



PROJECT 2025 IN THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Project 2025 is no far-off MAGA fantasy; this blueprint for an extreme right-wing takeover of our federal government is already alive and well in the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee (HNRC). Since the start of the 118th Congress, the HNRC GOP majority has wasted no time in crafting and passing anti-environment, pro-polluter legislation that mirrors proposals in Project 2025. HNRC Republicans have also made a habit of stretching the Committee’s jurisdictional boundaries to spread dangerous anti-immigrant campaign rhetoric in support of Project 2025’s cruel and inhumane border security proposals.

Project 2025-aligned Hearing Witnesses

HNRC Republican majority has invited several key architects of Project 2025 – some multiples times – to testify in front of the Committee:

Project 2025 Authors and Contributors

- Kathleen Sgamma, Western Energy Alliance [appeared 6 times]
- Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Heritage Foundation [appeared 1 time]
- Julie Axelrod, Center for Immigration Studies [appeared 1 time]
- Brian Cavanaugh, Heritage Foundation [appeared 1 time]
- Simon Hankinson, Heritage Foundation [appeared 1 time]
- Marlo Lewis, Competitive Enterprise Institute [appeared 1 time]
- Mario Loyola, Florida International University [appeared 1 time]
- Josh Sewell, Taxpayers for Common Sense [appeared 1 time]
- Kenny Stein, Institute for Energy Research [appeared 1 time]
- Jessica Vaughan, Center for Immigration Studies [appeared 1 time]

Project 2025 Advisory Board Organizations

- Center for Immigration Studies [appeared 2 times]
- Competitive Enterprise Institute [appeared 1 time]
- Foundation for Defense of Democracies [appeared 2 times]
- Heritage Foundation [appeared 3 times]
- Institute for Energy Research [appeared 2 times]

Project 2025-aligned Legislation & Hearings

The list below details various Project 2025 proposals, followed by HNRC Republican-led legislation or hearing topics that have supported those proposals throughout the 118th Congress.

U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI)

REPEALING CLIMATE ACTION

Project 2025 rolls back Executive Order (EO) 13990, “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis” and related Secretarial Order (SO) 3398; requires review of all regulations, orders, guidance documents, policies, and similar agency actions made in compliance with that order; and reinstates the Trump-era agenda to prioritize fossil fuels and ignore climate. (p. 521)

HNRC Republicans passed H.R. 1 – the Polluters Over People Act – through the House, which would shamelessly give more handouts to the oil, gas, and mining industries, while also gutting our bedrock environmental laws and ignoring the climate crisis. HNRC Republicans also passed H.R. 3397 (Curtis) to repeal the Bureau of Land Management’s Public Lands Rule, which provides a long-overdue balance to public lands management by putting conservation, cultural preservation, renewable energy development, and climate action on equal footing with extraction.

REINSTATING TRUMP-ERA SECRETARIAL ORDERS

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3348 “Concerning the Federal Coal Moratorium” to restart the federal coal leasing program despite major public health and climate change concerns. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans have advanced numerous bills, namely H.R. 1, to meet this aim.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3349, “American Energy Independence,” to examine all federal regulations and actions that negatively impact oil and gas development. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans have advanced numerous bills in the name of “American Energy Independence” and “Energy Dominance,” including H.R. 1. HNRC Republicans have also passed [H.R. 6009](#) (Boebert), to block implementation of the Biden administration’s bonding rules that provide greater financial assurance for American taxpayers, advanced [H.R. 5616](#) (Graves) to require DOI to conduct certain offshore lease sales, and more to meet this aim.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3350, “America-First Offshore Energy Strategy,” to develop a new five-year offshore oil and gas leasing plan with the maximum number of lease sales. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans passed H.R. 1 and [H.R. 5616](#) (Graves) to require DOI to conduct certain offshore lease sales.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3351, “Strengthening DOI’s Energy Portfolio,” to establish a Counselor to the Secretary for Energy Policy to identify regulatory burdens” to energy development. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans have advanced legislation aimed at the “regulatory burdens” outlined in the report, including H.R. 1, [H.R. 1121](#) (Duncan), to ban a ban on fracking on public lands, [H.R. 6009](#) (Boebert), to undo the Biden administration’s oil and gas regulations, [H.R. 5616](#) (Graves) to increase offshore oil and gas development, and more.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3352 “National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska (NPR-A)” to open the NPR-A to oil and gas drilling. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans passed [H.R. 6285](#) (Stauber), which would open the NPR-A and other ecologically important and fragile areas in the Arctic to oil and gas drilling.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3354, “Supporting and Improving the Federal Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Program and Federal Solid Mineral Leasing Program,” to increase the frequency of oil and gas lease sales and to continue federal coal leasing. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans have advanced numerous bills, namely H.R. 1, to meet this aim.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3355, “Streamlining National Environmental Policy Reviews and Implementation of Executive Order 13807,” to weaken environmental review standards and fast-track polluter projects without appropriate mitigation or disclosure of environmental and public health consequences. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans have advanced numerous bills, namely H.R. 1, to meet this aim.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era SO 3358, “Executive Committee for Expedited Permitting,” to weaken environmental review standards and fast-track polluter projects without appropriate mitigation or disclosure of environmental and public health consequences. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans have advanced numerous bills, namely H.R. 1, to meet this aim.

