

**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Culver, Nada L mentioned you in "DRAFT Revised Report 050821".  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:51:43 AM  
**Attachments:** [AttachedImage](#)  
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DRAFT Revised Report 050821.docx



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**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Culver, Nada L left a comment in "DRAFT Revised Report 050821"  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:39:36 AM  
**Attachments:** [8af99b7e-93fa-4975-a817-8fc96ffe1b37440c707f-03a3-4d4c-8bbd-fd32c36b7ff33604752f-6896-45fd-b2d0-8fd47e236998c66f7873-8c01-43de-b530-26226f0b8f763cdfa989-0cfc-4765-a255-62d37f2ea40159236e8b-33cb-4c94-b7db-cbddcddb1131](#)

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Culver, Nada L replied

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Culver, Nada L added a comment

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**From:** [Lefton, Amanda B](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Cc:** [Knodel, Marissa S](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Revised report  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:31:26 AM

---

Ok—Marissa will be back at her computer at around 11 or so. Let us know when we are ready to get in there.

Thanks

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:30 AM  
**To:** Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>  
**Cc:** Knodel, Marissa S <[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Revised report

I don't think Laura's looked at it. I did drop almost all of your stuff in last night! I sent to Nada and Laura so they can adjust the onshore items and intro and conclusion then we will have a better model and direction for you on how to adjust what's in there for offshore. I can send if you want but Nada's in the doc now. Either way fine I guess but that was my thinking!

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**From:** Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 6:23:35 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Knodel, Marissa S <[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Revised report

Oh. We thought we might be able to see it before it went to Laura so we can drop our piece in

Sent from my iPhone

On May 9, 2021, at 7:23 AM, Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)> wrote:

Will be on its way later this am! It's currently in Nada and Laura's hands.

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**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Culver, Nada L left a comment in "DRAFT Revised Report 050821"  
**Date:** Sunday, May 9, 2021 9:15:48 AM  
**Attachments:** [ec926143-90ed-422f-9d8d-9ee1c2742400](#)  
[4844d223-b764-470d-a7d7-150a0a9ca342](#)  
[60149dbe-8853-4c5c-b5b1-95ee64810fb8](#)  
[9c77e1e7-0bf5-4488-8624-5a1b01158d04](#)

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Culver, Nada L added a comment

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**From:** [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Revised Report Outline  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:38:38 AM  
**Attachments:** [DRAFT Revised Outline 050721 \(Daniel-Davis, Laura E\).docx](#)

---

Good revise - I made some specific comments on structure and approach.

Generally, (b) (5)

But we end up with a strong intro (Kate can help), an onshore section, and offshore section, and a conclusion, which can sum up improvements sought, steps to be taken, (b) (5)

Let me know if you think you can take a run at it - or I can carve out a couple hours to tackle at least onshore, which is much more obviously complex.

Getting closer!

Laura

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:06 AM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Revised Report Outline

Nada wasn't able to take a look passing along just in case!

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**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 6:12:23 PM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Revised Report Outline

Alexandra Sanchez (she/her)  
Special Assistant  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
Land and Minerals Management

U.S. Department of the Interior

(b) (5)

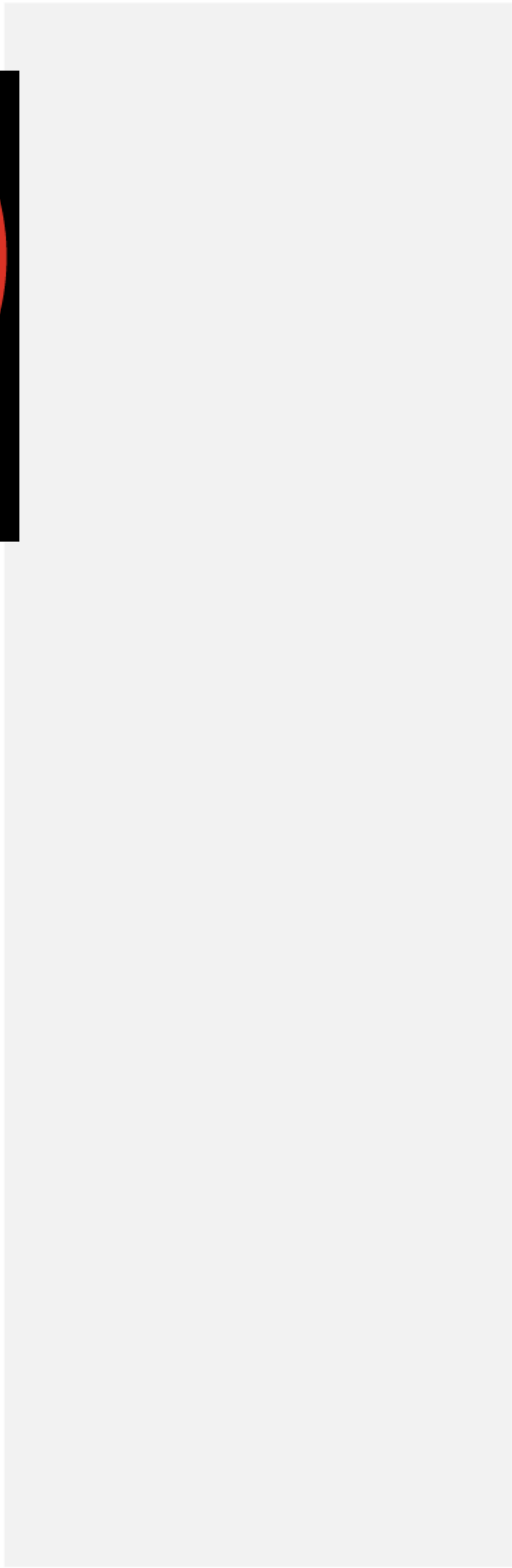
(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)



**From:** [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Revised Report Outline  
**Date:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:14:50 AM

---

Q&As are good enough - I just looked again - so give them the thumbs up. Thanks for flagging.

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 9:07 AM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Revised Report Outline

It's so great! So grateful I can be here.

I hope this is on track.

I left in all the (b) (5) so those can be whittled. (b) (5)

Wasn't sure there.

Also BOEM public affairs just emailed me about the Q & A. Did that not get sent to them? I'm not sure I see it in my inbox.

Thanks!

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**From:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 7:04:29 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Revised Report Outline

Will take a quick look. How's NM?

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**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 8, 2021 8:06:36 AM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Revised Report Outline

Nada wasn't able to take a looks passing along just in case!

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---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 6:12:23 PM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Revised Report Outline

Alexandra Sanchez (she/her)  
Special Assistant  
Office of the Assistant Secretary  
Land and Minerals Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior

**From:** [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#)  
**To:** [Dawe, Christine -FS](#); [Bonnie, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC](#); [French, Chris- FS](#)  
**Cc:** [Culver, Nada L](#); [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: circling back - o&g report/EO 14008  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 2:39:17 PM

---

Thanks Christine! On our to-do list to send you something to look at! We've had a couple internal meetings that led to some additional tinkering. We will get something over to you soon.

Laura

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**From:** Dawe, Christine -FS <[christine.dawe@usda.gov](mailto:christine.dawe@usda.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, May 7, 2021 2:36:36 PM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Bonnie, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov)>; French, Chris- FS <[Christopher.French@usda.gov](mailto:Christopher.French@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] RE: circling back - o&g report/EO 14008

Hi Laura, Just checking to see if I missed an email this week, or if you are still working on the draft report. No rush, I just didn't want to miss a deadline. Thanks

**Christine Dawe, Acting Chief of Staff**

Office of the Under Secretary  
Natural Resources and Environment  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0108  
406-370-8865  
[christine.dawe@usda.gov](mailto:christine.dawe@usda.gov)

---

**From:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 1:02 PM  
**To:** Dawe, Christine -FS <[christine.dawe@usda.gov](mailto:christine.dawe@usda.gov)>; Bonnie, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov)>; French, Chris- FS <[Christopher.French@usda.gov](mailto:Christopher.French@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: [EXTERNAL] RE: circling back - o&g report/EO 14008

Great - we will send you something to look at early next week. Thank you,  
Laura

---

**From:** Dawe, Christine -FS <[christine.dawe@usda.gov](mailto:christine.dawe@usda.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 2:12 PM

**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Bonnie, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov)>; French, Chris- FS <[Christopher.French@usda.gov](mailto:Christopher.French@usda.gov)>

**Cc:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] RE: circling back - o&g report/EO 14008

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(b) (5) [Redacted]

**Christine Dawe, Acting Chief of Staff**

Office of the Under Secretary  
Natural Resources and Environment  
United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0108  
406-370-8865  
[christine.dawe@usda.gov](mailto:christine.dawe@usda.gov)

---

**From:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 11:56 AM  
**To:** Bonnie, Robert - OSEC, Washington, DC <[Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov](mailto:Robert.Bonnie@usda.gov)>; Dawe, Christine -FS <[christine.dawe@usda.gov](mailto:christine.dawe@usda.gov)>; French, Chris- FS <[Christopher.French@usda.gov](mailto:Christopher.French@usda.gov)>  
**Cc:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** circling back - o&g report/EO 14008

Hi there,  
Wanted to check in (b) (5) [Redacted]

Thanks,  
Laura and Nada

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**From:** [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#)  
**To:** [Lefton, Amanda B](#); [Culver, Nada L](#); [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** summary doc  
**Date:** Friday, May 7, 2021 12:44:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [Summary of Interim Report 050621 shared.docx](#)

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## **Interim Report On The Federal Oil And Gas Leasing And Permitting Programs**

### **OVERVIEW**

The interim report provides the Department’s initial review of the federal oil and gas leasing and permitting programs as required by Executive Order 14008: “Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”

- E.O. 14008 set goals of a carbon-free electricity sector by 2035 and net-zero emissions economy-wide by 2050. Section 208 of the E.O. directs a pause on leasing “pending completion of a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practices in light of the Secretary of the Interior’s broad stewardship responsibilities over the public lands and in offshore waters, including potential climate and other impacts associated with oil and gas activities on public lands or in offshore waters.”
- The Administration announced in April 2021 a new U.S. Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) target of 50-52% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) pollution below 2005 levels by 2030.
- The fossil fuel leasing and permitting programs of the Department of the Interior currently account for approximately one-fourth of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

### ***Engagement***

- As part of the review, the Department hosted a forum on March 25, 2021 with seventeen expert panelists representing industry, labor organizations, natural resource organizations, Indigenous organizations, environmental justice organizations, and academic institutions.
- Interior also sought written input from the public to inform this review, and received approximately 102,565 (3,678 unique) individual comments. Interior also engaged and received input from Departmental personnel who work in the oil and gas programs to reflect their ongoing experience.
- Interior held meetings and sought insight from Governors and their staffs, other State and local officials, Congressional members and staff, and external groups across a wide scope of interests, in addition to undertaking formal Tribal consultation.
- Additionally, the Department consulted with the Department of Agriculture, Department of Energy, and the Department of Commerce’s National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in developing this report, as directed in the E.O.

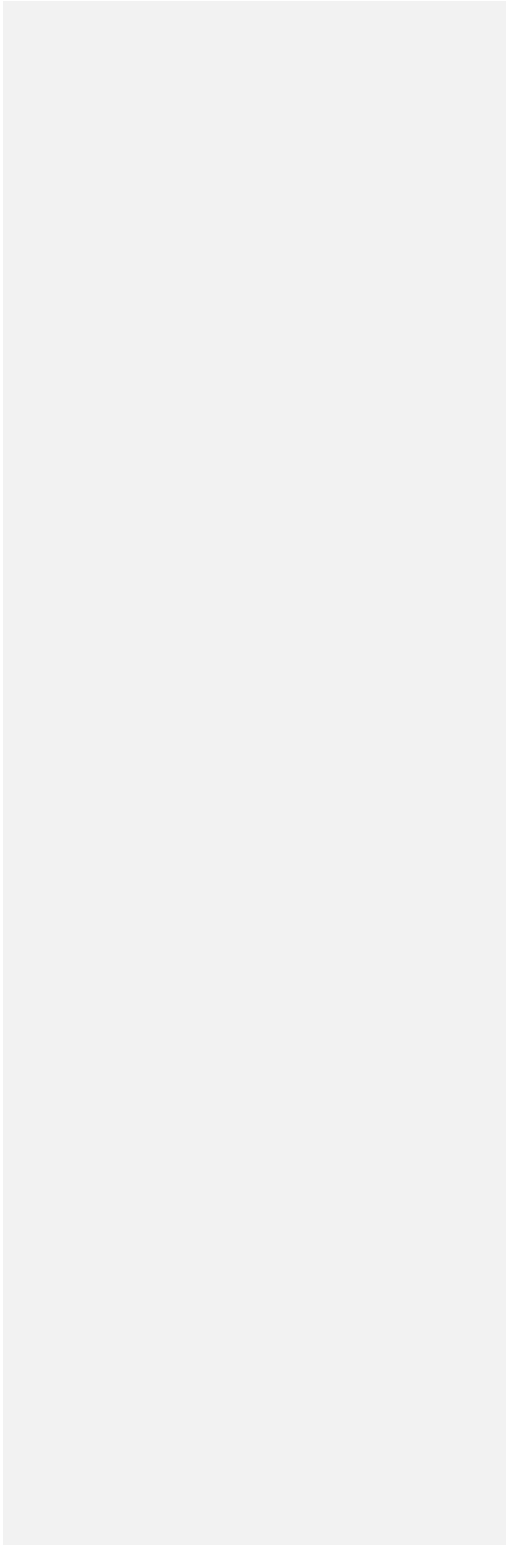
***Goals and Key Issues to Address***

- Through this review the Department seeks to ensure greater equity, transparency and public involvement in the fossil fuel leasing programs, shore up our environmental review processes, provide a fair return to the American taxpayer, and protect the special and sacred places in our country.
- These programs do not currently serve the interconnected needs of communities, public officials, stakeholders, and wildlife, because many of the attendant environmental reviews do not properly account for all of the effects of leasing and development, including climate change and environmental justice impacts.
- Meaningful Tribal consultation on the impacts of these programs is not prioritized and is frequently not undertaken.
- In short, the system is out of balance - it puts industry interests first and last.

***Content of Report***

- Provides background information on the onshore and offshore programs as administered by the BLM, BOEM, and BSEE
- Reviews top level issues and facing the programs, and makes specific policy and program recommendations
- Ends with the compiled suite of policy recommendations for the DOI (b) (5)

[REDACTED]



CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES DISCUSSION/ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE

CLIMATE

(b) (5)

Recommendations

*Onshore*

(b) (5)

*Offshore*

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

TRIBAL CONSULTATION

(b) (5)

Recommendations

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Recommendations

(b) (5)

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(b) (5)

(b) (5)

REVIEW OF FEDERAL OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS PROGRAM

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

From: [Colin Wells](#)  
To: [Sharon Anderson](#)  
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Federal coal leasing follow-up  
Date: Friday, May 3, 2023 11:46:36 AM  
Attachments: [Colin Wells \(b\) \(6\) of 05/03/2023](#)  
[\[EXTERNAL\] Federal coal leasing follow-up](#)

Not for today's meeting (adding the high level document but I think these could be handy) (b) (6) I did not add in anything on the bankspcies yet and it is part of the context for the other recommendations.

Nada Wolf Carter  
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Call 202-253-0979  
nacarter@blm.gov

-----Original Message-----  
From: Sharon Anderson <[anderson@prc.blm.gov](mailto:anderson@prc.blm.gov)>  
Sent: Friday, May 7, 2021 4:46 AM  
To: Heidi Davis, Linda E. Clark, [linda.clark@blm.gov](mailto:linda.clark@blm.gov); Colton Nida, [coltonnida@blm.gov](mailto:coltonnida@blm.gov)  
Cc: Mackinnell, Cara Lee <[cmackinnell@blm.gov](mailto:cmackinnell@blm.gov)>; Blasing, Francesca M <[fblasing@blm.gov](mailto:fblasing@blm.gov)>; sarah@womc.org  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Federal coal leasing follow-up

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Linda & Nada - Thank you so much for your time and for the conversation the other day. As follow-up, I have attached a quick briefing document pulled together specific to some of the pressing coal leasing matters in the Powder River Basin as well as the OSABE specific recommendations Sara mentioned. If we can ever be of assistance in providing information or the perspective of community groups in the Powder River Basin, please do not hesitate to reach out. Best,  
Sharon

Sharon Anderson, Staff Attorney  
Powder River Basin Resource Council  
634 N. Main St., Sheridan, WY 82801  
(307) 672-3680 ext. (307) 765-0595 (t)  
[anderson@prc.blm.gov](mailto:anderson@prc.blm.gov)

-----Original Appointment-----  
From: Sharon Anderson <[anderson@prc.blm.gov](mailto:anderson@prc.blm.gov)> On Behalf Of David Davis, Loren E  
Sent: Friday, April 23, 2021 4:06 PM  
To: Heidi Davis, Linda E. Clark, Sharon Anderson, [jenna.lahwood@airtechlab.org](mailto:jenna.lahwood@airtechlab.org), alan.manna@airtechlab.org, [bocanary@ark.org](mailto:bocanary@ark.org), [jenna@earthjustice.org](mailto:jenna@earthjustice.org), [sarah@womc.org](mailto:sarah@womc.org), Nada L.  
Cc: Mackinnell, Cara Lee, Blasing, Francesca M  
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Meeting w/ Environmental Groups  
When: Wednesday, May 5, 2021 3:30 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-06:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada)  
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Topic: For discussion: A presentation on new oil and gas leasing on federal lands; reinstatement of the Obama western coal leasing reforms; Alton coal mine.

Participants: Alan Manna, Director Lands Protection Program, Nathaniel Shaff, Senior Attorney, Aaron Ikerwood, Phillip S. Berry Managing Attorney, Sierra Club;  
Jessica Evans, Legislative Director Climate and Energy, Earthjustice.

Sara Kendall, Program Director, Western Organization of Resource Councils;

Bobby McInerney, Director Dirty Energy Project, Natural Resources Defense Council

Microsoft Teams meeting  
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(b) (6)

(b) (6) United States.

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## **Federal Coal Topics of Concern**

*Information prepared by the Powder River Basin Resource Council & the Western Organization of Resource Councils, Shannon Anderson & Sara Kendall*

### **Royalty Rate Reduction Requests**

Peabody, Arch, and Black Butte have numerous royalty rate reduction requests pending with the Wyoming State Office.<sup>1</sup> Requests are also pending in Colorado. If approved, these royalty rate reduction requests would equate to a significant loss in the financial return for the American public from our federally owned coal resources. While the coal industry is experiencing financial challenges, we do not believe the strict criteria for royalty rate reduction requests has been met, and we ask that you work with the Wyoming State Office to deny the requests.

### **Lease Renewals**

Several leases are up for renewal later this year with more coming soon. Once renewed, royalty rates and other conditions of production are locked in for years. There is an opportunity to work with operators to relinquish leases no longer needed to meet production, and otherwise to improve returns and public interest benefits for the American public.

### **Pending Leases**

The lease applications that are still “pending” are in need of resolution.<sup>2</sup> We encourage follow-up action to determine the status and to see if the applications can be withdrawn or cancelled.

West Antelope 3 LBA WYW184599: this is a 441 million ton lease originally proposed by Cloud Peak Energy in 2015. It has been “on hold” since scoping because of the Cloud Peak Energy bankruptcy, and it is unclear whether the buyer of the Antelope Mine, Navajo Transitional Energy Company (NTEC) will proceed with the lease.

Maysdorf II South LBA WYW 180711: This is a 271 million ton lease proposed by Cloud Peak Energy with a Record of Decision issued by the BLM in 2012. It has been on hold since that time with multiple requests to delay a lease sale. Given the date of the decision, new NEPA analysis will be needed prior to leasing. Like West Antelope 3, it is unclear whether the new owner of the Cordero Rojo Mine, NTEC, will proceed with the lease.

North Hilight LBA WYW 164812: This is a 263 million ton lease proposed by Arch with a Record of Decision issued by the BLM in 2012. It has been on hold since that time with multiple requests to delay a lease sale. BLM has acknowledged a requirement for additional NEPA analysis prior to sale. Given Arch’s announcement to scale back the Black Thunder Mine, it is highly unlikely the company will move forward with leasing.

