lived there at the time or was staying there temporarily. I did not have personal knowledge of his activities. Even after he handed me the letter in 1989, I was not sure if what the letter described had really happened. I do not recall ever discussing tree spiking with Mr. Blount or participating in any activities with Earth First! with Mr. Blount.

o. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Fairchild, including, but not limited to:

- **Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. Fairchild? If so, during what period(s) of time?**
- **Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. Fairchild's activities associated with the spiking of trees?**
- **Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. Fairchild?**
- **Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. Fairchild?**

Response: In August, 1988, when I first arrived in Missoula and was searching for an apartment, I recall staying at Sherwood House for a couple weeks. I do not recall whether Mr. Fairchild lived there at the time or was staying there temporarily. I did not have personal knowledge of his activities. I do not recall ever discussing tree spiking with Mr. Fairchild or participating in activities with Earth First! and Mr. Fairchild.

p. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. LaCrosse, including, but not limited to:

- **Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. LaCrosse? If so, during what period(s) of time?**
- **Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. LaCrosse's activities associated with the spiking of trees?**
- **Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. LaCrosse?**
- **Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. LaCrosse?**

Response: I do not recall Mr. LaCrosse well after approximately thirty years.

q. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Hartley, including, but not limited to:

- **Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. Hartley? If so, during what period(s) of time?**
- **Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. Hartley's activities associated with the spiking of trees?**

- **Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. Hartley?**

- **Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. Hartley?**

Response: I do not recall knowing Mr. Hartley.

r. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. McLain, including, but not limited to:

- **Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. McLain? If so, during what period(s) of time?**

- **Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. McLain's activities associated with the spiking of trees?**

- **Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. McLain?**

- **Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. McLain?**

Response: I do not recall knowing Mr. McLain.

s. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Ms. Lilburn, including, but not limited to:

- **Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Ms. Lilburn? If so, during what period(s) of time?**

- **Did you have personal knowledge of Ms. Lilburn's activities associated with the spiking of trees?**

- **Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Ms. Lilburn?**

- **Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Ms. Lilburn?**

- **Did you ever visit Ms. Lilburn's home in Missoula, Montana?**

Response: I do not recall staying at Sherwood House at the same time as Ms. Lilburn. I did not have personal knowledge of her activities. I do not recall ever discussing tree spiking with her or participating in any activities with Earth First! and Ms. Lilburn. I never visited her home in Missoula.

t. Were you present for any part of the planning of the spiking of trees in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest on March 29, 1989 including, but not limited to, the planning by Mr. Blount and Mr. Fairchild at Ms. Lilburn's Missoula, Montana home?

Response: No.

u. Why did you agree to edit and mail the letter to the U.S. Forest Service on behalf of Mr. Blount?

Response: I was concerned that if I did not mail the letter, he would not, and I wanted to make sure that someone was made aware of it so that no one would get hurt.

v. Were you ever concerned that editing and mailing the letter on behalf of Mr. Blount may have constituted a violation of law and exposed you to any charge of a violation of law?

Response: I recall being disturbed with the whole situation and frightened of him; I wanted nothing to do with it and did not want anyone to get hurt.

w. Did you ever discuss with an attorney, a federal prosecutor, or any officer of the federal court in Spokane, Washington associated with the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse that editing and mailing the letter on behalf of Mr. Blunt may have constituted a violation of law and exposed you to any charge of a violation of law?

Response: I mentioned in a previous response I retained an attorney and discussed the matter with him.

x. When Mr. Blount asked you to send the letter to the U.S. Forest Service, why did you not immediately contact law enforcement authorities, like the local police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation?

Response: As I mentioned above, approximately thirty years ago, I believed that by sending the letter I was letting the authorities know.

y. Please amend, as necessary, and in incorporate by reference, Question 8 on your sworn Statement for Completion by Presidential Nominees dated May 27, 2021 and submitted to the Committee (ENR Questionnaire), listing in chronological order all positions held, including dates of employment, your title or job description, the name of the employer and the city or state in which you were employed from the date on which you received your B.A. in 1987 until December 1, 1992.

Response:

1987 – 1988	94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, College Park, MD	Part-time waitress
1988 – 1989	Sears Portrait Studio, Missoula, MT	Part-time photographer/sales
1989 – 1990	University of Montana, Missoula, MT	Part-time teacher
1990	Clemow & Company. Missoula, MT	Part-time office assistant

Summer, 1990	Missoula County Library	Bookmobile librarian
Summer, 1991	Missoula County Library	Bookmobile librarian

Question 2: On your financial disclosure form, you represented that you incurred a personal loan in 2008 from a creditor named Stuart Goldberg. You represented the loan amount as $50,001 - $100,000, and noted that the loan was made at a rate of 6 percent and a term of 12 years. You represented that you paid the loan in full in 2020.

Mr. Goldberg appears to be a real estate developer in Missoula, Montana, and a regular donor to Democratic campaigns.

You represented on your committee questionnaire that you worked as Regional Director for U.S. Senator John Tester from 2007 to 2012; as Acting State Staff Director and Senior Advisor for Senator Tester in 2012; as Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality from 2013 to 2014; as Chief of Staff to former Montana Governor Steve Bullock from 2014 to 2017; and as Associate Vice President for Public Lands at the National Wildlife Federation from 2017 to 2021.

You were a senior federal government official in a position to influence policies impacting constituents in Montana when you incurred the loan from Mr. Goldberg in 2008. For approximately seven years of the twelve year term of the loan, you worked as a senior federal government official and a senior state government official in a position to influence policies impacting constituents in Montana.

Please respond fully and completely to the following questions:

a. **Please fully and completely describe the details and circumstances of your personal loan from Mr. Goldberg.**

Response: In 2008, the economy put the stereo and home theater store managed by my husband in Missoula, MT, in difficult financial shape. Mr. Goldberg was a friend of many years; in fact my husband and I officiated his wedding. He lent $100,000 to the business in the short term in order for us to keep our home. In return, he purchased equipment for the new home he was building at wholesale, at a value of thousands of dollars.

Over a couple months, the economy worsened and crashed. The business failed. We ended up having to sell our home in March 2009 and downsize. We did not earn enough on the sale to pay him back fully. We closed the business, and rather than declare bankruptcy and walk away from the business loan, we took on the personal obligation to pay back the loan.

We paid him $40,000 at the time of the sale of the house and came to verbal agreement on the details of converting to a personal loan the remaining $60,000, which were: we would pay him annual interest, in monthly installments, until we could pay off the principal of the loan. We paid off the principal, in full, in 2020, after I received a modest inheritance from my mother.

b. Please fully and completely describe the terms of the loan and associated agreements, including, but not limited to, the agreed-upon frequency of payments, the agreed-upon amount of payments, the actual frequency of payments, and the actual amount of payments.

Response: As described in other answers, the original loan amount was $100,000 in 2008 for a business my husband was operating at the time. In 2009, we sold our house and repaid $40,000 of the loan, and made regular monthly installment payments for the annual interest on the balance of the loan. In 2020, I repaid the $60,000 balance of the loan when my mother passed and I received an inheritance.

c. Please provide any and all documents associated with your personal loan from Mr. Goldberg, including, but not limited to:

- **The written contract(s), including any modifications, regarding the personal loan;**
- **Documentation of payments, such as cancelled checks;**
- **Written correspondence regarding the personal loan.**

Response: I do not have documentation of the loan, the arrangements were made verbally and payments were made electronically.

d. Did you consult with the Senate Ethics Committee before taking this loan, and if so, what guidance were you given?

Response: No as I did not consider the loan to the business to be a gift.

e. Did you fill out a gift disclosure form for the Senate Ethics Committee after you took this loan?

Response: No as I did not consider the loan to the business to be a gift.

f. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Goldberg, including, but not limited to:

- **When you first met Mr. Goldberg, and in what capacity;**
- **Did you regularly meet with Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?**
- **Did you regularly correspond with Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?**
- **Did you ever visit Mr. Goldberg's residence? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?**

- **Did Mr. Goldberg ever visit your residence? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?**

- **Did you ever dine with Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?**

- **Did you ever receive gifts from Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?**

- **Did you ever give gifts to Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?**

- **Did you ever meet with Mr. Goldberg or any of his associates in an official capacity while working in the federal or state government?**

- **Did you ever correspond with Mr. Goldberg or any of his associates in an official capacity while working in the federal or state government?**

- **Did you ever discuss any of your federal and state government positions with Mr. Goldberg, including, but not limited to, your nomination to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management?**

Response: I first met Mr. Goldberg sometime around 2000. He supported the Clark Fork Coalition, where I was the Executive Director. We became friends and I cannot recall all the times we met, but occasions included dinners in each others' homes, a camping trip, and attending concerts. In 2007, I officiated his wedding. Similarly, we occasionally exchanged gifts as friends do – at the holidays, etc., and at his wedding. We have communicated less since 2009 or 2010. I never met or corresponded with Mr. Goldberg or any associates of his in an official capacity while working for the state or federal government.

g. Did you ever have any personal knowledge of any interests Mr. Goldberg or any of his associates or businesses had before the federal or state government?

Response: No.

h. Did you ever have any concerns about a potential conflict of interest between your federal and state government positions and having received a personal loan from Mr. Goldberg?

Response: No.

i. Did you ever have any concerns about an appearance of a potential conflict of interest between your federal and state government positions and having received a personal loan from Mr. Goldberg?

Response: No.

j. Did you ever attempt to obtain a personal loan from any source other than Mr. Goldberg? If so, please fully and completely describe the facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to, whether or not you were approved for or denied a loan, and what the terms of the prospective loan were.

Response: In 2008 I discussed with my mother the possibility of a loan to pay off the balance owed Mr. Goldberg but she was not able to afford it at the time.

k. What was your household income, including salaries, in 2008 when you incurred the loan? Do you believe the loan and loan terms you received from Mr. Goldberg would have been available to others similarly situated to your household in 2008?

Response: I do not have records or recall my precise household income for 2008 but to the best of my recollection it was roughly $75,000. I believe the loan agreement with Mr. Goldberg represented a fair arrangement between friends where Mr. Goldberg received a fair return on his loan.

Question 3: In your position at the National Wildlife Federation, you criticized William Perry Pendley's record, the most recent BLM Acting Director. You stated that the BLM should have a director who believes in the Bureau's multiple-use mission.

a. Do you agree that multiple use requires BLM lands to be managed so that public lands and resource values are utilized in a combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people?

b. Do you agree that the Department's multiple-use mission requires a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses including recreation, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historical values?

Response to a and b: Yes. The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. I strongly support the BLM's multiple-use mission.

Question 4: BLM's mission states: "BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, *and productivity* of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." If confirmed as Director, you will be tasked with managing lands for a variety of uses such as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting while ensuring natural, cultural, and historic resources are maintained for present and future use. Daily decisions you make regarding public land uses will affect American citizens across the nation.

a. Will you ensure that affected citizens – those citizens who live near and have a vested interest on public lands – will have the opportunity to participate in rule making, decision-making, and planning with respect to the public lands you will be overseeing?

Response: Yes. As I stated at the hearing, broad stakeholder input is always important and, in my view, it is the best approach to getting things done. If I am confirmed, I would seek local stakeholder input and strive to work

together to accomplish our goals. Throughout my career in Montana, I have a great amount of experience working with local communities who were most affected by state and federal decisions. I consistently worked to take their views closely into account to bring about lasting solutions.

Question 5: In the past, you have participated in and served in leadership positions for organizations that have sued and otherwise litigated against other parties. You have also participated in and served in leadership positions for organizations that have aggressively advocated politically against other parties.

a. **If confirmed as the Director of BLM, how will you reconcile the need to coordinate with BLM's 'customers' that you sued or litigated against in your previous capacities?**

b. **Are you concerned that your previous leadership positions for organizations that have aggressively advocated politically against other parties will be viewed as undermining your ability to act impartially as Director of the BLM, if confirmed?**

Response to a and b: As I said at the hearing, my professional track record, over thirty years, shows a very western sensibility of working together to get things done. My approach to running the public lands program at the National Wildlife Federation also was a very bipartisan approach and yielded much bipartisan success. If confirmed, I will bring this approach to the role of BLM Director.

Question 6: BLM has a long and hard-earned respect for "citizen-centered" stewardship and partnerships.

a. **If confirmed, what actions will you take to ensure that you do not create division between the Bureau and stakeholders?**

b. **How will you foster consultation, cooperation, and communication amongst stakeholders and partners with whom you personally and politically disagree?**

Response to a and b: As I stated at the hearing, it is my firm belief that we must work together to get things done. Stakeholder participation and input – from industry, ranchers, local governments – is important to accomplishing lasting solutions. Listening is critical to accomplishing lasting solutions. If I am confirmed I commit to continuing the approach I learned and have applied throughout my professional career.

Question 7: We are approaching what may be a very harsh wildfire season. I am concerned, as many of us are, about the health and safety of our firefighters and residents in our local communities. It is imperative we adjust our posture and pivot to preventing fire through proactively treating our forests and rangelands. At last month's forestry hearing, we heard testimony from Ben Wudtke, Executive Director of the Intermountain Forest Association, that deforestation by wildfire is the leading cause of the growing reforestation backlog on our National Forests, and that forest management measures are necessary to prevent wildfires. Likewise, Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen recently testified that her agency must accelerate its active forest management efforts, and that a "paradigm shift" is needed. The Bureau that you will be overseeing manages about 245 million acres, of which, 65 million acres are comprised of forests and woodlands across 12 western states and Alaska.

a. **Do you agree that active forest management is an effective tool for preventing catastrophic wildfires and improving the health of our forests and rangelands across the West?**

b. **If so, will you commit to directing resources for active forest management on BLM lands, and collaborating with the Forest Service, and with state and county governments, on their work on our National Forests?**

Response to a and b: Yes, it is critically important to reduce wildfire risk and to increase fire resiliency on our forest and rangelands, and I believe it is equally important to be cooperative and to strike the right balance to get there. If confirmed, I would consult with the fire and habitat management professionals and other stakeholders to ensure that the actions we would take are effective to prevent catastrophic fires, to protect our communities and to improve the condition of our public lands.