PRIORITIZING POLLUTER PROFITS

Project 2025 reinstates quarterly onshore oil and gas lease sales in all producing states. It also directs the new administration to work with Congress on legislation, like the Lease Now Act and ONSHORE Act, to increase states’ influence in the federal oil and gas leasing program. (p. 522)

HNRC Republicans passed H.R. 1, which includes the Lease Now Act and ONSHORE Act.

Project 2025 directs DOI to conduct offshore oil and gas lease sales to the maximum extent permitted under the 2023–2028 lease program, with the possibility to develop an alternative leasing plan. (p. 523)

HNRC Republicans passed numerous provisions to increase offshore oil and gas leasing, including H.R. 1 and [H.R. 5616](#) (Graves).

UNDOING MAJOR PROGRESS IN RULEMAKING

Project 2025 directs DOI to review all Biden administration resource management plans and eliminate decisions that advance President Biden's 30 x 30 conservation initiative. (p. 523)

HNRC Republicans have advanced legislation to overturn specific resource management plans, including [H.R. 6085](#) (Hageman) and [H.R. 6547](#) (Boebert), which would repeal plans in Wyoming and Colorado, respectively.

Project 2025 sets oil and gas leasing rents, royalty rates, and bonding requirements to no higher than what is required under the Inflation Reduction Act. (p. 523)

HNRC Republicans have passed legislation, including [H.R. 6009](#) (Boebert), to block the implementation of the Biden administration's bonding rules that provide greater financial assurance for American taxpayers.

Project 2025 establishes a competitive oil and gas leasing and development program in the Coastal Plain (i.e., the Section 1002 area) of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge. (p. 523)

HNRC Republicans passed [H.R. 6285](#) (Stauber), which would open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and other ecologically important and fragile areas in the Arctic to oil and gas drilling.

Project 2025 concludes the Biden administration's review of the federal coal leasing program and directs DOI to work with the congressional delegations and governors of Wyoming and Montana to restart the program immediately. (p. 523)

HNRC Republicans advanced legislation, including [H.R. 8781](#) (Hageman) to repeal the Biden administration's resource management plans that end new federal coal leasing in Wyoming.

Project 2025 reverses protections for the Thompson Divide of the White River National Forest, Colorado; the 10-mile buffer around Chaco Cultural Historic National Park in New Mexico; and the Boundary Waters area in northern Minnesota. It also directs DOI to revisit oil, gas, and mining leases and permits in these areas in consultation with state elected officials. (p. 523)

HNRC Republicans have passed legislation, including [H.R. 3195](#) (Stauber) and [H.R. 4374](#) (Crane), to overturn protections for the Boundary Waters and Chaco Canyon, respectively.

Project 2025 immediately rescinds the Biden administration rules and reinstates the Trump-era rules for the Endangered Species Act (ESA), specifically those defining critical habitat and critical habitat exclusions. (p. 524)

HNRC Republicans proposed legislation, including Chair Westerman's "[ESA Amendments Act of 2024](#)," to codify the Trump-era rules. They also passed Congressional Review Act resolutions, including [H.J.Res. 157](#) (Hageman), [H.J.Res. 158](#) (Hageman), and [H.J.Res. 46](#) (Bentz), to repeal current critical habitat regulations.

Project 2020 immediately rescinds the Biden administration rules and reinstates the Trump-era rules for the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). (p. 533)

HNRC Republicans have introduced more than 100 bills referencing NEPA, including H.R. 1 and [H.J.Res. 168](#) (Graves). Nearly all of these bills eliminate or weaken environmental review standards and fast-track polluter projects without appropriate mitigation or disclosure of environmental and public health consequences. HNRC Republicans also held two hearings to attack NEPA:

- May 11, 2023: "The Biden Administration's Executive Overreach and its Impact on American Energy Independence"
- Sept. 14, 2023: "Examining Systemic Government Overreach at CEQ"

Project 2025 approves the Trump-era National Petroleum Reserve Alaska Integrated Activity Plan. (p. 530)

HNRC Republicans passed [H.R. 6285](#) (Stauber) to meet this aim.

