

For immediate release  
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**Tipsheet: Pendley land management decisions subject to reversal under court order**

Judge Brian Morris today denied a motion from Western Environmental Law Center, Center for Biological Diversity, Western Watersheds, and WildEarth Guardians seeking to file an amicus brief in litigation brought by the Montana Governor Steve Bullock in the Great Falls Division of the District Court for the District of Montana challenging resource management plan amendments promulgated by Bureau of Land Management during William Pendley’s 424-day unlawful tenure as the agency’s acting director.

Today’s order “declares that the Lewistown RMP, Missoula RMP, and Miles City RMP amendment are unlawful and must be set aside” and, denying conservation groups’ motion on jurisdictional grounds, states that, “Conservation Groups remain free to file suit in the appropriate federal district court to challenge land management decisions they have identified as potentially unlawful. The conservation groups have identified the following plans and projects --which span 29,500,000 acres of public lands and minerals—to that affect:

<u>RMP/RMPA Name</u>	<u>ROD Decision Date</u>	<u>Director's Protest Report Date</u>
<a href="#">Browns Canyon Natl Monument RMP</a> – COLORADO - This plan opens 20,574 of 21,604 acres (95.2% of the monument) to recreational shooting. It removes Area of Critical Environmental Concern designations and allows new non-motorized trail-building.	7/21/2020	6/19/2020
<a href="#">Buffalo Field Office RMP Amendment</a> – WYOMING – <b>AND</b> <a href="#">Miles City RMP Amendment</a> – MONTANA – This amendment allows coal mining on 3.5 million acres of surface land and 15.4 million acres of federal minerals in Montana and Wyoming. Our <a href="#">lawsuit</a> challenges these RMPs on the basis of failing to adequately consider the public health danger from air pollution emitted by large-scale fossil fuel extraction and combustion.	11/22/2019 and 11/25/2019	11/22/2019 and 11/25/2019

<p><a href="#">Dairy Syncline Mining Plan of Operations and Public Lands Sale</a> – IDAHO – Permits a 2,000-acre open-pit phosphate mine, involving the sale of public lands and a land exchange. Selenium contamination in the area has already killed livestock and caused mutations and deformities in wildlife, including <a href="#">two-headed trout</a>.</p>	<p>4/2/2020</p>	<p>2/20/2020</p>
<p><a href="#">Moneta Divide RMP Amendments</a> – WYOMING – Allows 4,250 new oil and gas wells on 327,000 acres of public land. The 65-year plan is estimated to extract 254 million barrels of oil and 18.16 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and would harm habitat and populations of greater sage-grouse.</p>	<p>8/3/2020</p>	<p>5/1/2020</p>
<p><a href="#">Ray Mine Land Exchange</a> – ARIZONA - The Bureau of Land Management transferred 9,339 acres of public land adjacent the Ray Mine Complex and Copper Butte properties to the mining company, ASARCO. In exchange, the bureau acquired 7,298 acres elsewhere in Arizona. Owning the land used for the mine expansion allows ASARCO to operate primarily under Arizona’s environmental and mining laws rather than stricter federal law. ASARCO’s history of environmental damage includes spilling 20 tons of sulfuric acid and PCBs.</p>	<p>10/24/19</p>	<p>10/18/2019</p>
<p><a href="#">Sonoran Desert Natl Monument Grazing RMP Amendment</a> – ARIZONA – Increases grazing pressure in the monument north of Interstate 8. The bureau found no significant impact of increased grazing despite the presence of the Sonoran Desert tortoise, a candidate species for protection under the Endangered Species Act.</p>	<p>9/28/2020</p>	<p>9/11/2020</p>
<p><a href="#">Bears Ears National Monument Management Plans for Indian Creek and Shash Jáa Units</a> – UTAH – Increases grazing as well as chaining, where bulldozers drag chains to uproot vegetation. Would ease development via rights of way, and would reduce restrictions on target shooting.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>	<p>12/13/2019</p>

<p><a href="#">Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument Management Plan</a> – UTAH – Opens more than 1,000 square miles within the former boundaries of Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument to coal mining and oil and gas development. It would also increase grazing pressure and lower environmental protections within the bounds of that monument.</p>	<p>2/6/2020</p>	<p>1/24/2020</p>
<p><a href="#">Uncompahgre RMP</a> – COLORADO – Expands drilling, fracking and mining across 1.7 million acres of public lands in southwestern Colorado over a time horizon of 20 years. Our <a href="#">lawsuit</a> challenges the plan on the basis of its failure to analyze climate impacts, harm to Gunnison sage grouse, and harm to organic agriculture prevalent in the area.</p>	<p>4/2/2020</p>	<p>2/7/2020</p>
<p><a href="#">Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas Final Joint EIS/Proposed BLM RMP</a> - TEXAS/OKLAHOMA/KANSAS - This resource management plan spans 15,100 acres of public land and 4,810,900 acres of federal mineral estate in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. The new resource management plan, which was challenged in an <a href="#">administrative protest</a>, turns a blind eye to the climate crisis by allowing leasing and extraction of oil and gas on 4.4 million acres of publicly owned lands and minerals and coal extraction on nearly 1.7 million acres,</p>	<p>3/11/2020</p>	<p>2/7/2020</p>
<p><a href="#">Central Coast of California Field Office FEIS/Proposed RMP</a> - CALIFORNIA - This resource management plan, which is being challenged in our <a href="#">federal lawsuit</a>, opens 725,500 acres of public lands and mineral estate across California’s Central Coast and the Bay Area to oil and gas leasing and development. Areas targeted for drilling and fracking are near popular, protected public lands, including Pinnacles National Park, several state parks, and national forests and wilderness areas. They are also home to</p>	<p>10/4/2019</p>	<p>10/4/2019</p>

<p>threatened and endangered animals, including San Joaquin kit foxes and California condors.</p>		
<p><a href="#">Bakersfield Field Office FEIS/Proposed RMP</a> - CALIFORNIA - This resource management plan allows oil leasing, drilling and fracking on more than 1 million acres of public lands and minerals in Central California, including in the San Joaquin Valley, which already has some of the most severe air pollution in the country. Our groups filed a federal <a href="#">lawsuit</a> challenging the decision to approve this plan in January of 2020.</p>	<p>10/25/2019</p>	<p>10/25/2019</p>
<p><a href="#">Tres Rios Field Office RMPA</a> - COLORADO - This resource management plan amendment designates only three of 17 potential "Areas of Critical Environmental Concern" -- protecting only 14,000 instead of 80,000 acres of important habitat in the Tres Rios Field office as ACEC. The plan also reduced the acreage of some existing ACECs, leaving total ACEC acreage similar to that which preceded the plan amendment.</p>	<p>1/29/2020</p>	<p>1/29/2020</p>
<p><a href="#">Proposed Haines Amendment to the Ring of Fire, Alaska FEIS/RMP</a> This resource management plan spans 317,096 acres of public lands managed by the Glennallen Field Office near Haines, Alaska. The plan declined to set aside new areas of critical environmental concern, and established numerous new landing sites for helicopters, threatening mountain goats, other wildlife, and sensitive ecosystems with industrialized recreation.</p>	<p>3/7/2020</p>	<p>2/7/2020</p>