

**Questions for the Record Submitted to Tracy Stone-Manning  
from Ranking Member John Barrasso**

**Question 1:**

In 1993, media outlets reported on the conviction of two people for spiking trees in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest on March 29, 1989. They were reportedly the first people convicted under a federal-tree spiking law. The U.S. Forest Service reportedly learned of the spiking in early April 1989 when it received a letter warning that 500 pounds of bridge spikes had been driven into the trees.

On July 26, 1993, the High Country News reported:

*“John Blount, 32, now of Masonville, Colorado, and Jeffrey Fairchild, 26, of Ashland, Wisconsin, told the court they drove nails into trees on the Post Office Timber Sale near Powell, Idaho, to save the old-growth from logging. A federal jury in Spokane, Wash., convicted Blount and Fairchild of misdemeanor tree spiking and felony charges of willfully destroying government property...”*

*“Conspiracy charges against a third defendant, Daniel LaCrosse, 36, of Salem, N.H., were dismissed.*

*“The four-day trial involved testimony from two other men who said they participated in the spiking. They earlier pleaded guilty to misdemeanor tree spiking but have not been sentenced.*

*“Other witnesses included Blount's former girlfriend, Guenevere Lilburn, who said Blount and Fairchild planned the monkey-wrenching in her Missoula, Mont., home.*

*“Tracy Stone-Manning, director of the Five Valleys Land Trust in Missoula, testified that Blount and Fairchild asked her to mail a letter to the U.S. Forest Service warning the trees were spiked when she was a student at the University of Montana.*

*“She said she mailed the letter to warn loggers about the dangerous spikes, which can cause serious injury when a chainsaw hits a spike.”*

On June 4<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup>, 1993, the Associated Press reported that the two men who pled guilty to misdemeanor tree spiking and subsequently testified against Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse were Alvin E. Hartley and Neil K. McLain, former residents of Missoula, Montana. The Associated Press further reported:

*“The government's first witness, Tracy Stone-Manning, testified that she was shocked to read a letter given to her by Blount on the steps of the University of Montana's Rankin Hall environmental studies building in 1989.*

*“‘I hadn't known this had happened,’ said Stone-Manning, who was an environmental studies graduate student and now heads the Five Valleys Land Trust. ‘It was news to me.’*

*“She said she retyped the letter correcting spelling errors and deleting some profanity then sent it to the Forest Service, as Blount requested...”*

*“Blount, Stone-Manning and others lived for varying periods of time at a residence called Sherwood House, where they became involved in protests against environmental and forest policies in an activist group called Earth First!, she said.*

*“Stone-Manning was granted immunity from prosecution for her testimony after coming forward last year after Blount was arrested in Colorado in a domestic dispute with a former girlfriend, Guenevere Lilburn...”*

Please respond fully and completely to the following questions:

- a. Did you ever work for Earth First!?
- b. Were you ever paid by (including reimbursements) a member of Earth First!?
- c. Were you ever a volunteer for Earth First!
- d. Were you ever an editor for, contributor to, or a member of the staff of “The *Radical Environmental Journal*”?
- e. What job titles or roles have you held with Earth First!?
- f. Did you ever contribute to or raise money for Earth First!?
- g. While you were affiliated with Earth First!, did any members of Earth First! advocate for tree spiking or other ecological terrorist activities?
- h. Did you have personal knowledge of, participate in, or in any way directly or indirectly support activities associated with the spiking of trees in Idaho’s Clearwater National Forest on March 29, 1989?
- i. Did you have personal knowledge of, participate in, or in any way directly or indirectly support activities associated with the spiking of trees in any forest during your lifetime?
- j. When you learned that John Blount, Jeffrey Fairchild, and Daniel LaCrosse were involved in the crime of spiking trees, why didn’t you turn them into the local police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation yourself?
- k. Please fully and completely describe the details and circumstances of your testimony before the federal court in Spokane, Washington during the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse, and include the case number or other information to identify the public record of the proceeding.
- l. Please fully and completely describe the details and circumstances of your immunity from prosecution agreement associated with your testimony before the federal court in Spokane, Washington during the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse, including, but not limited to, a full, complete, and detailed explanation of what charges of violations of law you potentially faced, and what specific activities you had participated in that would have exposed you to potential charges of violations of law.
- m. Please provide any and all documents associated with your testimony before the federal court in Spokane, Washington during the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse, including, but not limited to:
  - Your testimony before the court;
  - Your agreement for immunity from prosecution;
  - The letter, in its original form, that you received from Mr. Blount
  - The letter as edited and mailed on behalf of Mr. Blount to the U.S. Forest Service.
- n. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Blount, including, but not limited to:
  - Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. Blount? If so, during what period(s) of time?

- Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. Blount’s activities associated with the spiking of trees?
  - Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. Blount?
  - Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. Blount?
- o. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Fairchild, including, but not limited to:
- Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. Fairchild? If so, during what period(s) of time?
  - Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. Fairchild’s activities associated with the spiking of trees?
  - Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. Fairchild?
  - Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. Fairchild?
- p. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. LaCrosse, including, but not limited to:
- Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. LaCrosse? If so, during what period(s) of time?
  - Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. LaCrosse’s activities associated with the spiking of trees?
  - Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. LaCrosse?
  - Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. LaCrosse?
- q. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Hartley, including, but not limited to:
- Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. Hartley? If so, during what period(s) of time?
  - Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. Hartley’s activities associated with the spiking of trees?
  - Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. Hartley?
  - Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. Hartley?
- r. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. McLain, including, but not limited to:
- Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Mr. McLain? If so, during what period(s) of time?
  - Did you have personal knowledge of Mr. McLain’s activities associated with the spiking of trees?
  - Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Mr. McLain?
  - Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Mr. McLain?
- s. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Ms. Lilburn, including, but not limited to:
- Did you ever live at Sherwood House at the same time as Ms. Lilburn? If so, during what period(s) of time?
  - Did you have personal knowledge of Ms. Lilburn’s activities associated with the spiking of trees?
  - Did you ever discuss the spiking of trees with Ms. Lilburn?

- Did you ever participate in any activities with the environmental activist group, Earth First!, at the same time and in the presence of Ms. Lilburn?
  - Did you ever visit Ms. Lilburn's home in Missoula, Montana?
- t. Were you present for any part of the planning of the spiking of trees in Idaho's Clearwater National Forest on March 29, 1989 including, but not limited to, the planning by Mr. Blount and Mr. Fairchild at Ms. Lilburn's Missoula, Montana home?
  - u. Why did you agree to edit and mail the letter to the U.S. Forest Service on behalf of Mr. Blount?
  - v. Were you ever concerned that editing and mailing the letter on behalf of Mr. Blount may have constituted a violation of law and exposed you to any charge of a violation of law?
  - w. Did you ever discuss with an attorney, a federal prosecutor, or any officer of the federal court in Spokane, Washington associated with the trial of Mr. Blount, Mr. Fairchild, and Mr. LaCrosse that editing and mailing the letter on behalf of Mr. Blount may have constituted a violation of law and exposed you to any charge of a violation of law?
  - x. When Mr. Blount asked you to send the letter to the U.S. Forest Service, why did you not immediately contact law enforcement authorities, like the local police or the Federal Bureau of Investigation?
  - y. Please amend, as necessary, and incorporate by reference, Question 8 on your sworn Statement for Completion by Presidential Nominees dated May 27, 2021 and submitted to the Committee (ENR Questionnaire), listing in chronological order all positions held, including dates of employment, your title or job description, the name of the employer and the city or state in which you were employed from the date on which you received your B.A. in 1987 until December 1, 1992.

**Question #2:**

On your financial disclosure form, you represented that you incurred a personal loan in 2008 from a creditor named Stuart Goldberg. You represented the loan amount as \$50,001 - \$100,000, and noted that the loan was made at a rate of 6 percent and a term of 12 years. You represented that you paid the loan in full in 2020.

Mr. Goldberg appears to be a real estate developer in Missoula, Montana, and a regular donor to Democratic campaigns.

You represented on your committee questionnaire that you worked as Regional Director for U.S. Senator John Tester from 2007 to 2012; as Acting State Staff Director and Senior Advisor for Senator Tester in 2012; as Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality from 2013 to 2014; as Chief of Staff to former Montana Governor Steve Bullock from 2014 to 2017; and as Associate Vice President for Public Lands at the National Wildlife Federation from 2017 to 2021.