---

<sup>1</sup> See [https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2021-01/BLM%20Wyoming%20Previously%20Granted%20and%20Pending%20RRR%20Applications\\_2021.01.06.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/docs/2021-01/BLM%20Wyoming%20Previously%20Granted%20and%20Pending%20RRR%20Applications_2021.01.06.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.blm.gov/programs/energy-and-minerals/wyoming/coal>

## **Bankruptcies & Lost Royalty Revenue**

The latest wave of bankruptcies involving federal coal has hit the treasury harder than the first wave. A recent deal between the Blackjewel bankruptcy estate, new owner Eagle Specialty Materials, and DOI left tens of millions of royalties unpaid and what is getting paid will be part of a multi-year payment plan with substantial ongoing risk given the economics of the mines. Likewise, over \$10 million in federal royalties remain unpaid in the Cloud Peak bankruptcy. While new owner NTEC originally said they would take on that debt, DOI was forced to file claims in an attempt to collect from the Cloud Peak bankruptcy estate. NTEC should be forced to pay all of the debt as a condition to take on the coal leases for the Antelope, Cordero Rojo, and Spring Creek mines.

We encourage DOI to be an active participant in all coal company bankruptcy cases, but especially those involving federal coal leases.

## **NTEC Sovereign Immunity**

NTEC enjoys a level of sovereign immunity because it is a corporation wholly owned by the Navajo Nation. Wyoming and Montana have in place limited waivers of sovereign immunity for state mine permits, but as far as we know, DOI does not have similar waivers in place for federal coal leases or federal enforcement, including rights afforded under citizen complaint and suit provisions of federal law. We encourage DOI to enter into an agreement with NTEC on sovereign immunity as a condition of any lease transfer from Cloud Peak to NTEC.

## **Resource Management Plans for the PRB**

Our organizations have been involved in multi-year litigation against DOI regarding the Resource Management Plans for the Buffalo and Miles City RMPs, which together cover the PRB coal mines. We are interested in exploring options to resolve this litigation, and more information can be provided by our attorneys via the Department of Justice.

## **Coordination Needed with OSMRE on Bonding and Mine Closures**

The Lighthouse Resources bankruptcy led to the first mine closure in the PRB. Arch has announced a non-bankruptcy closure of its Coal Creek Mine. More mine closures – both planned and unplanned – are expected given the state of the industry. We encourage DOI to be an active participant in all conversations regarding reclamation bonding and mine closure requirements, including long-term post-closure plans to ensure final reclamation requirements are met. This is especially important given the role of OSMRE and DOI in bonding for federal coal mines, and it is of course paramount for any situations where the federal government is the surface owner of mined lands.

February 11, 2021

Scott de la Vega  
Acting Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington DC 20240

**RE: Recommendations for OSMRE's Response to Coal Bankruptcies**

Dear Acting Secretary de la Vega:

The Briefing Paper that follows is written on behalf of Alliance for Appalachia, Appalachian Citizens' Law Center, Inc., Appalachian Mountain Advocates, Appalachian Voices, Center for Coalfield Justice, Citizens Coal Council, Environmental Law & Policy Center, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, Kentucky Resources Council, Powder River Basin Resource Coalition, Sierra Club, Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards, Statewide Organizing for Community eMpowerment, Tó Nizhóní Ání, West Virginia Rivers Coalition, and Western Organization of Resource Councils and our millions of members across the nation and in coal-impacted communities. Our recommendations are based on a sense of urgency for the current impacts of coal bankruptcies and mine abandonments on coalfield citizens. The coal mining industry is experiencing a permanent, systemic decline that promises to leave coal mining regions with hundreds of newly abandoned unreclaimed mines. Many of us have been working together for several years to identify potential responses to the growing coal bankruptcy and abandonment crisis. In December 2020, we hosted a two-day summit, which included community organizations and impacted people from across the country, to identify the most significant problems arising from the bankruptcies that the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement ("OSMRE") should address, and what OSMRE should do to address them. The Briefing Paper that is included here is the result of that summit.

We believe that this Briefing Paper presents what OSMRE can and should do to help coal-impacted communities respond to this crisis. Most of the actions recommended herein are actions that we believe OSMRE can and should undertake immediately. Other actions, like rulemaking and changes to SMCRA, will take longer. Unfortunately, for the past four years, a lack of strong leadership has translated into a lack of action. But, we have great hope for the future, and we know that together we can restore justice and environmental and economic prosperity in regions impacted by coal mining. We hope that the OSMRE will commit itself to an immediate and sustained response to this crisis as part of its ongoing charge "to protect society and the environment from the adverse effects of surface coal mining operations." 30 U.S.C. §1202(a).

**Coal Bankruptcy and Mine Abandonment Crisis**

As the nation moves away from coal-fired power, the coal industry is experiencing an unprecedented and irreversible collapse. OSMRE must play a critical role in minimizing the impacts of this collapse on communities and workers by ensuring prompt reclamation. In doing so, OSMRE must also ensure fair treatment and economic opportunities for those that helped to power our nation for so long.

OSMRE must not only regulate stringently and hold the coal industry accountable to the law, but also oversee closure and compliance with the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977

(“SMCRA”). We believe that OSMRE’s most critical obligation under SMCRA as the industry declines is to ensure proper land and water reclamation at each mine site. For active mines, that requires enforcement of SMCRA’s contemporaneous reclamation standards and additional oversight of those sites requiring long-term water treatment. For mines sites that have been abandoned, either through bankruptcy or because the permittee has simply stopped mining and reclaiming because of market conditions, the bond forfeiture process must be triggered. During the bond forfeiture process, OSMRE must oversee the regulatory authorities to ensure that the sureties or the regulatory authorities reclaim quickly and that all reclamation meets SMCRA’s performance standards.

OSMRE’s role now, perhaps more than ever, is critical to ensuring that coalfield communities are not left with the burden of unreclaimed or poorly reclaimed mine sites. In doing so, OSMRE can also play a critical role in minimizing the impacts of coal’s decline on these communities by working to ensure fair treatment and economic opportunities during the reclamation process.

It is clear that the current coal bankruptcies are unlike previous bankruptcies. Whereas, previously, coal companies often used the protections of the bankruptcy code merely to restructure their operations and shed debt; coal companies that are now in bankruptcy are, for the most part, dissolving. While the earlier bankruptcies were very harmful to coalfield communities, especially where companies were allowed to offload their employee obligations, this round of bankruptcies is likely to have significant long-term environmental impacts. Without reliable buyers, dissolving coal companies are now more likely to walk away from their permit obligations. For example, Blackjewel LLC, once the Nation’s fourth largest coal company based on tons mined, recently gave notice to the bankruptcy court of its intent to abandon 232 of its SMCRA permits.<sup>1</sup>

Unfortunately, SMCRA’s environmental performance bond protections are failing and cannot be relied upon to adequately protect the communities near these newly abandoned mine sites. As an example of the degree to which SMCRA’s bond program is failing, Blackjewel seeks to abandon 187 of its Kentucky SMCRA permits, 145 of which have “sold” but the buyer has yet to complete the SMCRA permit transfer process, and 42 of which did not sell during the course of the bankruptcy. For just the portion of those permits that did not sell, Kentucky’s Energy and Environment Cabinet “estimates that the reclamation obligations on [those permits] exceed the reclamation bonds by over twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000).”<sup>2</sup>

We believe there are two primary causes for SMCRA’s bond program failure: (1) insufficient bonding and (2) “functionally abandoned permits.” Many of the recommendations herein are designed to address those two problems, which are both front and center in every coal bankruptcy case.

The first is a known problem. In Kentucky, for instance, OSMRE has pushed the state to reform its bonding program. In 2012, OSMRE issued a Part 733 letter to Kentucky regarding multiple deficiencies in Kentucky’s bonding program. Part of Kentucky’s response to OSMRE’s action was to institute a bond pool fund, the Kentucky Reclamation Guaranty Fund. But now the Blackjewel bankruptcy alone threatens to wipe out all or most of that fund. In West Virginia, the state coal mining regulator recently sent a letter to OSMRE informing it of a “significant event” affecting implementation of its state

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<sup>1</sup> *Notice of De Minimis Asset Abandonment*. In re Blackjewel LLC, et al., Case No. 19-30289 (Bkrptcy S.D.W.V. 2019) Dkt. No. 2747.

<sup>2</sup> *Objection of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Energy and Environment Cabinet to the Debtors’ Notice of De Minimis Asset Abandonment*. In re Blackjewel LLC, et al., Case No. 19-30289 (Bkrptcy SDWV 2019) Dkt. No. 2800.

program, referencing West Virginia’s placement of one of the state’s largest mine operators—ERP Environmental Fund—into a “special receivership.” According to West Virginia, this action was necessary to avoid potentially catastrophic impacts to the state’s Special Reclamation Fund bond pool and to one of the state’s largest surety bond providers. In addition to the insufficiency of bond amounts, it is increasingly clear that alternate bond systems, like pool bonding and self-bonding, are wholly inadequate to meet the challenges posed by the rapid decline of the coal industry.

The second problem, that of functionally abandoned permits, is less well-documented. It has become clear during these recent bankruptcies, and before, that OSMRE and state regulatory authorities have allowed coal companies to cease mining, ostensibly until the coal market improves. Unfortunately, companies are not being required to reclaim when they stop mining. We refer to these as “functionally abandoned permits.” Given the significant current and projected declines in demand for coal, it is unlikely that most of these mines will ever resume production, and the permit holders may lack the financial means to complete reclamation. Functionally abandoned permits become more expensive and difficult to reclaim over time, further exacerbating the insufficiency of the permits’ bonds. When regulators finally recognize these mines as having been abandoned, it will only add to the strain on the already-broken bonding system.

We present our recommendations in four groups. First, we describe those measures that OSMRE can and should take immediately to address this crisis. Second, we describe a number of information gathering, analysis, and reporting measures that we believe are necessary to better inform OSMRE’s response to the collapse of the coal industry in the near future. Third, we recommend changes to the Secretary’s regulations under SMCRA. And finally, we ask for OSMRE’s support for recommended statutory changes to SMCRA.

We appreciate your time and attention to these recommendations and we look forward to meeting with you and others in Interior and OSMRE soon to discuss these recommendations further.

Sincerely,

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Erin Savage, Senior Program Manager  
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Angie Rosser, Executive Director  
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Southern Appalachian Mountain Stewards

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cc:

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**I. Immediate Measures<sup>1</sup>**

The following is a summary of the fifteen immediate measures we ask that OSMRE take to address the problems caused by functionally abandoned permits and coal bankruptcies. The action items enumerated in the list immediately below are described in more detail in the body of this document:

**A. Bonding Reform**

1. Immediately reinstate the August 15, 2016 Policy Advisory: Self-Bonding, <https://www.osmre.gov/resources/bonds/DirPolicyAdvisory-SelfBond.pdf>.
2. Immediately require the consideration of coal market forecast in determining whether any proposed alternative bonding approach is sufficient.
3. Require the reconsideration of bond adequacy at midterm review, permit renewal, and permit transfer.
4. In each bond adequacy reconsideration, require a determination of whether the planned mine end date is realistic given coal market conditions.
5. Require the consideration of the potential impacts of unplanned mine closure on the cost of reclamation, including whether sufficient spoil exists for reclamation in the event of premature cessation of coal production activities.
6. Conduct a “stress test” for the largest coal surety providers to ensure that those entities would be able to honor their bonds if large numbers of permits are forfeited.

**B. Reclamation Plans and Closure Planning**

7. Actively engage in all coal bankruptcies to oppose all attempts to sidestep SMCRA’s enforcement processes and weaken reclamation plan standards and reclamation plan permit obligations.
8. Require full review of reclamation plans at each permit transfer to ensure that the plan remains feasible and sufficient given market conditions.
9. Ensure a more consistent, uniform, reliable, and engaged notice and comment processes at permit issuance, renewal, transfer, and with each significant revision.

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<sup>1</sup> The recommendations presented herein can likely be implemented through a series of new and revised Directives, Policy Advisories, and other agency memoranda.

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**C. Other Permitting Issues**

10. Deem that “significant revision” includes, without limitation, all instances where (1) there is an announcement of mine closure or shutdown, (2) a mine seeks to go into temporary cessation, (3) mine reclamation plans are revised, or (4) the bond forfeiture process is initiated.

11. Require the following additional information at each permit renewal: data that indicate the financial status of the company; any estimates of reduced production or workforce; revised estimate of the life of the mine; disclosures of any outstanding liabilities regarding taxes, royalties, or employee compensation; updated reclamation cost estimates and corresponding replacement bonds; and any other information needed to assess the current status of the mine and its risk of forfeiture.

12. Improve the Applicant Violator System (AVS) database by requiring all SMCRA regulatory authorities to include all of the information in 30 C.F.R. §778.14 to allow the regulatory authority in another state to be able to verify the information contained in a permit application (or transfer or renewal application).

13. Ensure that no release of liability is given to previous owners and controllers of a mine until all taxes and other payments due to government agencies are made.

**D. Long-Term Water Treatment**

14. Issue a directive regarding all long-term water treatment permits clarifying that the entity responsible for reclamation is also responsible for all long-term water treatment and that the regulatory authority cannot terminate its jurisdiction over any mine site until all required water treatment has ceased.

15. Encourage all SMCRA regulatory authorities to require financial assurances for long-term treatment that provide a dedicated income stream using a trust or annuity, and that the permittee’s obligation to provide such financial assurance takes effect as soon as the presence of a source of long-term water pollution is detected.

**A. Bonding Reform**

Given the rapid decline of the coal industry, alternative bonding systems and self-bonding, which were previously allowable under 30 U.S.C. §1259(c), can no longer be relied upon to “assure the completion of the reclamation plan if the work had to be performed by the regulatory authority.” 30 U.S.C. §1259(a).

Categorically, self-bonding can no longer be allowed. The past decade of bankruptcies has shown that no coal company has the solvency and stability necessary for self-bonding. We therefore ask that the incoming OSMRE Director immediately reinstate the August 15, 2016 Policy Advisory: Self-Bonding, <https://www.osmre.gov/resources/bonds/DirPolicyAdvisory-SelfBond.pdf>, which directs SMCRA regulatory authorities to generally disallow self-bonding due to the inherent high risk of default posed by all coal companies.

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Additionally, OSMRE can take other immediate steps to ensure bond types and amounts are adequate. One of the issues that has arisen regarding the approvals of alternative bonding systems, such as bond pools, under 30 U.S.C. §1259(c) is the fact that the analysis of the appropriateness of alternative bonding has been backward-looking, looking to past financial history rather than future credit-worthiness. We ask that OSMRE and the SMCRA regulatory authorities consider economic forecasts in determining whether any existing or proposed alternative bonding approach is sufficient.

In many instances, for all forms of bonding, including surety bonding, bond inadequacy may be a problem as soon as a permit is issued and may also become worse over the life of the mine. We ask that OSMRE instruct its staff and the SMCRA regulatory authorities to reconsider bond adequacy at midterm review, permit renewal, and permit transfer. Likewise, we ask that all bond adequacy analyses include consideration of the potential impact of unplanned mine closure prior to completion of the mining plan on the cost of reclamation, including whether there is sufficient spoil available to reclaim given that future coal production may not occur as planned. In all such reanalyses, we ask that the SMCRA regulatory authority pay particular attention to the proposed termination date of the permit to ensure the end date (and therefore the anticipated final reclamation date) is realistic given coal market conditions.

Another aspect of the coal bankruptcy crisis is the potential secondary impact on the surety companies that provide performance bonds under 30 U.S.C. §1259. Frankly, we are very concerned about the possibility that one or more of the sureties that are heavily engaged in the coal market, with total liabilities that far exceed assets, may become insolvent.<sup>2</sup> Because of these concerns, we ask that OSMRE conduct a “stress test” for the largest surety bond providers to determine whether these providers will be able to pay out bonds for mines that may be abandoned in the near future.

**B. Reclamation Plans and Closure Planning**

Compliance with each SMCRA permit’s reclamation plan is critical to ensuring that coalfield communities are not burdened by poorly reclaimed mine sites that degrade the quality of the environment, prevent or damage the beneficial uses of land and water resources, and endanger the health and safety of the public. Unfortunately, we have seen that these reclamation plans are given little credence during the bankruptcy process.

To address this issue, we ask that OSMRE and all SMCRA regulatory authorities actively engage as parties in coal bankruptcies to oppose all attempts to weaken reclamation plan standards and reclamation plan permit obligations. This includes opposing the creation of new

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<sup>2</sup> In court filings in the ERP Environmental Fund special receivership proceedings, West Virginia regulators noted that a single surety bond provider—Indemnity National Insurance Company—had provided \$115 million in reclamation bonding to ERP. West Virginia regulators expressed concern that action by the state to forfeit those bonds would carry the risk of “potentially bankrupting [ERP’s] principal surety and administratively and financially overwhelming the Special Reclamation Fund [the state’s bond pool].” Indemnity has also provided over \$100 million in surety bonds to bankrupt Blackjewel.

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approaches (such as reclamation trusts or special receiverships) intended to duplicate or replace SMCRA’s established bond forfeiture procedures. Reclamation plans, including water restoration obligations, long-term monitoring, and cultural artifact and burial site protection, must be upheld and enforced both during and after bankruptcy. Any changes to reclamation plans necessitated because mining ceased prematurely must be vetted through public notice and comment processes. Further, because many bankruptcy practitioners and courts are unfamiliar with these issues, we ask that OSMRE explore ways to partner with continuing legal education providers to educate bankruptcy judges and counsel on the protections and obligations of SMCRA.

Further, with regard to SMCRA permit transfers, whether they occur as part of the bankruptcy process or not, we ask that reclamation plans be reviewed for feasibility and sufficiency during any permit transfer and updated as necessary. If the permitted reclamation plan must be changed, the adequacy of the bond amount should be reanalyzed with the considerations set forth above.

**C. Other Issues Related to Permitting**

For each mine site, OSMRE and the SMCRA regulatory authorities have the opportunity to strengthen SMCRA’s protections against the possibility of future abandonment with inadequate reclamation at permit issuance, renewal, transfer, and with each “significant revision.” At each juncture, public participation is critical. Coal bankruptcies and the decline that precedes them trigger many changes to the planned course of mining and reclamation, these changes should be made more transparent, and the public should be given the opportunity to participate. We ask that OSMRE work with the SMCRA regulatory authorities to ensure more consistent, uniform, reliable, and engaged notice and comment processes, including the use of electronic notice and comment portals and listservs, so that the impacted public knows of the changes that are being proposed and has a meaningful opportunity to participate in the SMCRA regulatory authority’s decision making.

In addition, with regard to “significant revisions,” we ask that the Secretary’s “significant revision” regulation apply to all SMCRA regulatory authorities to require public notice and comment whenever the following occurs: (1) there is an announcement of mine closure or shutdown, (2) a mine seeks to go into temporary cessation, (3) mine reclamation plans are revised, or (4) the bond forfeiture process is initiated.

At each permit renewal, we ask that OSMRE and the SMCRA regulatory authorities require the following “additional revised or updated information” pursuant to 30 C.F.R. §774.15(c)(1)(vi): (1) data that indicate the financial status of the company; (2) any estimates of reduced production or workforce; (3) revised estimate of the life of the mine; (4) disclosures of any outstanding liabilities regarding taxes, royalties, or employee compensation; (5) updated reclamation cost estimates and corresponding replacement bonds; and (6) any other information needed to assess the current status of the mine and its risk of forfeiture.

Furthermore, we ask that OSMRE improve the Applicant Violator System (AVS) database by requiring all SMCRA regulatory authorities to include all of the information in 30 C.F.R.

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§778.14 to allow the regulatory authority in another state to be able to verify the information contained in a permit application (or transfer or renewal application). This is especially important for violations that have been appealed, but have not yet been abated or corrected to the satisfaction of the regulatory authority, as decisions made on permits with that status of violation are provisional only.

Finally, after a permit transfer is complete, we ask that OSMRE and the SMCRA regulatory authorities refrain from giving full release of liability to any previous owners and controllers of a mine until all taxes and other payments due to government agencies have been made. This is especially important for mines with delinquent federal or state royalties, abandoned mine land, or black lung excise tax payments. SMCRA regulatory authorities must work diligently to maintain liabilities for all actors in the chain of custody to ensure accountability and hold previous owners responsible, preventing them from offloading these responsibilities to a company that may not have the financial means to pay them.

**D. Long-Term Water Treatment**

Under no circumstances should coalfield communities be burdened with long-term or perpetual water pollution after mining ceases. Under SMCRA, no mines should be permitted that would produce long-term pollution discharges. Long-term pollution discharges represent a failure to properly identify and isolate acid and toxic-producing material, and remediation action to control and eliminate such discharges should be evaluated prior to any approval of long-term treatment. Unfortunately, many long-term pollution discharges are already occurring on permit sites.

For any new mining permit, toxic-producing discharges must be avoided. If avoidance is not possible, the permit cannot issue. But for those permits with existing discharges requiring long-term treatment, we ask that OSMRE issue a directive to all SMCRA regulatory authorities that makes absolutely clear that the entity responsible for reclamation is also responsible for all long-term water treatment, whether that entity is the permittee, the surety, or the SMCRA regulatory authority. Further, we ask that OSMRE make clear that the regulatory authority cannot terminate its jurisdiction over a site until water treatment is no longer necessary. And that long-term treatment is required so long as is necessary to ensure that all water sources (point sources, seeps, and groundwater) leaving a permitted area do not cause material damage, which means at a minimum both effluent limits and water quality standards are being consistently met.

