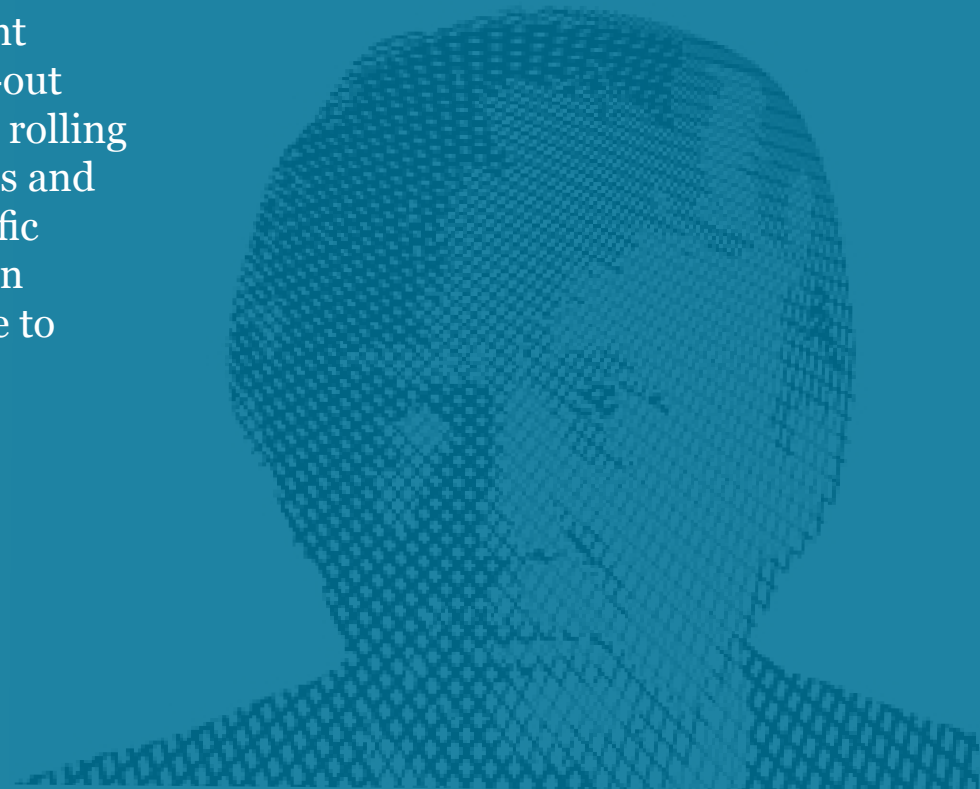


PRESIDENT TRUMP IS ATTACKING OUR NATURAL RESOURCES.

Since taking office, President Trump has launched an all-out attack on our environment, rolling back Obama-era protections and slashing funding for scientific research. His administration has done long-term damage to environmental quality and public health.



ADMINISTRATION ATTACKS ON WESTERN WATER

Since joining the Department of the Interior, **Secretary David Bernhardt has used his influence several times to advance the interests of former lobbying clients.**

- One of his most serious conflicts of interest involves the Westlands Water District, a major California agricultural power. Bernhardt directed staff to begin reducing protections for endangered fisheries and pursued funding for the raising of Shasta Dam, even over the objections of the state of California. On his watch, Interior helped cleared the way for a controversial [water project](#) in the Mojave desert for a company called Cadiz, Inc., whose CEO Scott Slater [was a partner](#) of Bernhardt's at the powerful law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck. The project would extract unsustainable amounts of water and dry up nearby springs.



- Interior hopes to award a construction contract for the [raising of Shasta Dam](#) by the end of this year and complete the project by 2024. **The project would come at the expense of wildlife, recreationists and tribal resources and would violate California's Wild and Scenic Rivers Act.**

- In October 2018, the Trump administration [released](#) a “Presidential Memorandum on Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West.” The directive prioritizes water deliveries to narrow business interests that previously employed Secretary Bernhardt and would come at the expense of environmental quality and other water stakeholders. The Memorandum establishes an unrealistic schedule for completing environmental reviews **that will likely lead to corner-cutting, inadequate science, and reduced environmental protections.**

ADMINISTRATION ATTACKS ON OCEANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

