



25 February 2025

Senator:

On behalf of our colleagues, members, supporters, and stewards, I write regarding the **recent mass firing of federal employees** still within their probationary periods, particularly those individuals who had been employed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), USDA Forest Service (USFS) and the National Park Service (NPS).

These firings were executed without regard to the agencies' ability to carry out their mandates as required by law or the impacts on the management of our public lands. This loss of staff will have devastating effects on the protection and management of these lands and cause economic hardship to the communities that surround them.

Our nation's public lands are treasures to be stewarded by our land management agencies according to the missions for which Congress created them and the mandates dictated to them by law. It is these agencies whose employees are responsible for protecting these national treasures. But with a steady decrease in staffing over the last decade, these employees are often overworked, underappreciated, and underpaid. Without them, however, the natural and cultural resources that belong to all Americans cannot be stewarded. They are vital to the **\$1.2 trillion outdoor recreation economy**, which is an engine of economic development for American communities throughout our nation.

These indiscriminate workforce reductions were made on the basis of abstract targets to reduce the federal workforce. The type or importance of the positions and reliance of Americans on their work were not considered. Critical positions such as maintenance, public health, human resources, and education positions have been terminated throughout the country.

I urge your support in Congress to immediately reverse these terminations and halt any further workforce reductions.

Sincerely,

Tim Herd, CPRE
CEO