Further, we ask that OSMRE encourage SMCRA regulatory authorities to require financial assurances for long-term treatment that provide a dedicated income stream using a trust or annuity, and that the permittee’s obligation to provide such financial assurance takes effect as soon as the presence of a source of long-term water pollution is detected.

**II. Data Gathering, Analysis, and Reporting**

During this time of rapid and significant decline in coal mining, what is required to protect society and the environment from the impacts of surface coal mining is shifting. In order to understand what actions are required at this time, OSMRE must develop an accurate and up-to-

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date assessment of the status of coal mining and reclamation across the country. Because the changes impacting the coal mining industry right now are unprecedented, existing data gathering and reporting requirements are not capturing critical aspects of the problem such as the number of mines that have been “functionally abandoned,” in that they have stopped producing coal and are not conducting reclamation. OSMRE has both the authority and duty under 30 U.S.C. §1211(c) to develop, maintain, analyze, and report on all aspects of coal’s decline and how it is impacting coalfield communities. OSMRE also has a duty to analyze how it can use its authorities to address mine closure and reclamation needs as job creation strategies that are part of a larger plan to address our nation’s rapidly changing energy landscape. This information will be critical in determining actions OSMRE must take, and in identifying weaknesses in SMCRA that Congress should address.

We ask that OSMRE report the status of all SMCRA regulatory authorities’ potential reclamation liabilities, including both land reclamation and long-term water treatment costs, that will result from coal mine abandonments and bond forfeitures. To facilitate this analysis, we ask that OSMRE require the SMCRA regulatory authorities to report data in a uniform manner such that trends and impacts can be assessed nationwide. Such reports should compare the bond amount and type for each permit with a current land reclamation and water treatment liability estimate. OSMRE should then review, compile, and publish a report on the status of land reclamation and water treatment liabilities and bond coverage for all SMCRA programs.

To better understand how to address the problem of functionally abandoned permits, we ask that OSMRE report the status of all mines that have ceased coal production but for which reclamation is not complete, with the goal of creating a national inventory of sites that may be abandoned with outstanding reclamation obligations.

To facilitate these reports, we further ask that OSMRE work with the SMCRA regulatory authorities to develop a uniform data management system for each SMCRA permit (or permit increment where applicable) that includes the following information: date of last coal removal; number of acres disturbed; number of acres regraded; number of acres revegetated; amount of current bonds; dates during which permit has been in temporary cessation or deferment status; whether during that status, the mine has produced coal, conducted reclamation activities, or undergone a permit transfer; whether the permit requires long-term water treatment; the number of citizen complaints received regarding the permit (including any previous permit numbers for the site); the number of non-compliances issued; and the number of non-compliances issued specifically for water quality or effluent limit violations and off-site damage.

We also ask that OSMRE initiate a review of mine and reclamation plan end dates. This review will help OSMRE assess how realistic reclamation plans are given the phaseout and retirement of coal-fired power plants. The review should separate metallurgical and steam coal. For steam coal, OSMRE should specifically identify any permit with a reclamation plan that extends past 2030, as amendments to shorten the reclamation plan may be needed given coal plant retirements and the downturn in coal markets.

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**III. Rulemaking**

In addition to the items listed above that we believe should be undertaken quickly, we ask OSMRE to promulgate several new rules or rule revisions that are needed to respond to this bankruptcy and coal mine abandonment crisis. Specifically, we ask for the following:

1. Undertake new rulemaking defining criteria for approval of alternative bonding systems pursuant to 30 U.S.C. §1259(c) that requires the consideration of economic forecasting in determining whether alternative systems are capable of “assur[ing] the completion of the reclamation plan if the work had to be performed by the regulatory authority in the event of forfeiture....” 30 U.S.C. §1259(a).
2. To address the problem of permits with significant reclamation delays, which makes problems worse when these mines enter bankruptcy or go into temporary cessation, we ask that OSMRE reinstate the time and distance standards for backfilling and regrading found at 30 C.F.R. §816.101.
3. Undertake new rulemaking to close the “transfer, assignment, and sale” loophole that has allowed companies to avoid permit transfer applications when acquiring permits. In the bankruptcy context, we have seen abuses of the transfer process that have allowed permittees to sidestep the permit transfer process entirely and the 30 C.F.R. §774.17 notice and comment provisions that accompany transfer. This has occurred where a permittee’s parent company has been sold during the course of bankruptcy, but the subsidiary entity, which is the permittee, has remained the same.<sup>3</sup> To resolve this disconnect between the change in permittee ownership and the permit transfer process, OSMRE should close the loophole by restoring the previous definition of transfer, assignment, or sale of permit rights at 30 C.F.R. § 701.5 to include all upstream owners and controllers, not just the permittee. In that way, the transfer, assignment, or sale of a mine without a permittee change would still trigger the notice and comment requirements. *See* 72 Fed. Reg. 68008 (2007).
4. Undertake new rulemaking to remove the loophole in 30 C.F.R. §773.14 that allows a company to get a provisional permit if they have appealed an outstanding violation.<sup>4</sup>
5. To better position OSMRE to take an active role in coalfield communities’ plans for transitioning away from coal, undertake rulemaking or support statutory change, if necessary, to require detailed closure plans for mines that ensure transparency regarding timing of mine closure and company resources available to fund closure. The new regulations could require mine closure plans at the time of permit transfer, if a permit has been in cessation or idled for more than six months, if a permit has obtained three or more amendments to delay reclamation work, if a mine drops 25% or more in production on an annual basis, or some other criteria that exemplifies risk of closure. Mine closure plans should include:
  - a. The anticipated timing of closure and conditions leading to closure;

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<sup>3</sup> For instance, when the Eagle Butte and Belle Ayr Mines in Wyoming were sold during the Blackjewel bankruptcy proceedings, the permits were still held by Contura Coal West. To avoid a permit transfer proceeding, the new owner, Eagle Specialty Materials acquired Contura Coal West as a subsidiary to keep the permits in their name.

<sup>4</sup> *See also* 65 FR 79581 (Dec. 19, 2000).

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- b. Cost of uncompleted reclamation work and identification of company assets and/or income that is available to complete that work separate and apart from the permit’s performance bonding;
- c. Estimated worker numbers, a plan for hiring, and an economic impact analysis of the closure and reclamation work to better understand the direct and indirect benefits of cleanup;
- d. Evidence that adequate wage bonds have been filed with states (where required);
- e. Requirements for public notification of executive compensation during the pre- and post-closure periods;
- f. Plans for the disposition of mine lands and anticipated post-mine land use (especially if any changes are anticipated from the company's reclamation plan); and
- g. Other elements that are common to retirement plans for facilities such as power plants.

**IV. Support Amendments to SMCRA**

Finally, we ask that OSMRE support the following SMCRA amendments:

- 1. Reauthorization of the current Abandoned Mine Reclamation Fee.
- 2. An amendment that redefines “permit applicant” in 30 U.S.C. §1291(16) to mean “the legal entity that applies for issuance of a permit under this statute and each other legal entity that owns or controls an applying entity,” and likewise amends the third sentence of 30 U.S.C. §1260(c) to read: “Where the schedule or other information available to the regulatory authority indicates that any surface coal mining operation owned or controlled by the applicant or by any entity that owns or controls the applicant is currently in violation....”
- 3. An amendment reducing the percentage of bonding released at Phase I to create more incentive for companies to continue reclamation to obtain Phase II and Phase III bond releases.
- 4. An amendment doing away with the “right of successive renewal” for SMCRA permits or modifying that right such that the permittee has the burden to demonstrate that renewal should be granted.
- 5. An amendment to eliminate self-bonding and modify requirements for approval of any alternative bonding mechanisms to ensure that such bonding mechanisms are only allowable to the extent that it can be demonstrated that they present no greater financial risk to the SMCRA regulatory authority than traditional, full-cost bonding.

**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#); [Jackson, Danna R](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:31:56 AM

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Okay – (b) (5) . Whew!

Nada Wolff Culver  
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**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:16 AM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Excellent, thank you. When I check in with her, I will flag also

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**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:14 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Okay – (b) (5)  
We actually had a meeting on this yesterday with some advocates so it's good timing to have her look at it.

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[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:10 AM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Yes that sounds good, any new recommendations, she needs to sign off on, so thank you for flags this and (b) (5)

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:09 AM

**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

I think we need to flag for Laura and reviewers because (b) (5)

Nada Wolff Culver  
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cell: 202-255-6979  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Great! Thank you Nada

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Yes – (b) (5)  
[REDACTED] can do that since I'm in there?

Nada Wolff Culver  
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Bureau of Land Management  
Cell: 202-255-6979  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Great!

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

<https://newrepublic.com/article/161940/kick-fracking-industry-indian-country>”

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>

**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:58 AM

**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Okay (b) (5)

Nada Wolff Culver  
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cell: 202-255-6979  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L

**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:47 AM

**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

(b) (5)

Does that sound okay?

**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Culver, Nada L left a comment in "DRAFT Report Presentation"  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:17:19 AM  
**Attachments:** [7e75e0d3-4737-4517-bc7a-c0aa4e29824d](#)  
[20559d4d-ff3f-42f0-9eaf-29a6863223ed](#)  
[e24be496-96c0-494c-bfcc-8c430de19005](#)  
[5b6c0edc-b78e-4098-a9ed-456507e117db](#)

---



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Culver, Nada L added a comment

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**From:** [Jackson, Danna R](#)  
**To:** [Culver, Nada L](#); [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:09:56 AM

---

Good flag

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

I think we need to flag for Laura and reviewers because (b) (5) [REDACTED]

Nada Wolff Culver  
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**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Great! Thank you Nada

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:02 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Yes – (b) (5) [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] I can do that since I'm in there?

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**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:00 AM

**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Great!

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted]

<https://newrepublic.com/article/161940/kick-fracking-industry-indian-country>”

---

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**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Okay (b) (5) [Redacted]

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Cell: 202-255-6979  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:47 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

(b) (5) [Redacted]

[Redacted] Does that sound okay?

**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Culver, Nada L replied to a comment in "DRAFT Report Combined 050221"  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:06:42 AM  
**Attachments:** [c8b78cd0-3331-4591-9a48-cab90943f50a-ee78cd0c-a34e-4234-9d1a-bdc4afedab04d4181666-8810-439a-85f2-71b2b42d4ff70a17f606-a161-44da-a118-bb125efb0d4ac2c380f8-4300-4eb1-aa22-29d0c90c6682](#)

---



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You left a comment



Culver, Nada L replied

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**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#); [Jackson, Danna R](#)  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 10:04:21 AM

---

(b) (5). If you tell me what you want me to do with that, I can put it in the larger report, too? Just waiting for direction!

Nada Wolff Culver  
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs  
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[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:00 AM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Great!

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

<https://newrepublic.com/article/161940/kick-fracking-industry-indian-country>

---

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**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

Okay (b) (5)

Nada Wolff Culver  
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Cell: 202-255-6979  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L

**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:47 AM

**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling

(b) (5)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Does that sound okay?

**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#); [Jackson, Danna R](#)  
**Subject:** FW: [EXTERNAL] BLM Commingling  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 9:47:07 AM  
**Attachments:** [Commingling Issue FINAL.docx](#)

---

(b) (5)

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

. Does that sound okay?

**BLM Commingling**

*Issue Overview*

- (b) (5)
- 
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- 
- 
- 

*Area of Focus* (b) (5)

- (b) (5)
-

(b) (5)

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

Scenario One – (b) (5)

(b) (5)

(b) (5)

Scenario Two – (b) (5)

(b) (5)

Additional BLM Resources:

- BLM Minimum Requirements for Commingling and Allocation Approvals and Off-lease Measurement Approval: [https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/IM2011-184\\_att1.pdf](https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/uploads/IM2011-184_att1.pdf)
- 2017 BLM Update on Oil and Gas Measurement: <https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/documents/files/Vernal%20outreach%203173-3174-3175%202017.05.04.pdf>

**From:** [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#)  
**To:** [Lefton, Amanda B](#); [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#); [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 8:03:55 AM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

---

I think that is the notion of the doc, and will certainly be how we have to handle the streamlined convo - although noting we want **more** detail in here than we will go through verbally, bc they are not seeing the report.

---

**From:** Lefton, Amanda B <Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov>  
**Sent:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:14 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>; Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.

Good morning. I think you captured the recommendations well. I do wonder if we can simplify this even further for ease of discussion and review to:

- (b) (5)
- [REDACTED]
- [REDACTED]

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:59 PM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <nculver@blm.gov>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <laura\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov>; Lefton, Amanda B <Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.

Thanks for checking in! Just finished adding in things, so please go ahead and edit when you are able.  
Alex

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:52 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.

Alex, are you still wanting edits from others or are we on hold? Just don't want to throw off the process underway.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs  
Bureau of Land Management

Cell: 202-255-6979

[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 7:43 PM

**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>;  
Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.

You are welcome. I'll get those items added in.

Alex

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---

**From:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 8:57:57 PM

**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>;  
Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.

Hi there - I revised and reorganized a bit, primarily lumping some BLM stuff together thematically. We should go ahead and add specifics - I actually don't expect Liz and Kate to change those a lot. Let me know if this looks more manageable to talk through in 30 MINUTES.

Thanks for the draft!

Laura

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:47 PM

**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>;  
Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>

**Subject:** Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.



**Sanchez, Alexandra L shared a file with you**

This is the basic outline I have come up with. I will plug the recommendations in, but wanted to share for Nada and Amanda viz. Also, I'm not going to plug in stuff until Thursday pending Liz/Kate edits. (Does that sound right Laura?)



DRAFT Report Presentation



This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.

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[Privacy Statement](#)

**From:** [Lefton, Amanda B](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Lefton, Amanda B left a comment in "DRAFT Report Presentation"  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:18:01 AM  
**Attachments:** [b60471dc-b71a-4bdd-be29-d5ce7655c7f6](#)  
[5b2e6487-c3a0-45bc-bab9-503eb177e4cf](#)  
[6f7ab1e0-2c67-47ca-b676-2874a0757e05](#)  
[d5ff79d8-51b4-4550-ad12-37414b6c10a5](#)

---



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Lefton, Amanda B added a comment

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**From:** [Lefton, Amanda B](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Lefton, Amanda B left a comment in "DRAFT Report Presentation"  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 7:17:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [1f047726-1a49-4ed4-814a-472b6c7a18fc](#)  
[da561501-e140-4d4d-a212-4861657a40a7](#)  
[24d51630-566c-40d4-828f-13593881aba1](#)  
[db04169b-8dfe-4643-ace6-65809ef434d3](#)

---



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Lefton, Amanda B added a comment

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**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Culver, Nada L left a comment in "DRAFT Report Presentation"  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 2:43:20 AM  
**Attachments:** [99c7aa47-b95e-4f86-ba08-eba3bb80f7a2](#)  
[cec62998-e5b5-4f51-8105-c72627770b1a](#)  
[e24e3df3-030c-423e-9adc-8a17d2cdfa53](#)  
[ca1eda64-bab3-41f5-a2de-2ba344e2768a](#)  
[d9ba38a3-9fd7-43d6-9659-3234c8c758f8](#)

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Culver, Nada L added a comment

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Culver, Nada L added a comment

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**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Culver, Nada L left a comment in "DRAFT Report Presentation"  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 2:09:11 AM  
**Attachments:** [25ce9379-267f-4181-b277-cfd095300657](#)  
[39ba73d7-e6e9-45b6-aa27-f9f5c1aa4972](#)  
[464c2faf-2cb6-4a90-8989-f66148f52ca4](#)  
[b3806c58-80d4-4e70-8b77-2edfe732d766](#)

---



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Culver, Nada L added a comment

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**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#); [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#); [Lefton, Amanda B](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.  
**Date:** Thursday, May 6, 2021 12:12:04 AM  
**Attachments:** [image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image007.png](#)  
[image008.png](#)

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Okay. One more Laura memo to finish then I'm on it.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cell: 202-255-6979  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

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**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
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**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>;  
Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.

You are welcome. I'll get those items added in.

Alex

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---

**From:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 8:57:57 PM

**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>

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Laura

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 4:47 PM

**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>

**Subject:** Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "DRAFT Report Presentation" with you.



## Sanchez, Alexandra L shared a file with you

This is the basic outline I have come up with. I will plug the recommendations in, but wanted to share for Nada and Amanda viz. Also, I'm not going to plug in stuff until Thursday pending Liz/Kate edits. (Does that sound right Laura?)



DRAFT Report Presentation



This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.

[Open](#)



[Privacy Statement](#)

**From:** [Ravas, Theodore J](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Cc:** [Klaja, John M](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:40:42 PM

---

For that document CCS in the past has only been commissioned to provide cover designs and facilitate printing of that and the subsequent budget justification greenbooks. The Office of Budget utilize a contractor for the rest of the book. Examples of the inside can be found here:

<https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2021/highlights>

<https://www.doi.gov/budget/appropriations/2020/highlights>

If you need to speak to someone on that Office of Budget team, My contact is Tiffany Taylor at 202-507-0156 (Tiffany\_Taylor@IOS.DOI.GOV)

Sincerely,

## Theodore Ravas

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)  
Creative Communication Services  
1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240  
202.437.1266

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.doi.gov/ofas>  
Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Klaja, John M <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:14 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ravas, Theodore J <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Hi Alexandra,

I know we provided a cover design for the Budget in Brief (see PDF attached), but the interior layout of the document was being handled by the team directly or possibly outsourced. CC'ing TJ on this email to see if he can provide more background or put you in touch with the folks who can get you the document.

Hope that helps.

John

## John Klaja

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)  
Creative Communication Services  
1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240  
Mobile: 202-421-4195  
[John\\_Klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:John_Klaja@ios.doi.gov)

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.doi.gov/ofas>  
Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** "Sanchez, Alexandra L" <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 10:52 AM  
**To:** "Klaja, John M" <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Is the entire budget in brief doc available? Would love to see formatting inside of it too.  
Thank you!  
Alex

---

**From:** Klaja, John M <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ravas, Theodore J <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Good Afternoon Alexandra and Cara,

As per TJ Ravas's request, attached please find several samples of my design work for you review. Please let me know if there are any additional specific design examples you would like to see, and I will gladly provide. I'm also happy to hop on a Team's call to discuss the project in more detail.

A few questions:

- Do we have a working title for the front cover yet?
- Any infographics or charts to be included?
- Any specific photos to include?

If so, please provide these at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to working with you on this project.

Thank you,

John

## **John Klaja**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)  
Creative Communication Services  
1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240  
Mobile: 202-421-4195  
[John\\_Klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:John_Klaja@ios.doi.gov)

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.doi.gov/ofas>  
Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

**From:** [Diera, Alexx A](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Pictures/Graphic Brainstorm Notes  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:29:35 PM

---

**Report Pictures and Graphics Brainstorm Session Notes**

- Mix of aspirational, beautiful photos and photos identifying some of the problems pointed out to in the report
- Photos of people, especially EJ and Tribal, showcasing diversity
- Check on availability of new photos since COVID
- Check on availability of photos of Secretary Haaland
- Decide title of the report for graphics team to design the cover
- ID BLM Public Affairs contact with onshore photos

Alexx Diera (*she/her*)

Special Assistant

Bureau of Land Management

U.S. Department of the Interior

**From:** [Klaja, John M](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Cc:** [Ravas, Theodore J](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:14:44 AM  
**Attachments:** [OFAS-0321 The Interior Budget in Brief - Fiscal Year 2022 Cover Design.pdf](#)

---

Hi Alexandra,

I know we provided a cover design for the Budget in Brief (see PDF attached), but the interior layout of the document was being handled by the team directly or possibly outsourced. CC'ing TJ on this email to see if he can provide more background or put you in touch with the folks who can get you the document.

Hope that helps.

John

## John Klaja

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Mobile: 202-421-4195  
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Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** "Sanchez, Alexandra L" <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 10:52 AM  
**To:** "Klaja, John M" <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Is the entire budget in brief doc available? Would love to see formatting inside of it too.  
Thank you!  
Alex

---

**From:** Klaja, John M <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:45 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ravas, Theodore J <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Good Afternoon Alexandra and Cara,

As per TJ Ravas's request, attached please find several samples of my design work for you review. Please let me know if there are any additional specific design examples you would like to see, and I will gladly provide. I'm also happy to hop on a Team's call to discuss the project in more detail.

A few questions:

- Do we have a working title for the front cover yet?
- Any infographics or charts to be included?
- Any specific photos to include?

If so, please provide these at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to working with you on this project.