- The Trump administration threatened to eliminate nearly half of all protected areas in America's oceans, **the largest-ever rollback of ocean protections in American history.**
- This includes eliminating protections in the Pacific Remote Islands, Rose Atoll, and Northeast Canyons and Seamounts national marine monuments. These areas currently provide areas of refuge for many species of fish and marine wildlife that already face [a range of threats](#).
- In June 2017, NOAA withdrew proposed regulations – originally published October 2016 and recommended by the Pacific Fisheries Management Council – to impose hard caps on bycatch of protected species in California drift gillnet fisheries. Bycatch is the term for animals caught alongside the intended species during a fishing operation, and can include threatened and endangered species that should not have been disturbed. Withdrawing the proposed NOAA regulation makes it harder to protect species not normally targeted by fishing operations.
- In July 2017, Secretary Ross [overruled](#) the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission to allow overfishing of summer flounder by the State of New Jersey.
- **In 2017, the Department of Commerce extended the Gulf of Mexico red snapper season from 3 to 42 days,** despite [an internal written memo](#) from Commerce Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy Earl Comstock to Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross stating that this would result in overfishing.
- In June 2018, **the acting NOAA administrator proposed [removing](#) the word “climate” from the agency’s mission statement in an internal Power Point slide deck.** He also suggested [opening up](#) marine national monuments to commercial fishing, rendering them monuments in name only.

THIS DECISION WILL DELAY
THE RECOVERY OF
THE GULF OF MEXICO RED
SNAPPER BY AS MUCH AS
6 YEARS

- In June 2018, the acting NOAA administrator proposed to count the administration’s ongoing effort to implement “50 deregulatory actions” as a metric of agency progress, without specifying what those actions would be. This coincides with an [agency-wide effort](#) to identify regulations that can be repealed and rescinded to comply with an arbitrary goal set by the White House.
- In July 2018, the administration proposed [new regulations](#) that would **weaken protections for endangered marine species**, including manatees, turtles and whales. The proposal includes a directive to staff to consider economic information in the endangered species listing process alongside scientific information.

IN NOVEMBER 2018, THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

APPROVED FIVE PERMITS

TO ALLOW DEAFENING SEISMIC [AIRGUN BLASTING](#) FOR OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION ALONG THE ATLANTIC COAST.

- [Ocean noise](#) is already impacting endangered marine life. Seismic blasting could do irreparable harm to tens of thousands of dolphins, whales and other marine wildlife, and kill or scare away fish species that U.S. fishermen rely on for their livelihoods.

- In 2018, the administration decided to phase out the Galveston Sea Turtle Facility, a federal site that conducts rescue and captive rearing for sea turtle research programs.
- **In December 2018, an entire chapter usually dedicated to climate change and the ocean was [removed](#) from the White House report titled Science and Technology for America’s Oceans, a plan to set federal ocean priorities for the next 10 years.**
- In March 2019, NOAA published a [notice seeking public comment](#) on how to make the federal consistency process under the Coastal Zone Management Act “**more efficient**” for oil and gas projects in the Outer Continental Shelf.
- The Trump administration’s FY18 and FY19 budget proposals have included the elimination of several ocean-focused science grants and academic programs, including the National Sea Grant College Program, Coastal Zone Management Grants (CZM), the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), the John H. Prescott Marine Mammal Rescue Assistance Grants, Interjurisdictional Fisheries Grants, and funding to Cooperative Institutes for climate competitive research and Arctic research.
- NOAA’s FY20 budget proposal includes elimination of Sea Grant, CZM Grants, and PCSRF. NOAA’s FY20 budget proposal also includes an increase in funding to speed up environmental reviews for permitting applications under the Endangered Species Act and Marine Mammal Protection Act for energy, oil and gas, and transportation projects.

ADMINISTRATION ATTACKS ON WILDLIFE

- **Trump’s Department of the Interior created an “International Wildlife Conservation Council” to promote trophy hunting.**
- Under the Trump administration, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) now considers all permits for importing elephant and lion trophies into the United States on a case-by-case basis.
- The FWS withdrew previous Endangered Species Act enhancement findings and Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) non-detriment findings for trophies of African elephants and lions killed in Zimbabwe, Tanzania, South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, and Zambia.
- In April 2017, the Department of the Interior reversed an Obama administration rule restricting cruel hunting practices of wolves, bears, and coyotes in Alaska.
- In June 2017, Trump’s FWS removed protections for grizzly bears in Yellowstone National Park and surrounding areas, leading to a major court battle.

IN 2017, TRUMP DENIED ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT PROTECTION TO THE

- ✘ PACIFIC WALRUS
- ✘ FLORIDA KEYS MOLE KINK
- ✘ NORTHER ROCKIES FISHER
- ✘ BLACK-BACKED WOODPECKER

AND 20 OTHER SPECIES DESPITE SERIOUS THREATS FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND OTHER FACTORS.

