



February 17, 2011

The Honorable Ken Salazar
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 6151
Washington, DC 20240

Sean Parnell
Governor
State of Alaska

Dear Secretary Salazar,

Jan Brewer
Governor
State of Arizona

We, the undersigned Governors, express our extreme displeasure over both the policy and the process by which Secretarial Order 3310 (Order) was developed and issued. As you know, the wilderness issue is one of great concern and intense debate in the western states.

C.L. "Butch" Otter
Governor
State of Idaho

In your own talking points, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) states "The fact is: Americans love the wild places where they hunt, fish, hike and get away from it all, and they expect these lands to be protected wisely on their behalf." Federal laws are already in place to "wisely" protect these "wild places" such as the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act (FLMPA), National Environmental Protection Act and the Endangered Species Act. New wild lands designations will likely lead to "de facto wilderness" impeding the multiple-uses our citizens currently have on BLM lands. Our states have experienced such de facto wilderness restrictions before.

Susana Martinez
Governor
State of New Mexico

Jack Dalrymple
Governor
State of North Dakota

The BLM oversees over 245 million acres of lands in western states. We value the authority provided to states through FLPMA for consultation with federal land management agencies as planning decisions are made. We also value the limitations imposed on the Executive Branch in FLPMA, which ensures that the multiple-use mandate is not simply overridden by executive fiat. Your Order ignores these limitations, and we have serious concerns that the new policy does not comply with either the spirit or the letter of the law.

Gary Herbert
Governor
State of Utah

Matt Mead
Governor
State of Wyoming

In most instances our relationship with the federal land management agencies works successfully to ensure that state governments are treated as partners in land management decisions. However, developing a substantive new policy on a topic as controversial as wilderness or, in your parlance, "Wild Lands" Designation, without

notification and comment from western states, ignores our authority through FLPMA, ignores existing state and federal partnerships, and does not respect the executive's obligation to engage in formal rule making. This type of executive decision-making is not a productive way to develop long-lasting policy.

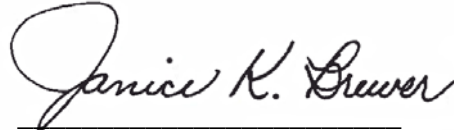
We insist that you withdraw your Secretarial Order 3310.

We urge this action because you have not respected the role of the public or states in land use planning under FLPMA. The policy itself should be reconsidered in light of the limitations on your executive authority under the law. A regulatory process that seeks notice and public comment, including an advanced notice of proposed rulemaking should be pursued. This is an extraordinarily important and controversial subject matter, and it deserves regular and appropriate opportunities for notice, comment, administrative challenges and all normal remedies allowed by law. A Secretarial Order with pre-developed departmental manuals and handbooks lacks the type of "transparency" professed to be a hallmark of this administration.

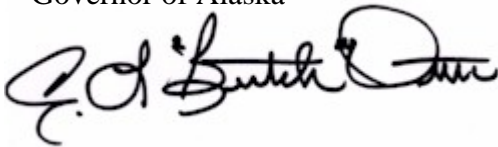
Sincerely,



Sean Parnell
Governor of Alaska



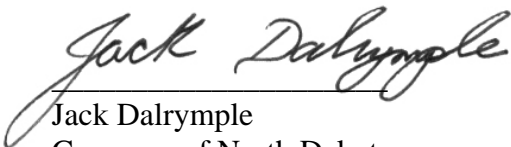
Jan Brewer
Governor of Arizona



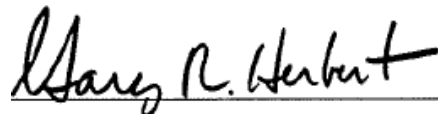
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