Thank you,

John

## **John Klaja**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)  
Creative Communication Services  
1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240  
Mobile: 202-421-4195  
[John\\_Klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:John_Klaja@ios.doi.gov)

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.doi.gov/ofas>  
Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)



FISCAL YEAR 2022

# The Interior Budget in Brief April 2021

# 2022



# 2022

FISCAL YEAR 2022

## The Interior Budget in Brief

April 2021



**From:** [Klaja, John M](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 11:10:16 AM

---

No... but I definitely will reach out to BLM now that you have mentioned it.

Thanks for the heads up.

John

## John Klaja

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)  
Creative Communication Services  
1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240  
Mobile: 202-421-4195  
[John\\_Klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:John_Klaja@ios.doi.gov)

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.doi.gov/ofas>  
Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** "Sanchez, Alexandra L" <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 at 10:42 AM  
**To:** "Klaja, John M" <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

One other quick question, did you reach out to BLM too?

Thank you!

Alex

---

**From:** Klaja, John M <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 9:15 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Ravas, Theodore J <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>; O'berry, Eugene M <[eugene.oberry@bsee.gov](mailto:eugene.oberry@bsee.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Good Morning Alexandra,

We reached out to the good people at BOEM and BSEE, and did receive "some" recent photos of an inspection with BSEE workers, but due to COVID-19, there was a lack of new rigs and on-site images from the Bureaus. Most of the images are a few years old on the Flickr pages for BOEM and BSEE. Please see links below:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/boemgov/>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/bseegov/>

I know TJ has been pulling some additional images... and I also asked for additional imagery from BSEE late yesterday and am awaiting a response with additional images.

Please know that we are working on this request and will continue to compile what we can. We do have an OFAS staff meeting this morning from 10 to 11am, so unable to hop on a Teams call this morning but can provide an update later as more images roll in from BSEE.

Thank you,

John

## John Klaja

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1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240  
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Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** "Sanchez, Alexandra L" <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 9:26 PM  
**To:** "Ravas, Theodore J" <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>, "Klaja, John M" <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** "Macdonald, Cara Lee" <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Hello John and TJ!

I just wanted to check in, and I apologize for my delayed response.

I did want to see if you had any initial suggested photos?

Feel free to reach out on teams tomorrow am, I am free from 9-9:30, and 10:15-11:00.

Thanks,

Alex

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 3:56 PM  
**To:** Klaja, John M <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>; Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Ravas, Theodore J <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Hi John,

Longer email to come later, or maybe we can chat tomorrow am but wanted to quickly get back to you! My team is going to be brainstorming pictures and infographics, etc. on Weds. Wondering if you have any initial suggestions/examples of pictures to use though? The report is the Department's Interim Report on the Federal Oil and Gas Leasing Program – exact title tbd! Could you maybe set up a shared folder and drop in potential/suggested photos based on the topic so we can review at an internal meeting we are having Weds. and then come back to you with feedback and more ideas? Thanks also for sending samples we can look at too, appreciate that!

Alex

---

**From:** Klaja, John M <[john\\_klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:john_klaja@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 2:45 PM

**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>

**Cc:** Ravas, Theodore J <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Graphic Designer/Visual Information Specialist working on new ASLM Report

Good Afternoon Alexandra and Cara,

As per TJ Ravas's request, attached please find several samples of my design work for you review. Please let me know if there are any additional specific design examples you would like to see, and I will gladly provide. I'm also happy to hop on a Team's call to discuss the project in more detail.

A few questions:

- Do we have a working title for the front cover yet?
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- Any specific photos to include?

If so, please provide these at your earliest convenience.

I look forward to working with you on this project.

Thank you,

John

## **John Klaja**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)  
Creative Communication Services  
1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240

Mobile: 202-421-4195

[John\\_Klaja@ios.doi.gov](mailto:John_Klaja@ios.doi.gov)

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.doi.gov/ofas>

Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

**From:** [Culver, Nada L](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Declined: Report Pictures and Graphics Brainstorm Session  
**Start:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:00:00 PM  
**End:** Wednesday, May 5, 2021 12:30:00 PM

---

I'm sorry I have a conflict at this time so maybe we can catch up on it?

**From:** [Diera, Alexx A](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** New Time Proposed: Quick meet on report comments  
**Start:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:00:00 PM  
**End:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 12:30:00 PM

---

**From:** [Macdonald, Cara Lee](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Report printing questions  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:27:30 AM

---

See below. Does he seem a little salty in his response or is it just me?

I suspect that GPO time frame doesn't work at all, but do you want me to press him for more details? If so, would you like to be on the call?

Thanks,  
Cara Lee

---

**From:** Ravas, Theodore J <theodore\_ravas@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 11:11 AM  
**To:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <cara\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Report printing questions

Good morning Cara Lee,

So as I said in our earlier meeting we at CCS have in-house an entry level production laser print MFD unit (you are welcome to swing by and see it if you are in the building today) and a finishing/binding area.

The difference between using us or sending out to GPO is one of cost and time frame. For jobs like the report you outlined we are usually able to turnaround in a day or so. If we use the traditional GPO method. John would provide me with his final packaged files and a sample copy and I would fill out a SF-1 form and send it to the GPO team which would put it out on the street for bid. Then the commercial printing company with the lowest bid would produce the document. The benefit to this method is due to printing methods, offset vs laser, economies of scale and other factors. The GPO route is usually higher quality prints that are often notably less expensive. The trade off is time. I think 2 weeks is the minimal turnaround time.

Sincerely,

## **Theodore Ravas**

U.S. Department of the Interior  
Office of Facilities and Administrative Services (OFAS)  
Creative Communication Services  
1849 C Street NW RM 1647  
Washington, DC 20240

202.437.1266

For more information visit our website at: <http://www.doi.gov/ofas>

Graphics mailbox [ofas\\_creative\\_services@ios.doi.gov](mailto:ofas_creative_services@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:39 AM

**To:** Ravas, Theodore J <[theodore\\_ravas@ios.doi.gov](mailto:theodore_ravas@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Report printing questions

Good morning, TJ!

May I have a couple of minutes of your time this morning to get some more info about in house printing vs having the report done by the GPO? Ms. Daniel-Davis asked me to get the info from you so she could weigh her options more accurately. Let me know what time may be good for you and I'll set up a Teams call.

Many thanks!

Cara Lee

\*\*\*\*TELEWORKING CONTACT NUMBER: (Cell) 202.578.4543

Cara Lee Macdonald  
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary,  
Land and Minerals Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 6624  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
(Off) 202.208.2654  
(Cell) 202.578.4543  
[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)

**From:** [Knodel, Marissa S](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#); [Diera, Alexx A](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Comment analysis update & schedule  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:54:03 AM

---

I usually check-in with Amanda around 11:45 when we sign off, so will let you know if we're running over past noon. Teams call?

Marissa Knodel  
Advisor, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
202.538.2415  
[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:50 AM  
**To:** Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>; Knodel, Marissa S <[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Comment analysis update & schedule

Same. Looking forward to it!!

---

**From:** Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:49 AM  
**To:** Knodel, Marissa S <[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comment analysis update & schedule

Yep, I've got an hour.

Alexx Diera (*she/her*)  
Special Assistant  
Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior

---

**From:** Knodel, Marissa S <[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:48 AM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Comment analysis update & schedule

Do you have time at noon after our check-in?

Marissa Knodel

Advisor, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
202.538.2415  
[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)

---

**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:45 AM  
**To:** Knodel, Marissa S <[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)>; Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Comment analysis update & schedule

Laura has asked that we work together on this summary section for the report.  
Can we chat later today possibly to game plan?  
Thank you!  
Alex

---

**From:** Knodel, Marissa S <[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 12:34 PM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>; Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>; Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>; Scott, Janea A <[janea\\_scott@ios.doi.gov](mailto:janea_scott@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Comment analysis update & schedule

Hello everyone,

Attached is last week's progress report and the schedule of deliverables.

Note that the comment total is now over 100,000 because several e-mails contained bundles of letters.

Also important to note is that the contractor is already working on an expedited 8-week timeline, but the earliest we will get the report is June 3rd. So, we may need to find out if we can get a draft in advance, wait to release the report until we can incorporate their findings, and/or do our own summary.

Peace,

Marissa

Marissa Knodel  
Advisor, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
202.538.2415  
[Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov](mailto:Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov)

**From:** [SharePoint Online](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E successfully used the link to "DRAFT Report Presentation"  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 4, 2021 10:26:21 AM  
**Attachments:** [5566c6e7-940d-473a-944c-a3da48071c15](#)  
[9cf64283-bfa6-436e-b609-415b2d335eb3](#)  
[4d059444-7e88-4426-88e2-4f17b97a6bc7](#)

---

Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)> has opened the link you sent to "DRAFT Report Presentation"!

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**From:** [Jackson, Danna R](#)  
**To:** [Knodel, Marissa S](#); [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "EJ Native American Communities" with you.  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 10:29:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [AttachedImage](#)  
[AttachedImage](#)  
[AttachedImage](#)  
[AttachedImage](#)

---

Beautiful

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

---

**From:** Knodel, Marissa S <Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:07:21 PM  
**To:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>; Jackson, Danna R <djackson@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Re: Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "EJ Native American Communities" with you.

Looks really great, Alex. I made just a few minor edits **(b) (5)**  
**[REDACTED]** and definitely include the recommendation you drafted.

Peace,

Marissa Knodel  
Advisor, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management  
202.538.2415  
Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov

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**From:** Sanchez, Alexandra L <alexandra\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Monday, May 3, 2021 8:00 PM  
**To:** Knodel, Marissa S <Marissa.Knodel@boem.gov>; Jackson, Danna R <djackson@blm.gov>  
**Subject:** Sanchez, Alexandra L shared "EJ Native American Communities" with you.



Sanchez, Alexandra L shared a file with  
you

Since Danna isn't in the report doc ... can you both take a look at this language and

edit if I'm not going in the right direction. Also not sure about the second paragraph recommendation, but interested in your thoughts, then of course Nada's. Thank you!



EJ Native American Communities



This link only works for the direct recipients of this message.

Open

**From:** [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E left a comment in "DRAFT Report Combined 050221"  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:39:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [3f029b50-b09f-4323-8db7-91ae118578cd](#)  
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[846f9eec-1f5d-4b2d-9eb3-20fe3985aefa](#)  
[1167728a-ef47-436e-9eec-af789cfb1cb7](#)  
[de227101-624d-4e30-9b72-765a749a044c](#)

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DRAFT Report Combined 050221.docx



Daniel-Davis, Laura E added a comment

[Go to comment](#)



Daniel-Davis, Laura E added a comment

[Go to comment](#)

[Why am I receiving this notification from Office?](#)

**From:** [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E left a comment in "DRAFT Report Combined 050221"  
**Date:** Monday, May 3, 2021 9:01:14 PM  
**Attachments:** [c1d0540c-1d8d-40eb-bbc0-203d23d1db09](#)  
[93e68933-2a0a-4536-be3f-a4c8892bd7d4](#)  
[0bd60960-1000-4145-9d5f-1d887de7cc35](#)  
[37bcb297-0e4f-4f28-8c45-10bc52a4a858](#)

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DRAFT Report Combined 050221.docx



Daniel-Davis, Laura E added a comment

[Go to comment](#)

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(b) (5)

WASHINGTON – The Department of the Interior today released its report on federal oil and gas leasing and permitting practices, following a review of onshore and offshore oil and gas programs (federal leasing programs). (b) (5)

Commented [CA1]: hyperlink

Commented [SA2]: Language per Travis

Commented [CA3]: hyperlink

Commented [SA4]: Link to fact sheet

(b) (5)

The Department will continue to conduct appropriate outreach to stakeholders including state and local governments, Tribes, conservation and environmental justice communities, and relevant industries.

The Department conducted an extensive review of oil and gas development on public lands and waters following Executive Order 14008, including a virtual public forum. The report reflects input received by the Department through robust engagement with state and local officials, Members of Congress, and Tribes, as well as from a wide range of interests including the oil and gas industry, conservation groups, labor unions, Indigenous organizations, and the general public. The review came after years of the Government Accountability Office, the Department's Office of Inspector General, and several Congressional Committees and Members of Congress highlighting the need for meaningful modernization of the programs.

###

**Commented [SA5]:** <https://www.doi.gov/news/interior-departments-virtual-forum-features-robust-discussion-oil-and-gas-program>

# Initial Statements and Accountability on the O&G Leasing Pause

## Statements

### National Groups

350.Org  
Alaska Wilderness League  
American Hiking Society  
Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment (ANHE)  
Appalachian Trail Conservancy  
Center for American Progress  
Center for Western Priorities  
Clean Water Action  
Climate Power  
Climate Reality Project  
The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks  
Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship  
Defenders Of Wildlife  
Earthjustice  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Environment America  
Environmental Defense Fund  
Evangelical Environmental Network  
Friends of the Earth  
Greenpeace USA  
GreenLatinos  
Interfaith Power & Light  
League of Conservation Voters  
National Audubon Society  
National Parks Conservation Association  
National Wildlife Federation  
Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

The Nature Conservancy  
Ocean Conservancy  
Oceana  
Oil Change International  
Pew Charitable Trusts  
Physicians for Social Responsibility  
Public Citizen  
Public Lands Solutions  
Sierra Club  
Sunrise Movement  
Taxpayers for Common Sense  
The Trust for Public Land  
Trout Unlimited  
The Wilderness Society  
Union of Concerned Scientists  
Vet Voice Foundation  
Western Leaders Network  
Western Spirit Cycling  
Western Values Project / Accountable.US  
World Resources Institute  
Wyoming Outdoor Council

Local/Regional Groups

Archaeology Southwest  
Montana Conservation Voters  
Montana Wilderness Association  
PennEnvironment  
Save the Boundary Waters Campaign  
Twenty Aquariums' Statement  
Western Organization of Resource Councils

Members of Congress

SENATE  
Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)  
Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA)

Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO)

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)

Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)

#### HOUSE

Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-08)

Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01)

Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24)

Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27)

Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL-13)

Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-01)

Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01)

Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX-35)

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07)

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ-03)

Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02)

Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI-02)

Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA-49)

Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47)

Rep. Sean Maloney (D-NY-18)

Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04)

Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32)

Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-02)

Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06)

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20)

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01)

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA-09)

Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY-03)

Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-01)

Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-07)

Governors

Colorado

Nevada

New Mexico

Clips

National Outlets

**ABC**

**Associated Press**

**Axios**

**Bloomberg**

**CBS**

**CNBC**

**CNN**

**E&E News**

**Greentech Media**

**Grist**

**HuffPost**

**InsideEPA**

**Los Angeles Times**

**Mother Jones**

National Geographic

**Natural Gas Intelligence**

**NBC**

**NPR**

**Offshore Engineer**

**Politico**

**Public News Service**

**Reuters**

**The 19th**

**The Guardian**

**The Hill**

**The New York Times**  
**The Press Democrat**  
**The Wall Street Journal**  
**The Washington Post**  
**The Washington Times**  
**USA Today**  
**Washington Examiner**

Local Outlets

**Alaska**  
**Arizona**  
**Colorado**  
**Florida**  
**Iowa**  
**Louisiana**  
**Montana**  
**Nevada**  
**New Mexico**  
**New York**  
**North Dakota**  
**Texas**  
**Utah**  
**Wyoming**

Opinion Media

Twitter

#TimeToAct  
"Biden" Mentions

Paid Media

Taxpayers for Common Sense  
Nuestra Tierra  
The Wilderness Society

Telepressers/Events

Coalition Telepresser  
Western Energy Project Telepresser

## Statements

### National Groups

350.Org

350.org Responds to Biden's Climate Day.

On Wednesday, President Biden is expected to unveil an "[omnibus](#)" [climate change order](#) that takes a series of actions to combat climate change on the national and international level. Plans include:

- Announcing the Climate Leaders' Summit to take place on Earth Day, April 22nd.
- Ordering a moratorium on the Interior Department offering new oil and gas leases for onshore and offshore federal lands. The suspension could last one year for oil and gas and up to three years for coal. During the pause, the administration is expected to review the criteria under which leases and drilling permits are given.
- Reestablishing the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology
- A memorandum urging federal agencies to make decisions based on available science and evidence

Natalie Mebane, Associate Director of Policy at 350.org made the following comment:

"Week two of Biden's term makes clear that climate is a top priority. He's gotten straight to work reversing the devastating ignorance of science and catastrophic environmental rollbacks over the last four years. These executive orders are an important step to protecting our communities, lands, and waters, halting corporate pollution and giveaways to fossil fuel CEOs, making strides towards environmental justice, and jumpstarting a clean energy economy.

“The temporary halt on new oil and gas leases is critical, and we look forward to the soon-to-be-confirmed Secretary of the Interior nominee Deb Haaland making the moratorium permanent for the health and wellbeing of people and planet.

“Biden’s rollout of the Climate Leaders’ Summit presents an enormous opportunity for the U.S. to be a world climate leader. As a global climate organization, we will push for the Summit to inspire bolder ambitions for all nations who signed the Paris Climate Agreement. With less than seven years to turn around the climate crisis, the time is now.”

[350.org](https://www.350.org) is a founding member of [Build Back Fossil Free](https://www.buildbackfossilfree.org), a growing campaign of nearly 200 groups representing millions of people across the country fighting for intersectional justice that have come together to ensure Biden becomes the climate president he promised to be. **The campaign is hosting a [digital rally](#) on Tuesday, January 26th calling on President Biden to take bold executive action to end the era of fossil fuel production, protect communities reeling from the climate and COVID-19 crises, and #BuildBackFossilFree.**

[350.org, Press release, [1/26/21](#)]

## Alaska Wilderness League

Alaska Wilderness League applauds Biden Executive Order on climate and science *Implementation must include consultation with Indigenous communities and transitioning traditional fossil fuel communities*

Washington — Today, President Biden through executive order will take action to begin the process of addressing climate change, transitioning the U.S. to a clean energy future, and making sound science once again an integral piece of policy decision-making. Today's actions include committing "to the goal of conserving at least 30 percent of our lands and oceans by 2030" and a "pause on entering into new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or offshore waters to the extent possible."

Statement by Adam Kolton, Executive Director, Alaska Wilderness League:

"President Biden's executive actions today signal a new era of bold and visionary leadership in fighting climate change, prioritizing environmental justice and tackling the extinction crisis with the full weight and all the tools of the federal government.

"Conserving 30 percent of our nation's lands and waters by 2030 holds the promise of preserving at-risk landscapes including Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and areas in the western Arctic like Teshekpuk Lake. These are not only some of the most biologically important places left on the planet but are also central to the ways of life of tribal and Indigenous communities who have been stewards of these lands for generations.

"Halting new oil and gas leasing on public lands offers an enormous opportunity to align public lands management with climate goals. There are billions of barrels of oil and millions of acres of federal land already under lease, with decades of supply locked in. By halting new leasing and permitting, President Biden is sending a clear message that business as usual is no longer a viable path forward, nor can we continue to exploit our national treasures and put frontline communities at risk from pollution, habitat destruction and increased carbon emissions.

"Alaska, with its rapidly rising temperatures, increases in wildfires, thawing permafrost, receding glaciers, eroding coastlines and disappearing sea ice is ground zero in the climate crisis. But its vast public resources also have the potential to significantly contribute to its solution. We look forward to working with the Biden administration on implementing these executive orders in ways that prioritize Indigenous communities and

leadership and the necessary investments that will foster the economic transition we need.

[Alaska Wilderness League, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## American Hiking Society

**Tyler Ray, Director of Policy and Advocacy, [American Hiking Society](#):** “American Hiking Society applauds the Biden-Harris Administration for taking immediate steps to address the climate crisis, prioritize environmental justice, conserve at least 30% of public lands and waters by the year 2030, and protect anmarket prices, and even geology. More than 26 million acres of America were offered up for d preserve public lands by pressing pause on new energy leases, especially on lands that had their protections eroded over the last four years.

Pausing the broken leasing system helps ensure public lands are preserved, accessible and beneficial for hiking and other recreation for all communities, and are part of the climate solution and not contributing to the climate crisis.”

## Alliance of Nurses for a Healthy Environment (ANHE)

### **Nurses Group Applauds President Biden’s Executive Action Suspending Oil and Gas Leasing on Federal Land**

*Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments Warned Air Pollution from Oil and Gas Drilling Could Worsen COVID Impacts*

**WASHINGTON, DC --** Today, President Biden will issue a series of executive orders on conserving America’s public lands, including one order suspending new leases for oil and gas drilling on federal lands.