- The ICP allows oil and gas operators to proceed with projects in covered counties while conserving the American burying beetle and its habitat. The proposed amendment gives industry an additional five years to sign up under the ICP, which is currently set to close on May 20, 2019.

- On March 13, 2019, the Fish and Wildlife Service announced a proposed amendment to the American Burying Beetle Industry Conservation Plan (ICP), which provides the oil and gas industry in Oklahoma a streamlined Endangered Species Act permitting process for activities that may impact the endangered beetle. American burying beetle habitats sometimes overlap with fossil fuel deposits, making the species a frequent industry target.

- The Red Wolf Recovery Program was hailed as one of the most successful reintroduction programs in the history of the Endangered Species Act.
- The critically endangered red wolf was rescued from the brink of extinction, reintroduced to the wild and restored to a wild population estimated at 150 wolves little more than a decade ago. **Since then, FWS has essentially dismantled the program.**
- Under the Trump administration, the agency has doubled down on a plan calling for a 90 percent reduction of the current red wolf recovery area in Eastern North Carolina. The proposal seeks to confine the wolves to an area of federal lands that cannot support a population and is already threatened by rising seas. The FWS plan would allow for any wolf that leaves this unsuitable territory to be killed without consequence. This proposal flies directly in the face of Congress' intent, enshrined in the ESA, to conserve endangered species.
- The gray wolf is an Endangered Species Act success story. Thanks to the sustained efforts of the Fish and Wildlife Service, in coordination with affected states in the Northern Rockies and the Great Lakes, wolf populations have rebounded. The success of wolf recovery in these areas has led to calls to end protection for the species under the ESA. **But various courts have repeatedly ruled that the process of delisting has been rushed and does not comport with the requirements of the ESA to consider the impact of piecemeal delisting on the whole listed species.**
- Nonetheless, in 2011, a Republican controlled Congress legislatively delisted wolves in the Northern Rockies. Now, the Trump administration is attempting to remove ESA protections for wolves in the Great Lakes, ***and proposed removing all protections for wolves (except Mexican gray wolves) in the lower 48 states.***
- Republican congressional efforts to delist Mexican gray wolves and/or weaken the Endangered Species Act have persisted under the Trump administration, which has done nothing to discourage them. FWS is far from meeting recovery criteria under the Mexican gray wolf recovery plan, and delisting now is scientifically unsupportable. Failures to integrate wolf conservation measures into federal forest management plans and guidance documents issued to ranchers with grazing permits make it harder to protect wolf dens. Inadequate, inconsistent federal funding and a lack of training harm reintroduction initiatives and have even resulted in temporary staff furloughs.
- **The border wall between the U.S. and Mexico proposed by the Trump administration threatens habitat connectivity essential for healthy populations of Mexican gray wolves.**



THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ROLLBACK OF PROTECTIONS FOR BIRDS UNDER THE MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT REPRESENTS THE COUNTRY'S MOST SIGNIFICANT WEAKENING OF BIRD PROTECTIONS IN A CENTURY.

- The administration's plans **will significantly reduce protections on more than 51 million acres of designated sage-grouse habitat** in Colorado, Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, and Wyoming. Sagebrush Focal Areas (SFAs) – the most important habitat for the long-term survival and recovery of the species – are reduced by over 80 percent and eliminated in all states other than Montana and Oregon.
- Priority Habitat Management Areas, which should provide the strongest remaining protections, have been significantly undermined by a lack of public certainty that management will actually be protective. Compensatory mitigation – the restoration, establishment, enhancement, or preservation of wetlands, streams or other natural resources for the purpose of offsetting unavoidable adverse impacts elsewhere – is now being treated as optional, even though it was one of the pillars of the 2015 FWS determination that an ESA listing for sage-grouse was “not warranted.”
- The future of sage-grouse habitat will now depend in large part on the willingness of industry and states to commit to and enforce compensatory mitigation requirements on federal lands.
- **By issuing a Solicitor's Opinion, and likely a forthcoming rulemaking, to exempt the prohibition of incidental takes, the Trump administration has given all industries – especially extractive industries – a free pass to kill birds or allow them to die on their premises.**

