



Vermilion Cliffs National Monument, Arizona

FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS

STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK



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INTRODUCTION

A Message from Chair of the Board of Directors Steve Bullock and CEO I Ling Thompson

Dear Partners and Friends of the Foundation for America's Public Lands,

As the inaugural Board Chair and CEO of the Foundation for America's Public Lands, we are filled with both profound responsibility and immense hope. Our nation's public lands and waters have always been our great equalizer. These special places have shaped who we are as Americans and have the unique ability to inspire, connect, and bring people together.

The Foundation has been a long time coming. Thanks to invaluable input from partners and stakeholders, we are pleased to share our strategic framework for the Foundation, which sets forth initial priorities based on insights from the past, the challenges and opportunities of our present, and the vast aspirations for our future. At its core, this framework instills a shared sense of purpose for the future of our public lands and waters.

The framework reflects careful analysis and countless conversations to define the unique role of the Foundation and the principles for how we operate. These principles have served as our north star and will allow the Foundation to remain responsive to emerging needs, dynamic landscapes, and shifting contexts in which we operate.

Our nation's public lands and waters are a testament to the beauty, resilience, and shared history of America. As we stand on the cusp of new beginnings, together we can ensure they remain an enduring legacy for all – today, tomorrow, and for generations to come.

With profound gratitude and commitment,



Steve Bullock

Governor Steve Bullock

Chair of the Board of Directors

Foundation for America's Public Lands



I Ling Thompson

I Ling Thompson

CEO

Foundation for America's Public Lands

THE FOUNDATION FOR AMERICA'S PUBLIC LANDS:

Our Beginnings

As the official charitable partner of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the Foundation for America's Public Lands connects us to our public lands and waters and sustains these special places for the benefit of present and future generations. Established by Congress in 2017, the Foundation started its initial operations in 2022 as it began to build out its leadership, infrastructure, initial programmatic priorities, and this inaugural strategic framework.

America's public lands and waters are where we work, play, and come together. These special places are more than destinations on a map or scenic backdrops – they have something to offer everyone. Public lands offer boundless opportunities for adventure, with millions of people visiting each year to take advantage of the most expansive outdoor recreation opportunities from hiking and off-roading, to hunting and fishing, and so much more. They honor the culture and tradition of Indigenous peoples, who have deep ties and knowledge of the land. And our public lands are a powerful economic driver, fueling job growth and balancing multiple uses that power rural communities.

The BLM is responsible for one-in-every-ten-acres of land across the country, the largest amount of public land of any federal agency, and welcomes more than 80 million visitors every year. The BLM's multi-use, sustained yield mission requires balancing 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. Despite this broad mandate, they have limited resources to carry out their important mission. Other public land agencies have benefitted from having a foundation partner for decades, and the BLM has not had the same support – until now.

Given the backlog of needs and opportunities facing the BLM, a strategic planning process was critical to focus the Foundation's inaugural slate of priorities. The Foundation sought diverse perspectives from leadership and stakeholder groups that represent different viewpoints, cultural backgrounds and complemented existing efforts. Through a series of board planning workshops, stakeholder listening sessions, and individual outreach, the Foundation solicited input from more than 120 local and state government associations, industry groups, companies, policy experts, and nonprofit partners, providing the Foundation with invaluable insights that were incorporated into the fabric of this framework.



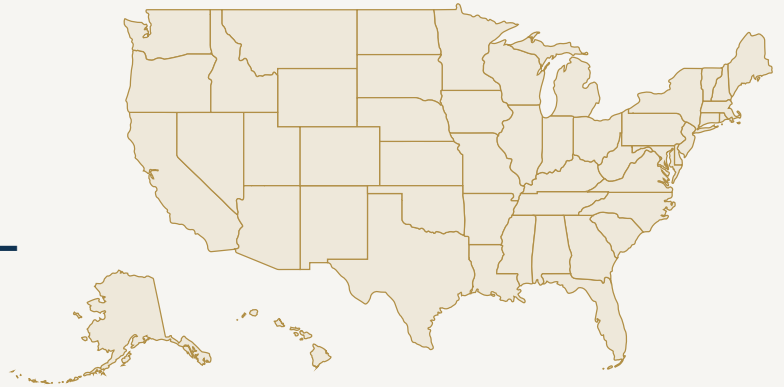
Upper Snake Field, Idaho



PUBLIC LANDS

BY THE NUMBERS

BLM manages 245 million acres —
that's one in every 10 acres of
land in the U.S. across 30 states.