<u>Question 8</u>: What measures could BLM implement in the future to ensure that BLM is responsibly managing its lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires?

Response: There are many factors that contribute to worsening wildfire seasons, including a century of fire suppression, more structures in wildfire prone areas, and climate change. If confirmed, I will make sure that our decisions on forest management and hazardous fuels reduction are guided by the best available science on forest health and wildfire management. I am also committed to working closely with our partners, including the Forest Service, states, Tribal Nations, and local communities, to reduce wildfire risk and restore the ecological health of our forests and rangelands.

<u>Question 9</u>: I am concerned that you've expressed hostility towards American energy dominance. On September 24, 2020 you tweeted:

> ***"What does an "energy dominance" agenda look like? Offering up #oilandgas leases in all the wrong places, like Moab, UT, & on the edge of Great Sand Dunes NP. We should treat #publiclands like they belong to all of us…"***

America needs an all of the above energy strategy that includes coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear power, and renewables.

a. **Please explain your views on energy development both within our national forests and public lands.**

Response: I agree with President Biden and Secretary Haaland that fossil fuels will continue to play a major role in our domestic energy mix for years to come. As I stated in response to an earlier question, I am a firm believer in the BLM's multiple use mandate, and responsible energy development has a place on the public lands as one of those many uses. As I said at the hearing, I have spent my career balancing the needs of a variety of stakeholders, and I believe that there is plenty of room for oil and gas development in the West. I would follow the law, science, and stakeholder input to make smart decisions about energy development.

Question 10: In 2013, as Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, you were jointly responsible for the environmental impact statement as well as making a decision regarding the Rosebud Coal Mine proposal.

a. **Will you recuse yourself from all matters relating to the Rosebud Coal Mine?**

Response: I will always conduct myself with the highest ethical standards. In advance of the Committee hearing to consider my nomination I signed an ethics agreement, a copy of which was provided to the Committee along with my completed Committee Questionnaire. If I am confirmed I will honor the terms of that agreement. In addition, I will always seek the advice of the Department's career ethics officials as I carry out my duties at the Department.

Question 11: In southwestern Wyoming, the Bureau of Land Management estimates there are over 5,100 wild horses across five Herd Management Areas — more than double the Appropriate Management Level for these populations. Such severe overpopulation causes damage to federal lands and waters, jeopardizes responsible uses of the land, such as grazing, and puts the wild horses themselves at risk. I was pleased to see a recent Bureau of Land Management plan that calls for the removal of excess wild horses in Wyoming. In April, I and the Wyoming delegation sent a letter to Secretary Haaland encouraging full and timely implementation of this proposed action.

a. **Are you aware of this issue?**

b. **If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that the Department's plan is fully implemented in a timely fashion?**

Response to a and b: I know that this is a longstanding and difficult problem and that there are deeply held views on each side of the issue. This is also a great example of an issue where we need to work together to find creative and effective solutions. If I am confirmed, I would commit to learning more about that plan and the implementation of the program and to working with you and others in Congress to work toward solutions that will ensure humane treatment of these animals and a healthy landscape.

Question 12: How might BLM better use existing authorities to achieve the appropriate management level of wild horses and burros on its lands? What, if any, new authorities might be needed?

Response: As I said in response to a related question at the hearing, it is my view that key principles to addressing this issue are ensuring the humane treatment of these animals and managing for the health of the landscape. Because we have a law that says these animals have a place on the landscape, as well as other laws that require management of these lands for multiple needs and objectives, Congress will play an integral role and we need to work together. If confirmed, I commit to finding creative solutions and working with stakeholders, including Congress, to address this difficult issue.

Question 13: Venting and Flaring is a concern not only for waste and lost revenues, but a contributor to emissions. After almost two years of environmental studies and review needed to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act and other statutory and regulatory requirements, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), as the lead agency, issued an Order Certificate to WBI Energy on June

1, 2021, for a new natural gas transmission pipeline project in North Dakota. The new pipeline would include a new interconnection with the Northern Border Pipeline Company and would transport up to 250,000 million cubic feet per day of natural gas from processing plants in northwestern North Dakota to the interstate Northern Border pipeline.

This pipeline project would provide firm take-away capacity for increasing levels of natural gas production, reduce flaring of natural gas in the region and meet state-mandated natural gas capture targets, and create an additional outlet for the increasing volume of natural gas production. This project aims to substantially reduce methane emissions by providing the critical infrastructure needed to bring product to market instead of needless waste from flaring and lost royalties.

While the entire pipeline project spans 93.5 miles mostly on privately-owned lands, it is noteworthy, and also very concerning, that this project seems to be stalled by this Administration's persistent and lingering policy to limit certain energy and right-of-way project decisions.

Of the 93.5 miles, 4.1 miles (only 4 percent) cross Federal lands. Those federal lands even fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service . . . seemingly outside the authority of the Interior. However, while the project would not cross federal lands under BLM jurisdiction, it is in fact the Department of Interior and delegated to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that has the authority to decide whether or not to render a Right-of-Way Grant, with the consent of the US Forest Service and Corps, for this important pipeline project.

This project has been very well supported. Ironically, this pipeline project works toward the goals of the Administration to reduce venting and flaring, to reduce emissions, and to promote infrastructure opportunities and good paying jobs for clean energy projects such as this. And yet, this 'moratorium' on any energy decisions stops good projects like this.

a. If confirmed, will you proceed with issuing a Decision, in coordination with the US Forest Service and Corps of Engineers, to authorize a Right-of-Way Grant for this important project?

Response: If I am confirmed I would look forward to learning more about this issue and the BLM's role. As I stated at the hearing, I support efforts to capture wasted gas in order to limit methane emissions and bring this important product to market for the benefit of consumers and the environment.

b. Will you commit to expeditiously reviewing and engaging with important multiple-use decisions, grounded in science, not politics, that support efforts for firm take-away capacity and other important energy and non-energy right-of-way actions and decisions?

Response: Yes, if I am confirmed I commit that I will always act expeditiously and efficiently when I make decisions. I will always follow the law and my decisions will be grounded in science. I believe that is the best course for making sound and responsible decisions for the management of public lands.

Question 14: Under your leadership, what balance would BLM seek to strike in managing lands for protection and use? What role should Congress play in placing additional protections for certain lands and resources? What role should the Executive Branch play? Do you support additional access for commercial uses, such as energy development, timber harvesting, and livestock grazing?

Response: As I have said before, I have spent my entire career balancing the needs of a variety of stakeholders and I believe that has prepared me for this position. If I am confirmed, I will listen to those stakeholders and I would follow the law and science in making decisions about the public lands. I also believe it is important to establish and maintain open communication with Congress, as it not only has an important oversight role but also provides needed authority in situations where creative solutions that do not fit within existing laws are necessary.

Should the President rely on input from Congress and local stakeholders when establishing new national monuments or revising existing ones? If there is local opposition to a monument designation or revision should the local opposition be ignored by the government?

Response: Designation of national monuments under the Antiquities Act is the prerogative of the President. As I said at the hearing, it is my view that the best approach is to bring all stakeholders together to come up with the best plan and that is the approach I will take if confirmed as Director.

Question 15: At your nomination hearing you **talked a lot about working together. Please describe how you would work with states, localities, and tribes to manage federal lands? For example, how would BLM use authorities which allow nonfederal entities to conduct resource management work on nonfederal lands?**

Response: The written statement that I submitted for my hearing details some of the key actions and practices that I have used to successfully bring people together and to form partnerships, and I would use that same approach and effort, if I am confirmed for this position. I would learn more about all of the authorities available to the bureau to successfully work with states, stakeholders, Tribes and others to partner on resource management activities. Partnerships with nonfederal entities can be an important component for meeting resource management goals while leveraging limited federal funding.

Question 16: When I asked you about the political hit job by the Montana Conservation Voters against Senator Daines you told me that it is your core belief that you never micromanage staff. If you are confirmed as BLM director there will be employees who make land management decisions that you may not like. Will you be taking the same hands-off approach to your job as director?

Response: Yes. While it is important for bureau leadership to provide policy direction to staff, as I said at the hearing, in my experience relying on career employees with decades of experience doing their jobs was an integral part of solving problems and finding solutions that are right for the land and the people who live and work on it. I would carry this same approach into this position, if I am confirmed.

Question 17: What is the difference between "a moratorium" in oil and gas leasing on federal lands and "a pause" in oil and gas leasing on federal lands?

Response: Legal distinctions between a "pause" and a "moratorium" are questions on which, if I am confirmed, I would seek assistance from the Department's legal staff. I am aware, however, that a federal district court recently issued a decision granting an injunction against the pause on the oil and gas leasing program put in place by the President.

Question 18: How would you reconcile competing land uses and priorities related to renewable energy development on BLM lands?

Response: The President has been clear in his call to create jobs and address the climate crisis through the development of a clean energy economy, and I know that the Department will play a large role in that effort. I understand the importance of balancing the broad range of land uses on BLM-managed lands. If confirmed, I will listen to our stakeholders, to Tribes, and states, as well as the career staff at the BLM, on smart planning as we move forward to permit additional clean energy development on the public lands. I will always be guided by the underlying laws and by science in the decisions that I make.

Question 19: In part, the National Environmental and Policy Act (NEPA) authorizes and directs all federal agencies to integrate environmental considerations into federal planning and decision-making. BLM actions subject to review under NEPA include approvals of resource management plans and types of activities related to oil and gas exploration, livestock grazing, and land withdrawals, among others.

To carry out their responsibilities under NEPA more efficiently, all federal agencies, including BLM, are required to integrate their NEPA review process with environmental review, consultation, and/or compliance requirements in other applicable federal law. That may include requirements in other federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, or official agency policy governing a given proposal subject to review. Additionally, while Congress has not amended NEPA since 1975, it has amended statutes that govern implementation of NEPA by DOI and BLM. As a result, for any given proposal, the environmental review process currently carried out by BLM may reflect agency interpretation of its responsibilities under NEPA and other federal laws the agency has identified as relevant to that proposal. When the action subject to review is initiated by a nonfederal entity, that entity is responsible for providing project- and site-specific information necessary to ensure BLM compliance with its various statutory obligations under NEPA and other applicable law governing agency planning and decisions.

a. **Are you aware of "success stories" or streamlined environmental review procedures implemented by other agencies that could be duplicated in BLM programs (or in one BLM program that could be duplicated in another BLM program)?**

Response: While I would want to better understand the policies and procedures that BLM has in place and implements when carrying out statutory environmental review processes, I do believe there are opportunities to make permitting and other processes that the BLM carries out more effective and efficient, just as there was at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality. If confirmed, I commit to learning more about this issue, to discussing it within BLM, and to ensuring that our regulatory processes are always coordinated, transparent, and efficient, particularly in instances where more than one Department or agency is participating in the process.

b. Are you aware of any existing factors likely to slow or complicate BLM environmental reviews, particularly among proposals initiated by nonfederal entities?

Response: As I said in the previous response, I would want to better understand the policies and procedures that BLM has in place and implements when carrying out statutory environmental review processes. I also do believe there are opportunities to make permitting and other processes that the BLM carries out more effective and efficient, including for proposals initiated by nonfederal entities.

Question 20: What is the significance of the Stewardship Contracting and Good Neighbor authorities for BLM? How is BLM using, or could BLM use, these tools to address forest management needs on its lands?

Response: Because I am not at the BLM, I do not know the specifics of how the bureau implements these authorities, but I am aware through the state of Montana's Forest in Focus Initiative that I was involved with that both offer opportunity for efficiencies in public land management activities. Authorities like these can be helpful to incentivize forest management work on lands with cross-jurisdictional interests, including federal, state, and Tribal lands. If I am confirmed I would ensure that the BLM continues to look for ways to leverage funding and incentivize restoration work, where appropriate.

Question 21: What barriers or opportunities exist to expand forest health treatments through Stewardship Contracting or Good Neighbor authorities?

Response: Because I am not at the BLM, I do not know the specifics of how the bureau implements these authorities, but I am aware that both offer opportunity for efficiencies in public land management activities. Authorities like these can be helpful to incentivize forest management work on lands with cross-jurisdictional interests, including federal, state, and Tribal lands. If confirmed, I look forward to hearing from the bureau's stakeholders, states, and Tribes to identify barriers and seek new opportunities to leverage funding and create partnerships that advance the bureau's restoration priorities.

Question 22: Delaying the maintenance of roads, bridges, trails, water structures, buildings, and other assets could accelerate their rate of deterioration, increase their repair costs, and decrease their value.

a. Please describe your current understanding of BLM's deferred maintenance situation.

b. Please describe your current understanding of how deferred maintenance impacts BLM.

c. What priority should BLM give deferred maintenance relative to regular maintenance?

Response: I am aware that the BLM has a substantial deferred maintenance backlog, which is why at the National Wildlife Federation, I advocated for maintenance funding in the Great American Outdoors Act to extend beyond our national parks. I am also aware that such a backlog can negatively impact the performance of an agency's assets and overall performance. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about this issue from BLM and Departmental staff and to engaging on it in a constructive way that efficiently addresses the problem.

Question 23: What would be your priority for maintaining existing infrastructure relative to acquisition of new assets?

Response: I believe it is important to maintain existing infrastructure in good condition and to seek new assets when existing assets can no longer be effectively maintained or adapted to support BLM's mission. It is also my view that BLM should be considerate of long-term maintenance costs when considering acquisition of new assets.

Question 24: What actions might BLM take to reduce deferred maintenance? When is disposal of federal lands and assets desirable for some areas or types of facilities?

Response: If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about the BLM's disposal process to ensure that effective procedures are in place to identify and evaluate disposal assets that are not supporting the mission. I understand that the additional deferred maintenance funding provided to the Department by the Great American Outdoors Act will help to reduce pressure on the Department's regular maintenance and facilities funding, which will benefit BLM as well as other bureaus.

