



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

August 17, 2021

The Honorable Joe Neguse  
Chairman  
House Natural Resources Subcommittee  
On National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands  
House Committee on Natural Resources  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Neguse:

Enclosed are responses prepared by the Bureau of Land Management to the question for the record submitted to Mr. Mark Lambrecht, Assistant Director, National Conservation Lands and Community Partnerships, BLM, following his June 8, 2021, appearance before the Subcommittee at a hearing on public lands related legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this material to the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,

Christopher P. Salotti  
Legislative Counsel  
Office of Congressional and  
Legislative Affairs

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Russ Fulcher, Ranking Member

**Questions for the Record**  
**Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands**  
**House Natural Resources Committee**  
**Hearing on Pending Legislation**  
**June 9, 2021**

**Questions from Rep. Blake Moore**

**Question 1. In your testimony on the MAPLand Act you state that several provisions appear redundant with the Dingell Act, which requires the BLM to solicit input from the public to identify and publish a priority list of BLM parcels with high recreational values that are inaccessible. I believe it is important to note that the MAPLand Act will make it easier to complete Section 4105 of the Dingell Act; but it is not redundant at all with this provision. The Dingell Act requires that inaccessible parcels be identified, not that road and trail information be made digital and provided to the public. Can you speak to some of the obstacles that have made it difficult for the BLM to digitize access data?**

**Response:** The Department of the Interior (DOI) manages over 500 million acres, or one-fifth, of the land in the United States and uses geospatial data to support its varied missions. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) administers nearly half of the DOI land – approximately 245 million acres. Managing this extensive land base has inherent challenges, and the BLM is working to consolidate and update inventories of various travel routes to identify where public recreational access and egress across non-federal lands is significantly restricted. Further, Executive Order 14008, Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad, emphasizes improving recreational access for all Americans, including opportunities for underserved communities.

The BLM, in coordination with the DOI and the federal Geographic Data Committee, produces and makes available geospatial data to be shared with other federal agencies, states, tribes, local governments, academia, and the public. The BLM accomplishments include digitizing 90,000 miles of roads and trails into the BLM's Ground Transportation Linear Feature (GTLF) dataset, a geospatial dataset that contains elements of the BLM's transportation network. Features in this dataset are developed through the BLM's travel and transportation planning process, during which field offices identify the status and usage of these routes. While the BLM is diligently working to comprehensively update the GTLF, there are approximately 400,000 miles of routes on BLM administered lands that need to be analyzed consistent with laws, regulations, and policy and incorporated into the approved transportation network.

Our agency is also working to digitize transportation easements or other reservations across private lands that provide administrative or public access to landlocked or checkerboard BLM-administered lands intermixed with private ownership. Currently, the vast majority of the travel easement information is only available on legal documents. The BLM Public Land Access Data Delivery Project has digitized and published easements accessing public lands in Montana. The BLM is currently reviewing land records in Oregon, Washington, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, Idaho, and California and preparing them for digitization and publication. The Bureau expects to expand this project to all states by 2023 pending adequate capacity and resources. Through these and other efforts, the BLM is committed to improving the public's use of digital mapping data to make it easier for all Americans to enjoy recreational opportunities on our nation's public lands.