The BLM is the largest federal land management agency,
yet it has the smallest budget.



80 million+
visitors every year



30 national
monuments



155 million grazing
acres and administers
nearly 18,000 permits and
leases held by ranchers
who graze livestock.



783,000
jobs supported



20 national
conservation areas



\$201 billion
in economic output



120 million acres
of energy production



Receives **\$.79 per visitor**
compared to \$5.20 for the
National Park Service and
\$1.70 for the Forest Service.



Mission

As the official charitable partner of the BLM, the Foundation for America's Public Lands connects us to our public lands and waters and sustains these special places for the benefit of present and future generations.



Snake Wild and Scenic River, Idaho



Upper Missouri Wild and Scenic River, Montana



Vision

Together, we will chart a new path to ensure the health and sustainability of our public lands and waters for work, play, and wonder for all.

Values

INSPIRATION

We approach our work with passion, embracing the multiple motivations that drive people to care about their public lands and waters.

TRUST

We value integrity above all else and will earn and maintain the trust of our partners and the public through honesty, transparency, accountability, and responsible stewardship.

CONNECTION

We believe that partnership is critical at every step, and we commit to work closely with the BLM, communities, organizations, industry, Tribes, local and state governments, and other leaders who care for our public lands and waters.



LASTING IMPACT

We seek lasting impact in the places we work, so that future generations can enjoy the same opportunities and balance multiple uses that we have today.

INCLUSIVITY

We aim to create an equitable and inclusive environment, where all have a seat at the table and all are welcome to access and enjoy public lands and waters.

The Importance of Public Lands



ECONOMIC VALUE

Public lands and waters play a significant role in bolstering our economy. They support important sectors such as tourism, outdoor recreation, and natural resource industries, creating jobs and generating revenue. Studies indicate that outdoor recreation alone contributes billions to the U.S. economy annually, demonstrating the economic potential our public lands and waters hold. In fiscal year 2021, BLM-administered lands supported \$201 billion in economic output and nearly 783,000 jobs across the country.



SHARED HERITAGE

Our public lands and waters are more than vast expanses of land and water; they are the physical embodiment of our shared heritage. They hold the stories of our past, the celebration of our present, and the promise of our future. From monuments that honor our nation's history to working lands that create jobs, public lands and waters are a collective legacy that binds us together.



MULTIPLE USES

Public lands and waters serve multiple purposes. They provide places for recreation, from rock climbing and camping to bird watching and motorized recreation. They are vital habitats and provide connectivity for wildlife, preserving biodiversity found nowhere else on Earth. They also provide resources for tourism, grazing, energy, and mineral development. This multi-use approach requires balancing economic activities and responsible stewardship, ensuring these lands and waters can be enjoyed by all, now and in the future.



CONSERVATION VALUE

Public lands and waters connect generations across time, which is why sustaining healthy habitats and productive rangelands is essential. Ensuring the protection and sustainable management of these places is vital for conserving our public lands and waters for our children and grandchildren to enjoy.

Organizational Strategic Priorities

The Foundation will focus on three strategic priorities to guide its inaugural programs. These priorities were the product of rigorous discussions with partners, communities, and individuals.



AWARENESS

We will elevate the value of public lands and waters, celebrate the people who manage them, and inspire everyone to experience wonder.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Colorado



ACCESS

We will work to provide equitable access to our public lands and waters to ensure all people can connect, enjoy, and benefit from all they have to offer.

Upper Missouri River Breaks National Monument, Montana



STEWARDSHIP

We will generate resources and cultivate partnerships to protect the resiliency of our public lands and waters for future generations.

Poison Creek Recreation Site, Idaho

Inaugural Programs



The Foundation's inaugural programs are aligned with our framework:

AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

The Awareness Campaign aims to elevate the national significance of BLM-managed public lands and waters. By spotlighting the scale of impact, as well as the opportunities and challenges facing the BLM, we will build a national constituency and narrative to address the BLM's backlog of needs.



OUTDOOR RECREATION BLUEPRINT

The Outdoor Recreation Initiative emerges from rigorous collaboration with the BLM and is predicated on stakeholder input. In order to ensure future generations can enjoy the same experiences, the Foundation is committed to supporting partnerships that will increase the resources, staffing, and funding available for recreation management. With feedback gathered from diverse roundtable discussions, our ultimate goal is to enhance the quality and diversity of outdoor recreation opportunities on public lands and waters, while also ensuring that these resources are managed sustainably and responsibly.