Question 25: What processes should BLM use to prioritize mandatory spending under the Great American Outdoors Act? How might you ensure that DOI uses all deferred maintenance funding efficiently and effectively?

Response: I am aware that the BLM has a substantial deferred maintenance backlog and that such a backlog can negatively impact the performance of an agency's assets and overall performance. If confirmed, I would learn more about the specifics of how BLM and the Department manage this backlog and this funding stream. I believe it is important to maintain existing infrastructure in good condition and to seek new assets when existing assets can no longer be effectively maintained or adapted to support BLM's mission.

Question 26: Current deferred maintenance estimates are necessary for our legislative and oversight work. If confirmed, will you provide this Committee with FY2019 and FY2020 deferred maintenance estimates for BLM, broken down by asset class, as the Department has provided to Congress for FY2018 and other prior fiscal years?

Response: If confirmed, I will work with the Department to provide Congress with the information that it needs to carry out its important oversight functions.

Question 27: Does BLM track the number and location of acres the agency has purchased to date with LWCF funds? If confirmed, will you ensure that BLM provides us with this information, which would be helpful to our law making and oversight roles?

Response: Because I am not currently at the BLM, I do not know what realty information it tracks. If I am confirmed, I will learn more about this issue. As I indicated in my previous response, I will work with the Department to provide Congress with the information that it needs to carry out its important oversight functions.

Question 28: As part of the broader DOI reorganization effort, the Trump Administration announced plans to relocate most BLM positions and personnel based in Washington, DC, to BLM state offices across the West, and to establish a new BLM headquarters office in Grand Junction, CO. On August 10, 2020, the Secretary of the Interior signed Secretarial Order 3382, which formally established the new Grand Junction headquarters office.

a. **Do you anticipate BLM will continue to retain its new BLM headquarters? If a return to the prior headquarters location or other arrangement is favored, how would this affect the ability of the agency and its staff to fulfill its mission?**

b. **What would be the impacts to the morale of employees currently located in Grand Junction, CO if the headquarters were moved from Grand Junction, CO to Washington, DC? Will you commit to considering these impacts?**

c. **How would families of employees currently located in Grand Junction, CO be impacted if the headquarters were moved from Grand Junction, CO to Washington, DC? Will you commit to considering these impacts?**

d. **If the headquarters were moved from Grand Junction, CO to Washington, DC, please describe how this would impact BLM's ability to coordinate with the western communities and organizations. Will you commit to considering these impacts?**

e. **How have business operations changed as a result of the headquarters relocation? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the shift in BLM headquarters staff to the new Grand Junction location?**

f. **Will you commit to working with us and informing us of all actions considered and taken concerning the location of the BLM Headquarters?**

Response: Because I am not at the Department, I have not been a part of the internal discussions on this issue. If I am confirmed and involved in the review that I understand is being carried out, I commit that I will be focused on ensuring the BLM remains an effective agency and that I will consult with career BLM staff and take their views into account before any decision is made. I also commit to being transparent with Congress, if confirmed.

Question 29: Invasive species are nonnative species that cause or are likely to cause harm to the economy, the environment, or human health. Invasive species can threaten and compete with native species, which reduce the availability or quality of natural resources (including grazing and timber resources), increase wildland fire risk, affect hydrologic conditions, compromise infrastructure, and change the recreational value of environments. The continual spread of invasive species by plants and animals is an ongoing problem. Invasive species include plants and insects and other animals (terrestrial and aquatic) as well as pathogens and parasites. For example, invasive and noxious weeds, such as cheat grass and salt cedar, are established on at least 79 million acres of the 244 million acres BLM administers. Once an invasive species becomes established, it can be costly or in some cases impossible to eradicate.

a. How would you ensure that BLM continues to effectively address the spread of invasive species throughout the United States?

Response: I am concerned by invasive species and understand invasive species pose a formidable challenge that requires bringing all affected stakeholders together to control them. I would work with Congress to ensure the agency has the tools required to address this problem, and I would ensure that the BLM was seeking input from those stakeholders, states, and Tribes, where appropriate, and would rely on the experts in the BLM who have on-the-ground land management experience in these issues. I believe the best available science should inform those decisions.

b. What are some of the effective activities BLM is currently undertaking to address invasive species and what additional activities or resources might improve BLM's ability to respond to invasive species?

Response: While I am not currently at the Department, I understand invasive species pose a formidable challenge that requires bringing all affected stakeholders together to control them. I would ensure that the BLM was seeking input from those stakeholders, states, and Tribes, where appropriate, and would rely on the experts in the BLM who have on-the-ground land management experience in these issues. I believe the best available science should inform those decisions. If confirmed, I would learn more about the existing programs within BLM and the Department and determine what additional actions could be taken and authorities might be necessary to effectively respond to invasive species and restore the health of the public lands. I understand and appreciate the attention that Members of Congress have brought to this issue on a bipartisan basis and I look forward to working together on solutions.

c. How should BLM collaborate with other federal, state, local, and private actors to address invasive species?

Response: I believe collaboration is critical to effectively address problems like invasive species and oversaw a coordinated effort across state agencies in Montana to ensure quagga mussels did not spread statewide after a single sample was found in a reservoir. Thus far, that program has been successful, because of early, determined effort. If confirmed, I will work to support cooperative approaches that enable effective coordination and communication among BLM, other federal agencies, and non-federal entities to address the control of invasive species on public lands.

d. Zebra and quagga mussels are extremely costly and disruptive invasive species in western states. How would you ensure that BLM does not contribute to the spread of these species across the West? What additional actions, if any, would you suggest BLM take?

Response: I understand zebra and quagga mussels are a significant concern for our waterways, rivers, and lakes, as well as our water supply systems and hydroelectric operations. If confirmed, I would ensure that the BLM was working cooperatively with other bureaus, including the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where appropriate, and our partners in the states, to gain information and take appropriate actions to limit the spread of these species and to address control and eradication.

e. The prior Administration requested, and Congress appropriated, a $1M increase in BLM's Recreation program for BLM to work with partners around Lake Havasu in Arizona and California to prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels from Lake Havasu to other water bodies in the West. Will you, if confirmed as BLM Director, commit to maintaining if not increasing that funding for BLM to work with partners around Lake Havasu to prevent the spread of these invasive mussels to Wyoming and other Western states?

Response: Invasive species control, including work to prevent the spread of these mussels in the West, would be an important issue for me. If confirmed, I would ensure that the BLM was working cooperatively with other bureaus, including the Bureau of Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service where appropriate, and our partners in the states, to gain information and take appropriate actions to limit the spread of these species and to address control and eradication.

f. Cheat grass and other invasive species, including tree pests and pathogens, can increase the risk of wildland fires. How have invasive species affected wildland fire risk on BLM administered lands? As Director of BLM, how would you direct agency resources for wildland fire and invasive species to work together to minimize the risks associated with the spread of invasive species and increased wildland fires?

Response: As I said at my hearing, like millions of others in the West, I have lived in and around wildfire. I have been personally affected by it, having pre-evacuation notices tacked to my door. I have endured the smoke from wildland fires fueled by the encroachment of invasive plant species such as cheatgrass. I understand how quickly invasive species can take over and degrade the health of our public lands. If confirmed, I would work hard to create efficiencies and internal cooperation among programs in the bureau. I would also seek input from local stakeholders and governments and the use of cooperative authorities, where appropriate, to address this problem and keep communities safe.

g. P.L. 116-9 requires the Secretary of the Interior, among others, to develop a strategic plan for the implementation of invasive species programs. How might this requirement, and others pursuant to the act, affect invasive species activities undertaken by the BLM?

Response: I am currently not at the BLM but I know that invasive species management is a challenging and critical issue. I understand the importance of working collaboratively and strategically to find creative solutions and look forward to being a part of strategic planning on this important challenge. If confirmed, I would commit to listening to stakeholders, states, and Tribes, and to following science-based best practices for invasive species management, consistent with the law.

<u>Question 30</u>: How do you define "conservation?"

Response: I am proud of America's conservation ethic. In the context of public lands management at the BLM, conservation is best captured in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act's requirement for management of the public lands and their various resource values for multiple uses and values, so that they are managed in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people.

Question 31: BLM grants rights-of-ways to authorize use of lands for a specific purpose, typically to build a project such as a road, pipeline, or communication site. Various factors can make it challenging to obtain a right-of-way, including land designations, application processes, and costs. How might BLM foster efficient authorization of rights-of-ways while protecting important resources?

Response: Certainty and open communication are important components of any regulatory or permitting process. In my role at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, I was able to work closely and effectively with stakeholders with different interests across the State. If I am confirmed, I would bring that same philosophy and work ethic to the position of BLM Director.

Question 32: In 1997, BLM identified nearly 3.4 million acres of land as potentially available for disposal. If confirmed, could you provide us with information on how much of this land has been disposed of, and how much land BLM currently identifies in land use plans as available for disposal?

Response: If confirmed I will work with the Department to provide Congress with the information that it needs to carry out its important oversight functions. I also commit to maintaining open communications with Congress regarding the disposition of the federal estate.

Question 33: Please describe your knowledge of the humanitarian and environmental crisis that is occurring at the southwestern border.

Response: I understand that a growing number of migrant families are attempting to cross the border into the United States in more remote areas along the southwestern border, miles from the nearest food, water and medical care. I also understand there are other areas where debris from construction projects has been left to degrade sensitive environments. If I am confirmed as BLM Director, I will work with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Departments and agencies, as appropriate, to address border related issues on the public lands.

Question 34: What environmental impacts have been caused by illegal migration across BLM lands at the borders? If so, how will the BLM mitigate these impacts?

Response: I understand that a growing number of migrant families are attempting to cross the border into the United States in more remote areas along the southwestern border, miles from the nearest food, water and medical care. I also understand there are other areas where debris from construction projects has been left to degrade sensitive environments. If I am confirmed as BLM Director, I will work with the Department of Homeland Security and other relevant Departments and agencies, as appropriate, to address border related issues on the public lands.

Question 35: What if any new authorities are needed to enhance protection of federal lands and resources along the southwest border?

Response: If I am confirmed, I would learn more about specific impacts to the public lands and resources along the southwestern border, and based on that information, I would work with BLM staff, legal staff in the

Department's Solicitor's Office, and others to determine what additional authority might be helpful or needed to address the issue.

Question 36: The Trump Administration restructured the chain of command in BLM law enforcement to place officers under managers with law enforcement training and experience (rather than BLM state or field directors).

a. **Did this change improve BLM law enforcement and its leadership?**

Response: If I am confirmed, I will learn more about this issue and I would ensure that BLM law enforcement personnel have the tools and training they need to carry out the important work they do protecting the public, BLM employees, and public lands and facilities.

b. **Will you commit to keeping this committee informed of any actions you may take on this subject?**

Response: Yes, I believe that open communication is important.

Question 37: In carrying out its multiple-use mandate on public lands, the BLM continues to pioneer innovative, collaborative and science-based efforts to manage access to, and the use of, our public lands. The BLM leads the way in their efforts to strike a delicate balance between both motorized and non-motorized uses that provide a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities, with careful consideration to minimize impacts to important resources. Over 245 million acres of public lands across the West, under the stewardship of BLM, are available for the American people to enjoy, affording ample 'space' for BLM to collaborate with the entire outdoor recreation community to ensure equitable access for Americans of every age, interest and skill level. This includes consideration for responsible motorized use.

a. **Do you agree that allowing for diverse access opportunities to and on BLM public lands includes consideration for both motorized and non-motorized user experiences?**

Response: Yes, I appreciate and support the diverse range of recreational opportunities that our public lands have to offer. This includes, where appropriate, motorized and non-motorized activities. As I said at the hearing, as an aide to Senator Tester, I helped broker the hard and smart decisions about how to share the land appropriately among all recreators, and I would bring that same approach to the BLM, should I be confirmed.

b. **As agency professionals and officials assess motorized and non-motorized use, would you agree that 'minimizing' impacts is not a mandate to 'eliminate' impacts when designating trails on public lands?**

Response: If I am confirmed, I will commit to balancing motorized and non-motorized access with protection of natural and cultural resources on public lands. As I stated at the hearing, I believe making hard and smart decisions on how to use our public lands appropriately involves engaging the OHV community, mountain bikers, and other users to find common ground, informed by science and the law.

c. The motorized community recognizes the need and benefits to working collaboratively at the local, regional and national levels with federal and state agencies to promote, manage and maintain responsible use of motorized trails. If confirmed, will you commit to working collaboratively in to strike a balanced and equitable access for all user groups on public lands?

Response: Yes, if confirmed, I commit to working collaboratively with the diverse range of stakeholders, including the OHV community, to produce durable solutions and ensure equitable access to our public lands.

d. **America's public lands serve to increase the physical, emotional, and economic health of trail users and the communities they interact with. This became very clear during the COVID pandemic when so many turned to public lands and the outdoors. Many Americans rely on motorized vehicles to access places they no longer can reach without aid. If confirmed, will you ensure that agency officials tasked with making important multiple-use decisions regarding motorized and non-motorized use and access do not 'eliminate' motorized access and use, rather give full and careful consideration for range of uses and experiences on public lands?**

Response: If confirmed, I will absolutely work to provide access to and across public lands for a wide variety of recreational users.

<u>Question 38</u>: Please amend, if necessary, and in incorporate by reference, Question 8 on your sworn Statement for Completion by Presidential Nominees dated May 27, 2021 and submitted to the Committee (ENR Questionnaire), listing in chronological order all positions held, including dates of employment, your title or job description, the name of the employer and the city or state in which you were employed from the date on which you received your B.A. in 1987 until December 1, 1992.