You were a senior federal government official in a position to influence policies impacting constituents in Montana when you incurred the loan from Mr. Goldberg in 2008. For approximately seven years of the twelve year term of the loan, you worked as a senior federal government official and a senior state government official in a position to influence policies impacting constituents in Montana.

Please respond fully and completely to the following questions:

- a. Please fully and completely describe the details and circumstances of your personal loan from Mr. Goldberg.
- b. Please fully and completely describe the terms of the loan and associated agreements, including, but not limited to, the agreed-upon frequency of payments, the agreed-upon amount of payments, the actual frequency of payments, and the actual amount of payments.
- c. Please provide any and all documents associated with your personal loan from Mr. Goldberg, including, but not limited to:
  - The written contract(s), including any modifications, regarding the personal loan;
  - Documentation of payments, such as cancelled checks;
  - Written correspondence regarding the personal loan.
- d. Did you consult with the Senate Ethics Committee before taking this loan, and if so, what guidance were you given?
- e. Did you fill out a gift disclosure form for the Senate Ethics Committee after you took this loan?
- f. Please describe the details and circumstances of your relationship with Mr. Goldberg, including, but not limited to:
  - When you first met Mr. Goldberg, and in what capacity;
  - Did you regularly meet with Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?
  - Did you regularly correspond with Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?
  - Did you ever visit Mr. Goldberg's residence? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?
  - Did Mr. Goldberg ever visit your residence? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?
  - Did you ever dine with Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?
  - Did you ever receive gifts from Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?
  - Did you ever give gifts to Mr. Goldberg? If so, on what occasions and how frequently?
  - Did you ever meet with Mr. Goldberg or any of his associates in an official capacity while working in the federal or state government?
  - Did you ever correspond with Mr. Goldberg or any of his associates in an official capacity while working in the federal or state government?
  - Did you ever discuss any of your federal and state government positions with Mr. Goldberg, including, but not limited to, your nomination to serve as Director of the Bureau of Land Management?
- g. Did you ever have any personal knowledge of any interests Mr. Goldberg or any of his associates or businesses had before the federal or state government?
- h. Did you ever have any concerns about a potential conflict of interest between your federal and state government positions and having received a personal loan from Mr. Goldberg?

- i. Did you ever have any concerns about an appearance of a potential conflict of interest between your federal and state government positions and having received a personal loan from Mr. Goldberg?
- j. Did you ever attempt to obtain a personal loan from any source other than Mr. Goldberg? If so, please fully and completely describe the facts and circumstances, including, but not limited to, whether or not you were approved for or denied a loan, and what the terms of the prospective loan were.
- k. What was your household income, including salaries, in 2008 when you incurred the loan? Do you believe the loan and loan terms you received from Mr. Goldberg would have been available to others similarly situated to your household in 2008?

**Question #3:**

In your position at the National Wildlife Federation, you criticized William Perry Pendley's record, the most recent BLM Acting Director. You stated that the BLM should have a director who believes in the Bureau's multiple-use mission.

- a. Do you agree that multiple use requires BLM lands to be managed so that public lands and resource values are utilized in a combination that will best meet the present and future needs of the American people?
- b. Do you agree that the Department's multiple-use mission requires a combination of balanced and diverse resource uses including recreation, timber, minerals, watershed, wildlife and fish, and natural scenic, scientific, and historical values?

**Question #4:**

BLM's mission states: "BLM's mission is to sustain the health, diversity, *and productivity* of public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations." If confirmed as Director, you will be tasked with managing lands for a variety of uses such as energy development, livestock grazing, recreation, and timber harvesting while ensuring natural, cultural, and historic resources are maintained for present and future use. Daily decisions you make regarding public land uses will affect American citizens across the nation.

- a. Will you ensure that affected citizens – those citizens who live near and have a vested interest on public lands – will have the opportunity to participate in rule making, decision-making, and planning with respect to the public lands you will be overseeing?

**Question #5:**

In the past, you have participated in and served in leadership positions for organizations that have sued and otherwise litigated against other parties. You have also participated in and served in leadership positions for organizations that have aggressively advocated politically against other parties.