Project 2025 directs a review and adjustment of national monument designations, with a note to "vigorously defend" any downward adjustments in order to facilitate a U.S. Supreme Court ruling on the president's authority to reduce the size of national monuments. Project 2025 also seeks the repeal of the Antiquities Act of 1906. (p. 532)

HNRC Republicans are working to pass [H.R. 5499](#) (Miller-Meeks) to give Congress veto power over new monument designations, effectively repealing the Antiquities Act. In addition, HNRC Republicans have pushed an amendment to the Interior appropriations bill that would repeal President Biden's designation of the Baaj Nwaavjo I'tah Kukveni – Ancestral Footprints of the Grand Canyon National Monument.

Project 2025 reinstates Trump-era secretarial orders on NEPA, including those that place arbitrary time and page limits on environmental reviews. It also directs the new administration to call on Congress to reform NEPA by eliminating key judicial review authorities, among other harmful changes. (p. 533)

HNRC Republicans passed H.R. 1, which contains many similar and overlapping provisions to weaken environmental review standards and fast-track polluter projects without appropriate mitigation or disclosure of environmental and public health consequences.

ATTACKING ENDANGERED SPECIES AND BIODIVERSITY

Project 2025 would delist the grizzly bear in the Greater Yellowstone and Northern Continental Divide ecosystems and direct the new administration to defend the decision to the U.S. Supreme Court. (p. 534)

HNRC Republicans have introduced several bills to delist grizzly bears and relegate their management to the states, including [H.R. 4997](#) (Fulcher), [H.R. 1419](#) (Rosendale), [H.R. 1364](#) (Rosendale), and [H.R. 1245](#) (Hageman).

Project 2025 would delist the gray wolf in the lower 48 states, even though the courts already overturned the Trump-era delisting. (p. 534)

HNRC Republicans passed [H.R. 764](#) (Boebert) to meet this aim.

Project 2025 would cede jurisdiction of the greater sage-grouse to the states. (p. 534)

Sen. Mike Lee offered an [amendment](#) to the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act to meet this aim.

Project 2025 directs the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to end its practice of introducing “experimental” species populations to habitats, which would hinder species recovery and research. (p. 534)

HNRC Republicans have repeatedly complained about recent experimental populations (e.g., wolves in Colorado and grizzly bears in Washington state). [H.J.Res. 149](#) (Newhouse) repeals an experimental population regulation for grizzly bears.

Project 2025 directs FWS to design and implement a “conservation triage program by prioritizing the allocation of limited resources to maximize conservation returns.” (p. 534)

HNRC Republicans are pushing Chair Westerman's “[ESA Amendments Act of 2024](#)”, which institutes a prioritization system to delay listing decisions and speed up delisting decisions under the ESA, while also blocking judicial review for these types of actions.

Project 2025 directs FWS to make all data used in ESA decisions available to the public, with limited or no exceptions. (p. 534)

HNRC Republicans are pushing Chair Westerman's “[ESA Amendments Act of 2024](#)”, which includes problematic provisions on “transparency” and requires the use of state data as the “best available science.” Similar language is found in [H.R. 518](#).

Project 2025 directs FWS to design and implement an ESA program that ends reliance on species specialists and ensures conformity with the Information Quality Act. (p. 534)

HNRC Republicans are pushing Chair Westerman's proposed “[ESA Amendments Act of 2024](#)”, which requires the use of state data as the “best available science,” regardless of the quality of that data. Similar language is found in [H.R. 518](#).

MISMANAGING WESTERN WATER

Project 2025 prioritizes the construction of additional dams, regardless of the environmental harms and need for other types of water supply projects. (p. 535-536)

HNRC Republicans are singularly focused on building additional dams at the expense of other water supply projects. [H.R. 215](#) (Valadao) would codify Trump-era ESA rollbacks and prevent the Bureau of Reclamation from considering the best available and most recent science in water management decisions. HNRC Republicans have held three related oversight hearings to promote dams:

- March 28, 2023: “Why We Need to Store More Water and What’s Stopping Us”
- June 26, 2023: “The Northwest at Risk: The Environmentalist’s Effort to Destroy Navigation, Transportation, and Access to Reliable Power”
- Dec. 12, 2023: “Left in the Dark: Examining the Biden Administration’s Efforts to Eliminate the Pacific Northwest’s Clean Energy Production”

Project 2025 reinstates the Trump-era Presidential Memorandum on “Promoting the Reliable Supply and Delivery of Water in the West,” which prioritizes water deliveries to favored industries at the expense of the environment and the American people. This memorandum undermines protections in certain regions, including the Columbia River Basin, Klamath Basin, and California’s Central Valley. (p. 536)