Response:

1987 – 1988	94th Aero Squadron Restaurant, College Park, MD	Part-time waitress
1988 – 1989	Sears Portrait Studio, Missoula, MT	Part-time photographer/sales
1989 – 1990	University of Montana, Missoula, MT	Part-time teacher
1990	Clemow & Company. Missoula, MT	Part-time office assistant
Summer, 1990	Missoula County Library	Bookmobile librarian
Summer, 1991	Missoula County Library	Bookmobile librarian

<u>Question 39</u>:

a. If confirmed, will you commit to holding all federal oil and gas lease sales postponed as a result of President Biden's Executive Order No.14008?

b. If confirmed, will you commit to holding all federal oil and gas lease sales cancelled as a result of President Biden's Executive Order No. 14008?

Response: I understand that this matter is in litigation and that a federal district court recently issued a decision granting an injunction against the pause. Because I am not at the Department, I am not part of the decision making or discussions about a response to this decision, but if I am confirmed I will follow the law.

Questions from Sen. Risch

Question 1: Under the Federal Land Policy Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976, does the BLM have the authority to require compensatory mitigation, or is it only voluntary?

Response: During my tenure as an advocate for the public lands at the National Wildlife Federation, I supported that authority. If confirmed, however, I will commit to learn more about this issue and the scope of the BLM's authority from the BLM staff. I would also consult with the legal experts at the Department's Office of the Solicitor.

Question 2: Section 102, subsection 12 of FLPMA reads "The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that… the public lands be managed in a manner which recognizes the Nation's need for domestic sources of minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands including implementation of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1876, 30 U.S.C. 21a) as it pertains to the public lands…" How will you implement FLPMA Section 102(12)?

Response: I understand that under the declaration of policy that Congress set out in FLPMA section 102, the BLM manages public lands for a broad range of uses under the multiple use and sustained yield standard and, among those uses are to recognize the need for domestically sourced minerals, food, timber, and fiber from the public lands. If I am confirmed, I commit to working with BLM career staff and the range of public land stakeholders while considering multiple use management decisions.

Question 3: Through FLMPA, do you agree that BLM lands are mandated to be managed for grazing, timber, minerals, and renewable and nonrenewable energy development, among other things, and as Director, you would be mandated to manage them for these purposes?

Response: Yes, I agree that FLPMA requires that resources and uses of the public lands be managed under the multiple use mandate in the Act unless otherwise provided by law, including for the activities referenced in this question in addition to others. If I am confirmed, I commit to managing resources on public lands in accordance with the law and in a balanced way.

Question 4: On May 27, Deputy National Climate Advisor Ali Zaidi affirmed the White House's commitment to mining metals in the United States to support the manufacture of electric vehicles by stating "Building American-made EVs and shipping them around the world will include leveraging American-made parts and resources. This includes responsibly pursuing, developing, and mining critical minerals and materials used for EV batteries." (E&E Report, May 27)

a. **Mineral development has always been an important part of BLM's multiple use mandate, and is now even more so as we seek to secure domestic sources of the minerals needed to power the renewable energy economy. However, organizations in your employment history have opposed mining and mineral development on public lands in the United States. In your new role, what specifically will you do to encourage mineral exploration and development on BLM-managed public lands in order for us to have a secure source of critical and essential minerals for domestic use?**

Response: I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development that is carried out in way that is protective of the environment, and my work at the Montana Department of Environmental Quality demonstrates that. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our economy, from gold and copper to the critical minerals that we use in our advanced technologies. My commitment, if confirmed, is the same as Secretary Haaland's, I will look to take a balanced approach to overseeing mining on our public lands.

Question 5: The 1872 Mining Law governs how U.S. citizens gain access to hardrock (also known as locatable) minerals like copper, gold, silver, zinc, lithium, cobalt, rare earths, nickel, and other minerals on federal lands open to mineral entry. Currently, less than 50% of all federally-owned and managed lands are open to mineral entry. Locatable minerals are essential building blocks of our economy, infrastructure, technology, manufacturing, conventional and renewable energy, and national defense.

The Mining Law, as amended, has served this Nation well by providing a self-executing process to enter upon federal lands open to mineral entry to explore for, find, use and occupy those lands for all uses reasonably incident to prospecting, exploration, processing and mining. The Mining Law has provided the necessary framework and security of tenure or certainty required to attract substantial investments of time, knowledge, and money to explore for minerals on federal lands with the hope of discovering a mineral deposit that can be developed into a mine. This process, known as "self-initiation," greatly benefits our Nation because it effectively leverages private investments that transform undeveloped federal land into mining operations that create jobs, pay taxes, and provide the minerals the country needs – at no expense whatsoever to U.S. taxpayers.

a. **Do you support maintaining the current location system, and if not, why?**

Response: I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development and, if confirmed, would take a balanced approach to oversee mining on the public lands. Because I am not currently at the Department, I would need to know more about this process in order to answer questions about this particular policy. If confirmed, I would learn from experts at BLM before I made a decision about this issue.

Question 6: As you know, Secretarial Order 3395 was issued on January 20, 2021 – Day 1 of the Biden administration – which suspended any approval of mine Plans of Operations by local or state BLM offices. This included Plan of Operation amendments. These now have to go to Washington, D.C., effectively putting a halt to Plan of Operation approvals. Seven days later, President Biden signed Executive Order 14008, declaring that "The United States and the world face a profound climate crisis."

Any effort to address the concerns in E.O. 14008 and progress clean energy domestically will require significant increases in demand for lithium, cobalt, graphite, and other minerals. Despite the urgency, American mining projects are stuck in bureaucratic limbo.

a. **Given the issues in the supply chain for so many minerals that will be vital to expanding clean energy and reducing emissions, if confirmed, what is your plan to restart the review and approval process for mine Plans of Operation?**

Response: While I am not currently at the Department, I understand that the suspensions of authority in Secretary's Order 3395 were temporary, and that the Order expired in March. If confirmed, I commit to working hard to strike the right balance between natural resources development and environment responsibility on the public lands, including the development of critical minerals.

Question 7: The BLM announced plans to review the updates made to the 2015 sage-grouse management plans. The announcement committed to working "closely with the states, local governments, Indian Tribes, and many stakeholders who have worked in a collaborative and bipartisan fashion for more than a decade." However, in the past, we have seen such promises still result in sweeping one-size-fits-all management policies. If confirmed, can you assure me that this won't simply be a return to the 2015 plans?

Response: Because I am not currently at the Department, I cannot speak to the current status of the BLM's review of the updates to the 2015 plans. As I said at the hearing, however, the 2015 plans were a product of agreement among governors of western states, Democrats and Republicans. I believe in bringing people together to find lasting solutions, and I commit that if I am confirmed and am involved in this matter, I will approach it in that fashion.

Question 8: If there is reconsideration of aspects of the 2015 sage-grouse plans, as Director, would you commit BLM to conducting a full NEPA analysis of Sagebrush Focal Areas, mitigation measures, lek buffers, and drastic and unworkable grazing standards on their impact to the human environment as well as the sage-grouse?

Response: If confirmed, I will follow the law and science on any reconsideration of this matter.

Question 9: What direction would you give to BLM about how to proceed on sage grouse plans in light of ongoing litigation and petitions to list?

Response: If I am confirmed, I will ensure that any decisions the BLM makes regarding implementation of the sage-grouse conservation plans are guided by science and law. I would also work to ensure that states, local governments, Tribes, and many others work collaboratively and in a bipartisan fashion toward sustainable and balanced land management of sagebrush habitat.

Question 10: If confirmed, how will you involve state governors in your decision making regarding sage-grouse conservation?

Response: If confirmed, my approach to decision-making would be driven by transparency and collaboration with all stakeholders, including governors, Tribes, and other stakeholders.

Question 11: If confirmed, how would you ensure sage-grouse conservation measures in BLM's plan actually be commensurate with the threats facing the species?

Response: If I am confirmed, I will ensure that any decisions the BLM makes regarding implementation of the sage-grouse conservation plans are guided by science and law. I would also work to ensure that states, local governments, Tribes, and many others work collaboratively and in a bipartisan fashion toward sustainable and balanced land management of sagebrush habitat.

Question 12: Do you believe that multiple use activities, such as grazing and timber management, are also conservation practices?

Response: Yes, I believe that activities like grazing and timber management, when carried out responsibly, can result in positive conservation benefits on public lands. If I am confirmed, I commit to managing resources on public lands in accordance with the law and in a balanced way.

Question 13: As Director, how would you ensure multiple uses are upheld on public lands under the 30 by 30 initiative?

Response: The President's America the Beautiful initiative recognizes the opportunities America's lands and waters offer and outlines an ambitious and historic conservation challenge. I understand that the initiative recognizes that multiple uses of our lands and waters, including its working lands, can be consistent with the long-term health and sustainability of natural systems. I support the BLM's multiple use mandate and, if confirmed, would support that vision.

Question 14: Do you support President Biden's efforts to prioritize green energy technologies, battery storage, and Electric Vehicle adoption?

Response: Yes, I support the President's vision for a sustainable, equitable clean energy future.

Question 15: Do you support domestic mineral production as the front end of the supply chain for clean energy technologies?

Response: Yes, I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development and that it can be done in a way that will protect public health and the environment. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy.

Question 16: If confirmed as Director, how would you manage agency lands to lessen our dependence on imported critical minerals and rare earth elements, especially from countries like China, with weaker environmental and labor standards, given that only about 30 percent of global mineral demand can be achieved through recycling?

Response: I support the President's vision for a sustainable, equitable clean energy future, and my commitment to addressing our nation's need for critical minerals is the same as Secretary Haaland's. It important to promote responsible mineral development on the public lands that is carried out in a way that is appropriately sited and done in an environmentally responsible way.

Question 17: If confirmed, will you support efforts to streamline the mineral permitting process at the Bureau of Land Management in order to help boost domestic production and decrease our reliance on foreign sources of metals and minerals necessary for clean energy technologies?

Response: I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development and that it can be done in a way that will protect public health and the environment. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. If I am confirmed, I would make ensuring efficient operations and processes at the BLM a priority.

Question 18: Do you believe that the U.S. should have a robust mining sector to support domestically produced critical mineral supply chains? If so, please describe how you will work to support the mining industry and promote domestic resource production? If not, please describe why you do not believe the U.S. should produce the vast sums of metals and minerals necessary to support the economy and national defense?

Response: I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development and that it can be done in a way that will protect public health and the environment. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. If I am confirmed, I would make ensuring efficient operations and processes at the BLM a priority.

Question 19: If confirmed, how do you plan to work with mining companies and renewable energy stakeholders to encourage, incentivize, remove barriers, and enact permitting reforms that will support and enable President Biden's clean energy goals without increasing our mineral imports from other countries?

Response: I support the President's vision for a sustainable, equitable clean energy future, and my commitment to addressing our nation's need for critical minerals is the same as Secretary Haaland's. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. If I am confirmed, I would make ensuring efficient operations and processes at the BLM that meet the regulatory requirements a priority.

Question 20: Congress enacted bipartisan legislation late last year in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY21 containing provisions requiring DOI to regularly update a list of critical minerals and their host minerals in order to measure our progress in meeting U.S. demand.

a. **If confirmed, would you prioritize and implementing development of DOI's critical and host minerals list?**

Response: It is my understanding that the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY2021 requires the United States Geological Survey to conduct resource assessments of Rare Earth Elements, and to make the findings publicly available. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring the BLM provides any necessary support and assistance to the USGS, if needed.

Question 21: The demand for mining resources will only continue to grow. A new World Bank Group annual mining resource update found that the production of minerals such as graphite, lithium and cobalt would need to increase 500 percent to meet the growing demand in new technologies.

a. **Do you agree that it is really not a question of if minerals will be mined to meet every increasing demand, that it is simply a question of where and how they will be mined?**

b. **Do you agree that the U.S. has the best environmental and labor standards regulating mining in the world and that production should be done in the U.S. with U.S. jobs?**

Response: I do not have the information to evaluate other countries' environmental and labor standards at an appropriate level of detail, but America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. Mining is important to our modern economy, and if I am confirmed I will ensure that mineral development carried out on the public lands is done responsibly and in a way that protects the environment. I also believe that recycling should be a critical component in ensuring a domestic supply of minerals.

Question 22: Do you believe that additional transmission infrastructure will be required to bring renewables onto the grid?

Response: Yes, I support the President's commitment to expand and modernize America's power infrastructure to build a more reliable electric grid, create good-paying, union jobs, and to deliver clean American energy to American businesses and homeowners.

Question 23: Managing vegetation on electric transmission and distribution rights-of-ways is important to reduce wildfire risks and maintain grid reliability. Will you commit to timely decision-making regarding an electric utility's request to access and maintain electricity infrastructure rights-of-ways that cross BLM lands?

Response: Yes. As I said in my response to the previous question, I support the President's commitment to expand and modernize our nation's power infrastructure to build a more reliable electric grid. For those transmission rights-of-way across the public lands, vegetation management is important in order to reduce wildfire risks and maintain grid reliability. If I am confirmed, I will seek ways to make our infrastructure more resilient in the face of natural disasters, like wildfire.

Questions from Sen. Daines

Question 1: Ms. Stone-Manning, the Department of the Interior has been exceedingly sparse on details for what the 30 X 30 initiative truly seeks to accomplish which has many Montanans concerned about what it means for working lands, private property rights, and how the Administration intends to utilize authorities under the Antiquities Act. If confirmed, what will be your vision for the 30 X 30 initiative?

Response: My understanding of the President's initiative is that it includes the goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. It is inclusive, relying on the support of local, state, private, and tribally-led conservation efforts underway across the country, and that private land conservation must be voluntary. As we discussed in our meeting earlier this month, I think there is great opportunity in putting people to work restoring our public lands. I further understand that working public lands, in particular public lands managed by the BLM, will always be managed in accordance with applicable laws and by consulting science. The initiative is about using and enhancing the many conservation tools that we have that work and focusing on an important goal. The principles and goals of the plan are laid out in the America the Beautiful report that the administration released publicly earlier this year.

Question 2: Ms. Stone-Manning, if confirmed will you commit to a no-net-loss for hunting, recreation, grazing, and energy and mineral resource development on public lands?