**In reaction to President Biden’s actions, Katie Huffling, MS, RN, CNM, FAAN and executive director of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments, explained:**

*“The COVID-19 pandemic unmasked long-standing inequities within our country. The same inequities that make it so certain communities bear a greater burden of oil and gas pollution may also put them at greater risk from COVID-19. Racial injustices, the pandemic, air pollution and climate change are all interconnected and should not be treated as single-issues by our elected officials”*

*“That’s why we are deeply encouraged by President Biden’s executive orders suspending oil and gas leasing on federal land and taking steps to preserve air quality and protect the health of the American people.*

*“Our country’s response to the pandemic must be holistic, prioritizing communities impacted by racism, health inequities, and air pollution in the COVID response - and we need to do so while addressing the impacts of climate change. We need solutions that support a healthier future for America’s communities - and this executive order is a bold step in the right direction.”*

Earlier this month, nurses on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic and members of the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments sent a letter to now President Biden, and his nominees for Interior and EPA, supporting a pause on oil and gas leasing on federal public land and urged his Administration to reopen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for

particulate matter. The letter comes as a new report from the Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environments warns about the implications of environmental pollution from the oil and gas industry on COVID health outcomes.

**READ THE LETTER IN FULL HERE:** <https://envirn.org/anhe-letter-to-biden-transition/>

**READ THE FULL REPORT HERE:** <https://envirn.org/unmasking/>

Appalachian Trail Conservancy

## **EXECUTIVE ORDER ADDRESSES KEY GOALS IN APPALACHIAN TRAIL LANDSCAPE PROTECTION, COMBATING CLIMATE CHANGE**

**HARPERS FERRY, W.Va. (Jan. 27, 2021)** – Earlier today, President Joseph R. Biden, Jr. signed an Executive Order to address climate change, advancing policies that will have direct impacts on the Appalachian Trail (A.T.). Through this action, the Biden Administration has committed to a wide range of collaborative efforts to combat climate change and includes three key goals championed by the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC): protecting the biodiversity of our planet; developing a Civilian Climate Corps; and committing to the “30x30 Initiative,” the goal of conserving 30 percent of America’s lands and waters by the year 2030.

“Today’s Executive Order showcases many of the shared goals between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the Biden Administration,” said Sandra Marra, president & CEO of the ATC. “We celebrate the President’s focus on environmental issues including combating climate change and conserving America’s public lands, and we look forward to working with the Administration to ensure the A.T. and its surrounding landscapes are preserved for centuries to come.”

This Executive action addresses issues championed by the ATC and could positively affect multiple ATC-led projects already in progress to better protect the A.T. landscape. A reimagined Civilian Climate Corps, in addition to revitalizing our public land agencies and supporting current volunteers, would advance a comprehensive strategy to engage the public in resource management. Additional funding for volunteer support in service of conserving and restoring public lands like the A.T., with a particular focus on carbon sequestration, protecting biodiversity and other actions to combat the effects of climate change, is an essential component of such a strategy.

Protecting biodiversity is essential not only to helping Appalachian forests and landscapes adapt to climate change, but also to preserving and connecting the unique ecosystems along the Appalachian Mountain range.

The commitment to the 30x30 Initiative is in line with the ATC's own focus on landscape protection, which will help buffer the impacts of climate change while preserving the scenic vistas that draw millions to the A.T. each year.

The ATC works with all levels of government to help ensure public lands like the A.T. receive the support needed to advance environmental policies and increase recreational access. In 2020, the ATC worked with the Trump Administration to pass the [Great American Outdoors Act](#), which provides billions of dollars for recreation access, landscape protection and deferred maintenance projects on public lands.

To view today's executive order, [click here](#). To view the ATC's 2021-2024 strategic plan, visit [appalachiantrail.org/strategic-plan](http://appalachiantrail.org/strategic-plan).

Center for American Progress

**STATEMENT: CAP's John Podesta and Christy Goldfuss Say Biden's Climate Actions Meet the Nation's Moment of Crisis.**

Washington, D.C. — Today, the Biden administration announced plans to create a new climate action plan for federal agencies, elevate the climate crisis as a threat to national security, reform the broken oil and gas system through a pause on new leasing on public lands, and set a goal of conserving 30 percent of U.S. lands and ocean by 2030. In response, Center for American Progress founder John Podesta and Senior Vice President for Energy and Environment Policy Christy Goldfuss issued the following statement:

Now is a moment of crisis: the nation is facing a devastating pandemic, a reckoning with racial injustice, an economy that only serves the wealthiest people, and a warming climate quickly spinning out of control. President Joe Biden understands that these challenges require immediate action that lays the groundwork for a future where good-paying union jobs lift every community. His announcements today meet this moment with a recognition that the land, the air, the ocean, the economy, and the future belong to all who would share them. By investing in the communities that have been unjustly burdened by pollution and shut out of our economy, conserving 30 percent of lands and ocean for all to enjoy, and recognizing that climate change is a looming threat to everyone's safety, the Biden-Harris administration is acting to build an America that lives up to its founding dream of liberty and prosperity for all.

[Center for American Progress, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Center for Western Priorities

“This executive order is great news for the sage-grouse. Pausing oil and gas leasing will give the Interior Department time to make sure this iconic bird’s habitat is protected,” said Aaron Weiss, deputy director at the [Center for Western Priorities](#). “The unprecedented 2015 deal to prevent an endangered species listing should be the starting point—but we need scientists to tell us how much damage the Trump years caused to grouse habitat across the West. Secretary-designate Haaland and the Biden administration will need to work fast to save the sage-grouse.”

## Clean Water Action

### **Clean Water Action: The Executive Orders on Climate Show the Biden Administration Understands What's at Stake.**

Washington DC -- President Biden today signed a number of executive orders focused on combating climate change, ending environmental injustice, restoring science, and protecting the nation’s lands and waters.

Clean Water Action President and CEO, Bob Wendeglass, released the following statement.

“We’re thrilled with today’s executive orders and the overall pace of action. The Biden administration clearly understands the stakes and is wasting no time getting to work. By centering science again in decisions about how to best protect our water and act on the climate crisis, and placing a renewed focus throughout the government on environmental justice, the Administration has made clear it is serious about putting the needs of communities across the country first.

The Administration should also be applauded for enacting a moratorium on new leases for drilling on public lands. This is a good first step to limiting fossil fuel supply, but while the public owns a vast amount of the nation’s land, the majority of fossil fuel production happens on private lands. Another important step is to leverage our federal water protection laws -- the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act -- to rein in the most polluting oil and gas production activities. Because of the influence of fossil fuel interests, these laws contain too many loopholes that weaken their effectiveness, allowing oil and gas companies to get away with polluting our water while fueling the climate crisis. The Biden administration must begin to close these loopholes and strengthen the regulatory programs that should be protecting water quality from oil and

gas. In the coming weeks Clean Water Action will release a roadmap to strengthen these laws and lessen the impact of fossil fuel production on our water and communities.

[Clean Water Action, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Climate Power

Statement: Biden Takes Bold Action To Combat Climate Crisis, Create Jobs, Build Back Better.

**Washington, D.C.** – Today, making good on his promise to take bold action to address the climate crisis, create a racially just economy, and build a clean energy future, President Joe Biden announced a series of executive actions and directives to combat climate change and bring a whole-of-government approach to the crisis.

“In his first week in office, President Biden is already delivering on his bold, campaign promises to take climate action, create new clean energy jobs and protect our natural resources,” said **Climate Power Executive Director Lori Lodes**. “President Biden and his Climate Cabinet are ready to meet this moment. Now, it’s time for Congress to treat the economic and climate crises with the urgency they both demand and work with President Biden to make the investments necessary to create millions of good-paying, union clean energy jobs.”

[Today’s executive orders](#) build on President Biden’s day one actions on climate, including rejoining the Paris climate agreement. The new actions announced today include:

- **Instituting a Whole-of-Government Approach to Tackle the Climate Crisis:** A new task force will devise a government-wide action plan to combat the climate crisis and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Focus on Environmental Justice and Clean Energy Job Creation:** New White House environmental justice councils will focus on environmental justice, clean energy job creation, and a just transition for displaced coal communities. Plus, a new Justice40 initiative prioritizes federal investments in disadvantaged communities.
- **Leveraging Government Buying Power to Support Clean Electricity and Zero-Emissions Vehicles to Create Union Clean Energy Jobs:** The order directs federal agencies to use their procurement power to buy clean electricity and zero-emissions vehicles, all consistent with President Biden’s Buy American order and his commitments to workers’ rights, including the right to join a union.

- **Protecting our Nation's Public Lands and Waters:** A new directive sets out the goal of conserving 30 percent of all federal lands and waters by 2030.
- **Creating a Civilian Climate Corps:** The new Climate Corps will mobilize young people and create new jobs to restore public lands and waters and address the changing climate.
- **Making Climate a Foreign Policy and National Security Priority:** Building on action taken by President Obama and reversed by President Trump, a presidential memorandum elevates climate change to a foreign policy and national security priority. It requires intelligence agencies to produce a National Intelligence Estimate on the national security implications of climate change and to incorporate climate into their analyses of national security threats.
- **Moratorium on New Drilling on Federal Lands and in Federal Waters:** There will be an indefinite moratorium on new oil and gas leases on federal lands and in federal waters while leasing programs are evaluated. Despite disingenuous protestations from oil and gas front groups like API, the oil and gas industry is currently [sitting on more than 13 million acres of land](#) under existing leases that are not under production. Offshore, more than three-quarters of leased acreage remains unused. The industry is also sitting on 7,700 unused, approved permits to drill.
- **Push to Eliminate Fossil Fuel Subsidies, Spur Deployment of Clean Energy:** Federal agencies are directed to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and identify new ways to support the development and deployment of clean energy technologies and infrastructure.
- **Restoring Scientific Integrity in Policymaking:** A presidential memorandum directs agencies to use the best available science and data to make evidence-based decisions free from improper political interference.

[Climate Power, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Climate Reality Project

### **KEN BERLIN, CLIMATE REALITY PRESIDENT & CEO, ON THE WHITE HOUSE'S CLIMATE DAY: "THIS IS WHAT CLIMATE LEADERSHIP LOOKS LIKE."**

"This is what climate leadership looks like. Just one week after the Biden Administration announced the United States will rejoin the Paris Agreement, the President and Vice President are using the power of their office to boldly address the climate crisis.

"President Biden and Vice President Harris understand that big problems call for big solutions. To accelerate the administration's climate priorities – and set the stage for bolder action – President Biden and Vice President Harris are rightfully using their executive authority to protect public health, accelerate a just transition to a clean energy economy, and prioritize the health and safety of frontline communities impacted by dangerous fossil fuel pollution.

"Climate Reality commends these executive orders, which will place science at the forefront of federal decision-making, protect the integrity of our federal lands and waters, create green jobs, modernize infrastructure, and center environmental justice across the federal government. President Biden and Vice President Harris's actions will help rebuild the foundations of the federal government's ability to respond to the climate crisis, and we hope this is just a starting point for the kind of transformative action needed to create a sustainable, resilient, and equitable clean energy economy. The White House's singular focus on climate today is a welcome and hopeful sign for the future of American leadership on this issue, and we look forward to working with the Biden Administration to build back better."

## The Coalition to Protect America's National Parks

Rick Smith, Former NPS Superintendent and Member

"Our national parks are America's crown jewels and for more than a century, generations of public servants have worked to preserve these iconic places. But for too long, oil and gas leasing - often on the doorstep of our national parks - has jeopardized habitat, endangered our natural and cultural resources, and compromised the quality of the visitor experience. As a former superintendent at Carlsbad Caverns, I know the harm that oil and gas drilling can inflict on our federal lands. Now is the time to reevaluate the outdated leasing system and work with Congress to reform it. I fully support this important step forward today and thank the Biden administration for enacting a pause on new leasing on public lands and waters so that our national parks, public lands, and treasured outdoor spaces can be enjoyed by generations to come."

## Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship

David Jenkins, President

"President Biden's executive order pausing public land oil and gas leasing provides some much needed balance after a four year long leasing binge that ignored supply and demand trends,

market prices, and even geology. More than 26 million acres of America were offered up for lease during the Trump administration—an area the size of Tennessee—at bargain basement prices. It was a fiscal boondoggle, and the polar opposite of responsible stewardship. We welcome a more thoughtful approach.”

“The administration’s orders are a strong step forward that will put the U.S. much closer to the pathway needed to respond to the climate crisis. Its commitment to a whole-of-government approach on climate, restoration of science and focus on equity and justice are exactly what is needed.

## Defenders Of Wildlife

### New Executive Orders Prioritize Climate, Wildlife and Public Lands

Today, President Biden released a second round of [conservation-related executive orders](#) as part of a broader package to act on climate. These orders expand on those announced on Inauguration Day, and focus on restoring science-based policymaking, protecting our public lands and helping to preserve biodiversity. Also included are actions to increase the deployment of renewable energy projects, in order to curb rising carbon emissions.

“The past four years were an all-out assault on wildlife and science, and it is with huge relief that the Biden administration is taking climate change seriously, will restore scientific integrity and work to protect and restore bedrock environmental laws,” said **Aimee Delach**, senior policy analyst, climate adaptation. “Defenders looks forward to working with the new administration to develop science-driven policies that respond to the current impacts of climate change while also mitigating future threats.”

### Installing a National Climate Task Force

Formed to coordinate climate efforts, this new National Climate Task Force is fundamental to the implementation of President Biden’s ambitious climate plan. Led by former Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Gina McCarthy, this council will ensure the implementation of the president’s climate plan.

“Today’s groundbreaking establishment of a task force is fundamental to the implementation of President Biden’s climate plan,” said **Delach**. “We are thankful that the Biden administration is quickly working to address the root causes of climate, protect our public lands, rein in giveaways to fossil fuel CEOs and protect our wildlife and the places they call home.

”

### Halting Federal Oil and Gas Leases

The executive order today also directs the Secretary of the Interior to pause new oil and

natural gas leases on public lands or offshore waters. As part of this, there will be rigorous reviews of all existing leasing and permitting practices related to fossil fuel development on public lands and waters that will identify steps to double renewable energy production from offshore wind by 2030.

“The federal oil and gas leasing program is a major contributor to climate change and pollution at the expense of human health and our environment,” said **Jim Lyons**, vice president for landscape conservation. “President Biden recognizes that renewable energy is an integral part of the solution to this problem and an opportunity to create new, clean energy jobs. The administration’s emphasis on new initiatives in agriculture and forest management can also help address both the climate and biodiversity crises we face. We look forward to working with the administration to implement these climate strategies to minimize negative impacts to people, wildlife and ecologically and culturally important lands and resources.”

### **Protecting Biodiversity with 30x30**

President Biden is demonstrating through his actions that he takes [climate change](#) and biodiversity loss seriously. Science is showing us that we are facing a surging climate crisis and an unprecedented and accelerating biodiversity crisis. With 1 million species threatened with extinction, the time to act is now. Today’s action, coupled with those last week, is an important start on some of the long-overdue efforts need to address the [biodiversity crisis](#). Defenders will work with stakeholders to maximize the benefits of 30x30 for biodiversity. In 2020, Defenders published a report that highlighted the [conservation strategies](#) needed for protecting 30% of our terrestrial and marine systems by 2030.

“We applaud and support today’s action by the Biden administration to set a national goal to conserve at least 30% of our lands and waters by 2030,” said **Jacob Malcom**, director of the Center for Conservation Innovation, Defenders of Wildlife. “As a result of threats from climate change and habitat destruction, about 1 million species may face extinction. Setting a 30x30 conservation goal means we can begin to address the intertwined biodiversity and climate crises at the same time, saving two birds – and bears and plants and, ultimately, us – with one goal. We are excited to support this growing global effort.”

[Defenders of Wildlife, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

Earthjustice

**Earthjustice Lauds President Biden's Leadership to Advance Environmental Justice and Tackle the Climate Crisis.**

**Earthjustice President Abigail Dillen** released the following statement in response to President Biden's executive orders today:

"Today's announcements herald the leadership we desperately need to tackle environmental injustice and our climate emergency.

"One week in office and President Biden is already making good on his promise to prioritize bold climate action and environmental justice. It will take unrelenting focus across the entire federal government to make up for all the time we have lost, and today's executive order provides the blueprint.

"Announcing a pause on new federal fossil fuel leasing is the first step to reining in oil and gas drilling that accounts for 25% of U.S. carbon pollution while ravaging our public lands and coastal waters. As the world's largest oil and gas producer, the U.S. must lead by making treasured public lands part of the solution to climate change.

"We applaud the administration's focus on justice, restoring science, job creation and an equitable transition away from fossil fuels. Today's executive actions can set us down the path to address our country's long history of environmental racism and to invest in a pollution-free economy that leaves no community behind. The President is making environmental justice, accountability, and enforcement a mission of the White House and every federal agency. He is also ensuring that 40% of the overall benefits from relevant federal investments go to disadvantaged communities.

"We look forward to working with the Biden administration to achieve their ambitious goals, here in the U.S. and around the world. Restoring and strengthening our bedrock environmental laws will be essential to our collective success, and as always, Earthjustice will be working to make sure that happens."

[Earthjustice, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Endangered Species Coalition

### **Endangered Species Coalition Applauds the Biden Administration's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad**

We are in a biodiversity extinction crisis as well as a climate crisis. According to global scientists who are part of the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, one of the reasons we are in an extinction crisis—with one million species worldwide currently at risk of extinction—is climate change. The two emergencies are intertwined and both need to be addressed with urgency.

The Biden Administration's [Executive Order](#) will address the complex climate change problem while helping biodiversity and environmental justice communities. It will do so by empowering the American workforce by creating jobs that conserve public lands and waters that will also support and protect wildlife and plants. It will create a Civilian Climate Corps to mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and create accessible training opportunities. The Civilian Climate Corps will have the lofty goals—to conserve and restore public lands and waters, bolster community resilience, increase reforestation, increase carbon sequestration in the agricultural sector, protect biodiversity, improve access to recreation, and address the changing climate. And, crucially, it will center environmental justice communities in this work.

The order requires the Secretary of Interior, Secretary of Agriculture, Secretary of Commerce, and the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality to work with the states, Tribes, agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, elected officials and others to conserve 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030.

The Endangered Species Coalition and its member groups have advocated for many of these policy approaches for some time in order to stop the extinction crisis. Environmental justice communities are not only hurt first and worst by climate change, *but are also hurt first and worst by the loss of biodiversity*. We greatly need a Civilian Corps approach to provide clean, green jobs to communities in need while restoring damaged lands and waters. Conserving 30 percent of lands and waters—particularly connected and protected areas—is a bold, proactive approach to save our nation's plants and animals. Taken together, these actions will help ensure that vulnerable communities have healthier environments in which people, wildlife, and plants thrive.

We are in a biodiversity crisis and these initiatives that the Biden Administration has announced in his first week as President will not only address climate change but will also address the parallel crisis of biodiversity declines. And it will make people safer and healthier.

The Executive Order will also put the climate crisis at the center of US foreign policy and national security by taking a government-wide approach to climate action by harnessing the government's considerable buying, asset management, and property power; by empowering

workers through rebuilding our infrastructure for a sustainable economy; and by securing environmental justice and spurring economic opportunity, among other actions.

Environment America

**Statement: Biden administration will make historic commitments to protecting America's natural heritage.**

WASHINGTON -- As part of an executive order, President Joe Biden is expected to announce Wednesday a stop on all new drilling in public lands and waters. The president will also set a goal of protecting 30 percent of U.S. lands and oceans by the year 2030. These announcements will fulfill two campaign pledges and serve as part of a larger commitment to conserving nature and addressing an impending extinction crisis.

America is [losing two football fields' worth](#) of land and water every minute. There are [3 billion fewer birds](#) in North America than in 1970, and many iconic animals native to America are now [endangered or threatened](#), including North Atlantic right whales, manatees, polar bears and [Sierra Nevada bighorn sheep](#).

**Kelsey Lamp, director of Environment America's Protect Our Oceans Campaign, issued the following statement:**

"This order is an important advancement toward protecting our ocean life and our coastal communities. For generations we've seen that oil drilling leads to spilling, and that puts whales, dolphins, sea turtles and other marine life at risk. The expansion of drilling to new parts of our ocean would have exposed ocean habitats and beloved beaches to the risks of oil spills, and put more coastal communities in the pathway of pipelines and oil barges. President Biden's decision will keep more of our coasts safe from these unacceptable risks.

"Ending offshore drilling in our oceans is critical to maintaining clean, healthy oceans for generations to come. Now, going forward, America must double down on this commitment to protecting coastal communities and the environment. We must make offshore drilling and crude oil spills a thing of the past."

Environment America Public Lands Director Ellen Montgomery issued the following statement:

“President Biden gets it. America the Beautiful is full of wondrous places and requires the steady hand of stewardship to keep it that way. It’s part of who we are, and, as a result, it’s unsurprising that Americans support safeguarding wild places. By committing to protecting 30 percent of our lands and oceans by 2030, President Biden is giving his fellow Americans a clear vision of how we can keep our little stretch of the planet intact for future generations.”