- a. If confirmed as the Director of BLM, how will you reconcile the need to coordinate with BLM's 'customers' that you sued or litigated against in your previous capacities?
- b. Are you concerned that your previous leadership positions for organizations that have aggressively advocated politically against other parties will be viewed as undermining your ability to act impartially as Director of the BLM, if confirmed?

**Question #6:**

BLM has a long and hard-earned respect for "citizen-centered" stewardship and partnerships.

- a. If confirmed, what actions will you take to ensure that you do not create division between the Bureau and stakeholders?
- b. How will you foster consultation, cooperation, and communication amongst stakeholders and partners with whom you personally and politically disagree?

**Question #7:**

We are approaching what may be a very harsh wildfire season. I am concerned, as many of us are, about the health and safety of our firefighters and residents in our local communities. It is imperative we adjust our posture and pivot to preventing fire through proactively treating our forests and rangelands. At last month's forestry hearing, we heard testimony from Ben Wudtke, Executive Director of the Intermountain Forest Association, that deforestation by wildfire is the leading cause of the growing reforestation backlog on our National Forests, and that forest management measures are necessary to prevent wildfires. Likewise, Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen recently testified that her agency must accelerate its active forest management efforts, and that a "paradigm shift" is needed. The Bureau that you will be overseeing manages about 245 million acres, of which, 65 million acres are comprised of forests and woodlands across 12 western states and Alaska.

- a. Do you agree that active forest management is an effective tool for preventing catastrophic wildfires and improving the health of our forests and rangelands across the West?
- b. If so, will you commit to directing resources for active forest management on BLM lands, and collaborating with the Forest Service, and with state and county governments, on their work on our National Forests?

**Question #8:**

What measures could BLM implement in the future to ensure that BLM is responsibly managing its lands to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires?

**Question #9:**

I am concerned that you've expressed hostility towards American energy dominance. On September 24, 2020 you tweeted:

*"What does an "energy dominance" agenda look like? Offering up #oilandgas leases in all the wrong places, like Moab, UT, & on the edge of Great Sand Dunes NP. We should treat #publiclands like they belong to all of us..."*

America needs an all of the above energy strategy that includes coal, oil, natural gas, nuclear power, and renewables.

- a. Please explain your views on energy development both within our national forests and public lands.

**Question #10:**

In 2013, as Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, you were jointly responsible for the environmental impact statement as well as making a decision regarding the Rosebud Coal Mine proposal.

- a. Will you recuse yourself from all matters relating to the Rosebud Coal Mine?

**Question #11:**

In southwestern Wyoming, the Bureau of Land Management estimates there are over 5,100 wild horses across five Herd Management Areas — more than double the Appropriate Management Level for these populations. Such severe overpopulation causes damage to federal lands and waters, jeopardizes responsible uses of the land, such as grazing, and puts the wild horses themselves at risk. I was pleased to see a recent Bureau of Land Management plan that calls for the removal of excess wild horses in Wyoming. In April, I and the Wyoming delegation sent a letter to Secretary Haaland encouraging full and timely implementation of this proposed action.

- a. Are you aware of this issue?
- b. If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that the Department’s plan is fully implemented in a timely fashion?

**Question #12:**

How might BLM better use existing authorities to achieve the appropriate management level of wild horses and burros on its lands? What, if any, new authorities might be needed?

**Question #13:**

Venting and Flaring is a concern not only for waste and lost revenues, but a contributor to emissions. After almost two years of environmental studies and review needed to satisfy the National Environmental Policy Act and other statutory and regulatory requirements, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), as the lead agency, issued an Order Certificate to WBI Energy on June 1, 2021, for a new natural gas transmission pipeline project in North Dakota. The new pipeline would include a new interconnection with the Northern Border Pipeline Company and would transport up to 250,000 million cubic feet per day of natural gas from processing plants in northwestern North Dakota to the interstate Northern Border pipeline.

This pipeline project would provide firm take-away capacity for increasing levels of natural gas production, reduce flaring of natural gas in the region and meet state-mandated natural gas capture targets, and create an additional outlet for the increasing volume of natural gas production. This project aims to substantially reduce methane emissions by providing the critical infrastructure needed to bring product to market instead of needless waste from flaring and lost royalties.