Response: I am a firm believer in the BLM's multiple use mandate and the activities you reference in your question are important uses of the public lands. As I said at the hearing, I have spent my career balancing the needs of a variety of stakeholders, and I believe that there is plenty of room on our public lands for all of these activities. I understand this personally, too, as a hunter, hiker and backpacker. I would follow the law, science, and stakeholder input to make smart decisions about how our public lands are managed.

Question 3: Ms. Stone-Manning, when asked about the 30 X 30 initiative in an interview you stated that "there is no secret list [of lands for conservation]" but you wished that there was. What did you mean by this statement? If confirmed, will you work to develop such a list?

Response: I believe the interview that you are referring to appeared in a February 2021 article in *The Guardian* newspaper in which I said about the 30x30 initiative: "*I think to make this work durable and lasting over time, this work has to come from the ground … we should start where agreement [already] exists…*" . The reporter asked if there was a list already prepared that was not public. I was assuring the reporter that no such thing existed. My statement about the wish for a list of lands was in reference to the fact that, in order to meet the initiative's goals, a significant amount of collaboration was required and I wished more of that work was under way.

Question 4: Ms. Stone-Manning, in 2018, Congress passed legislation to streamline the approval process for vegetation management along federal rights-of-way to mitigate wildfire risk but the Bureau of Land Management has yet to implement this legislation hindering effective wildfire risk management. If confirmed, will you commit to prioritizing the issuance of the vegetation management rule and how will you work to coordinate with the Forest Service, given similar rulemaking efforts, to assure consistent implementation and timely approvals across landscapes and jurisdictions?

Response: I support the President's commitment to expand and modernize our nation's power infrastructure to build a more reliable electric grid. For those transmission rights-of-way across the public lands, vegetation management is important in order to reduce wildfire risks and maintain grid reliability. If I am confirmed, I will learn more about the status of the rule referenced in your question, and I will prioritize coordinating with our partners, where needed, to ensure that we are complying with the law and carrying out necessary activities to make our infrastructure more resilient in the face of natural disasters, like wildfire.

Question 5: Ms. Stone-Manning, Western states have invested unprecedented resources and time to conserve sage grouse. Did you support the former Administration's efforts to better align sage grouse plans with state conservation plans?

Response: As I said at the hearing, the 2015 plans were a product of agreement among governors of western states, Democrats and Republicans alike. My concern was that the previous administration did not give those plans enough time to work, and that had not honored that original deal that so many worked to put in place. I believe in bringing people together to find lasting solutions, and I commit that, if I am confirmed and am involved in this matter, I will approach it in that fashion.

Question 6: Ms. Stone-Manning, you have been an outspoken opponent of relocating the Bureau of Land Management headquarters to Grand Junction, Colorado. If you are confirmed, what location do you intend to work out of?

Response: Because I am not at the Department, I have not had a role in this matter, but I understand that the relocation decision is currently being assessed to determine if any changes are needed. If confirmed, I would support the Secretary's decision and would report for duty where it is determined to provide the most benefit to the bureau, its stakeholders, and the public lands.

Question 7: Ms. Stone-Manning, do you support maintaining the BLM's headquarters in Colorado?

Response: As I noted in response to the previous question, the relocation decision is currently being assessed to determine if any changes are needed. If I am confirmed and asked to participate in that process, I would ensure that the issues get a fair review.

Question 8: Ms. Stone-Manning, the Lewistown and Missoula Resource Management Plans were the result of years of collaboration yet you called for the plans to be scrapped. If confirmed, will you scrap these plans?

Response: As I mentioned during my hearing, I understand that being the Director of the BLM is a very different job than the work that I have done at the National Wildlife Federation. As I mentioned in our conversation earlier this month, my concern is that the prior administration chose to re-write the draft RMP that was the result of the years of collaboration you mention. If confirmed, I would look forward to learning more from the BLM staff on the current status of this issue, and to ensuring BLM actions comply with the law.

Question 9: Ms. Stone-Manning, if confirmed you will oversee BLM's leasing program. The current leasing moratorium has already resulted in the cancelation of two quarterly lease sales in Montana and throughout the west. Prior to your nomination did you support or advocate for the current leasing moratorium?

Response: While I have noted that the pause instituted by the Biden Administration was a modest and reasonable approach to assess reforms to the oil and gas program, my understanding is that the recent court decision has lifted that action. I am not at the Department and am not a part of the discussions or review of that action. If I am confirmed, I will focus on improving stewardship of our public lands and resources, creating jobs, and building a just and equitable energy future.

Question 10: Ms. Stone-Manning, the Mineral Leasing Act specifically states in 30 U.S.C. 226 (b)(1)(A) "Lease sales shall be held for each State where eligible lands are available at least quarterly and more frequently if the Secretary of the Interior determines such sales are necessary." From your point of view, do you believe the Department or BLM is in violation of the Law?

Response: As I noted in the previous response, while I have noted that the pause instituted by the Biden Administration was a modest and reasonable approach to assess reforms to the oil and gas program, my understanding is that the recent court decision has placed a temporary nationwide injunction on that action. I am not at the Department and am not a part of the discussions or review of that action. If I am confirmed, I will focus on improving stewardship of our public lands and resources, creating jobs, and building a just and equitable energy future, consistent with the law.

Question 11: Ms. Stone-Manning, if you believe that the BLM is not in violation of the law as it relates to mandatory lease sales, what other statutory requirements set by Congress, such as the Mineral Leasing Act, do you believe that the BLM has the ability to reinterpret or disregard?

Response: As I noted in the previous response, while I have noted that the pause instituted by the Biden Administration was a modest and reasonable approach to assess reforms to the oil and gas program, my understanding is that the recent court decision has placed a temporary nationwide injunction on that action. I am not at the Department and am not a part of the discussions or review of that action. If I am confirmed, I will focus on improving stewardship of our public lands and resources, creating jobs, and building a just and equitable energy future.

Question 12: Ms. Stone-Manning, if confirmed will you commit to holding a lease sale in the third quarter of this year?

Response: I am not at the Department and am not a part of the discussions or review of the recent court decision on this matter. If I am confirmed, I will focus on improving stewardship of our public lands and resources, creating jobs, and building a just and equitable energy future. I will also follow the law.

Question 13: Ms. Stone-Manning, the President and the Department of the Interior have stated that the leasing moratorium was put in place so they can review the Department's leasing program. While it is still unknown when the program review will end, it can be reasoned that the review will at some point be

completed during President Biden's term. If confirmed will you commit to holding the backlogged number of lease sales that were or will be affected by the moratorium?

Response: As I stated in the previous response, I am not at the Department and am not a part of the discussions or review of the recent court decision on this matter. If I am confirmed, I will focus on improving stewardship of our public lands and resources, creating jobs, and building a just and equitable energy future. I will also follow the law.

Question 14: Ms. Stone-Manning, there are a number of new wind and solar projects being developed in Montana. However, we have heard from stakeholders that they chose to locate on private land as working with federal agencies on permits is lengthy and expensive. What actions should the Department take to streamline permitting and attract more renewable energy projects on federal lands?

Response: While I am not familiar with the internal deliberations on this topic, I recognize the importance of ensuring permitting processes are efficient and compliant with all regulatory requirements. If confirmed, I commit to consulting with experts at the BLM and with stakeholders on ways to expedite renewable energy permitting on public lands and help achieve the President's goal of a carbon pollution-free power sector.

Question 15: Ms. Stone-Manning, storage will be an essential part of any expansion of intermittent energy resources. Pumped hydro storage is one of these technologies and Montana is leading the nation on the development and use of this technology. What actions should the BLM take to facilitate storage projects on federal lands?

Response: If confirmed, I will work to achieve the President's goal to expand renewable energy opportunities on public lands. It would be important to understand from the experts within the BLM which lands and waters would be appropriate for these activities, and from other bureaus with expertise in this issue.

Question 16: Ms. Stone-Manning, when speaking of a clean energy future, would you include a coal or natural gas plant fitted with CCUS technology as an important component in a carbon free energy grid?

Response: Technology will play an important role in meeting the President's goals for a carbon neutral future, and carbon capture and storage technologies can help reduce the carbon impact of fossil fuel use during the transition to lower carbon energy sources. While I am not currently at the Department, it is my understanding that the Biden Administration supports CCUS technology development as part of an all of government approach to combatting climate change, and I look forward to supporting that effort in any way that I can, including as it related to CCUS.

Question 17: Ms. Stone-Manning, when speaking of a clean energy future, would you include hydropower as an important component in a carbon free energy grid?

Response: Yes, hydropower can contribute to achieving net-zero emissions.

Question 18: Ms. Stone-Manning, you have multiple times called for the breaching of hydropower dams. Do you believe we should build more hydropower dams and units on public lands and waters or do you think we should remove existing dams?

Response: Overseeing hydropower dams would not be within the scope of my authority if confirmed as Director of the BLM. However, it is my view that it is appropriate to discuss the removal of existing dams, where appropriate, or the construction of new dams, where appropriate.

Question 19: Ms. Stone-Manning, last spring you stated that a proposal to breach four dams on the lower Snake River was bold, clear-eyed leadership. The Columbia-Snake river system provides abundant, clean, carbon-free, baseload power to Western Montana. If we want to continue to be leaders in renewable energy, we should be increasing hydroelectric power not breaching dams. Do you maintain your support for breaching dams in the Columbia-Snake River System?

Response: I believe your question references comments that I made in response to a proposal that Representative Simpson has championed to recover salmon and steelhead in that river system. Regulation of the Columbia-Snake River System and hydropower in general would not be within the scope of my authority if confirmed as Director of the BLM.

Question 20: Ms. Stone-Manning, do you support breaching any other hydroelectric dams?

Response: As I noted in response to a previous question, overseeing hydropower dams would not be within the scope of my authority if confirmed as Director of the BLM. However, it is my view that it is appropriate to discuss the removal of existing dams, where appropriate, or the construction of new dams, where appropriate.

Question 21: Ms. Stone-Manning, where do you see opportunities to streamline permitting on federal lands?

Response: I support the President's vision for a sustainable, equitable clean energy future, and my commitment to addressing our nation's need for critical minerals is the same as Secretary Haaland's. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. If I am confirmed, I would make ensuring efficient operations and processes that meet the regulatory requirements at the BLM a priority.

Question 22: Ms. Stone-Manning, unlike oil and gas development on federal lands, wind and solar development on federal lands does not create direct revenue for local communities. Do you support creating a revenue sharing arrangement for wind and solar like there is for oil and gas?

Response: I understand local community interest in receiving revenue from energy production and also that this would have a federal budgetary impact. If confirmed, I would look forward to engaging with Congress to discuss this issue and to finding ways to incentivize the President's renewable energy goals on public lands in a responsible way.

Question 23: Ms. Stone-Manning, many rural Montana communities rely on revenues generated from oil and gas development on federal lands. Montana has received over $123 million for schools and essential services from oil and gas development on federal lands since 2016. The Biden Administration has made it clear that they would like to move away from oil and gas development on federal lands, which will lead to substantially less money for local communities. If confirmed, what solutions do you see providing for local communities that lose revenue due to President Biden's actions?

Response: The President's goal as he puts the United States on course to address the climate crisis is to make sure no one is left behind, and I support that goal for Montana - and the entire country. I understand that oil and gas production, and the jobs that come with it, will continue for years into the future. I also understand that the President's American Jobs Plan will create good paying jobs in the clean energy economy of the future.

Question 24: Ms. Stone-Manning, it is estimated that coal, gas, and nuclear energy use approximately 12 acres of land per megawatt of energy produced. Solar needs approximately 43 acres per megawatt and wind approximately 70 acres per megawatt. With the expansion of wind and solar energy there will need to be an exponential increase of land use to generate the same amount of energy. How do you plan to balance conservation of land and species with the increase in land use for wind and solar?

Response: I have devoted many years to working with stakeholders on ways to balance the protection of wildlife while supporting the diverse range of multiple uses on our public lands. If confirmed, I will continue to do this and will work to ensure that our decisions are guided by science as we balance renewable energy development with conserving habitat for wildlife. I appreciate that any use of public lands, including a variety of types of energy production, can create impacts to wildlife and that needs to be taken into account using the best available science.

Question 25: Ms. Stone-Manning, all energy production on public lands has an impact on native species. For example, wind production can have impacts on protected species like the bald eagle, solar production can have impact on desert species like native lizard populations, and oil and gas development can have impacts on various ground nesting birds. As Director will you evaluate the impacts of wildlife fairly and equally for all forms of energy development?

Response: Yes, if confirmed I commit that the BLM will always comply with the law and will undertake a fair and equal evaluation of the impacts of proposed energy development projects.

Question 26: Ms. Stone-Manning, do you believe that the permitting review for oil, gas and coal on federal lands should be different from the permitting of wind or solar?

Response: I believe the review of any proposed use of the public lands should fairly address the particular impacts associated with the proposed use, and should comply with the laws that Congress has passed.

Question 27: Ms. Stone-Manning, if confirmed, do you commit to reviewing permits based on the science, local input, and economic contribution?

Response: I believe local input is critical for effective management of public lands, and if confirmed, I would seek partnerships with states, Tribes, and local communities, where appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration on land management decisions. I will always comply with the law in carrying out my duties, if confirmed.

Question 28: Ms. Stone-Manning, do you believe that responsible energy development, including coal, oil, gas, and geothermal development is part of BLM's multiple use directive?

Response: Yes, I agree that FLPMA requires that resources and uses of the public lands be managed under the multiple use mandate in the Act, including for the activities referenced in this question in addition to others. If I am confirmed, I commit to managing resources on public lands in accordance with the law and in a balanced way.

Question 29: Ms. Stone-Manning, what does multiple-use and sustained-yield mean to you?

Response: The Federal Land Policy and Management Act requires management of the public lands and their various resource values so that they are used in the combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people. I strongly support the BLM's multiple-use and sustained-yield mission.