RESTORATION PROGRAM

The long-term health and sustainability of BLM lands is core to the Foundation. Recognizing the pivotal role that BLM lands play in the ecological and economic fabric of the West, the Foundation's inaugural restoration investments will leverage funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) in the Colorado River basin. The Foundation will seek partnerships with local communities, Tribes, and stakeholders to enhance water quality, biodiversity, and sustainable land use practices in the basin.



ACEC Blanca Wetlands, Colorado



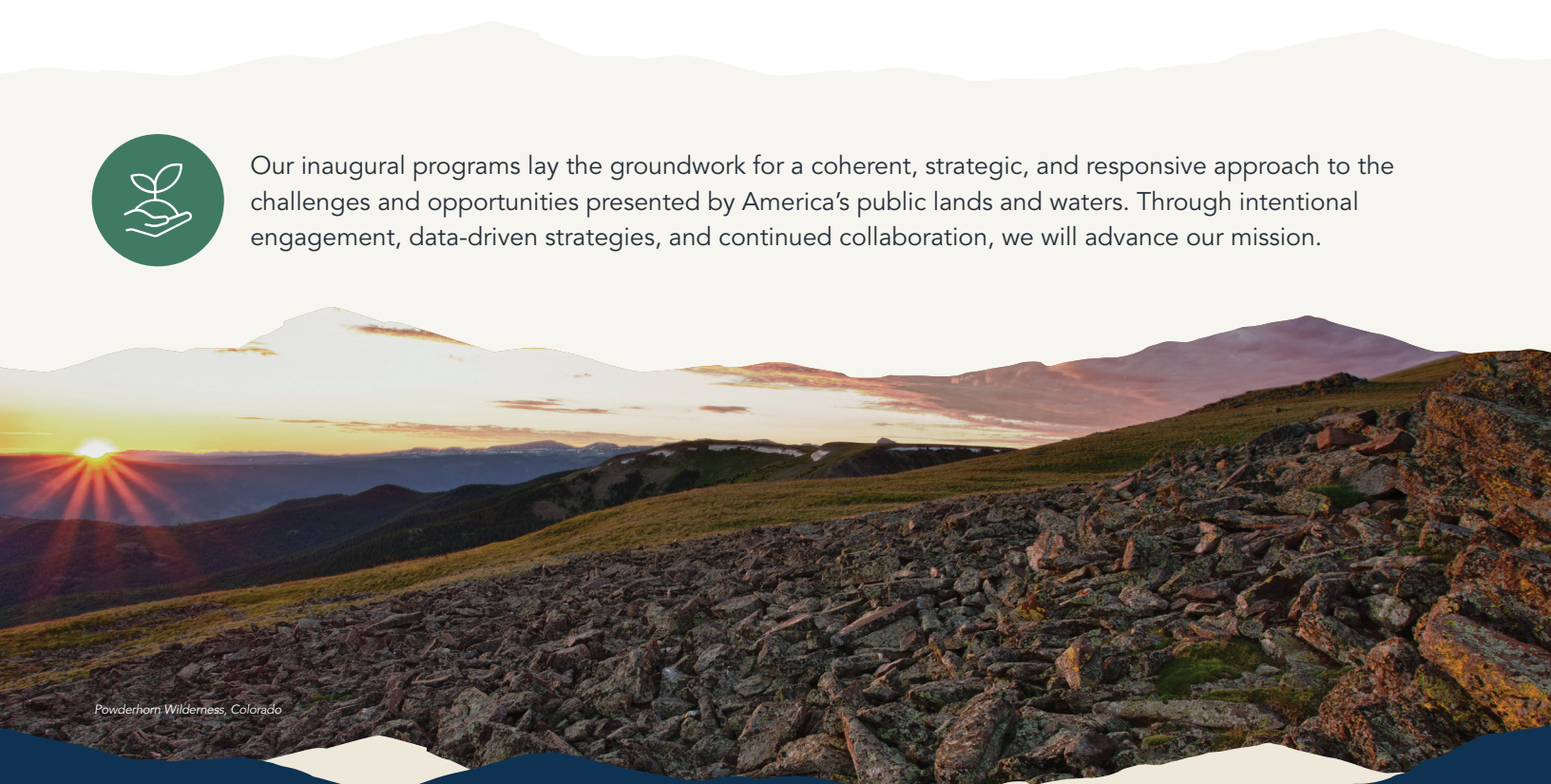
Wild Horse Pictured in the Mowdy Ranch Public Off Range Pasture, Oklahoma

WILD HORSES AND BURROS MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE

Balancing the long history and ecological and societal considerations associated with wild horses and burros is central to our Wild Horses and Burros Management initiative. The BLM manages wild horses and burros on nearly 27 million acres of public lands across 10 Western states. Through research, stakeholder engagement, and educational efforts, we are formulating strategies to ensure the sustainable coexistence of these animals with local communities while maintaining the health and integrity of our public lands and waters.