HNRC Republicans have introduced numerous bills and provisions that aim to prioritize water deliveries to industry, including H.R. 215 to undermine NEPA and ESA protections in California. They have also held two oversight hearings to attack ESA and NEPA protections in the Columbia River Basin:

- June 26, 2023: “The Northwest at Risk: The Environmentalist’s Effort to Destroy Navigation, Transportation, and Access to Reliable Power”
- Dec. 12, 2023: “Left in the Dark: Examining the Biden Administration’s Efforts to Eliminate the Pacific Northwest’s Clean Energy Production”

EXPLOITING INDIAN COUNTRY

Project 2025 facilitates the development of fossil fuels and mining projects on tribal lands. (p. 537)

HNRC Republicans consistently push legislation that ignores the concerns of tribes and Indigenous communities about the impacts of increased oil, gas, and mineral development, including H.R. 6285 (Stauber) and H.R. 4374 (Crane) to remove protections in the Arctic and in Chaco Canyon, respectively. They also advocate for mining projects that would permanently damage sacred and special places.

Project 2025 directs a new administration to “secure the nation’s border to protect the sovereignty and safety of tribal lands.” (p. 537)

HNRC Republicans have consistently used a feigned and easily debunked concern for tribal sovereignty and safety to promote inhumane, ineffective border security policies and spread anti-immigrant campaign rhetoric. To that same end, they have also pursued a year-long, dead-end investigation into the National Park Services’ decision to lease Floyd Bennett Field for temporary migrant housing. The six related hearings include:

- Sept. 27, 2023: “Destroying America’s Best Idea: Examining the Biden Administration’s Use of National Park Service Lands for Migrant Camps”
- Feb. 8, 2024: “Biden’s Border Crisis: The Consequences of Failing to Secure Federal Border Lands.”
- June 4, 2024: “Bidens Border Crisis: Examining Efforts to Combat International Criminal Cartels and Stop Illegal Drug Trafficking Targeting Indian Country.”
- June 12, 2024: “Securing Our Border, Saving Our National Parks.”
- June 13, 2024: “Destroying America’s Best Idea: Biden’s Border Crisis, Desecrating National Park Lands and Damaging Communities.”
- April 10, 2024: “Biden’s Border Crisis: Examining the Impacts of International Cartels Targeting Indian Country.”

U.S. Department of Commerce

Project 2025 dismantles the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and eliminates many of its functions. Remaining functions are sent to other agencies, privatized, or placed under the control of states and territories. (p. 674)

House Republicans submitted an appropriations amendment to completely defund NOAA, except for the weather service. In addition, [H.R. 3980](#) (Lucas) makes part of NOAA independent while incorporating other parts into DOI.

Project 2025 “streamlines” the National Marine Fisheries Service, claiming that its functions overlap with that of the FWS. (p. 676)

HNRC Republicans passed [H.R. 872](#) (Calvert), which transfers salmon management from the National Marine Fisheries Service to FWS.

Project 2025 weakens regulations implementing the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and ESA, claiming negative impacts on fisheries and Native American subsistence practices. (p. 676)

HNRC Republicans have pushed numerous legislative efforts to exempt certain activities from MMPA or ESA consultation, including [H.R. 6008](#) (Graves) to undermine protections for the Rice’s whale in the Gulf of Mexico; [H.R. 8704](#) (Carter) and [H.R. 4323](#) (Carter) to undermine protections against vessel strikes for North Atlantic right whales; and a National Defense Authorization Act amendment to exempt the Eglin Air Force base from MMPA (Gaetz).

Project 2025 downsizes NOAA’s Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, claiming that it is “the source of much of NOAA’s climate alarmism” and that the “preponderance of its climate-change research should be disbanded.” (p. 676)

HNRC Republicans frequently raise conspiracy theories about NOAA climate science in HNRC hearings, citing misleading and faulty analyses by fossil fuel-funded groups regarding [NOAA’s collection of climate data](#) and [NOAA’s reporting of billion-dollar disasters](#).

U.S. Forest Service

Project 2025 embraces Trump-era EO 13855, “Promoting Active Management of America’s Forests, Rangelands, and Other Federal Lands to Improve Conditions and Reduce Wildfire Risk,” and calls for a new administration to build upon it and work with lawmakers to “promote active management of vegetation, reduce regulatory obstacles to reducing fuel buildup, and increase timber sales.” (p. 308)

HNRC Republicans are pushing several bills to promote timber production and shortcut longstanding environmental protections and regulations that promote public participation and science-based decision-making. Many of these bills are included in the House’s version of the Farm Bill and Chair Westerman’s Fix Our Forests Act ([H.R. 8790](#))