Question 30: Ms. Stone-Manning, the U.S. is reliant on many critical minerals and metals that are essential for healthcare, renewable energy, communications, and more. Do you believe that the U.S. should decrease its dependency on foreign countries, particularly adversarial countries, by increasing responsible mining in the U.S.?

Response: I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development and that it can be done in a way that will protect public health and the environment. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. I also believe a robust recycling program should be part of sourcing the minerals and metals our nation relies upon.

Question 31: Ms. Stone-Manning, if confirmed, what actions will you take to change the BLM's process for approving hardrock mining on federal land?

Response: I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development on our public lands while protecting public health and the environment. If confirmed, I look forward to learning from BLM experts on this issue and engaging in it further. I would also make ensuring efficient operations and processes at the BLM a priority. I would also look forward to engaging with Congress in ongoing discussions over the 1872 Mining Law.

Question 32: Ms. Stone-Manning, do you believe the U.S. has better or worse environmental and labor standards when it comes to mining than China, Indonesia, Russia, Venezuela, or the DRC?

Response: I do not have the information to evaluate other countries' environmental and labor standards at an appropriate level of detail, but America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. Mining is important to our modern

economy, and if I am confirmed I will ensure that mineral development carried out on the public lands is done responsibly and in a way that protects the environment.

Question 33: Ms. Stone-Manning, in order to produce wind, solar, and storage technology you need raw materials that need to be mined and extracted from the earth. Where do you believe we should source raw materials for renewable energy?

Response: I believe it is important to promote responsible mineral development and that it can be done in a way that will protect public health and the environment. America's public lands have long been, and will continue to be, an important source of the minerals that power our technology and our economy. If confirmed, I will look to take a balanced approach to overseeing mining on our public lands. I also believe a robust recycling program should be part of sourcing the minerals and metals our nation relies upon.

Question 34: Ms. Stone-Manning, the Great American Outdoors Act is a historic law that takes the revenue from energy development on public lands and uses it to reduce the backlog of maintenance on our parks and public lands. A reduction in oil and gas development on federal lands could lead to a reduction of revenues that are deposited into the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund. Where or how do you believe that the federal government should collect revenues for conservation and restoration of public lands?

Response: I am a strong supporter of the permanent, full funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund and the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund enacted as part of the historic, bipartisan Great American Outdoors Act. While I am not currently at the Department, I am not aware of any reduction in revenues, and I understand that permitting and development of existing oil and gas leases has continued, as have royalty payments on production. If confirmed, the future success of this law will be a high priority for me.

Question 35: Ms. Stone-Manning, wildfire seasons are becoming increasingly longer and more severe due to several factors including undermanaged forests and climate change. If confirmed, will you commit to working with all stakeholders—including states and local governments, other federal agencies, timber, conservation, and sportsmen groups, and rural electric cooperatives—to ensure effective coordination to address wildfire risks? If confirmed, how will you improve the allocation of resources to combat wildfires?

Response: There are many factors that contribute to worsening wildfire seasons, including a century of fire suppression, more structures in wildfire prone areas, and climate change. If I am confirmed, I commit to working closely with our partners, including the USDA-Forest Service, states, Tribal Nations, and local communities, to ensure the efficient allocation and delivery of funding and to reduce wildfire risk and restore the ecological health of our forests and rangelands. I will also ensure that our decisions on forest management and hazardous fuels reduction are guided by the best available science on forest health and wildfire management.

Question 36: Ms. Stone-Manning, during the term of your outstanding loan to Mr. Stuart Goldberg you have been the borrower on multiple mortgages. Did you disclose the outstanding debt to Mr. Goldberg as part of the loan application for the mortgages you have taken? If so, please provide the committee with a

confidential redacted version of your mortgage application showing the disclosure of the outstanding debt to Mr. Goldberg.

Response: I do not recall the specifics of those loan applications and do not have copies of past mortgage documents. I fully honored the unsecured loan to Mr. Goldberg before I took out my current mortgage.

Questions from Sen. Murkowski

Question 1: Please provide your understanding of the two unanimous Supreme Court opinions in the Sturgeon v. Frost case?

a. **Do you believe that their holdings apply to all lands and waters in Alaska?**

b. **Do you commit to fully and faithfully implementing those decisions?**

Response: I am not an attorney and I have not been briefed on the full implications of the Supreme Court's opinions, but it is my general understanding that the impact of the Court's opinions in the case is that all non-public lands and navigable waters not reserved prior to statehood within Alaska's national parks are exempt from the National Park Service's ordinary regulatory authority. If confirmed I would rely upon the advice and guidance of the Solicitor for questions of applicability beyond that general understanding, and look forwards to implementing the law as defined in those decisions in good faith with as much cooperation with the State of Alaska as possible.

Question 2: Do you agree that the State of Alaska owns the submerged lands under every navigable-in-fact or tidally influenced waterbody within its borders that is not subject to a valid pre-statehood withdrawal that specifically defeats that title? In lay terms – do you agree that, with some exceptions, if you can take a personal watercraft on a waterway in Alaska, the State owns those submerged lands?

a. **And that this ownership interest immediately vested at statehood in 1959, pursuant to the equal footing doctrine of the U.S. Constitution?**

b. **What do you intend to do if confirmed to assure that federal clouds from state title are expeditiously removed from state title to submerged lands? Rather than the piecemeal approach that has made little progress over the last 60 years would you provide a general disclaimer or policy of disclaiming these interests? If not, please explain why.**

c. **What can you do to change the culture of delay and denial at BLM when it comes to questions of navigability? It is ok for BLM to say yes, and it is a good thing to run these processes quickly and cooperatively with the State. It just does not have to be adversarial.**

d. **Do you concur with Alaska Governor Dunleavy's assertion of state ownership and management over conspicuously navigable waters within federal areas in Alaska?**

Response: I respect that this is an important issue to you and to Alaskans, and if confirmed I would seek to be a part of cooperation and progress on this topic. Because I am not currently at the Department, I am not involved in the internal discussions about this matter, but I commit to learning all I can if confirmed. And if I am confirmed, I would seek the guidance and advice of the Solicitor for matters related to this issue, and I commit to following the law. I am advised that Secretary Haaland is engaged on this matter and the Department is ready to work with the State and to engage relevant Tribal Nations in discussions to achieve resolution. Finally, if

BLM has been an obstacle in the past, I would look to understand that history and avoid an adversarial approach whenever possible.

Question 3: **Can you confirm that the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals opinion in the Gulkana River case is binding law in Alaska defining navigability standards for Alaska rivers, and that you commit to fully implement it? If not, please explain why.**

Response: I understand this is an important issue to you and to your constituents. Because I am not currently at the Department, I am not involved in the internal discussions about this matter, but I commit to learning all I can if confirmed. If confirmed, you have my commitment to seek the guidance and advice of the Solicitor on this matter, and to follow the law.

Question 4: The Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) process contained within the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA) is supposed to provide a "quick and inexpensive" way for the State of Alaska to remove federal clouds from state title to submerged lands under navigable-in-fact and tidally influenced rivers and lakes. Even though the State of Alaska has numerous pending RDI applications, it has been over two calendar years since any meaningful action has been taken on pending RDI applications.

a. **If confirmed, can you commit providing a briefing to the entire Alaska delegation as well as the State of Alaska on how funds appropriated for this purpose have been spent over the last two years and ten years, the number of completed RDIs have been issued through this process and how you plan to speed up this painfully slow and expensive process to remove federal clouds from state title to submerged lands?**

Response: I understand the importance of the RDI process to confirm the state's ownership of lands underlying navigable waters in Alaska. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about the current status of BLM's reviews of pending applications, and why they have been pending for this time. I will commit to working with Congress and the state of Alaska to ensure reviews of RDIs are carried out and in accordance with the law. I would also commit to a briefing for the delegation and the state and working with budget officials to provide an explanation for the use of past funds.

Question 5: The U.S. District Court in Alaska found that the Department of Justice and Bureau of Land Management acted in "bad faith" when pursuing litigation over the "Mosquito Fork" River. Consequently they were responsible for paying significant attorney's fees and costs to the State of Alaska.

a. **Do you agree that this was a tremendous waste of public resources?**

b. **Do you agree that this litigation should have never occurred and would not have if BLM did not refuse to follow binding federal law and precedent from the 9th Circuit's Gulkana decision?**

c. **Can you commit not to pursue frivolous or bad faith litigation in Alaska, and to provide robust instruction to comply fully with applicable federal law even if favorable to the State's interests?**

Response: I am not currently at the Department and have not been involved in discussions related to this matter, but I agree that bad faith or frivolous litigation should never be pursued, anywhere. If I am confirmed, I would seek the guidance and advice of the Solicitor to understand this issue and its background better and what lessons the BLM and the Department should take from the decision. I commit to always following the law.

Question 6: In response to a question I raised on Public Land Orders you responded: "I understand that being BLM director is a very different job then the work I have done at the National Wildlife Federation, and you have my commitment that I understand that the job is to follow the law, and that the federal government has commitments to the state of Alaska. I understand that."

a. **Can you please elaborate in detail what mean when you said "the federal government has commitments to the state of Alaska."**

Response: I know that it has been an important priority for you for many years that the conveyance of land entitlements to the State of Alaska and to the Alaska Native Corporations be completed, and it was my intention at the hearing, as it is now, to assure you that if confirmed I will be committed to that effort.

Question 7: The President and his allies have committed to conserving 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, under the so-called "30x30" or "America the Beautiful" proposal. Nearly 30% of Alaska is *already* conserved – under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) alone, about 25% of land in Alaska was placed into new or expanded conservation units.

a. **Do you believe it would be appropriate to ensure that certain states, such as Alaska, do not disproportionately bear the burden of this plan?**

    A. **Do states that currently not have 30% of their land in conserved status have an obligation to meet that goal?**

b. **In your view please explain the criteria for determining what lands and waters must be conserved?**

c. **If confirmed, you will be director of the BLM and responsible with expeditiously completing Alaska Native Veteran Allotments and the State of Alaska's statehood entitlement, how will these land transfers to private and state entities affect the administration's goal of conserving 30 percent of the U.S. by 2030?**

Response: Because I am not at the Department, I have not been involved in the discussion related to this proposal, but my understanding is that it is intended to be inclusive, relying on the support of local, state, private, and tribally-led conservation efforts underway across the country. I further understand that it is about using and enhancing the many conservation tools that are in place and that we know work. I am aware that an interagency working group will be developing the metrics to track progress to the President's conservation goal. I am also aware that the America the Beautiful report acknowledges that implementing the proposal should show regional balance and not just focus on western public lands.

Questions from Sen. Lankford

<u>Question 1</u>: Ms. Stone-Manning, as you know, DOI released a secretarial order at the beginning of the year elevating reviews for routine permitting decisions on federal lands. That order expired, but it was replaced with a directive that these types of decisions go through the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management (ASLM) "for review prior to taking final actions on the matters or publicly announcing decisions." This guidance has created some confusion over which actions are covered and how this impacts operators.

- **Do you support elevating reviews of routine permitting decisions?**

- **Do you think the career employees in BLM field offices, many of whom have decades of experience with federal permitting regulations, are unable to act appropriately on routine requests?**

- **We heard at an Energy Committee hearing several weeks ago how the wait time for approvals has increased since this directive was put in place, implying that this new guidance is impacting operators on the ground. Do you think it is appropriate to slow the bureaucratic process even further for routine decisions? My understanding is this could impact things like the permitting of gas gathering lines, which in my view is in our environmental and economic interest. Shouldn't we be expediting these decisions rather than trying to slow them down?**

Response: Because I am not at the Department, I cannot speak directly to internal management decisions or guidance documents. It is my belief, however, that it is appropriate for senior Department leaders, including agency heads, to ensure appropriate policy direction for the bureaus that they lead, and I agree that BLM leadership should work well with the many experienced and valued BLM career employees in the field on permitting processes. If confirmed, I look forward to learning more about the current process and I commit to following law in carrying out the management of our public lands.

<u>Question 2</u>: The Bureau of Land Management has a multiple use mandate, which means that each administration must ensure our public lands are accessible for everything from recreation to resource development. Last year you wrote an op-ed regarding conservation for the sage grouse that included the line, "there is plenty of room in the West to develop natural resources and protect the sage grouse." The broader implication of your op-ed was that if the previous administration moved energy development away from sage grouse habitat, then you would have been comfortable with their energy development strategy.

- **Do you still believe there is "plenty of room" in the West for oil and gas development?**

- **As recently as last summer, it appeared that you supported energy development on federal lands. Do you still believe that energy development, including development of oil and gas, is part of BLM's multiple use mandate?**

Response: I agree with President Biden and Secretary Haaland that fossil fuels will continue to play a major role in our domestic energy mix for years to come. I am a firm believer in the BLM's multiple use mandate, and responsible energy development has a place on the public lands as one of those many uses. As I said at the hearing, I have spent my career balancing the needs of a variety of stakeholders, and I believe that there is plenty of room for oil and gas development in the West. I would follow the law, science, and stakeholder input to make smart decisions about energy development.

Question 3: **The "pause" of federal oil and gas leasing that has gotten so much attention was called for in President Biden's Executive Order entitled "Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad." This "pause" in leasing affects federal onshore and offshore lands, which comprise only part of our domestic production, and does nothing to adjust demand for oil and gas and their associated products.**

- **Ms. Stone-Manning, do you believe that this pause, justified by climate concerns as specified by the title of the EO, will reduce consumption of oil and gas in America? Do you believe this action will reduce emissions world-wide, or simply displace them?**

Response: My understanding of the pause on oil and gas leasing put in place by the President was to allow for time to review the program to ensure that it was working for the best interests of the public, who own the resources, and to take climate change into account. I am not in a position to assess the impact of this action on the emissions of other countries. I also understand that the matter is in litigation and that a federal district court recently issued a decision granting an injunction against the pause. If I am confirmed, I commit to ensuring domestic energy production overseen by the Department of the Interior is done in an environmentally responsible way that is informed by science, is subject to strong safety oversight, and incorporates the best available technologies and practices.

