

AMERICAN PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS CLIMATE SOLUTION ACT

BACKGROUND

More than a century of burning fossil fuels without responsible limits has brought us to a climate crisis. Every year, fossil fuel extraction on our public lands and waters produce nearly 25 percent of the nation's carbon emissions. The American Public Lands and Waters Climate Solution Act directs the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the United States Forest Service (USFS) to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions from public lands by 2040, and to temporarily pause new fossil fuel leases while a plan to reach that goal is developed. The bill also creates a fund to support workers and communities that will be impacted by a transition away from fossil fuel extraction on public lands and waters.

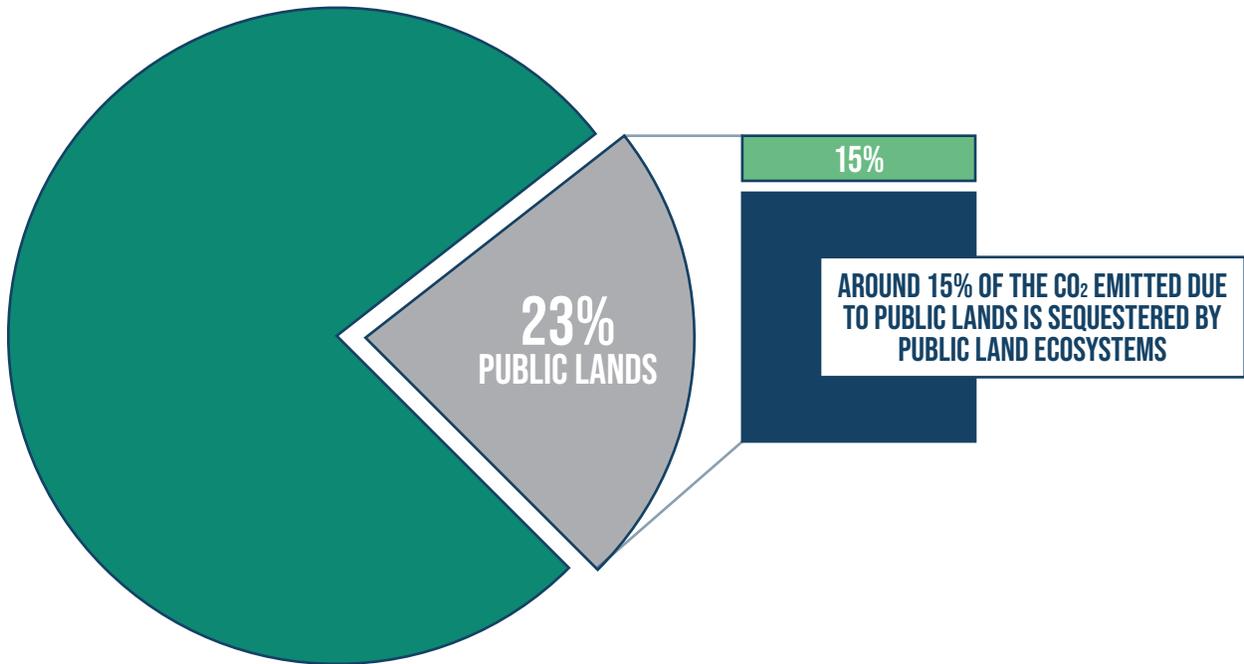
SCIENCE-BASED

The U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change recommends reaching global net-zero greenhouse gas emissions economy-wide by 2050 in order to limit global warming to 1.5°C. Fortunately, when it comes to federal lands and waters, an even more accelerated path to net-zero emissions is achievable.

MAJOR BILL PROVISIONS

- **Pollution Reduction Targets:** Requires DOI and USFS to meet climate pollution reduction targets at specific intervals starting in 2025 and achieve net-zero emissions from public lands and waters by 2040.
- **Public Lands Climate Change Strategic Plans:** Requires DOI and USFS to publish a strategy every four years detailing how the agencies will meet the pollution reduction targets the bill establishes.
- **Pause on New Leasing:** Pauses all new federal fossil fuel leasing for a minimum of one year to allow DOI to develop a comprehensive emission reduction strategy. Leasing can only resume after DOI finds that it would be consistent with reaching net-zero by 2040, and then only within limits established by the 4-year strategic plans.
- **Calculating Net Emissions:** Makes the U.S. Geological Survey responsible for tracking emissions from the development and combustion of oil, gas, and coal produced on federal leases, as well as the emissions avoided by renewable energy generation on public lands, the amount of carbon absorbed by ecosystems on public lands, and any carbon dioxide captured and permanently sequestered on public lands.
- **Enforcement:** If at any point the climate pollution reduction targets are not being met, no new fossil fuel permits or leases may be issued until compliance is reached.
- **Fee Increases on Fossil Fuel Extraction:** Increases the minimum royalty rate for onshore coal, oil, and gas from 12.5 percent to 18.75 percent. The bill also establishes new fees on producing and nonproducing oil and gas leases, to be paid by the fossil fuel industry.
- **Economic Development for Fossil Fuel Communities:** Dedicates the new funds collected from the above fees to fossil fuel-dependent regions. The funds can be used for reclamation and restoration of land and water, transition assistance, worker retraining, economic diversification, and other purposes.

FEDERAL LAND & WATER CONTRIBUTIONS TO U.S. CARBON EMISSIONS



2014 U.S. CO₂ EMISSIONS: 5,561 MILLION METRIC TONS

PATHWAY TO NET-ZERO EMISSIONS

