

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2026

Kim Prill
Oregon-Washington Acting State Director
Bureau of Land Management
1220 SW 3rd Avenue
Portland, OR 97204

Dear Acting State Director Prill,

We write to express concerns regarding the public engagement process for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) revision of the resource management plans that guide the management of more than 2.4 million acres of public lands in Western Oregon. We urge the BLM to take a more robust and proactive approach to public involvement to ensure all proposed plans meet the needs of the public and avoid dividing communities that have long demonstrated the ability to find common ground on challenging issues when presented the opportunity. There is a divide between what is required legally and what is required to maintain and grow the social license to work effectively in our federal forests. Specifically, we ask that BLM demonstrate its commitment to robust public engagement by extending the public comment period during the scoping process for an additional 60 days and hold at least one in-person public meeting in each affected BLM district.

Our offices have received significant outreach from communities concerned about whether BLM's environmental analysis will adequately consider their concerns. Constituents have expressed a strong desire to have additional time and opportunities to engage with the BLM on the issues, impacts and potential alternatives that you will analyze during the revision process. Providing this opportunity is critical for ensuring future success in the process and limiting litigation in the future. It should not be rushed, especially on issues that affect lands essential to the health of our communities. More robust engagement at this stage will help ensure the agency does not overlook critical information necessary to reach a socially and legally acceptable decision.

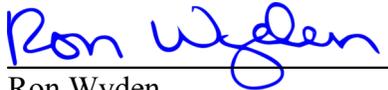
The BLM cannot afford to waste its limited taxpayer resources on an unsuccessful planning effort. It has lost significant capacity under the current administration, so a thoughtful process that leverages public input and assistance is as critical as ever to success. We are facing an ongoing wildfire and climate crisis, mill closures, increasingly strained county budgets and other evolving regional challenges. The revision of management plans offer many opportunities to meet the region's economic, ecological and social goals in collaboration with willing tribal and community partners. A coordinated effort that engages all interested members of the public from the beginning is the only way to ensure those goals can be fully realized.

We hope you will accept our request to extend the public comment period and offer public meetings during the scoping of the current resource management plan revisions. Collectively, we

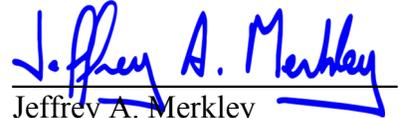
have worked closely and collaboratively with our communities on these issues for many decades and make the request out of the belief that it is essential to the success of the effort.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Val Hoyle
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress



Maxine Dexter
Member of Congress



Janelle S. Bynum
Member of Congress