Question 4: **Challenges with energy development on federal lands are not exclusively faced by the oil and gas industry. As federal and state policies encourage the use of more renewables, technologies like wind and solar are also grappling with how to secure the right to develop and permit projects on federal lands. The previous administration opened more desert land in California up to renewable energy development, but recently the Biden administration reversed this decision so the additional 800,000 acres that would have been opened to technologies like wind and solar remain closed. This is alarming in part because of how much space these technologies need to generate the same amount of electricity that a nuclear, natural gas, or coal facility generate: by some estimates, wind and solar need at least 10 times more acreage than natural gas to generate an equivalent amount of electricity. Additionally, permitting projects on federal lands is a much lengthier process than permitting on private lands. If we want to be an "all of the above" energy nation, we need to give industry the tools to get more projects online.**

- **Ms. Stone-Manning, do you believe we are sending mixed messages to the renewable energy industry by incentivizing renewable energy development through the tax code, but at the same time pursuing policies that are ever more restrictive regarding where this development may take place, and failing to create a predictable and efficient permitting environment?**

- **Oftentimes, people cannot see clearly that to get the benefit of a technology, we also have to endure any downsides – and with some renewables, one of those downsides is how much space is required. Put simply, it is not possible to make everyone happy all the time. Is the administration prepared to disappoint people who would prefer to see no federal lands disturbed in order to allow industry to actually install additional renewable capacity and build the transmission lines needed to connect this new generation to population centers? What is the administration's plan to ensure that these technologies have sufficient space to develop?**

Response: As I said at the hearing, our public lands comprise about 245 million acres, so there is a lot of room there for the many uses that our public lands accommodate, including for the kind of clean energy development that the President has made a priority. The lands managed by BLM are guided by a very public planning process, and I believe that process, with the law and the science and the community input that is a part of it, is important to identifying and guiding the management of lands appropriate for a number of different uses. I have spent a career balancing the needs of various stakeholders and communities and achieving positive results, and if confirmed I would do the same at the BLM.

Questions from Sen. Cortez Masto

Question 1: **Solar energy represents a tremendous economic opportunity for Nevada, which is ranked 6th for installed solar projects, with nearly 3.9 gigawatts of capacity — enough to power 667,506 homes. As you know many of these projects are located on private land, but there is also lots of BLM land available, which we want to make sure is cost-competitive with comparable private and state-owned land.**

Ms. Stone-Manning, during the last Administration, the Department received a bipartisan letter on this topic. The letter asked the Department to address the problems created by high rents and megawatt capacity fees, but the Department did not address this issue. Should you be confirmed, would you please commit to taking a look into these renewable energy competitive leasing issues?

Response: Yes. If confirmed, I would be happy to learn more about these issues as we work to ensure we are doing all we can to meet President Biden's important clean energy goals for the nation by realizing the renewable energy potential of our public lands.

Question 2: In recent years, the BLM has spent an inordinate amount of time and resources offering vast acreages for oil and gas development on lands where the oil and gas industry doesn't really have any development interest, and on lands that have little to no potential for development.

Making these lands available for leasing only fuels the speculation industry and wastes BLM resources while locking up the land from being managed for other purposes, like wildlife habitat preservation, outdoor recreation and grazing.

I re-introduced the End Speculative Oil and Gas Leasing Act to prohibit the BLM from offering leases on lands determined to have low or no drilling potential. Do you think we should reevaluate the policy when it comes to allowing these low potential lands to be available for oil and gas leasing? Should we outright focus leasing on lands with higher potential and reprioritize management of lands with low development potential? What approach will you bring to the BLM?

a. **If the federal oil and gas leasing program focused its resources on lands with higher potential for development, how would that benefit BLM's mandate to administer lands for multiple-use purposes?**

Response: As I mentioned at the hearing, the oil and gas leasing program needs updating to match the century we are living in. I am familiar with this legislation. If confirmed, I would look forward to discussing it and the questions you raise about oil and gas leasing in areas with low or no drilling potential with you. I believe these issues are part of the Department's review of the oil and gas leasing program and I look forward to playing an active role in that review to ensure that the program operates in the best interest of the taxpayers.

Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Hearing on the Nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning to be
Director of the Bureau of Land Management
June 8, 2021

Question from Sen. Hickenlooper

<u>Question</u>: Senator Bennet, Representative Neguse, and I have introduced the CORE Act, which will protect 400,000 acres of land in Colorado for future generations. But the bill would have positive impacts beyond Colorado's borders. Title III of the CORE Act, the Greater Thompson Divide Fugitive Coal Methane Use Pilot Program, would have BLM facilitate the capture and use of methane emissions from coal mines, preventing the release of a potent greenhouse gas that we know to be a danger both nationally and globally. Are you familiar with the CORE Act? Do you see a role for BLM in preventing methane emissions and fostering economic development, as envisioned in the bill?

Response: Yes, I am generally familiar with the legislation and the hard and collaborative work by the delegation and many other stakeholders that has gone into it over many years. I am excited that the Department and the Administration have expressed strong support for it, and I look forward to helping advance this legislation. If confirmed, I would look forward to learning more about the BLM's role as envisioned in the bill and I would look forward to working with you on this and other matters.

Questions from Sen. Marshall

Question 1: According to the Federal Reserve, the average interest rate for a consumer personal loan in 2008 was 11% -- yet according to your financial disclosure, you received a personal loan from a wealthy Democratic donor and real estate developer, Mr. Stuart Goldberg, at an interest rate of 6% -- this of course was while you were serving as Senator Jon Tester's State Director and a difference of market value that could provide you a personal value of $20k-$40k. Did you receive special treatment getting the personal loan from the donor and real estate developer in exchange for any favors?

Response: No.

Question 2: Were you aware that the interest rate on the personal loan you received from Mr. Goldberg was significantly below the average?

Response: We came to terms that we thought were fair between friends.

Question 3: Did you interact with Mr. Goldberg in your official capacity for Senator Tester? Did you interact with Mr. Goldberg in your official capacity at Department of Environmental Quality or former Governor Bullock's office while the loan was being paid off?

Response: No.

Question 4: Did Mr. Goldberg petition the Senator's office around the time that you secured this loan? If so, on what issues did he seek assistance from that office?

Response: Not to my knowledge.

Question 5: Did you discontinue all interactions in your official capacity with Mr. Goldberg while negotiating and after securing this loan?

Response: I recall no interactions with Mr. Goldberg in my official capacity.

Question 6: The difference between the interest rate you received and that of market value would have provided you with a personal value, or gift, of $20k-$40k. Were you aware of the Senate Ethics ban on congressional staffers accepting gifts higher than $50 prior to accepting the loan and did you consult with the Senate Ethics Committee in determining whether the loan provided on the basis of your personal friendship with Mr. Goldberg was exempt from the Senate gift rule?

Response: Neither my husband nor I nor Mr. Goldberg considered the loan to the business as a gift.

Question 7: During the hearing, you stated that Mr. Goldberg was a personal friend. In determining whether a gift is provided on the basis of personal friendship, the Senate Code of Official Conduct provides different factors to consider. Prior to receiving the loan, did you have a history of exchanging

similar gifts with Mr. Goldberg? Did Mr. Goldberg give the same or similar gifts to other congressional staffers?

Response: As I said in response to a previous question, we had a history of friendship. That included dinners in each others' homes, a camping trip, and attending concerts. In 2007, I officiated his wedding, at the site of his new home. Similarly, we occasionally exchanged gifts as friends do – at the holidays, etc., and at his wedding. It is my understanding that during the same recession started in 2008, Mr. Goldberg engaged in a similar loan to help a friend keep a house. I have no knowledge of any other gifts Mr. Goldberg made to anyone who was an employee of Congress.

Question 8: In your financial disclosure, you stated the personal loan you received had an interest rate at 6%. How was the interest compounded, what was the structure of the loan and payment schedule, and what was the rationale behind structuring the loan in this way? Did you make the required payments on time?

Response: The agreement was for annual interest, paid in monthly installments. We made every payment on time. It was an interest only loan until we could pay off the balance of the principal, which we did 12 years later in 2020.

Question 9: According to statute, financial disclosure reports include liabilities owed during the period beginning on January 1 of the preceding calendar year. You reported a financial liability of between $50,000 - $100,000 in 2020. When was the loan paid off in 2020 and what was the total amount of the personal loan you received in 2008?

Response: The loan was paid off in October 2020. The loan was originally $100,000 in 2008 for my husband's business, which subsequently closed. We sold and downsized our home a few months later, which enabled us to make a $40,000 repayment. Instead of declaring bankruptcy and not honoring the remainder of the loan, we came to verbal agreement on the terms for the remaining $60,000, which were: we would pay him interest in monthly payments until we could pay off the principal of the loan. The remaining $60,000 in principal was carried until October 2020. We paid off the principal, in full, after I received an inheritance following my mother's death.

Question 10: In 2008 did you attempt to secure a loan via other means? Did you have other loan requests rejected?

Response: In 2008 I discussed with my mother the possibility of a loan to pay off the balance owed Mr. Goldberg, but she was not able to afford it at the time.

Question 11: Were you granted a forbearance on making payments during your time as a senate employee, director of MT DEQ or as the Governor's Chief of Staff?

Response: No, and we never missed a payment.

Question 12: Was the loan from Mr. Goldberg or from one of his businesses or other related entities?

Response: Mr. Goldberg.

Questions from Sen. Wyden

Question 1: During Secretary Haaland's and Deputy Secretary Beaudreau's hearings I raised the importance of building coalitions to get things done. In Oregon, I have worked with local ranchers, tribes, and environmentalists on a bill to establish wilderness on Bureau of Land Management lands in Eastern Oregon, increase public participation in land management decisions, and increase economic development in Malheur County. I have legislation that was the result of dozens of meetings with local and regional stakeholders to identify common ground and a shared vision for a healthy landscape. The Director of the Bureau of Land Management is a critical partner to accomplish the goals set out in my bill.

Will you work with me and this committee to move the legislation forward this year?

Response: As I stated at the hearing, the only way to get things done in the country, and specifically in the West, is to work together. I respect the significant work that you have put into this legislation and, if confirmed, I would look forward to learning more about it and to working closely with you as part of the legislative process.

Question 2: In the final hours of Donald Trump's Interior Department, the Bureau of Land Management issued a rule that would open up over 3 million acres of spotted owl habitat on the West Coast for clear cuts and intensive logging. In addition to this decision, they tried to shrink the size of national monuments, and delay and change the outcomes of fish and wildlife pesticide reports. These decisions were not based on science and a number of ethical concerns were raised.

If confirmed, how will you prioritize ethics and scientific integrity as Director?

Response: If I have the honor of being confirmed, I commit to following the highest ethical standards at the Department. As part of my nomination, I spent time consulting with the Department's career ethics officials, and I would continue to do so. I also commit to following the law and science-based best practices for responsible management of America's public lands. I would expect the bureau's staff to do the same.

Question 3: **President Biden has proposed a workforce program to get young people working in clean energy and conservation jobs. I have legislation to establish a 21st Century Conservation Corps, the goal of which would be to utilize existing youth and conservation corps to build a robust workforce to accomplish more work reducing hazardous fuels, to train workers for the clean energy economy, and help rural economies get back on their feet.**

How can Congress and the Administration work together to accomplish these goals?

Response: The President has called us to work toward a clean energy future while developing good-paying jobs, and I know that public lands play an important role in achieving that goal. I am particularly excited about the power and potential of restoration on our public lands. I have spent my career balancing the needs of many various communities and stakeholders and, if confirmed, I will continue this successful approach. I am aware that the President's budget request includes funding for Civilian Climate Corps activities, a model that builds on

the existing successful conservation corps programs at the Department. I look forward to learning more about your legislation and to advancing the President's goals and priorities for our federal lands.

Questions from Sen. Lee

Question 1: The BLM manages 23 million acres in Utah, which is about 42 percent of the land in the state. Our rural communities rely on those lands to sustain their families and economies. What actions will you take to protect economic opportunities on public lands?

Response: I understand that public lands provide enormous economic opportunities for state and local communities. Public lands will also play an important role in the President's call to work toward a clean energy future while developing good-paying jobs. I am a firm believer in the BLM's multiple use mandate. As I said at the hearing, I have spent my career successfully balancing the needs of a variety of stakeholders, and if I am confirmed for this position, I will continue this approach.

Question 2: What actions will you take to work with state and local officials and people who rely on BLM lands for their livelihoods in Utah?

Response: It is my view that we must work together in order to arrive at the best plan, the best process, or the best result. Public lands provide tremendous opportunities for outdoor recreation, energy development, and environmental conservation. If I am confirmed to this position, I commit to working openly and transparently with all stakeholders, including states, Tribes, and local governments as we work to advance the President's goals and priorities for our public lands.

Question 3: What is your preferred strategy to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire on BLM land?

Response: There are many factors that contribute to worsening wildfire seasons, including a century of fire suppression, more structures in wildfire prone areas, and climate change. If confirmed, I will make sure that our decisions on forest management and hazardous fuels reduction are guided by the best available science on forest health and wildfire management. I am also committed to working closely with our partners, including the Forest Service, states, Tribal Nations, and local communities, to reduce wildfire risk and restore the ecological health of our forests and rangelands.

Question 4: **Greater sage-grouse remain a state-managed wildlife species and are not listed under the Endangered Species Act – how can the BLM work to support state-led management efforts for Greater Sage Grouse and state sage grouse management plans?**

Response: I believe that states and state plans are critical to ensure the conservation of greater sage-grouse and balancing responsible development with habitat protection across the species' range. In 2015, the unprecedented collaboration with Western states led to the determination by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service that protection under the Endangered Species Act was not required. I believe in bringing people together to find lasting solutions and, if confirmed, I would work closely with the states, including game and fish departments, as well as the FWS, Tribes and other stakeholders to support collaborative conservation of this species.

