

**Montana Wildlife Federation φ Idaho Wildlife Federation φ Wyoming Wildlife Federation φ
New Mexico Wildlife Federation φ Nevada Wildlife Federation φ Colorado Wildlife
Federation φ South Dakota Wildlife Federation φ Arizona Wildlife Federation φ
Conservation Northwest (WA) φ North Dakota Wildlife Federation φ
Planning and Conservation League (CA) φ
National Wildlife Federation**

August 27, 2020

Dear Senators,

We represent more than a million Western hunters, anglers and other conservationists who hold a deep reverence for our nation's public lands—lands owned by all Americans and managed for us by the federal government.

As Western affiliates of the National Wildlife Federation, we stand united in calling for the immediate resignation or removal of William Perry Pendley as the acting director of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

For more than one year, Pendley has been authorized to serve as acting BLM director through a string of temporary appointments, illegally avoiding a Senate confirmation process that is required by the Constitution. In June, President Trump nominated him to become the director. Following an overwhelming outcry from Americans around the country, he announced he will withdraw the nomination. Unfortunately, it appears that Pendley intends to remain indefinitely as the de facto leader at the agency. This is completely unacceptable. He is not confirmable because he is unfit to lead the agency. He should be dismissed.

Pendley's long history of advocating for the privatization and sell-off of federal public lands makes him spectacularly unqualified to oversee the management of 248 million acres of our nation's public land, no matter the title he holds. The record is clear that during this past year at the agency, he has done nothing to show he has renounced his anti-public lands zealotry.

Prior to his tenure at the Bureau of Land Management, Mr. Pendley spent his entire career advocating for the sale and transfer of our federal public lands. Put simply, he believes public lands should not be in public hands.

As the president of the Mountain States Legal Foundation, Mr. Pendley was on the wrong side of every public lands and stream access issue. He even voiced support for armed insurrection against the government in both Nevada and Oregon, where armed militants threatened the lives of BLM and FWS employees. He has made inflammatory statements about the Black Lives Matter movement, about immigrants, and members of the LGBTQ community. It is unconscionable to allow someone who has repeatedly demonstrated outward hostility for public lands and the public servants who manage them to lead the agency.

The continuation of Pendley leading the agency, despite the withdrawal of his nomination, is an affront to the millions of American citizens who depend on our public lands for their livelihoods and overall quality of life. It's also an affront to the Constitution, which calls for the Senate to advise and consent on the filling of this position. The Senate should be concerned that the administration's way around a bad vote is to avoid it, and simply let Mr. Pendley continue as de facto head of the agency.

He must resign or be immediately removed from the Bureau of Land Management.

Our public lands put food on our tables, support wildlife habitat, give us a place to recreate and find solace, and provide natural resources that support jobs in our communities. These lands that are owned by all of us are one of America's finest ideas and deserve protection and wise stewardship, not wholesale attack through mismanagement and sell-off.

As Senators, you are obligated to ensure the concerns of the American people regarding Pendley are heard in a confirmation hearing. Now that the president has withdrawn that option, we ask that you join us in calling for Pendley's resignation or his immediate removal from the Bureau of Land Management. In doing so, you will help protect America's most cherished landscapes from an anti-public lands zealot who never should have had a role in managing public lands in the first place.

Sincerely,

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