[Environment America, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

Statement: President Biden to make important strides in climate action.

WASHINGTON -- President Joseph Biden will release a far-reaching plan Wednesday that outlines the actions his administration will take to tackle climate change both domestically and internationally. With the scientific target squarely in focus -- reaching [net zero emissions by 2050](#) in order to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius -- the new administration will lay out elements of a roadmap for the nation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in sectors across society, from agriculture to manufacturing.

Notably, today’s announcements will include the creation of a National Climate Task Force, which will bring together 21 federal agencies to work on ambitious domestic pollution reduction goals. The group will be chaired by White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy. The executive orders will also emphasize science in policymaking at federal agencies; recommit the United States to international climate leadership, including hosting a global summit on Earth Day, April 22; and preserve public lands and oceans by pausing oil and gas leases.

Experts from Environment America and U.S. PIRG issued the following statements:

“Americans have been working for years to move our country to cleaner and healthier energy sources like wind and solar,” **said Andrea McGimsey, senior director for Environment America’s Global Warming Solutions campaign.** “But time is running out, and what’s seemed like a marathon for so many must now become a sprint. Thankfully, President Biden’s bold and ambitious climate action plan is the type of galvanizing vision that can get us moving faster toward a better future for ourselves and our grandchildren. We are grateful to the Biden administration for taking this kind of leadership on climate action within a week of entering office.”

“Climate change is the greatest risk to a healthy and safe future for ourselves, our children and our grandchildren,” **said Matt Casale, U.S. PIRG Environment**

**Campaigns director.** “The actions taken today are an incredibly important step. We have never seen interagency coordination on climate quite like the Nation Climate Task Force. But it is exactly the kind of leadership we need to tackle ambitious, science-based climate goals across the executive branch. This bold action must be part of a coordinated effort to preserve a livable climate and reduce the toxic pollution that clouds our air, dirties our water and makes us sick.”

[Environment America, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Environmental Defense Fund

EDF Hails Biden's Bold Push to Confront the Climate Crisis while Strengthening the Economy and Addressing Injustice.

### Statement from Fred Krupp, President, Environmental Defense Fund

President Joe Biden took significant action today to combat the climate crisis, building on the steps he took his first day in office.

“President Biden’s bold and decisive action today again makes clear he is serious about restoring and strengthening American leadership on climate solutions. The administration’s commitment to rapidly cut climate pollution, create good jobs now and in the future, and build healthier communities—especially communities of color unfairly burdened by pollution—demonstrates significant progress in the fight to protect our climate.

“In particular, the Biden administration’s actions to take a whole-of-government approach to climate change, prioritize environmental justice as an integral part of climate policy and return to science-based decision making signal the U.S. will lead on strong, inclusive climate action. They will also make climate change central to U.S. foreign policy, and ensure that federal agencies address the national security threats posed by our warming planet. President Biden can continue this strong leadership by setting a nationally determined contribution to the Paris Agreement in the range of 50% emissions cuts below 2005 levels by 2030.

“For too long, our government not only accepted, but contributed to environmental injustice. President Biden is showing strong leadership by focusing the resources and attention of the federal government on the environmental injustices faced daily by many people of color and low-income Americans. These frontline communities who, as a result of discrimination in housing, zoning and economic opportunity, are more likely to live near power plants, incinerators, ports, factories and other hubs of toxic pollution, have been especially put at risk as pollution rules were ignored or unenforced under the Trump administration. Fortunately, with today’s orders President Biden seeks to not only repair this damage, but to prevent future injustices and build back better.

“By establishing an Interagency Working Group to revitalize coal and other fossil fuel communities, President Biden is taking critical action to ensure that these communities are not left behind in the clean energy transition—and receive the investments and support they need to harness new economic opportunities.” President Biden’s

announcement that the federal government will lead by example by prioritizing buying zero emitting cars and trucks and clean power is a strong market signal that will create American jobs, reduce air pollution and health disparities, and lead to important reductions in climate pollution.

“President Biden’s temporary moratorium on new leases on federal lands is a sensible policy that buys us time to ensure drilling does not derail our path toward a clean energy economy.

“Conserving 30% of the U.S. by 2030 is an ambitious goal to protect America’s lands, water and wildlife - and if done well can provide durable and equitable benefits to people, biodiversity, and habitats.

“The focus on bringing back scientific integrity into policymaking via the Scientific Integrity Presidential Memorandum and the re-establishment of the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology are all important and a much needed reversal over the last four years. Ensuring that strong science underpins all of the work of the federal government is critical to meeting the many serious challenges we face. Reinstating the centrality of science and the prominent role of scientific advisors to the work of government and the need to protect the integrity of the processes used to bring science to bear is fundamental to meeting our climate goals and ultimately protecting the health and well-being of Americans with more vulnerabilities.

“After four years of President Trump, the Biden administration knows we need to do much more than turn the clock back to 2016. We need to leap ahead with bold steps to address the climate crisis and build healthier communities and a more equitable society. It is truly impressive to see the administration seize the opportunity to do just that.”  
[Environmental Defense Fund, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Evangelical Environmental Network

### EEN Applauds Executive Orders Tackling the Climate Crisis

**January 28, 2021 | YORK, PA** -- As evangelical Christians called to defend life at every stage, we applaud yesterday's executive orders by the Biden administration that fully mobilize the resources and unique capabilities of our government to address the climate and pollution crises at the scope and scale required. These co-related crises touch every aspect of American life, every sector of our economy and exacerbate the other critical problems we face namely, the Covid-19 pandemic, the fight for racial justice, and creating family sustaining jobs. We are heartened by the all-hands-on-deck approach the administration is taking that ensures climate is considered in every federal action, makes environmental justice a part of every agency's mission, and establishes a National Climate Task Force that spans 21 federal agencies and departments.

We also applaud actions that will spur family-sustaining jobs here at home in clean energy, clean manufacturing, sustainable and climate-smart agriculture, conservation, and environmental clean-up. We also enthusiastically welcome the administration's commitment to conserve at least 30 percent of American lands and waters, providing key protections for God's creation and permitting Americans to enjoy it for generations to come.

We especially celebrate actions that will ensure the transition to a clean economy is both fair and just – measures to revitalize fossil fuel communities instead of leaving them behind, initiatives to correct historic environmental injustices, and enact long-deferred investment in Black, brown and Indigenous communities who have borne the highest burden of pollution.

The Biden administration finally recognizes the climate crisis for what it is – a threat multiplier – and making climate considerations an essential part of foreign policy and national security.

This executive order also puts a pause on new oil and gas leases on public lands. President/CEO Rev. Mitch Hescox states, "With the current glut of oil and gas in America, this pause on new public land drilling, which represents less than 10% of national production, is appropriate and necessary. For far too long, poorly checked oil and gas infrastructure has leaked pollutants into our air and water, harming our most vulnerable including our children. We have a moral responsibility to re-evaluate how we cleanly and safely produce energy and put in place adequate bonding for proper remediation to stop poisons from continuing to spew into our air and water.. We need to ensure a just transition for fossil fuel workers and for frontline communities who have suffered the brunt of environmental injustices in our nation. This pause provides the space to do just that."

As Jesus observes in Luke 11:11 “What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?,” this generation has a moral responsibility to pass down a clean and healthy environment for our children to thrive in. These executive orders are promising steps towards giving them such a future.

## Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth calls new federal lands and waters moratorium ‘a critical first step’

**WASHINGTON-** President Biden issued broad Executive Orders to tackle the climate crisis and environmental injustice today.

Among the important issues being addressed by President Biden’s Executive Orders are a moratorium on all new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters, as well as a goal to preserve 30% of federal lands and waters by 2030 (also known as “30-by-30”). The move is one step toward making good on his campaign promise to reduce climate emissions. Nearly a quarter of U.S. climate emissions come from the extraction and burning of fossil fuels on public lands and waters.

In response to the President centering environmental justice in his climate policy, **Friends of the Earth President Erich Pica** issued the following statement:

The Executive Orders issued today create a precedent setting opportunity to reset the United States’ efforts to address climate change. By putting environmental justice at the center of our climate and energy strategy, we begin the process of deeply addressing the inequities in our responses to the climate and greater environmental crisis.

In response to the moratorium on all new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters, **Friends of the Earth Senior Fossil Fuels Program Manager Nicole Ghio** issued the following statement:

Today’s moratorium is a critical first step that finally puts the safety and health of our wild places, local communities, and our climate ahead of Big Oil profits. We look forward to working with the Biden Administration during the moratorium to plan a just transition that ends our dependence on oil and gas.

In response to the 30-by-30 initiative, **Friends of the Earth Senior Oceans Campaigner Hallie Templeton** issued the following statement:

We are pleased to see President Biden taking swift and meaningful action to combat climate change, both on land and at sea. We remain concerned that some 30-by-30 frameworks have imposed top-down measures that could devastate our remaining small-scale, low-impact commercial fishing families. We applaud President Biden for bringing these important stakeholders to the table to help craft equitable climate solutions in the ocean.

[Friends of the Earth, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

Greenpeace USA

## **Greenpeace Applauds Biden's Biggest Climate Move Yet — Reclaiming Public Lands and Waters for the People**

Today, the White House announced President Joe Biden will [issue](#) executive orders pausing new oil, gas, and coal lease sales on federal lands, eliminating some fossil fuel giveaways, directing 40 percent of climate and clean energy investments to disadvantaged communities, and putting the US on course to protect 30 percent of public lands and oceans by 2030. The move comes one day after Greenpeace launched a [collaboration with Shepard Fairey](#) demanding President Biden deliver a green, just, and peaceful future.

In response, Greenpeace USA Climate Campaign Director Janet Redman said:

“It’s clear Joe Biden is listening to climate activists. Days ago, when he re-entered the United States into the Paris Climate Agreement and stopped Keystone XL, we implored President Biden to ‘roll up his sleeves and do the real work to deliver climate justice.’ Today’s news shows Biden is ready to work toward delivering [a green, just, and peaceful future](#). Halting new leases on public lands, ending fossil fuel subsidies, and attending to the needs of fossil fuel communities and workers are necessary steps towards phasing out all fossil fuel extraction and transitioning to an economy that puts people’s well-being before corporate polluters. Launching an initiative to fulfill President Biden’s campaign promise to direct 40% of investments to disadvantaged communities moves us one step closer to truly confronting the crises of climate change and racial injustice.”

“We’re encouraged to see President Biden take steps to engage the federal government’s significant resources to pair policies to wind down the fossil fuel industry with investment in job creation and labor protections that guarantee the opportunity for family-sustaining, union work across the renewable energy and care economy of the future. This is a historic announcement, but we know the devil is in the details of how these directives get implemented. We will doggedly fight to ensure Biden’s promises become real action at the scale that science and justice demand. President Biden must continue down this path to Build Back Fossil Free by investing in communities of color that have borne the brunt of fossil fuel pollution, stopping all new fossil fuel infrastructure projects, and ensuring the renewable energy revolution leaves no one behind.”

Nearly 200 leading progressive organizations and grassroots groups have coalesced behind the [Build Back Fossil Free](#) platform. The platform identifies 25 crucial executive actions — from protecting public lands to launching a national climate mobilization — Biden must take early in his presidency to prevent climate chaos, end fossil fuel racism, and improve well-being for millions of people.

With today's announcement, the United States also joins a growing list of countries building towards protecting 30 percent of the world's oceans by 2030. More than 3 million people worldwide have signed on with Greenpeace to support the 30×30 movement [1], pressuring leaders to create a global network of ocean sanctuaries on the high seas.

Greenpeace USA Oceans Campaign Director John Hocevar said:

“Protecting 30 percent of our oceans by 2030 is critical if we hope to restore America’s rich ocean ecosystems and mitigate the worst impacts of climate change. Rising emissions are causing polar sea ice to melt and threatening ecosystems from pole to pole. As sea levels rise and surface temperatures warm, climate-fueled storms and hurricanes batter coastal communities here in the United States and around the world. But the oceans aren’t just a victim; they’re one of our best allies in the climate crisis. If we protect them with a network of sanctuaries, we will help sea life thrive. And thriving sea life can help slow climate breakdown by keeping huge amounts of carbon stored in the deep sea. If we look after our oceans, they’ll keep looking after us.”

[1] Greenpeace Protect the Oceans petition:

<https://www.greenpeace.org/international/act/protect-the-oceans/>

[Greenpeace USA, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## GreenLatinos

### GreenLatinos Statement on the President Biden's new Climate Executive Actions

Washington, D.C. — The following is a statement from Mark Magaña, Founding President & CEO of GreenLatinos, in response to President Biden's new Climate Executive Actions:

“After four years of destructive policies under Trump, it is a relief to finally have a leader eager to take meaningful action on climate change and other issues that are disproportionately affecting Latino communities - our health, livelihoods, and families. President Joe Biden's new executive actions get us one step closer toward our mission of **preserving public lands and oceans**, securing clean air and clean water for our families and communities, restoring science-based policy-making, creating a sustainable economy, and recommitting the country to international climate leadership. Climate change poses an imminent threat to our national security and public health and environmental justice must be at the forefront of any action we take. These groundbreaking executive orders are just the beginning from an Administration that understands the urgency to act on the climate crisis.”

[GreenLatinos, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

Interfaith Power & Light

## **Interfaith Power & Light Applauds Biden Administration Climate and Environmental Justice Executive Actions**

**Washington, DC**– Today President Biden took ambitious executive action to address the climate emergency and made strides towards environmental justice. These executive actions will restore science based policy-making; recommit the US to international climate leadership; **preserve public lands and oceans**; set ambitious domestic pollution reduction goals; and establish a process to root policies that disadvantage low-income communities and communities of color who bear the brunt of pollution impacts. Today’s actions advance elements of the administration’s Build Back Better Plan which is centered on creating economic opportunity and ending racial injustice while rebuilding the economy in a safe and equitable manner.

People of faith and conscience view the climate crisis as one of the defining moral issues of our time. A recent poll commissioned by Interfaith Power & Light found that more than 8 in 10 faith voters see their responsibility to care for God’s creation as a reason to act on the climate crisis.

President Biden, a devout Catholic, stated in his inaugural address that “a cry for survival comes from the planet itself.” Interfaith Power & Light, our congregations, and our supporters hear that cry, and also the cry of the poor, the vulnerable, and communities of color on the front lines of climate impacts.

Low-income communities and communities of color are hit first and worst by climate change and experience disproportionate air and water pollution. Today’s executive actions help to give a voice to those communities in this administration’s climate agenda.

In response, Interfaith Power & Light’s President Rev. Susan Hendershot released this statement:

“As people of faith, we are tasked with building a more just world—one that is in line with our moral values of justice, peace, and love for our neighbors and all of Creation. Today’s executive actions show a commitment to bold solutions to the climate crisis, and to centering environmental justice in those solutions. The U.S. has a moral opportunity to model the kind of leadership that creates economic, racial, and climate justice for the most vulnerable populations in our communities and our common home.

We look forward to seeing a continued faithful commitment to environmental justice and caring for our sacred earth.”

[Interfaith Power & Light, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## League of Conservation Voters

### LCV Statements On Climate Day Action From The Biden Administration.

**Washington, D.C. —** In anticipation of President Joe Biden’s expected executive action on climate today, the League of Conservation Voters (LCV) issued the following statements from **President Gene Karpinski** and **Board Chair and former EPA administrator Carol M. Browner**:

“This is the single biggest day for climate action in more than a decade, and what makes it all the better is that President Biden and Vice President Harris are just getting started!” said **LCV President Gene Karpinski**. “We’re thrilled that this administration is taking a whole of government approach that puts bold climate action, clean energy, and environmental justice at the heart of their domestic and foreign policy agenda.”

**Karpinski** continued, “Today’s actions help deliver on their historic commitments to set our country on a path to 100 percent clean energy by 2035, protect 30 percent of our lands and ocean by 2030 and stop reckless giveaways of those lands to oil and gas CEOs, address environmental injustice, ensure that 40 percent of all investments are directed to frontline communities and communities of color, create high-quality jobs, restore the role of science in decision-making and more. This is what the record number of voters who overcame historic barriers to elect President Biden and Vice President Harris are counting on.”

**Karpinski** concluded, “Congress must complement these executive actions with bold legislation that puts our economy on a path to recovery by making transformative investments in healthy, equitable, safe communities powered by clean energy.”

“President Joe Biden is taking unprecedented actions and sending an unmistakable message to the world that the United States is back and serious about tackling the climate crisis,” said **LCV Board Chair and former EPA administrator Carol M. Browner**. “President Biden’s comprehensive approach will uplift all communities, especially disadvantaged communities that suffer from pollution first and worst, and drive economic growth and job creation fueled by clean energy. It truly is a new day for climate action and with these first important steps President Biden is implementing a climate policy course correction based on science and grounded in equity and justice.”

LCV laid out its [initial policy priorities](#) for the Biden administration and 117th Congress ahead of the president's inauguration. Today's actions deliver on many of the organization's goals for the first 100 days.

[League of Conservation Voters, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## National Audubon Society

### Biden's 30 x 30 Plan: A Roadmap to Restore the Sagebrush Steppe

*Western conservation groups applaud Biden administration's plan to conserve and restore 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030.*

WASHINGTON - Among a series of executive orders and memoradums [announced today by the White House](#) was a plan to conserve and restore 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030. The plan will be critical to restoring the sagebrush steppe, the iconic landscape of the West and home to 350 species of wildlife and plants. In recent years, management of our public lands has been driven by short-term gains, compromising the legacy being left for future generations. Habitat for sage-grouse, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, and burrowing owls has been degraded by invasive species, wildfire, and federal policies that elevate oil and gas development above all other uses. Despite this area's importance for wildlife and Western economies, it historically has received insufficient funds to adequately address these growing pressures. These lands need to be managed sustainably, ensuring they can continue to meet the needs of Western communities and the wildlife that depend on them. President Biden's 30 x 30 plan can be the roadmap to conserve and restore the sagebrush ecosystem, forests, coastal areas, and wetlands while creating tens of thousands of good jobs.

"The towns, tribes, ranchers, anglers, and birders across the sagebrush steppe live by a common goal – to leave the landscape better than we found it," said Brian Rutledge, director of [National Audubon Society's Sagebrush Ecosystem Initiative](#). "This new commitment is an opportunity to bring us together to show how our lands can not only benefit birds and wildlife, but help support families, communities, and combat the effects of climate change. Achieving this goal will require that we listen to each other, consider what is best for the future, and learn how restoring the land and working the land can happen at the same time."

[National Audubon Society, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## National Parks Conservation Association

National Parks Will Benefit from Biden Administration's Public Lands Oil and Gas Moratorium.

*Executive order will stop the reckless four-year fire sale of public lands to polluters that damage parks and drive climate change*

**Washington D.C.** – President Biden today issued an executive order that protects public lands by temporarily pausing leases, including nearby national parks, to oil and gas corporations. For the last four years, we've watched a disastrous energy program and its destructive impacts to our public lands, national parks and waters across the western United States. This pause will result in less pollution for parks and nearby communities that are hit the hardest.

The executive order ends the Trump administration's reckless energy agenda which saw over 26 million acres of federal public land offered to oil and gas corporations for drilling since 2016, some for as little as \$2 per acre. This careless leasing has failed to mitigate greenhouse gas pollution, further threatening the cultural significance of landscapes and the concerns of local communities and tribes.

In addition to the leasing pause, the White House is committing the nation to a ten-year goal to conserve 30 percent of U.S. land and water by 2030. Our national parks and waterways are on the forefront of the climate crisis with plant and animal species on the brink of extinction, and lakes and rivers drying up. These additional land protections are needed for our parks to thrive and combat these climate threats.

Statement by Theresa Pierno, President and CEO for the National Parks Conservation Association:

“President Biden's pause on selling off our public lands to the oil industry, along with the bold goal to protect our air, lands and waters, are necessary steps to help our parks recover and build them back stronger.

“The Executive Orders get us one important step closer to better protecting our parks and public lands, cutting greenhouse gas pollution, and helping transition to clean energy in a just and equitable manner. These actions will help combat the climate crisis and provide a safer future for local communities and our national parks.

“Public lands that were offered to the oil and gas industry were near national parks such as Canyonlands, Rocky Mountain and Arches as well as sacred ancestral lands across

the west. Oil and gas development in these important areas has exacerbated climate change, polluted nearby air and water and damaged park ecosystems.”