While the entire pipeline project spans 93.5 miles mostly on privately-owned lands, it is noteworthy, and also very concerning, that this project seems to be stalled by this Administration’s persistent and lingering policy to limit certain energy and right-of-way project decisions.

Of the 93.5 miles, 4.1 miles (only 4 percent) cross Federal lands. Those federal lands even fall under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Forest Service . . . seemingly outside the authority of the Interior. However, while the project would not cross federal lands under BLM jurisdiction, it is in fact the Department of Interior and delegated to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that has the authority to decide whether or not to render a Right-of-Way Grant, with the consent of the US Forest Service and Corps, for this important pipeline project.

This project has been very well supported. Ironically, this pipeline project works toward the goals of the Administration to reduce venting and flaring, to reduce emissions, and to promote

infrastructure opportunities and good paying jobs for clean energy projects such as this. And yet, this ‘moratorium’ on any energy decisions stops good projects like this.

- a. If confirmed, will you proceed with issuing a Decision, in coordination with the US Forest Service and Corps of Engineers, to authorize a Right-of-Way Grant for this important project?
- b. Will you commit to expeditiously reviewing and engaging with important multiple-use decisions, grounded in science, not politics, that support efforts for firm take-away capacity and other important energy and non-energy right-of-way actions and decisions?

**Question #14:**

Under your leadership, what balance would BLM seek to strike in managing lands for protection and use? What role should Congress play in placing additional protections for certain lands and resources? What role should the Executive Branch play? Do you support additional access for commercial uses, such as energy development, timber harvesting, and livestock grazing? Should the President rely on input from Congress and local stakeholders when establishing new national monuments or revising existing ones? If there is local opposition to a monument designation or revision should the local opposition be ignored by the government?

**Question #15:**

At your nomination hearing you talked a lot about working together. Please describe how you would work with states, localities, and tribes to manage federal lands? For example, how would BLM use authorities which allow nonfederal entities to conduct resource management work on nonfederal lands?

**Question #16:**

When I asked you about the political hit job by the Montana Conservation Voters against Senator Daines you told me that it is your core belief that you never micromanage staff. If you are confirmed as BLM director there will be employees who make land management decisions that you may not like. Will you be taking the same hands-off approach to your job as director?

**Question #17:**

What is the difference between “a moratorium” in oil and gas leasing on federal lands and “a pause” in oil and gas leasing on federal lands?

**Question #18:**

How would you reconcile competing land uses and priorities related to renewable energy development on BLM lands?

**Question #19:**

In part, the National Environmental and Policy Act (NEPA) authorizes and directs all federal agencies to integrate environmental considerations into federal planning and decision-making. BLM actions subject to review under NEPA include approvals of resource management plans and types of activities related to oil and gas exploration, livestock grazing, and land withdrawals, among others.

To carry out their responsibilities under NEPA more efficiently, all federal agencies, including BLM, are required to integrate their NEPA review process with environmental review, consultation, and/or compliance requirements in other applicable federal law. That may include

requirements in other federal statutes, regulations, executive orders, or official agency policy governing a given proposal subject to review. Additionally, while Congress has not amended NEPA since 1975, it has amended statutes that govern implementation of NEPA by DOI and BLM. As a result, for any given proposal, the environmental review process currently carried out by BLM may reflect agency interpretation of its responsibilities under NEPA and other federal laws the agency has identified as relevant to that proposal. When the action subject to review is initiated by a nonfederal entity, that entity is responsible for providing project- and site-specific information necessary to ensure BLM compliance with its various statutory obligations under NEPA and other applicable law governing agency planning and decisions.

- a. Are you aware of “success stories” or streamlined environmental review procedures implemented by other agencies that could be duplicated in BLM programs (or in one BLM program that could be duplicated in another BLM program)?
- b. Are you aware of any existing factors likely to slow or complicate BLM environmental reviews, particularly among proposals initiated by nonfederal entities?

**Question #20:**

What is the significance of the Stewardship Contracting and Good Neighbor authorities for BLM? How is BLM using, or could BLM use, these tools to address forest management needs on its lands?

**Question #21:**

What barriers or opportunities exist to expand forest health treatments through Stewardship Contracting or Good Neighbor authorities?

