

What is the Public Lands Initiative?

The Public Lands Initiative is a locally-driven effort to bring resolution to some of the most challenging land disputes in the state of Utah. The initiative is rooted in the belief that conservation and economic development can coexist and make Utah a better place to live, work, and visit.

Why is Congressman Bishop proposing to support wilderness designations?

Congressman Bishop will consider wilderness designations when they have the support of the local communities in which the designations occur. The people that live in these areas know the land best and are better equipped to decide what should and should not be wilderness.

In addition to local support, wilderness designations should also be accompanied with other specific, tangible benefits elsewhere; such as local or state control over one or many roads; designation of zones for energy, timber and other resource development; transferring lands to local control for a new park or airport; or dedicated revenue streams generated by swapping school trust lands for energy-rich lands in other areas.

How did you pick which groups to include?

Any group that has an interest in public land management in Utah is welcome to be included in the Public Lands Initiative process. For a list of informal stakeholders that have expressed an interest in the process thus far, please [click here](#).

Will the public have an opportunity to submit comments or provide input?

Yes. Any member of the public that has an interest in public land management in Utah is welcome to submit comments or feedback regarding the Public Lands Initiative. Comments can be submitted under the comments section of the website, which can be found on the front page under this icon .

Congressman Bishop is also committed to moving legislation through “regular order”, which means a bill receives public hearings, mark-ups, and an open and transparent debate on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Which counties are included in the process?

Each county in Utah has public lands challenges and disputes that could be resolved through the process created as part of the Public Lands Initiative. Each of these issues requires unique solutions and will take time, and potentially multiple bills, to address.

Does the planning process include local county and community leaders?

Yes. The Public Lands Initiative is a locally-driven process with designations and proposals being generated by those closest to the land.

Many of the areas under consideration fall outside Utah’s First Congressional District, so why did Congressman Bishop initiate the effort?

Congressman Bishop is the Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. Any bill produced as part of the Public Lands Initiative will go through Congressman Bishop’s Committee, which makes his involvement critical to the initiative’s future success in Congress.

Governor Herbert, Senators Hatch and Lee, and Congressmen Chaffetz, and Stewart have been involved in the Public Land Initiative from the early stages and their continued involvement and support is essential.

Congressman Bishop's views on public land use differ from mine, why should I trust that this is a good faith effort to make new conservation areas?

Congressman Bishop is committed to conservation and economic development as part of the Public Lands Initiative. Throughout his career, Congressman Bishop has had a strong record of both conservation and development. The Cedar Mountain Wilderness area was created in 2006 after Congressman Bishop facilitated a locally-driven, collaborative process similar to the Public Lands Initiative. As a former high school teacher, Congressman Bishop also has pushed for increased energy production in Utah to help support and fund public education.

Congressman Bishop is committed to elements of both conservation and development as part of any Public Lands Initiative legislative proposal.

How will the state of Utah benefit from this?

The state of Utah's public education system will benefit from increased energy and mineral production. Public land users will benefit from the regulatory certainty that comes from congressionally designated lands. Local governments will benefit from revenue generated from multiple use of the land, including recreation, mineral development, and energy production. The outdoor recreation businesses will benefit from the improved certainty about land use and conservation. Future generations will benefit by having responsible policies that utilize the land in the most responsible and reasonable ways that make sense now and into the future.