

**Questions from Rep. Blake Moore** for Mr. Joel Pedersen, President & CEO of the Mule Deer Foundation

1. What do you expect to be some of the most immediate benefits that hikers, bikers, hunters, and other recreators will experience if the MAPLand Act becomes law?

There will be innumerable benefits realized subsequent to enactment of the MAPLand Act. First, the American public will be assured that records documenting easements and other important information will be digitized and less susceptible to loss. Additionally, once this information is digitized and publicly accessible, it will allow the public to easily retrieve information about places to access federal lands for recreation as well as information about allowable activities on those lands. Finally, having comprehensive and current information electronically available will give users certainty about areas they can and cannot access. This will reduce conflicts with landowners that currently occur due to incidences of accidental trespass.

2. As federal land visitation rates have increased over the past year, what trends have you noticed?

One of the few benefits of the Covid Pandemic is that many Americans have gone afield to recreate on the public lands that they own. Unfortunately, this has also resulted in overuse in many areas. Too often, people research their trip online before leaving their home and go to places that are popular, easy to find, and well-marked. As a result, many of these places are experiencing overcrowding and overuse.

The MAPLand Act will ensure that users have up to date information about access points, boundaries, and available recreation opportunities at their fingertips. Armed with this information, recreational use will be better dispersed across public landscapes resulting in less overcrowding and overuse, reduced impacts to natural and historic resources and enhanced and expanded recreational experiences.