**Question #22:**

Delaying the maintenance of roads, bridges, trails, water structures, buildings, and other assets could accelerate their rate of deterioration, increase their repair costs, and decrease their value.

- a. Please describe your current understanding of BLM’s deferred maintenance situation.
- b. Please describe your current understanding of how deferred maintenance impacts BLM.
- c. What priority should BLM give deferred maintenance relative to regular maintenance?

**Question #23:**

What would be your priority for maintaining existing infrastructure relative to acquisition of new assets?

**Question #24:**

What actions might BLM take to reduce deferred maintenance? When is disposal of federal lands and assets desirable for some areas or types of facilities?

**Question #25:**

What processes should BLM use to prioritize mandatory spending under the Great American Outdoors Act? How might you ensure that DOI uses all deferred maintenance funding efficiently and effectively?

**Question #26:**

Current deferred maintenance estimates are necessary for our legislative and oversight work. If confirmed, will you provide this Committee with FY2019 and FY2020 deferred maintenance estimates for BLM, broken down by asset class, as the Department has provided to Congress for FY2018 and other prior fiscal years?

**Question #27:**

Does BLM track the number and location of acres the agency has purchased to date with LWCF funds? If confirmed, will you ensure that BLM provides us with this information, which would be helpful to our law making and oversight roles?

**Question #28:**

As part of the broader DOI reorganization effort, the Trump Administration announced plans to relocate most BLM positions and personnel based in Washington, DC, to BLM state offices across the West, and to establish a new BLM headquarters office in Grand Junction, CO. On August 10, 2020, the Secretary of the Interior signed Secretarial Order 3382, which formally established the new Grand Junction headquarters office.

- a. Do you anticipate BLM will continue to retain its new BLM headquarters? If a return to the prior headquarters location or other arrangement is favored, how would this affect the ability of the agency and its staff to fulfill its mission?
- b. What would be the impacts to the morale of employees currently located in Grand Junction, CO if the headquarters were moved from Grand Junction, CO to Washington, DC? Will you commit to considering these impacts?
- c. How would families of employees currently located in Grand Junction, CO be impacted if the headquarters were moved from Grand Junction, CO to Washington, DC? Will you commit to considering these impacts?
- d. If the headquarters were moved from Grand Junction, CO to Washington, DC, please describe how this would impact BLM's ability to coordinate with the western communities and organizations. Will you commit to considering these impacts?
- e. How have business operations changed as a result of the headquarters relocation? What are the advantages and disadvantages of the shift in BLM headquarters staff to the new Grand Junction location?
- f. Will you commit to working with us and informing us of all actions considered and taken concerning the location of the BLM Headquarters?

**Question #29:**

Invasive species are nonnative species that cause or are likely to cause harm to the economy, the environment, or human health. Invasive species can threaten and compete with native species, which reduce the availability or quality of natural resources (including grazing and timber resources), increase wildland fire risk, affect hydrologic conditions, compromise infrastructure, and change the recreational value of environments. The continual spread of invasive species by plants and animals is an ongoing problem. Invasive species include plants and insects and other animals (terrestrial and aquatic) as well as pathogens and parasites. For example, invasive and noxious weeds, such as cheat grass and salt cedar, are established on at least 79 million acres of the 244 million acres BLM administers. Once an invasive species becomes established, it can be costly or in some cases impossible to eradicate.

- a. How would you ensure that BLM continues to effectively address the spread of invasive species throughout the United States?
- b. What are some of the effective activities BLM is currently undertaking to address invasive species and what additional activities or resources might improve BLM's ability to respond to invasive species?
- c. How should BLM collaborate with other federal, state, local, and private actors to address invasive species?

