



**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE TRUST LANDS  
RESOLUTION 2024-0004**

**BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT'S  
CONSERVATION AND LANDSCAPE HEALTH RULE**

**WHEREAS** the National Association of State Trust Lands (“NASTL”) and its member states manage over 500 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways; and

**WHEREAS** members of NASTL have congressional and state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for the multi-generational benefit of trust beneficiaries, including public education, through economic development, conservation, recreation, and other trust and public purposes as provided by their respective mandates; and

**WHEREAS** due to the nature of the state trust grants, millions of acres of state trust lands currently lie scattered within United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management managed lands across western states preventing states from carrying out their state constitutional mandates and inhibiting proper management of state trust lands and federal lands; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management has finalized its Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, 89 Fed. Reg. 91, (May 9, 2024) that fundamentally changes the management priorities for the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management managed lands across the West; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management’s rules for the management of federal lands that surround state trust lands heavily impacts states’ ability to manage trust lands to generate income for educational and other state purposes; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management’s Conservation and Landscape Health Rule will “apply land health standards to all United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management managed public lands and uses” and “establishes a definition of conservation that encompasses both protection and restoration actions” and “clarifies that conservation is a use on par with other uses of the public lands under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act’s multiple-use and sustained-yield mandate” and that United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management will prioritize designating and protecting Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. The Final Rule seeks to provide an overarching framework for multiple United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land

Management programs to promote ecosystem resilience on public lands according to the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management; and

**WHEREAS** the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management does not mention nor consider in the Final Rule potential impacts on the state trust lands' inholdings and how a new management strategy will impact NASTL members' ability to effectively access and manage state trust lands; and

**WHEREAS** NASTL members seek to uphold the multiple use sustained yield principles contained within the Federal Land Policy and Management Act which help facilitate appropriate management of state trust lands' inholdings for the generation of income for state trust lands.

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. NASTL respectfully requests the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management to fully assess and analyze the impacts of the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule and its implementation on the management of state trust lands' inholdings and publish those impacts for public awareness and make appropriate adjustments in the implementation of the Rule to minimize identified impacts on state trust lands.
2. NASTL respectfully requests the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management to uphold the multiple use sustained yield standards enumerated in the Federal Land Policy and Management Act and not exceed the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management's current authorities without United States Congressional approval.
3. NASTL respectfully requests the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management to assess and analyze impacts on state trust lands' inholdings as part of all federal regulatory and administrative rulemaking efforts prior to finalization of such regulations and rulemakings.
4. NASTL respectfully requests the United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management to fully fund and provide necessary resources to facilitate land exchanges with state trust land agencies to improve state and federal management of their respective lands and minerals.

Adopted the 25th day of August, 2024.



President, NASTL



Secretary, NASTL

*This Resolution will remain in effect through July 31, 2026  
unless otherwise terminated, amended, or replaced by the Association.*