Key numbers:

- More than 26 million acres of federal land was offered to oil and gas corporations since 2016 – a combined area larger than the entire state of Kentucky.
- More than six million acres were leased by oil and gas corporations since 2016 – a combined area more than 15x the size of Houston, TX.
- The majority of the leases were in Alaska and western states, such as Utah, Nevada, Colorado, Montana, Wyoming and New Mexico.
- The national park sites most affected by oil and gas leasing and drilling on public lands include Canyonlands (UT), Arches (UT), Capitol Reef (UT), Carlsbad Caverns (NM), Yellowstone (WY), Grand Teton (WY) and Rocky Mountain (CO), as well as Dinosaur National Monument (CO) and Chaco Culture National Historical Park (NM).
- A detailed map of the locations of all the leases sold during the Trump administration and their proximity to national parks can be [found here](#).

[National Parks Conservation Association, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## National Wildlife Federation

### Biden's 30 x 30 Plan: A Roadmap to Restore the Sagebrush Steppe.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A group of Western conservation groups applauded the Biden administration's plan to conserve and restore 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030. The plan will be critical to restoring the sagebrush steppe, the iconic landscape of the West and home to 350 species of wildlife and plants. In recent years, management of our public lands has been driven by short-term gains, compromising the legacy being left for future generations. Habitat for sage-grouse, mule deer, elk, pronghorn, and burrowing owls has been degraded by invasive species, wildfire, and federal policies that elevate oil and gas development above all other uses. Despite this area's importance for wildlife and Western economies, it historically has received insufficient funds to adequately address these growing pressures. These lands need to be managed sustainably, ensuring they can continue to meet the needs of Western communities and the wildlife that depend on them. President Biden's 30 x 30 plan can be the roadmap to conserve and restore the sagebrush ecosystem, forests, coastal areas, and wetlands while creating tens of thousands of good jobs.

"Americans love wildlife. At a time when one-third of our wildlife are threatened with extinction, and sage grouse populations in particular have been on a precipitous decline, this bold plan will conserve and restore critical wildlife habitat while creating jobs and boosting rural economies," said Tracy Stone-Manning, associate vice president for public lands at the [National Wildlife Federation](#). "We applaud this new direction for our cherished public lands and the wildlife and communities that depend on their long-term health."

"We welcome this plan to address our nation's wildlife crisis. It will be essential that diverse interests in states such as Colorado determine collaboratively how to conserve and restore the sagebrush steppe, migration corridors and other important habitats across a mosaic of ownerships, said Suzanne O'Neill, executive director of [Colorado Wildlife Federation](#).

"We are excited that the Biden administration has taken this important step in conserving our critical sagebrush ecosystem here in Nevada. A large portion of our state relies on a healthy sagebrush habitat to support a range of species including mule deer, antelope and the vulnerable sage grouse," said Russell Kuhlman, executive director of the [Nevada Wildlife Federation](#). "Protecting these landscapes from oil and gas development and restoring them after threats from invasive species and wildfire is a

necessary step to ensure these lands are available to future generations."

[National Wildlife Federation, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Oil and Gas Leasing Pause Charts New Path to Protect Wildlife, Clean Water, and Outdoor Recreation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Biden administration's pause on federal oil and gas leasing on our public lands gives the administration a chance to assess the leasing program and chart a new path that will better protect wildlife, clean water, and our access for outdoor recreation, leaving our public lands better off for generations to come.

"Our public lands are critical for wildlife habitat, for delivering clean air and clean water, and for our growing outdoor economy. With wildlife populations in sharp decline, it is well past time to plan for a sustainable future," said [Tracy Stone-Manning](#), associate vice president for public lands at the National Wildlife Federation. "The leasing pause will allow the Department of Interior to both review and fix the lopsided oil and gas leasing system to give us a chance to leave our public lands better off than we found them."

As a part of the pause, the National Wildlife Federation calls on the administration to assess how communities, Tribes and state budgets can make a just transition to a clean energy future. For the near term, President Biden should propose to Congress direct funding to affected states and Tribes, as well as investments that would put people to work on restoration of our public lands.

For the longer term, the pause gives the administration the ability to take a thorough look at a leasing system that does not adequately serve the public or the lands we all own in common. Here are just a few examples:

- Oil and gas companies do not have to put down enough money to clean up their drilling sites, thanks to outdated bonding rates. If companies go bankrupt and abandon their wells, taxpayers are on the hook to clean up contaminated drinking water, polluted air and impaired wildlife habitat.
- 75% of all public lands available in the West have low or no potential for even finding oil or gas. The government should not waste taxpayer dollars leasing land that has little to no potential for oil and gas development. •

- 50% of the lands that have been leased were leased non-competitively, for as little as \$1.50 an acre. Taxpayers are simply not getting their fair share.
- 

The leasing pause will not stop existing drilling rights, and will not affect the 26 million acres of public land that are already under lease, half of which haven't been developed. Even industry officials admit that they have a deep inventory of approved drilling permits that will allow them to operate for years to come. You can read our fact sheet [here](#). [National Wildlife Federation, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## President Biden's Plan to Conserve, Restore Lands, Waters Will Create Jobs, Help Wildlife Thrive

WASHINGTON, D.C. — President Joe Biden's executive orders and plans announced today will help accelerate our economic recovery while confronting the interrelated wildlife, climate, and environmental justice crises. Specifically, the Biden Administration actions call for conserving and restoring 30 percent of the nation's lands and waters by 2030, restoring the role of science in federal decision-making, addressing long-standing environmental injustices, reconstituting the Civilian Conservation Corps, revitalizing distressed communities, and addressing climate change through emission reductions and improved resilience.

"What better way to put millions of Americans to work and build back better than by restoring our forests, grasslands, wetlands, and coastal areas to bolster resilience, sequester carbon, and recover imperiled wildlife populations through a revitalized 21st century Civilian Conservation Corps and a commitment to restore 30 percent of our lands and waters by 2030?" said [Collin O'Mara](#), president and CEO of the National Wildlife Federation. "We applaud the Biden Administration for advancing solutions that will accelerate our economic recovery and revitalize frontline communities, while simultaneously confronting our nation's biodiversity, climate, and racial justice crises."

The momentous orders make pivotal changes to how the nation will prioritize job creation and climate policy, while laying the foundation for federal agencies to restore common-sense public health and climate regulations. The orders include a framework for a new Civilian Conservation Corps, which could put millions of Americans back to work restoring the nation's natural resources, promoting climate resilience, and improving public and private lands, as well as a national commitment to conserve and restore 30 percent of all lands and waters by 2030.

The president's actions also reverse decisions by the previous administration to minimize or sideline sound science in federal decision-making.

“Science should be at the center of every action our leaders take to combat the challenges wildlife and people face today,” said Dr. Bruce Stein, chief scientist at the National Wildlife Federation. “These executive actions not only reaffirm the critical role evidence-based decision-making should play, but also that the Biden Administration will heed the advice of experts.”

The National Wildlife Federation has pledged to support the president’s executive orders by finding new ways to collaborate around on-the-ground restoration and conservation efforts in local communities. The organization also pledged to redouble its efforts to pass the bipartisan Recovering America’s Wildlife Act as well as a \$150 billion investment in restoration priorities as part of the president’s Build Back Better infrastructure package that also addresses the climate crisis.

[National Wildlife Federation, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC)

### Biden Takes Bold Actions to Combat Climate Change

WASHINGTON – President Biden is expected to announce a robust and far-reaching package of actions today to combat dangerous climate change. The following are statements by experts at NRDC (Natural Resources Defense Council) on key elements.

**NRDC President and CEO Mitch Bernard** said of Biden’s overall plan:

“The signal from President Biden today is unmistakable: For the next four years, every day will be climate day. That will not only help us avoid a fate of ever-worsening extreme weather disasters—it will help us rebuild stronger in the face of the multiple crises gripping our nation, from the pandemic to racial injustice and the economy. We look forward to working with the administration to answer this call of history. There is no time to waste.”

**On Biden’s environmental justice announcements**, Mitch Bernard said:

“For far too long, the low-income communities and people of color who’ve done the least to contribute to the climate crisis have been the very ones suffering the most. That’s environmental racism, and it’s why Biden’s climate action plan puts environmental justice and equity front and center. Importantly, this plan includes direct, substantial clean energy investments to low-income neighborhoods and communities of color, delivering both health benefits and job opportunities to the people on the frontlines of the climate crisis.”

**On Biden’s fossil fuel moratorium** on public lands and waters, Josh Axelrod, senior advocate in the Nature Program at NRDC, said:

“The era of putting polluters profits first is over. We can’t lock our children and grandchildren into decades more of the dirty fossil fuels of the past, and all the hazards and harms they bring to our public lands, oceans and coastal communities. This moratorium gives the country a chance to modernize the way we deploy our natural resources for developing energy – and to speed up a just and equitable transition to good-paying clean energy jobs of the future.”

**On Biden’s pledge to protect 30 percent of U.S. lands, freshwater and ocean**

**by 2030**, Andrew Wetzler, Interim Chief Program Officer and Managing Director of the Nature Program at NRDC, said:

“Biden’s determination to expand protections of U.S. lands, waters, and ocean by 2030 is essential. Scientists warn it is needed to save nature and communities, while avoiding the worst impacts of climate change. By using science to drive the process forward, we can support rural communities, Tribal Nations, and others on the frontlines of preserving nature. Four out of five voters support this bold vision that protects our water, air, food, public health, and economy, while ensuring all Americans – no matter their economic status or race – have access to the natural world.”

**On Biden’s international agenda and a Climate Leaders’ Summit** Brendan Guy, lead strategist in the International Program at NRDC, said:

“Convening a Climate Leaders’ Summit sends another powerful signal that the U.S. is back, re-engaged, and ready to lead again in the global race to achieve net zero emissions by mid-century – a goal that will help the world avoid climate catastrophe. Likewise, President Biden’s commitment to elevate climate in foreign policy and move to ratify the Kigali amendment to phase down hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) reinforces last week’s move to rejoin the Paris agreement. Together, these actions will breathe new energy into the global push for stronger climate ambition ahead of the pivotal COP 26 conference in Glasgow in November.”

**On Biden’s plans to curb carbon pollution fueling the climate crisis**, Derek Murrow, senior director of the Climate & Clean Energy program at NRDC, said:

“The all-of-government climate plan must come with strong pollution standards, including commonsense standards to clean up the cars, trucks and dirty power plants that together account for about two-thirds of the nation’s carbon footprint. We look forward to working with the Biden administration to advance these protective standards to rein in dangerous climate change.”

**On Biden’s commitment to scientific integrity**, Vijay Limaye, climate and health scientist at NRDC, said:

“While the previous administration moved to censor peer-reviewed research to help polluters, this administration is making science a priority and signaling that clean air and other health protections will be free from politics. Corporations should not be able to block critical safeguards and stifle public input to pad their own profits. There’s no Republican air or Democratic air.”

**Additional NRDC commentary** is forthcoming on these topics and will be posted at [NRDC.org](https://www.nrdc.org).

[NRDC, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

The Nature Conservancy

**New U.S. Actions Elevate Climate Crisis, Land and Water Conservation, Environmental Justice and the Role of Science**

Today U.S. President Joe Biden signed a series of [executive orders](#) outlining steps his administration will take regarding climate change, land and water protection, environmental justice, and the role of science in decision-making.

The orders include the announcement that the United States will host a Climate Leaders' Summit on Earth Day, will begin regulatory actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and will prioritize environmental justice and the creation of jobs in impacted communities. As a part of that, new offices will be created in the federal government to coordinate a whole-government approach to climate change. Other new offices will focus on environmental justice and equity, and agencies will invest in communities that have long been disproportionately impacted by pollution, climate change and more.

The orders also commit to the goal of conserving 30% of the country's lands and waters by 2030, aligning the United States with a global "30x30" effort centered on including input from agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, tribes, state and local officials and more. In addition, the orders call for a Civilian Climate Corps investing in a new generation of Americans working to conserve and restore nature and address a changing climate. Finally, the orders emphasize the use of science and evidence-based decision-making at federal agencies and reestablish the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

[Nature Conservancy, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Ocean Conservancy

Statement: President Biden's Executive Orders are Wins for the Climate and Ocean

*Washington, DC – The following statement was issued by Janis Searles Jones, CEO of Ocean Conservancy, on the Biden-Harris administration's Executive Orders issued on January 27, 2021:*

“President Biden is on his way to becoming the Climate President by making climate change a central piece of his domestic and foreign policy. By pausing new oil leases, committing to protect at least 30% of our land and ocean, and centering climate action around justice, these Executive Orders are necessary steps towards responding to the climate crisis and are huge wins for our ocean as well. 127 million Americans live in a coastal county. They are on the front lines of sea level rise, worsening storms and warming ocean temperatures, all of which hurt local communities, Tribes, livelihoods, cultures and family traditions. With these actions, President Biden is wasting no time in addressing the threat that climate change poses to our country, our ocean, and our coastal neighbors. Most importantly, he is basing his actions in science to protect everyone, including those historically marginalized and pushed aside, from the devastating effects of climate change that will worsen if we don't act now.”

[Ocean Conservancy, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Oceana

### President Biden to Pause Leasing for New Offshore Drilling

*Oceana applauds the president's bold action to protect our ocean and coastal resources*

**WASHINGTON** – Today, President Biden is [expected to sign an executive order](#) pausing all federal offshore and onshore oil and gas leasing.

“Oceana applauds the president's bold action to halt new offshore oil and gas leasing. More drilling means more climate pollution that we simply cannot afford. Climate change is already wreaking havoc on our lives and livelihoods and it's a relief to see President Biden putting solutions to the climate crisis first,” said Diane Hoskins, campaign director at Oceana. “President Biden's actions are a win for the health of our ocean, our economy and our climate. We look forward to working with the Biden-Harris administration to permanently move away from dirty and dangerous offshore drilling toward clean, renewable energy sources like offshore wind.”

A new [Oceana analysis](#) released this week finds ending new leasing for offshore oil and gas could prevent over 19 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions as well as more than \$720 billion in damages to people, property and the environment.

Additionally, the analysis found that ending new leasing will also safeguard the U.S. clean coast economy, which supports around 3.3 million American jobs and \$250 billion in GDP through activities like tourism, recreation and fishing.

As of today, opposition and concern over offshore drilling activities nationwide includes:

- Every East and West Coast governor, including Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine, California, Oregon and Washington
- More than 390 local municipalities
- Over 2,300 local, state and federal bipartisan officials
- East and West Coast alliances representing over 56,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families
- Pacific, New England, South Atlantic and Mid-Atlantic fishery management councils
- More than 120 [scientists](#)
- More than 80 former [military leaders](#)

- Commercial and recreational fishing interests such as Southeastern Fisheries Association, Snook and Gamefish Foundation, Fisheries Survival Fund, Southern Shrimp Alliance, Billfish Foundation and International Game Fish Association
- California Coastal Commission, California Fish and Game Commission and California State Lands Commission
- Department of Defense, NASA, U.S. Air Force and Florida Defense Support Task Force

To learn more about Oceana's campaign to stop the expansion of offshore drilling activities, please [click here](#).

[Oceana, Press release, 1/27/21]

Oil Change International

**Oil Change International response to Biden climate announcements on oil and gas leases, fossil fuel subsidies**

*Today, President Joe Biden is expected to sign executive orders advancing a broad range of actions to confront the climate crisis, including directing the Interior Department to enact a temporary pause on new oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters. Biden is also expected to direct federal agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies as consistent with applicable law, instruct all agencies to prioritize environmental justice, establish the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy, and announce the date of a new international climate summit on April 22, among other actions.*

*In response, **Collin Rees, Senior Campaigner at Oil Change International** released the following statement:*

“Today’s move by President Biden to freeze leasing for oil and gas production on federal lands and waters is a critical first step to ending this program once and for all. We applaud this step and look forward to engaging our hundreds of thousands of supporters to demonstrate their support for this sort of real climate leadership to rein in the out-of-control fossil fuel industry defiling our public lands and wrecking the climate.

“Directing federal agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies where they are able to is a welcome shift from a Trump administration that spent four years doubling down to massive giveaways to oil, gas, and coal. Biden campaigned on eliminating fossil fuel giveaways, and voters agree by a huge margin. Taking the climate crisis seriously means prioritizing clean energy and investing in an equitable transition, not propping up an industry destroying the climate and abandoning its workers.

“President Biden is right to prioritize environmental justice and equity at all levels, emphasize a ‘whole-of-government’ approach to climate change, and invest meaningfully in supporting communities transitioning from dependence on oil, gas, and coal development. A comprehensive approach to our climate crisis must include aligning energy policy with climate imperatives by embarking on a managed phase-out of fossil fuel production with a just transition for workers and communities.

“Last week’s rescission of Keystone XL’s federal permit and today’s move towards a permanent end to fossil fuel leasing on public lands are crucial first steps in line with

that goal. Stopping the Line 3 pipeline and shutting down the Dakota Access Pipeline would prove President Biden is committed to building back fossil free and ending the fossil fuel era.

“Five years ago, hundreds of thousands called on then-President Obama to end fossil fuel leasing on public lands. It’s no small thing that President Biden is taking a substantial step towards this critical goal today, just one week into his term. This is a testament to Indigenous leaders standing up for their sacred lands, communities fighting the fossil fuel industry all across the country, and countless Americans who have raised their voices to say no to the fossil fuel industry. As we work to make this moratorium permanent, this chorus will only continue to grow.”

[Oil Change International, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Pew Charitable Trusts

President Biden's 30% Conservation Commitment Is Good News for People, Too  
Widespread protection of natural world will help stem climate change and lift economies

By Tom Dillon

With his Jan. 27 announcement that the U.S. will commit to protecting 30% of its land and ocean by 2030, President Joe Biden joins a growing community of scientists, Indigenous peoples, and world leaders dedicated to working together on putting ecosystems—land, ocean, and freshwater—on the best path toward sustainability. Pursuing and meeting this target could yield significant benefits, not only for a huge range of wildlife species and their habitats, but for people as well. An increasing body of scientific evidence indicates that one-third of the cost-effective solutions to climate change could come from nature. There is also a better understanding that extensive, healthy natural systems and rich biodiversity are critical to human and physical health, the preservation of cultural traditions, and community vitality—with far-reaching economic benefits. Many other countries have already recognized the importance of nature-based solutions to a suite of environmental threats and have pledged to invest in conservation to help ensure a sustainable economic and environmental recovery. President Biden's commitment builds on more than a century of U.S. leadership and dedication to environmental conservation, from the creation of national parks and the conservation of other public lands to policies designed to ensure clean air and water and the protection of endangered species. These victories have come under presidents of both major political parties, and usually with strong bipartisan support in Congress and among the public.

But the work, here and abroad, is far from finished. For the U.S. and the rest of the world to succeed in achieving and maintaining 30% protection, it will demand a renewed commitment to science and public engagement and a deeper understanding of how the health of the planet affects human vitality and well-being.

Achieving these new conservation commitments is highly unlikely without broad and meaningful public engagement. Conservation decision-making needs to be inclusive of communities and people economically dependent on public lands; rural and urban citizens of all backgrounds, many of whom have disparate understandings of nature; hunters and anglers; and the diverse tribes and Indigenous communities that each have specific relationships with land and sea. This means a lot of people need to be at the table, and they need to listen to each other.

Such broad engagement, which must also include state and local officials, tribal governments and Indigenous peoples, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations, is a hallmark of The Pew Charitable Trusts' success in past conservation initiatives.

These have included establishing the first generation of large marine parks around the world, working with people and groups from across the political spectrum on legislation to create and expand wilderness, and partnering with wide-reaching coalitions to protect vast areas of the Canadian boreal forest and Australian Outback.

Pew has been committed to 30x30 protections since the 2016 International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress, where we and many other groups advocated for a resolution to protect 30% of the ocean by 2030. Pew continues to work for these protections. By committing to this target now, President Biden is showing his determination to help preserve and restore the natural systems upon which all life on Earth depends. Reaching this goal will create a better present—and future—for billions for people worldwide.

## Physicians for Social Responsibility

Jeff Carter, Executive Director

“Today’s Executive Order announcement from President Biden is good for clean air, good for the climate, and good for improving the health of American communities.

For years, Physicians for Social Responsibility has documented how increased oil and gas development has increased methane emissions, worsening climate change and its multiple threats to health and life. Oil and gas operations also increase levels of toxics and particulate matter in the air, contributing to respiratory illnesses, cancer, birth defects and more. We thank the administration for taking this health crisis seriously and taking the first of many steps to curb the harms caused by gas.

As medical professionals working every day to improve the health and wellbeing of our communities, we salute this action, which provides a strong starting point for further reductions of climate-damaging methane emissions.”

## Public Citizen

David Arkush, Climate Program Managing Director

“There are pieces that could be improved. It should set more ambitious near-term targets, it is light on transportation, and it does not address the role of financial regulators on climate. We look forward to working with the administration to implement these critical orders and fill the gaps.”

**Robert Weissman, President**

“The Biden administration’s pause of oil and gas and leasing on federal lands and waters is a welcome reversal of Trump-era policies that put fossil fuel CEOs and climate denialists ahead of the public interest. After four years of the Trump administration ransacking our public lands, ignoring the climate crisis and accelerating the loss of nature and biodiversity, this plan is hopeful news.