- d. Zebra and quagga mussels are extremely costly and disruptive invasive species in western states. How would you ensure that BLM does not contribute to the spread of these species across the West? What additional actions, if any, would you suggest BLM take?
- e. The prior Administration requested, and Congress appropriated, a \$1M increase in BLM's Recreation program for BLM to work with partners around Lake Havasu in Arizona and California to prevent the spread of quagga and zebra mussels from Lake Havasu to other water bodies in the West. Will you, if confirmed as BLM Director, commit to maintaining if not increasing that funding for BLM to work with partners around Lake Havasu to prevent the spread of these invasive mussels to Wyoming and other Western states?
- f. Cheat grass and other invasive species, including tree pests and pathogens, can increase the risk of wildland fires. How have invasive species affected wildland fire risk on BLM administered lands? As Director of BLM, how would you direct agency resources for wildland fire and invasive species to work together to minimize the risks associated with the spread of invasive species and increased wildland fires?
- g. P.L. 116-9 requires the Secretary of the Interior, among others, to develop a strategic plan for the implementation of invasive species programs. How might this requirement, and others pursuant to the act, affect invasive species activities undertaken by the BLM?

**Question #30:**

How do you define “conservation?”

**Question #31:**

BLM grants rights-of-ways to authorize use of lands for a specific purpose, typically to build a project such as a road, pipeline, or communication site. Various factors can make it challenging to obtain a right-of-way, including land designations, application processes, and costs. How might BLM foster efficient authorization of rights-of-ways while protecting important resources?

**Question #32:**

In 1997, BLM identified nearly 3.4 million acres of land as potentially available for disposal. If confirmed, could you provide us with information on how much of this land has been disposed of, and how much land BLM currently identifies in land use plans as available for disposal?

**Question #33:**

Please describe your knowledge of the humanitarian and environmental crisis that is occurring at the southwestern border.

**Question #34:**

What environmental impacts have been caused by illegal migration across BLM lands at the borders? If so, how will the BLM mitigate these impacts?

**Question #35:**

What if any new authorities are needed to enhance protection of federal lands and resources along the southwest border?

**Question #36:**

The Trump Administration restructured the chain of command in BLM law enforcement to place officers under managers with law enforcement training and experience (rather than BLM state or field directors).

- a. Did this change improve BLM law enforcement and its leadership?
- b. Will you commit to keeping this committee informed of any actions you may take on this subject?

**Question #37:**

In carrying out its multiple-use mandate on public lands, the BLM continues to pioneer innovative, collaborative and science-based efforts to manage access to, and the use of, our public lands. The BLM leads the way in their efforts to strike a delicate balance between both motorized and non-motorized uses that provide a broad spectrum of recreational opportunities, with careful consideration to minimize impacts to important resources. Over 245 million acres of public lands across the West, under the stewardship of BLM, are available for the American people to enjoy, affording ample ‘space’ for BLM to collaborate with the entire outdoor recreation community to ensure equitable access for Americans of every age, interest and skill level. This includes consideration for responsible motorized use.

- a. Do you agree that allowing for diverse access opportunities to and on BLM public lands includes consideration for both motorized and non-motorized user experiences?
- b. As agency professionals and officials assess motorized and non-motorized use, would you agree that ‘minimizing’ impacts is not a mandate to ‘eliminate’ impacts when designating trails on public lands?
- c. The motorized community recognizes the need and benefits to working collaboratively at the local, regional and national levels with federal and state agencies to promote, manage and maintain responsible use of motorized trails. If confirmed, will you commit to working collaboratively in to strike a balanced and equitable access for all user groups on public lands?
- d. America’s public lands serve to increase the physical, emotional, and economic health of trail users and the communities they interact with. This became very clear during the COVID pandemic when so many turned to public lands and the outdoors. Many Americans rely on motorized vehicles to access places they no longer can reach without aid. If confirmed, will you ensure that agency officials tasked with making important multiple-use decisions regarding motorized and non-motorized use and access do not ‘eliminate’ motorized access and use, rather give full and careful consideration for range of uses and experiences on public lands?

**Question #38:**

Please amend, if necessary, and in incorporate by reference, Question 8 on your sworn Statement for Completion by Presidential Nominees dated May 27, 2021 and submitted to the Committee (ENR Questionnaire), listing in chronological order all positions held, including dates of employment, your title or job description, the name of the employer and the city or state in which you were employed from the date on which you received your B.A. in 1987 until December 1, 1992.

**Question #39:**

- a. If confirmed, will you commit to holding all federal oil and gas lease sales postponed as a result of President Biden’s Executive Order No.14008?

- b. If confirmed, will you commit to holding all federal oil and gas lease sales cancelled as a result of President Biden's Executive Order No. 14008?