ADMINISTRATION ATTACKS ON OUR PUBLIC LANDS

- On March 7, 2017, Congress passed legislation (H.J. Res. 44) nullifying an effort by the BLM, a rule known as [Planning 2.0](#), to improve its management of the 247 million acres under its jurisdiction. Planning 2.0 improves the process for updating Resource Management Plans, increases opportunities for public participation, elevates local and regional governments in the decision-making process, and improves science-based decision making. **Repeal of the Planning 2.0 rule has prevented BLM from implementing tools and policies that would increase transparency, efficiency, and opportunities for public input in the Bureau’s planning process and prohibit BLM from issuing a similar rule in the future.** BLM has reverted back to its prior planning rule, last updated over 30 years ago, in 1983, to manage its complex system of public lands.
- On March 28, 2017, President Trump issued [Executive Order 13783](#), “Promoting Energy Independence and Economic Growth.” This order required the large-scale rollback of significant protections on public lands, including policies intended to limited the impacts of climate change, such as [Executive Order 13653](#), “Preparing the United States for the Impacts of Climate Change.” Pursuant to President Trump’s EO 13783, Acting Secretary Bernhardt’s [Secretarial Order 3360](#), released on December 22, 2017, eliminated dozens of measures that scientists and public land managers determined are necessary to safeguard our national parks from climate change, including the Department’s [2015 Landscape-Scale Mitigation Policy](#). This policy advanced landscape-scale, science-based management of American’s public lands, and provided predictability and clarity to project developers throughout the permitting process. This policy built upon tools like the Western Governors’ Crucial Habitat Assessment Tool to avoid development conflicts and enhance conservation outcomes.
- **By rescinding this 2015 policy, DOI left our public lands vulnerable to unnecessary damage and project developers with an ad hoc and inconsistent framework for project permits and approvals -- decreasing permitting predictability and efficiency, and stifling investment in DOI mitigation programs.**

- On August 16, 2017, the Trump administration [rescinded Director's Order 100](#). Begun under the Bush administration, and adopted by former NPS Director Jon Jarvis in 2016, Director's Order 100 highlights climate change, biodiversity loss, invasive species, land use changes, and pollution as challenges that require comprehensive science-based management responses to ensure that the irreplaceable natural and cultural resources in our national parks are preserved "unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." The Order would have required that resource stewardship decisions be based on science, law, and long-term public interest; and that oil, gas, and other developmental activities around national parks are not harmful to park units and resources. The Order also stressed that national parks follow the "precautionary principle," restricted actions that may threaten park resources, and acknowledged the significant impact that climate change has had on parks. **Rescission of Director's Order 100 is inhibiting efforts to incorporate climate science into land management decisions. It's leaving our parks more vulnerable to damage from development, pollution, and other activities that threaten their natural and cultural resources.**

"IT IS VERY TROUBLING TO WATCH AS THE NPS FACES PERHAPS ITS GREATEST EXISTENTIAL THREAT FROM CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ADMINISTRATION IGNORES THE INPUT FROM DEDICATED CITIZENS AND REJECTS BASIC SCIENCE,"

SAID FORMER NPS DIRECTOR JON JARVIS

- During the Trump Shutdown from December 2018 to February 2019, President Trump and then-Secretary Ryan Zinke **made the unprecedented decision to keep all national parks open to the public.**



- In order to keep parks operational, Acting Secretary Bernhardt illegally authorized the use of \$252.9 million in Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act funds for trash removal, restroom sanitation, and other basic park operations. This manipulation of funding accounts subverted Congressional authority and inappropriately kept parks open during the shutdown. **Park resources suffered damage as a direct result of the administration's unprecedented decision to keep our treasured places open without adequate staff to protect them. Opening parks while staff are furloughed was illegal and should never be repeated.**

**THE TRUMP
ADMINISTRATION'S
PREDETERMINED
MONUMENT REVIEW &
ILLEGAL REDUCTIONS
CONSTITUTE THE
BIGGEST ROLLBACK
OF PUBLIC LANDS
PROTECTIONS IN
MODERN AMERICAN
HISTORY.**

