

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 7, 2014

Dear Interested Party,

We are on pace to achieve our goal of releasing a Utah Public Lands Initiative (PLI) legislative framework by the end of this summer. Since the release of the PLI Status Report in November, the amount of progress made has been remarkable. The success can be attributed to the commitment of the participating counties, the state of Utah, Navajo Tribe, legislators, and interested stakeholders to collaborate, compromise, and develop creative solutions that improve the land management paradigm in eastern Utah.

Recognizing the advancements of the PLI, there have been a multitude of events and meetings in 2014. The congressional delegation has facilitated 72 meetings including a 65 person meeting at the Utah State Capitol in January, and field trips to Wayne and Daggett counties. This brings the total number of meeting to over 500 and field trips to 18 since the PLI began.

Counties and stakeholders have been equally productive. Daggett and Grand counties have held meetings and sought comments from the public regarding various county-specific proposals. Emery County's Public Lands Council continues to meet on a monthly basis and San Juan County's lands working group has met regularly. Grassroots meetings, county-outreach, and tours have been equally productive in Wayne, Carbon, Uintah, and the other eastern Utah counties.

The next two months are expected to be equally productive. The congressional delegation will lead field trips in Carbon and Emery counties. Governor Herbert will host outdoor recreation and energy leaders at the state's outdoor recreation and energy summits. Other counties are expected to advance their county-specific priorities through local meetings and outreach. Non-governmental organizations and the public continue to engage the congressional delegation, local leaders, and other groups in an effort to build consensus and balance for the PLI.

The legislative framework we plan to release this summer is likely to include a variety of the provisions that have been under consideration since the PLI officially began over 20 months ago. These provisions expand local management, promote economic growth, and enhance Utah's recreational and conservation assets. While some may disagree with certain provisions that will be included (or not included), most understand the need for balance and compromise as part of the process. We are confident that a deal can be reached and that Utah's land management paradigm can be greatly enhanced and local economies boosted through this process.

The below table has some of the key provisions under consideration. Some have broad consensus, some are still being discussed, and others need to be refined; but for the purposes of this update, we thought it would be helpful to see some of the diverse provisions that many of the counties and non-governmental groups have been discussing. Legislation with this type of balance will be critical to success.

Economic Development and Local Management		Recreation and Conservation Assets
Goblin Valley State Park expansion		Desolation Canyon Wilderness
Conveyance of the Jarvie Ranch from BLM to Daggett County		National Conservation Area within the San Rafael Swell
Conveyance of the Swett Ranch from FS to Daggett County		Wilderness within the San Rafael Swell
Conveyance of ~10,000 acres of BLM lands to Wayne County		Dirty Devil Wilderness
Recreation land conveyances		Horseshoe Canyon Wilderness
Hanksville Water Conservancy District water right development		Moab National Recreation Area
Co-management of Cedar Mesa involving the BLM, Navajo Nation, state of Utah, and San Juan County		High Uinta Wilderness
State wildlife management		Diamond Mountain Wilderness
Cripple Cowboy and Hell's Hole		Cedar Mesa National Conservation Area
Largest SITLA land exchange in state history		Bear Top Sportsmen Conservation Area
Reliance on locally crafted MLP within Grand County to guide energy development		Capitol Reef Wilderness
All-season mountain resort in Daggett County		Westwater Wilderness
Winter Ridge economic development		Green River Wild and Scenic River (Daggett and Emery)
Deer Lodge exchange		Three Rivers Management Plan
Antelope Flats campsite transferred from FS to Daggett County		Labyrinth Canyon Wilderness
Dutch John land conveyances		Mill Creek Wilderness
6,000 acre conveyance of BLM land to the city of Blanding		Behind the Rocks Wilderness
Hanksville water diversion infrastructure transfer		Book Cliffs Wilderness - federal
Transportation options for eastern Utah counties		Book Cliffs Wilderness -state
OHV management areas		Cold Springs/Mountain Home management area
Brown's Park		Dinosaur National Monument Wilderness

Again, these items are not necessarily in final form and/or supported by the delegation, counties, or other stakeholders. But we do feel it's important for the public and other stakeholders to understand which areas are under consideration and being discussed.

We look forward to working with you as the process moves forward. As always, more information can be found under the Public Lands section of Rep. Bishop's website at www.robishop.house.gov or by contacting Fred Ferguson at 202-225-0453.

Sincerely,



Rob Bishop
Member of Congress



Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart
Member of Congress