United for Public Lands:

A Call for a Data Center Moratorium

A united call from organizations across the country for an immediate moratorium on commercial data centers on public lands until fundamental legal, environmental, and public policy questions are resolved.



Barkie's Legacy - Bozmen Birders - Cevallos Corielle International - Friends of Point Arena -Stornetta Lands - Islanders for the San Juan Islands National Monument - Laurel Resist - Pollution Free Society - Potomac River Indivisible - Together We Will Southern Maryland Indivisible - Wild Hope

ACT NOW FOR PUBLIC LANDS

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November 18, 2026

Doug Burgum, Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, DC 20240

Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Secretary Burgum and Secretary Rollins:

The undersigned organizations call for an immediate moratorium on new commercial data centers on public lands managed by the Department of the Interior and U.S. Forest Service.

The Administration is moving rapidly to facilitate data center development on public lands without first resolving the most fundamental threshold issues: whether this new industrial use is legally authorized on public lands and, even if it is, whether large-scale data centers are an appropriate use of America's public lands. There is no comprehensive federal policy addressing these questions, no meaningful public process examining the consequences of this new use, and no adequate framework for addressing enormous demands on water and energy, impacts to wildlife and cultural resources, or effects on Tribal Nations and nearby communities.

Those questions should be answered before, not after, federal agencies commit public lands to development that could cause irreversible harm and serious consequences for local communities. As stewards of our nation's public lands, the Administration has a responsibility to protect the laws, values, and public processes that govern them, not put these shared lands on the chopping block by accelerating industrial development, weakening scrutiny, or bypassing meaningful public review.

A moratorium is the minimum responsible step. It would give Tribal Nations, communities, lawmakers, and the public an opportunity to understand what is being proposed and to weigh in on whether commercial data centers are compatible with public-land laws, purposes, and

values. It would also allow for full examination of environmental impacts, cumulative demands on water and energy, and the consequences of transforming shared public lands into industrial sites.

America's public lands belong to all of us. They provide places to hunt, fish, hike, camp, and connect with nature; protect clean water, wildlife habitat, cultural resources, and landscapes important to Tribal Nations; and preserve opportunities and experiences that cannot simply be recreated once they are lost. These shared lands should not be sacrificed to an unprecedented wave of industrial development without a national conversation about whether that development belongs there in the first place.

We therefore urge you to immediately establish a moratorium on new commercial data center authorizations on BLM and U.S. Forest Service lands.

Sincerely,

Melissa Amarello, executive director
Advocates for Snake Preservation

Ashley Davis, National Outreach Manager
Alaska Wilderness League

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California Land Watch

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