Our inaugural programs lay the groundwork for a coherent, strategic, and responsive approach to the challenges and opportunities presented by America's public lands and waters. Through intentional engagement, data-driven strategies, and continued collaboration, we will advance our mission.



Powderhorn Wilderness, Colorado

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility



DEIA Statement

At the Foundation for America’s Public Lands, we recognize that the strength and vibrancy of our public lands and waters reflect the diversity of their users. In all we do, we are committed to upholding and celebrating this diversity, ensuring everyone feels a sense of belonging with equal opportunity to connect with, enjoy, and steward our shared lands.

Diversity, equity, and inclusivity are interconnected principles that guide our work. They shape our approaches in all facets of our organization: from recruitment and retention of staff and volunteers to the development of our programs and the nurturing of partnerships. These principles enrich our thinking, inform our decision-making, and make us more effective in serving our diverse nation.

By actively promoting inclusivity, we aim to uphold our public lands and waters as spaces where everyone feels safe and welcome to contribute to their protection and preservation.



Our vision is to set the biggest table possible and bring partners together to discuss the importance of stewardship as a shared responsibility to be embraced by and available to all.

As we move forward, we hold ourselves accountable to these principles and to our mission of connecting and sustaining our public lands and waters for the benefit of all—today and for generations to come.

Meadowood Special Recreation Management Area, Virginia

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND COMMITMENT TO

Indigenous Peoples

We acknowledge that public lands and waters are the ancestral homelands of Native Americans. These lands hold deep historical, cultural, and spiritual significance for Indigenous Peoples, a history that has been marred by dispossession and displacement.

We recognize the enduring connection that Indigenous communities have with these lands and waters and the intricate knowledge they possess. As we embark on our priorities of awareness, access and stewardship of America's public lands and waters, we commit to centering and including Indigenous voices.

Our work will be guided by a profound respect for their legacy, ensuring that Indigenous peoples and Tribes are integral to all our endeavors and that their unique knowledge and rights are upheld in our policies, programs, and partnerships.



Pompeys Pillar National Monument, Montana



Southwest Oregon

Petroglyphs in Utah's Desolation Canyon Area

Statement Pillars



EMBRACING DIVERSITY



BUILDING SHARED STEWARDSHIP



FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY



PROMOTING EQUITABLE ACCESS



DELIVERING ECONOMIC VALUE

EMBRACING DIVERSITY:

We celebrate the cultural and geographic diversity of our nation, mirroring the variety and richness of our public lands and waters. We strive to ensure everyone feels a sense of belonging.

BUILDING SHARED STEWARDSHIP:

We envision a future where love for public lands and waters transcends ideologies, and their stewardship is a shared responsibility. We continuously learn, grow, and improve in our journey towards this vision, holding ourselves accountable to these principles for the benefit of all—today and for generations to come.

FOSTERING INCLUSIVITY:

We commit to fostering an environment where everyone feels valued, heard, and empowered. Our approach encourages diverse voices and promotes an inclusive culture within our staff, volunteers, programs, and partnerships.

PROMOTING EQUITABLE ACCESS:

We focus on promoting equitable access to our public lands and waters, acknowledging the historical barriers that have limited certain groups. We are committed to making our public lands and waters accessible to all.

DELIVERING ECONOMIC VALUE:

In **Fiscal Year 2021**, BLM-administered lands supported \$201 billion in economic output and nearly 783,000 jobs across the country. We are committed to supporting the BLM as an economic driver in communities big and small alike.

CONCLUSION

Our mission, as outlined in this framework, is clear: to bridge the divide between communities and their lands and waters, rendering these public spaces more accessible and fostering a sense of belonging. The heart of our strategy lies in ensuring that every individual can experience the magic of public lands and waters, appreciate their shared heritage, and take active roles in their stewardship.

While this strategic framework sets the Foundation on a strong path forward, this is just the start of the conversation. We look forward to collaborating with partners and stakeholders who care about the future of our nation's public lands and waters to inform future Foundation priorities. We welcome your partnership and look forward to collaborating.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership!

Continental Divide National Scenic Trail, New Mexico

To learn more, visit: americaslands.org

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