- **On December 4, 2017, President Trump issued Proclamation 9681 and Proclamation 9682, which modified the boundaries of Bears Ears National Monument and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument respectively.**
 - This monument review was an attempt to undermine the Antiquities Act, a 1906 law that has played an important role in protecting our nation's history and unique landscapes. The Trump administration's distortion of the Antiquities Act and improper reduction of two presidentially designated national monuments places tribal cultural resources, scientific resources, wildlife, and recreation opportunities at risk.
- **The reduction of Bears Ears in particular is an affront to tribal communities in the region.** Five tribal groups, known as the Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition, pushed for the designation of the sacred sites at Bears Ears. By removing protections for these sites without any formal tribal consultation, the Trump administration placed the interests of their political allies over the rights and interests of sovereign tribal nations.
- In January 2018, the State of Alaska petitioned the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requesting an exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule. The Secretary of Agriculture accepted the petition in April of 2018 and on June 1, 2018, directed the chief of the Forest Service to initiate a state-specific rulemaking for roadless area management of more than 9 million acres of the Tongass National Forest. On August 30, 2018, the Forest Service published a notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement on the Alaska roadless rulemaking. **A summary found that of the 144,000 comments, "the majority of comments received opposed changing the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule."** A Draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected in summer 2019 and the Forest Service has set a goal of having a final rule published by June 2020. Following Alaska's lead, on February 28, 2019, the State of Utah filed their own roadless petition with USDA. The petition is still pending a decision by Secretary Perdue, but the assumption is that USDA will accept the petition and instruct the Forest Service to initiate another state-specific rulemaking for Utah's four million acres of roadless national forests.

ADMINISTRATION FOSSIL FUEL GIVEAWAYS

- **Under the Trump administration, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) repealed the 2015 hydraulic fracturing rule, meaning there are now *no baseline standards for fracking on public lands*. BLM continues to regulate the process using woefully outdated regulations that predate modern drilling practices.**
- The Bureau of Land Management reversed its 2010 leasing reform policy and drastically reduced the number and length of public input opportunities. While a court ruling blocked this practice specifically in sage-grouse habitat, it remains federal policy elsewhere.
- In February 2017, Trump approved the Dakota Access pipeline over the protests of the Standing Rock Sioux.
- In March 2017, Trump signed a repeal of new BLM planning regulations the fossil fuel industry opposed.
- In May 2017, then-Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke directed the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to undo a previously existing comprehensive management plan for the National Petroleum Reserve–Alaska in order to make more acreage available for oil and gas leasing. This effort is ongoing.

**WHEN HE SIGNED THE REPUBLICAN TAX SCAM,
PRESIDENT TRUMP**

**OPENED THE ARCTIC
NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
TO OIL & GAS DRILLING.**

**THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT IS IN THE
PROCESS OF MOVING TO LEASE THE REFUGE TWO
YEARS AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULE SET IN THE BILL.**

- The Bureau of Land Management repealed the 2016 Methane Waste rule, which will result in more air pollution, fewer royalties, and a step backwards in controlling greenhouse gas emissions.
- The administration began the process of developing a new five-year offshore leasing plan three years early, proposing to open up nearly all of America's oceans to the oil and gas industry.
- The Department of the Interior has indefinitely shelved requirements for oil and gas companies operating offshore to submit additional financial assurances for decommissioning their equipment, putting taxpayers at risk of having to pay for eventual cleanup if those companies go bankrupt.
- Announced in May 2019, the Trump administration rolled back certain offshore drilling safety measures that were put in place after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster.

- **The Bureau of Land Management reinstated two mining leases that could result in a water-polluting copper sulfide mine right next to the Boundary Waters Wilderness, and is in the process of issuing 10-year extensions of those leases.**

- In February 2017, President Trump repealed the Stream Protection Rule, which was designed to protect water sources and water quality in Appalachia from the destructive effects of mountaintop removal mining.
- The Environmental Protection Agency stopped an Obama initiative to place new financial assurance requirements on hardrock mining companies under Superfund law. Trump's move puts taxpayers on the hook for cleaning up more abandoned mine sites.

THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION OVERTURNED THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION'S BAN ON THE USE OF LEAD AMMUNITION AND FISHING TACKLE IN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES; REVERSED THE OBAMA BAN ON NEONICOTINOID PESTICIDES IN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES; AND REVERSED A BOTTLED WATER BAN IN NATIONAL PARKS.

- The Trump administration ended a three-year moratorium placed on new coal leases after only one year, and stopped an Interior Department review of potential financial and environmental reforms of the federal coal program.
- The Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation, and Enforcement canceled a National Academy of Sciences review of available research on the health impacts of mountaintop removal coal mining.

- The administration began the process of developing a new five-year offshore leasing plan three years early, proposing to open up nearly all of America's oceans to the oil and gas industry.

FOR MORE INFORMATION



**A RUNNING TALLY OF TRUMP
ENVIRONMENTAL ROLLEBACKS
SINCE THE START OF THE
TRUMP ADMINISTRATION**

**A DATABASE OF THE TRUMP
ADMINISTRATION'S EFFORTS TO
SILENCE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
& IGNORE SCIENTIFIC INPUT**

**NATURAL RESOURCES
C O M M I T T E E
CHAIRMAN RAÚL M. GRIJALVA**