Question 5: **DOI recently announced its intent to revisit the federal sage grouse management plans. Utah has had a successful sage grouse conservation strategy in place for nearly 20 years. If DOI moves forward**

with any revisions to the federal plans, will you commit to work closely with state and local officials and local stakeholders in Utah to ensure the federal plans follow Utah's plan as closely as practicable?

Response: As I said in the previous response, I believe strongly in state collaboration on greater sage-grouse conservation efforts and have past experience along these lines in Montana. I look forward to working with the career professionals in BLM Utah and state and local stakeholders there on the path forward.

Question 6: **DOI is planning to continue to conduct roundups of excess wild horses and burros on public land. Although I agree with this effort to get the animals off the range, it isn't a long-term solution to the wild horse and burro problem. What is your long-term plan to address this issue?**

Response: I know this is a longstanding and difficult issue with many passionate advocates. If I am confirmed, I will work with BLM experts and other interested stakeholders to determine a humane and effective strategy moving forward.

Question 7: **How do you see the BLM working to resolve the ongoing issue of undecided Wilderness Study Areas?**

Response: The BLM manages Wilderness Study so as not to impair their future preservation as Wilderness by Congress, and only Congress can designate an area as wilderness. If confirmed I would follow the law.

Question 8: **Motorized access to BLM lands is critically important for ranchers, hunters, recreationists, and private industries using BLM lands – how should the BLM work to protect motorized access on public lands?**

Response: I am a firm believer in the BLM's multiple use mandate, and motorized access has a place on public lands as one among the many uses that must be balanced. As I said at the hearing, I have spent my career balancing the needs of a variety of stakeholders, and I would follow the law, science, and stakeholder input to make smart decisions about managing the public lands.

Question 9: Many countries around the world continue to build coal-fired power plants, and Utah's coal is typically cleaner and burns more efficiently than coal produced elsewhere in the world, meaning that foreign powerplants could produce less carbon if they could use Utah coal. What role do you see for BLM lands in the western United States producing and exporting our relatively clean, cost-effective coal?

Response: I agree with Secretary Haaland's view that fossil energy does and will continue to play a major role in meeting America's energy needs for years to come. If confirmed, I will work hard to strike the right balance for developing energy resources from our nation's public lands, including those in Utah.

Question 10: Livestock grazing on BLM land is critically important to producing America's food, while also providing good jobs and consistent economic activities in Utah and throughout the west. It is also a sustainable use of BLM land, utilizing renewable resources to support agriculture with minimal alterations to the landscape or impacts to other users of BLM land. How can the BLM ensure that livestock grazing remains a central part of BLM land management?

Response: I support BLM's multiple use mandate and appreciate the role grazing plays on our public lands. As I said in response to a related question, if I am confirmed I would be committed to focusing on this program and getting permittees the tools they need to do their jobs, including updated permits that take into account an understanding of what's happening on the ground. I would also rely on BLM staff's extensive expertise and listen to and incorporate input from stakeholders.

Question 11: FLPMA requires DOI to develop land management plans that are "consistent to the maximum extent" with state and local land use management plans. How can the BLM better incorporate state and county land use management plans into its planning and give full effect to the "maximum extent" language in FLPMA?

Response: As I said at my confirmation hearing, I believe that the best approach to managing our resources brings all stakeholder together. On this issue in particular, if I am confirmed I would look forward to engaging with BLM staff and to seeking input from and working with stakeholders, including states and local governments, to ensure that BLM land use plans follow the law, are coordinated with state planning efforts, and will meet the needs of local communities.

From: Schwartz, Melissa A
To: Lederman, Josh (NBCUniversal)
Cc: Cherry, Tyler A
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Tracy Stone-Manning
Date: Thursday, July 8, 2021 3:16:25 PM

Sharing this: https://www.sltrib.com/opinion/commentary/2021/07/07/neil-kornze-jim-baca/ and the materials below.

Here is a quote: "The Secretary stands with Tracy Stone-Manning and all of our nominees. She believes that Tracy would be an important addition to our team. We look forward to the Senate confirming her."

Support across the spectrum for Tracy Stone-Manning, nominee to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management

What **35 sportsmen and women organizations** say in an American Wildlife Conservation Partners letter: "Ms. Stone-Manning is a Montanan, avid hunter, and outdoorswoman that has dedicated her career to public service, and collaborative conservation…. Ms. Stone-Manning's extensive experiences working collaboratively with multiple stakeholders across the West, and her deep understanding of the myriad land management challenges before the agency, make her uniquely qualified to lead the BLM. Her leadership style ensures that all voices will be heard, as she carries out the BLM's multiple use mission."

The take from **Montana Petroleum Association Director Alan Olson**, in an AP story: "Olson described her as highly intelligent and "left of center" but not extreme in her politics and willing to listen to opposing views."

What **Boich Companies, the co-owner of Signal Peak**, an underground coal mine in Montana, says: "Tracy consistently had an open door and an open mind. She was fair, pragmatic and never jumped to conclusions.… Most importantly, we always knew she was guided by law and science… She will serve the Bureau and the country well."

What **National Wildlife Federation and 47 state affiliates** say: "Tracy Stone-Manning has dedicated her career to the responsible conservation of America's public lands… [she] understands not only the challenges facing our public lands, but also the central role these lands play in the lives and livelihoods of hardworking Americans. As a hunter, she understands how policy decisions around energy development, outdoor recreation, and public access affect wildlife and the families that rely upon them. For these reasons alone, she is the right leader to rebuild the agency and restore the public's trust in this crucial lands-management agency."

What **American Forests** says: "BLM's forests demand a leader ready to roll up her sleeves and listen to the spectrum of stakeholders who care deeply about our public land resources. With a track record of collaboration, Ms. Stone-Manning is that person. Ms. Stone-Manning brings insights and sensitivity to the unique challenges—and opportunities—faced by our nation's forest- dependent and adjacent communities. She has problem-solved for natural resource solutions for rural America and has championed the role our rural and small towns play in the fabric of vibrant communities."

What **Golden Sunlight mine** said, when she was at DEQ: "We're pleased with the work that the

DEQ did," general manager Dan Banghart told The Montana Standard Tuesday. "We're pleased we were able to get this done in a timely manner."

What **ranchers in Idaho and Nevada** who worked with her say: "she's willing to work with producers and conservationists to bring about innovative, cooperative solutions.… As stakeholders that are vested in the responsible management of public lands, our livelihoods depend on strong leadership within the BLM, which Stone-Manning clearly demonstrates."

What the **Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes** say: "Ms. Stone-Manning has long demonstrated her abilities in a number of capacities here in Montana, both within government and non-profit sectors. As importantly, she has also proven her ability to deliver successful outcomes regarding resource management—many of which were dependent on broad coalition-building and bipartisan support..., I am confident that under Ms. Stone-Manning's leadership, the BLM will be a constructive partner for tribes and others."

What ten members of the **Montana American Indian Caucus** of the state legislature: "Ms. Stone-Manning is a no-nonsense administrator who gets work done and ensures that everyone has a say in the process and outcome.… She is a Westerner who is serious about her work, and serious about working together with all parties… As a caucus, we have worked with Ms. Stone-Manning, and know that she will represent our interests -- and all Americans' interests -- at BLM and in the U.S. Department of the Interior. We are proud to support our fellow Montanan."

What eleven groups, spanning from Outdoor Industry Association to the Wild Turkey Federation, says via the **Outdoor Recreation Roundtable**: "On behalf of the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable (ORR), we would like to express our strong support for the nomination of Tracy Stone-Manning to be the next Director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). … As senior advisor for conservation policy at the National Wildlife Federation, Ms. Stone-Manning has extensive knowledge of the conservation issues facing our nation and the crucial role outdoor recreation plays in maintaining our public lands."

What **104 conservation groups** say: "As a Westerner, an avid outdoorswoman, and a consensus builder, Stone-Manning has spent her career advocating for the wise stewardship of our nation's public lands and waters. … [she] has also shown that she has the temperament and management skills necessary to bring together diverse groups of stakeholders in pursuit of collaborative policy solutions…. Stone-Manning is uniquely qualified to ensure that a balanced approach – informed by science and involving robust public participation—will guide management decisions."

On National Public Radio, a reporter talked to **Chas Vincent, logger and the Montana State Senator** who chaired the energy committee at the Montana State legislature and who oversaw her state senate confirmation: "'She knows how to take heat from both sides - is something that, I think, is a good takeaway from her experience in Montana.' … Vincent, the Republican, says [the Earth First! Incident] came up back in Montana state politics, too. But he says she quickly proved to be a realist not idealist. 'Where I think she will excel is her ability and her experience in collaboration and listening to both sides of an issue and being able to come up with a solution that might not make everybody happy, but it will suffice.'"

What the **Missoula County Commissioners** say: "There could hardly be a more qualified person to lead this important agency than President Biden's nominee for Bureau of Land Management Director, fellow Missoulian Tracy Stone-Manning. Tracy has impressed many of

us during her successful career advocating for the sensible stewardship of our nation's public lands and waters. … In all of her roles, she's demonstrated that she has the quintessential qualities of a great leader. We know she has what it takes to successfully lead the Bureau of Land Management."

What **Vet Voice Foundation**, an advocacy group for military veterans, says: "Tracy Stone-Manning is a public lands champion and therefore our ideal candidate to lead the Bureau of Land Management. Stone-Manning will lead through listening — to recreationists, hunters, anglers, business owners, tribal communities, and, yes, veterans and military families. At Stone-Manning's Bureau of Land Management, all stakeholders will have a seat at the table and all will play a part in finding new, collaborative policy solutions that will ensure the preservation of our public lands and waterways for generations to come."

What **Governor Steve Bullock**, her former boss, says: "I have a great deal of admiration and respect for Tracy Stone-Manning. … She is a leader that listens to the people around her, as well as the interests that are impacted by the action and inaction of government. She is direct, forthright and fair. Our nation needs servant-leaders, and Tracy certainly fits that bill."

What **Senator Jon Tester,** her former boss, says: "Tracy Stone-Manning is a tireless public lands champion with a lifetime of experience advocating for the spaces that drive Montana's economy and make our state the Last Best Place. She understands the complex issues facing the Bureau, and will bring some Montana commonsense to an agency that is in dire need of it. Her nomination is great news for Montana, and for all Americans who value our public lands and the thousands of good-paying jobs that depend on their responsible stewardship

Support for Stone-Manning at BLM solidifies despite political smear campaign

DENVER—Support for President Biden's nominee to run the Bureau of Land Management, Tracy Stone-Manning, solidified this week despite an ongoing political smear campaign helmed by Senator Steve Daines.

"There is a stunning gap between the picture Senator Daines is trying to paint and the reality of Tracy's 30-year career working across the political spectrum," said **Jennifer Rokala, executive director at the Center for Western Priorities**. "If Stone-Manning was the person Senator Daines claims she is, she would never garner support from so many corners. Whether it's mining, forestry, or conservation leaders, anyone who has worked with Tracy will tell you she is among the smartest and most honest brokers in public service."

This week, **former BLM Montana State Director Mike Penfold** said that Stone-Manning is "the right leader at the right time for the BLM. She is passionate about public lands and has the experience to bring people together to find durable solutions." He went on to ask Senator Daines to support Stone-Manning's nomination, praising her "demonstrated ability to work constructively with all public land stakeholders."

Wayne Boich, the CEO of the parent company that owns Montana's Signal Peak coal mine, told Senators John Barrasso and Joe Manchin that Stone-Manning "consistently had an open door and an open mind. She was fair, pragmatic, and never jumped to conclusions." Boich added that "Most importantly, we always knew that she was guided by law and science."

On National Public Radio, **Chas Vincent, a logger and Montana state senator** who chaired the energy committee at the state legislature and who oversaw her state senate confirmation said Stone-Manning "knows how to take heat from both sides." Vincent, a Republican, went on to say

"Where I think she will excel is her ability and her experience in collaboration and listening to both sides of an issue and being able to come up with a solution that might not make everybody happy, but it will suffice."
Vincent's praise was echoed by **ranchers in Idaho** who have worked with Stone-Manning, who said "she's willing to work with producers and conservationists to bring about innovative, cooperative solutions…. As stakeholders that are vested in the responsible management of public lands, our livelihoods depend on strong leadership within the BLM, which Stone-Manning clearly demonstrates."
Alan Olson, director of the Montana Petroleum Association, told the Associated Press that Stone-Manning was "left of center" but willing to listen to opposing views and not extreme in her politics.
Finally, **American Forests** noted that Stone-Manning "has problem-solved for natural resource solutions for rural America and has championed the role our rural and small towns play in the fabric of vibrant communities."

From: Lederman, Josh (NBCUniversal) <josh.lederman@nbcuni.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 2:30 PM
To: Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Cherry, Tyler A <tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Tracy Stone-Manning

Yes, but we will not go overboard on it or anything. It's a legitimate story given the position to which she has been nominated. But we will point out that a) she did not participate in spiking trees herself, b) she was not charged, c) this was decades ago when she was in her early 20s, and d) her record is otherwise unblemished.

From: Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 2:25 PM
To: Lederman, Josh (NBCUniversal) <josh.lederman@nbcuni.com>
Cc: Cherry, Tyler A <tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] Tracy Stone-Manning

That's really unfortunate to hear. Is that firm?

From: Lederman, Josh (NBCUniversal) <josh.lederman@nbcuni.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 1:59 PM
To: Schwartz, Melissa A <melissa_schwartz@ios.doi.gov>
Cc: Cherry, Tyler A <tyler_cherry@ios.doi.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Tracy Stone-Manning

This email has been received from outside of DOI - Use caution before clicking on links, opening attachments, or responding.

Hi Melissa,

We're going to be doing some reporting tomorrow on Morning Joe about Tracy Stone-Manning and the concerns about the tree-spiking incident and her association with Earth First. Wondering if you can tell me whether the administration stands by her nomination? Or anything else you are able to say on the concerns raised about those items?

Thanks a bunch,
Josh

Josh Lederman
NBC News Correspondent
202-255-9801 (Cell)