“Americans have learned all too well over the past years that the oil and gas industry has had far too much influence in Washington, with the direct result that the federal government has elevated the narrow interests of Big Oil even over the imperative of protecting humanity from the existential threat of catastrophic climate change.

“The Biden administration now has a chance to support our clean energy future instead of our fossil fuel past, including by making this moratorium permanent and getting America off dirty fuels as soon as possible.”

## Public Lands Solutions

Jason Keith, Managing Director

Public Land Solutions, a non-profit dedicated to protecting and enhancing recreation economies across the West, supports a pause on onshore oil and gas leasing on federal lands because for years the oil and gas industry has stockpiled and failed to use thousands of leases and drilling permits, wasting government resources and undermining multiple-use management that would otherwise benefit outdoor recreation. Over three-fourths of public lands available for oil and gas leasing have little to no development potential, which breeds speculation, waste, low returns for taxpayers, and access problems for other multiple uses such as recreation. Conserving public lands for outdoor recreation creates jobs and generates revenue, but is constantly at odds with oil and gas leasing. Recreation produces more revenue and jobs than oil and gas leasing which inhibits recreation investments. In short, long term prospects are better from recreation than from oil and gas leasing and we’re long-overdue for a programmatic review of the entire onshore oil and gas leasing program.

## Sierra Club

Sierra Club Welcomes Biden Order to Conserve 30% of Lands, Waters by 2030.

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- The Biden administration today is expected to set a [national goal of protecting 30% of the country’s lands and waters by 2030](#), part of a suite of actions on climate. The conservation effort is ambitious, but also the minimum scientists say is needed to save nature and buffer against the worst impacts of the climate crisis.

**In response, Chris Hill, acting director of Sierra Club’s Our Wild America Campaign issued the following statement.**

“Sierra Club applauds President Biden for following through on his promise to put our country on a path to protecting 30% of lands and waters by 2030. Big, bold action is exactly what is needed to confront the climate and extinction crises we face. The 30 percent by 2030 goal presents an opportunity to uplift public lands as a solution-- for climate, for healthy wildlife, and for a more equitable future. This is an opportunity to work towards a more just and equitable conservation movement, one in which all people are welcome and have access to the outdoors and all its benefits.

“We look forward to helping safeguard more green space, more wilderness and everything in between for our climate and for everyone to explore and enjoy.”

[Sierra Club, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

Biden’s Block on Public Lands Fossil Fuel Leasing is a Reprieve for Californians, Climate

*California*— Today, the Biden administration announced a [pause on new oil and gas leasing on public lands and waters](#). The order commences a review of existing leases and permits, and looks to increase offshore wind renewable energy development. The administration has directed agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and to instead identify new opportunities to spur clean energy. In California, the announcement comes just one month after the Trump administration’s Bureau of Land Management sold over 4000 acres in Kern County for oil drilling and fracking— the first oil and gas lease sale in over eight years. Read [about the executive order here](#).

**In response to the announcement, representatives of organizations as well as community activists released the following statements:**

“We support the Biden administration’s ban on new oil and gas leasing on public lands. We need policies that lead us to a safer and more livable environment for all Americans, but especially for those of us who live, study and work in areas disproportionately harmed by fossil fuel extraction and pollution. It is clear we cannot wait any longer. We are choking from wildfire smoke, and thousands of oil rigs and storage tanks in our backyards are leaking and poisoning us with benzene,” **said Cesar Aguirre, Community Organizer with the Central California Environmental Justice Network**. “For too long, our residents in Kern County have been the target of irresponsible administrations— both federal and local— that deny the climate crisis and continue gambling our health on the fossil fuel industry. For California to be a climate leader, we need and encourage this bold action to prevent more fossil fuel destruction.”

“Oil and gas development on federal lands is already a major contributor to climate change. The Biden administration’s ban is an important first step and should result in a permanent end to federal leasing,” **said Rebecca August, Director of Advocacy at**

**Los Padres ForestWatch.** “Putting the brakes on selling out our shared resources to the oil industry—lands that are supposed to be managed in the public interest—is a sign that the administration is serious in its commitment to put our nation’s future, public health, biodiversity, drinking water, and the legacy of our public lands before corporate profit.”

“We hope that by this action, President Biden will do more to advocate for clean energy and combat climate change. Our communities can no longer withstand the detrimental effects of climate change and the oil companies’ persistent attacks on our communities,” **said Samuel Molina, California state director of Mi Familia Vota.** “We must do more for our children and ensure they grow up in a future where they can breathe clean air, drink clean water and enjoy clean food.”

“We are encouraged that the Biden administration has moved to halt new oil and gas leasing on public lands— a decision that will benefit the health of communities, wild places and the climate in California and beyond. Our state has seen climate devastation on an alarming and unprecedented scale over the past years, and needs urgent action to make public lands a part of the solution. Stopping new drilling and fracking on public lands will provide a much-needed step in tackling the climate crisis,” **said Jenny Binstock, Senior Campaign Representative for Sierra Club’s Our Wild America Campaign in California.**

“California should follow the path of our newly-elected President Biden and support a halt on oil and gas leasing with no exceptions. Quality of life and health must be a priority in our progressive state,” **said Rosanna Esparza, Central Valley Gerontologist and Activist, Ph.D.** “It’s critical we institute buffer zones between oil and gas production areas and sensitive places like schools, hospitals, nursing homes, daycare facilities and recreation areas. Instead of allowing loopholes for corporate polluters to avoid toxic-waste clean-ups and issuing them government grants intended for small businesses, the fossil fuel industry must be held accountable for the damage and destruction inflicted on our communities.”

“This is a historic step forward in addressing the climate crisis,” **said Clare Lakewood, Legal Director of the Center for Biological Diversity’s Climate Law Institute.** “It also protects our precious federal wildlands from destructive oil and gas operations. We applaud President Biden for this critical pause in oil and gas leasing and look forward to it being made permanent.”

“This decision will provide a significant reprieve for national parks directly adjacent to public lands that have been targeted by polluters,” **said Mark Rose, Sierra Nevada Program Manager for National Parks Conservation Association.** “Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon already have some of the worst air quality of any parks in the nation and cannot afford additional drilling nearby.”

[Sierra Club, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sierra Club Applauds Biden Climate Action on Public Lands, Waters

As part of promised swift action on the climate, today the Biden Administration is expected to announce it will [pause new oil and gas leasing](#) on public lands and waters, review existing leases and permits, and increase offshore wind renewable energy development. Taken together with the existing 60-day pause on fossil fuel development, which includes an examination of the federal coal leasing program, the order makes significant progress in addressing climate emissions from public lands.

The order also directs agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and to instead identify new opportunities to spur clean energy. A new task force will coordinate investments and support for communities heavily dependent on fossil fuels through the economic transition, with an eye toward turning idled fossil fuel sites into economic generators.

*In response, Athan Manuel, director of Public Lands Protection issued the following statement.*

“We applaud the Biden administration’s efforts to chart a new path for our country’s lands and waters. Pausing new oil and gas leasing will improve the health of our communities, our climate and our wild places.

“In the last year, the Trump Administration leased nearly a million acres for oil and gas and gave the green light for coal mine expansions on public lands in Montana, Utah, Colorado, and North Dakota. We look forward to working with the Biden administration to secure lasting solutions that address the climate impacts of coal, oil and gas leasing and put in place long-overdue protections for communities, taxpayers, and the climate.

“Public lands can, and must, be part of the climate solution. They can play a vital role in reaching the goal of conserving 30% of lands and waters by 2030 -- levels scientists say are needed to halt the climate and extinction crises. They must also be a part of a just recovery by reinvesting in communities, tapping fossil fuel workers to clean up past pollution, and bringing communities together to diversify economies in ways that allow everyone to benefit.”

[Sierra Club, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sunrise Movement

### **Sunrise Movement Celebrates Major Climate Victories After Biden Takes Reins on Climate Action, Asserts Democrats Must Now Abolish Filibuster**

On Wednesday, the Sunrise Movement celebrated major climate victories as President Joe Biden announced monumental climate executive actions to begin a society-wide mobilization to stop climate change, create millions of good jobs, and roll back centuries of systemic environmental racism.

Sunrise was not only instrumental in electing President Biden, but ensured he ran on the most progressive climate platform in history. Now, in a victory for the movement, President Biden is beginning to follow through on his promises, symbolizing a turning point in this country's climate politics and our nation's history.

“Young people organized like hell to get Biden elected, delivering him a mandate for action on the climate crisis, Covid-19, systemic racism, and the economy,” said the Sunrise Movement's Executive Director Varshini Prakash. “Today makes clear that President Biden hears our generation's demands loud and clear, understands the power of our movement, and is serious about using executive power to deliver on his campaign promises.”

Major victories include:

- The establishment of a White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy and National Climate Task Force with the full mandate and scope of powers and authority we [called for](#) in an Office of Climate Mobilization
- The creation of “Civilian Climate Corps” modeled after the New Deal's Civilian Conservation Corps through executive action to put Americans to work in government jobs tackling the climate crisis.
- Working alongside environmental justice leaders and communities to ensure a whole-of-government approach to Environmental Justice and assuring that 40% of climate investments go to frontline communities; using the federal government's power of the purse to raise labor standards while spurring production of 100% clean energy technology
- Working alongside farmers to create jobs in sustainable agriculture and wealth in rural America; ensuring economic development and a just transition for fossil fuel

communities; and aggressively pursuing renewable energy development while putting all fossil fuel leasing on **federal lands** and waters under review and stopping all new leasing.

[Sunrise Movement, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Taxpayers for Common Sense

Autumn Hanna, Vice President

"Taxpayers for Common Sense applauds the decision by the Biden Administration to pause the federal oil and gas leasing program. For decades, this program has shortchanged taxpayers through outdated royalty rates, below-market rental fees, and noncompetitive practices like day after sale giveaways. We have seen these problems on full display over the last four years while the Trump Administration aggressively pushed the leasing of federal lands -- even in a pandemic. A hold on leasing is an important first step toward fixing fundamental problems within the system. But the federal government has a fiduciary responsibility to manage public resources as strategic financial assets. The Biden administration must now conduct a thorough review of the rules and regulations guiding federal resource production and implement the reforms necessary to protect the taxpayer interest. The broken system must be overhauled to ensure taxpayers are receiving a fair return for the resources we all own."

## The Trust for Public Land

Statement by the Trust for Public Land on President Biden's Executive Actions

"We need bold action to protect people from the climate crisis, and we're very encouraged by the Biden Administration's actions today," said Bill Lee, Senior VP of Policy, Advocacy and Government Relations at The Trust for Public Land. "From President Biden's commitment to conserve 30% of the U.S. by 2030 to his call to create a Civilian Climate Corps to put a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and parks, this bold and inclusive vision for America's climate future marks a turning point for our country. These ambitious goals will help slow the loss of nature, mitigate the impacts of climate change, and ensure everybody in America — no matter their economic status, race, or ethnicity — have access to parks and green space."

[Trust for Public Land, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Trout Unlimited

Biden administration announces new steps to tackle climate change  
*“30 x 30” initiative, moratorium on oil & gas leases on public lands are among the ambitious first steps in addressing impacts of climate change*

Today, as President Biden signed an executive order aimed at beginning to address climate change, Trout Unlimited applauded the administration’s leadership on this issue of critical importance. These ambitious initiatives will help the nation protect sources of cold, clean, fishable water, and recover nature’s resilience to the more intense floods, more frequent and damaging fires, and prolonged drought brought on by climate change.

The president’s [“Tackling the Climate Crisis”](#) executive order pauses new oil and gas leases on public lands to allow time for a “rigorous review” of leasing and permitting practices; commits to the goal of conserving 30 percent of lands and oceans by the end of the decade; establishes an interagency working group dedicated to assisting coal, oil and gas, and power plant communities; and orders federal agencies to prioritize environmental justice.

President Biden also signed a presidential memorandum directing agencies “to make evidence-based decisions guided by the best available science and data.”

“These are welcome first steps on the path to making our lands and water, our communities, and our trout and salmon populations more resilient to the wildfires, droughts, and floods amplified by climate change,” said Chris Wood, president and CEO of Trout Unlimited. “Ultimately we will need to adopt policies that encourage market mechanisms to substantially reduce carbon emissions, but in the meantime we must address the impacts of climate change today. Make no mistake—the longer we put off addressing the causes and effects of climate change, the higher the price we will pay.”

Trout Unlimited’s work helps communities across the country adapt by making streams and rivers healthier and more resilient to a changing climate. By removing obsolete dams and replacing road culverts, we help communities weather major floods, and we reconnect fish to the habitat they need to thrive. By restoring streamside vegetation, we keep temperatures cooler and waters healthier. By protecting and expanding stronghold trout and salmon populations in waters most likely to withstand climate change, we improve their odds of survival.

### *30×30 initiative*

The 10-year goal of conserving 30 percent of America's land and water by 2030 is a necessary action to avert potentially catastrophic consequences of climate change.

"Our mission at Trout Unlimited is to protect and restore America's trout and salmon and the watersheds they depend on, and consistent with our mission, we want to do our part to achieve the 30×30 goal," said Steve Kandell, director of the Angler Conservation Program at Trout Unlimited.

Collaborative solutions that protect America's lands and waters will not only be good for the climate, but they will also provide opportunities for all Americans to fish and hunt and otherwise enjoy the outdoors. Outdoor recreation is a \$788 billion economic engine for local communities and a growing sector of the U.S. economy. We look forward to working with the Biden administration, Congress, anglers and hunters, tribal nations, rural communities, and farmers and ranchers on this exciting new initiative.

"The most lasting and durable conservation is the most local," Wood said. "We will work collaboratively with an array of stakeholders to advance solutions that empower local communities, support landowners, protect trout and salmon and, most importantly, leave a healthier land and water legacy for our kids."

### *Oil & gas drilling*

The pause on new federal oil and gas leasing does not affect opportunities to develop existing leases but will provide the administration time to assess policies that will guide future leasing and permitting on public lands.

The decades-old federal oil and gas leasing program is fundamentally broken, and for far too long it has favored drilling over other public land values, which puts sensitive fish and wildlife habitat at risk. With sensible policies and practices in place, we can meet the nation's energy needs without jeopardizing coldwater fisheries and watersheds.

"We welcome the new administration's initiative to take a hard look at federal energy development policies for public lands," Kandell said. "In particular, we urge the administration to work with members of Congress on both sides of aisle to advance responsible energy reforms that will make a lasting difference on the ground."

Among the reforms Trout Unlimited supports: curtailing speculative leasing, ending non-competitive leasing, and modernizing bonding and reclamation requirements. Actions

like these will help foster responsible energy development, sustain communities that rely on both outdoor recreation and responsible resource extraction, and strategically transition our country to cleaner sources of energy.

### *Revitalizing energy communities*

The executive order also “directs federal agencies to coordinate investments and other efforts” to help communities that rely on coal, oil and gas, and power plants.

“We appreciate the administration’s focus on revitalizing coal country communities that are economically affected by the transition to clean energy that will be necessitated by climate change,” said Steve Moyer, VP for government affairs at Trout Unlimited.

TU has worked in Pennsylvania coalfield watersheds for decades and has made considerable progress with our partners in restoring thousands of miles of streams and rivers damaged by historic mining operations. This sort of progress can be replicated throughout Appalachian coal country if Congress reauthorizes the Abandoned Mine Lands program before its expiration later this year, and if the administration prioritizes aggressive use of these funds in communities where they are needed most.

### *Science-based decision-making*

Helen Neville, chief scientist at Trout Unlimited, commended the presidential memorandum directing agencies to base decisions on best available science.

“Grounding our decision-making once again in science is one of the most important steps this administration can do, and provides a framework for our nation that will lead to better, smarter, outcomes.”

[Trout Unlimited, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## The Wilderness Society

Pause on new leasing elevates conservation and pollution-free public lands  
*President Biden releases details of environmental justice and climate plan, TWS responds*

**Washington, DC** (January 27, 2021)—Continuing his commitment to address the impacts to the nation’s land and water from climate change, [news reports say](#) President Biden is expected to sign an Executive Order today that turns the tide on extractive uses of the nation’s public lands, takes initial steps to transition these lands and waters to be a net-zero source of emissions by 2030 and jumpstarts a community-driven initiative called “30x30” to save nature that is rapidly disappearing across the United States and the globe.

**The following statements are from The Wilderness Society’s president, Jamie Williams, and community partners across the country, who are already working to build a resilient network of protected lands and waters and increase equitable participation in conservation decisions:**

“The Biden Administration’s executive order is anticipated to elevate people and nature above polluters on our nation’s public lands. A leasing pause is a first step in transitioning public lands to be part of the solution to the climate crisis. The [30x30 initiative](#) will help communities build a thriving natural network that provides refuge for wildlife, safeguards our food systems and drinking water, ensures equitable access to nature and absorbs carbon from our atmosphere.

“Developing a clean energy economy and transitioning to pollution-free public lands requires investment in communities that depend on the work and revenue from fossil fuel production and those most impacted by its pollution. Similarly, 30x30 goals must be equitably led by Indigenous nations and Black, Latino/x and other communities of color that have been excluded from conservation decisions but who face greater impacts of nature loss, pollution and climate change because of systemic racism inherent in conservation policies for over 100 years.

“We have urgent work ahead to ensure communities across the country engage in local land and water conservation that supports their own future and, collectively, become leaders in a global network to save the fragile planet that sustains us all.”

*Jamie Williams, President, [The Wilderness Society](#)*

“Hispanic Access Foundation applauds President Biden taking bold actions that address the climate emergency and its impact on Latino communities by committing to protecting 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030. Latinos and other communities of color are disproportionately deprived of nature's benefits, meaning they are missing out on the parks that give us open space to breathe and for our children to play.

“Our commitment to protect and restore nature must ensure that our communities are able to access and enjoy these treasured spaces, which provide not only areas to recreate but also cleaner air, shade, protection from floods, and a reprieve from stress, depression, and anxiety. Committing to protect nature is only the first step - these benefits can only be realized if 30x30 is implemented equitably, in urban areas as much as rural areas, and made to be accessible and welcoming to all.”

***Maite Arce, President and CEO, [Hispanic Access Foundation](#)***

## ARIZONA

"Wild Arizona welcomes the Biden administration's Executive Order shifting our nation's focus on public lands to nature conservation and protecting Indigenous homelands. By sustaining and restoring forests, grasslands, rivers, and springs here in the Grand Canyon state, we're ensuring those life-giving habitats can buffer Arizona's diverse communities from the impacts of a changing climate and bolstering nature's own proven climate response strategy.

“We've learned during this global pandemic that human health and our activities are interconnected with the natural world and with each other. Environmental justice is thus central to achieving 30X30 goals. Every local action is indeed a global action.

“Community-based volunteer efforts like our *Wild Stew* stewardship program bring us together outside and inspire new advocates: to give back, restore, and raise our voices for critical places in Arizona like riparian areas along the Colorado River, national forest trails including the Arizona Trail, and always, working with local Indigenous communities to protect Grand Canyon from the threat of uranium mining—all of which collectively helps Arizona contribute to national 30x30 conservation goals.”

***Kelly Burke, Executive Director, [Wild Arizona](#)***

## CALIFORNIA

“Access to nature and the outdoors is a precious resource in the largely urban environment of the Los Angeles region. The ability to exercise, play and meet each other outdoors is crucial to public health. People of color face the greatest challenges accessing the few natural areas we have left, such as the San Gabriel Mountains and smaller urban parks and trails. Because these green spaces are a lifeline for local communities, the 30x30 campaign is critical to achieving equity and social justice for all.”

***Belinda Faustinos, Executive Director, [LA Nature for All](#)***

## COLORADO

“The 30x30 initiative can help us in Colorado re-balance to our relationship to the land and enable communities to more equitably reap the benefits of access to our beautiful outdoors. We must continue to protect ancestral and treaty lands of tribes and ensure communities can advocate for their own conservation priorities. The protection of areas like Thompson Divide in western Colorado and other local public lands across the country are important pieces of the climate solution if we work together and bring resources to the communities working hard to protect our health and our future.”

***Beatriz Soto, Executive Director, [Defiende Nuestra Tierra](#)***

## COLORADO – NEW MEXICO

"The 30 x 30 initiative is an essential step in healing the damages of man-made climate change that threaten the important natural wonders and cultural resources all along the Continental Divide. The protection of these lands and waters is vital for the communities that depend on the vibrancy of the outdoors and the outdoor economy for their livelihoods, including many Continental Divide Trail gateway communities. 30 x 30 will help ensure landscapes, like those along the Divide, remain healthy, vibrant and intact not just for future generations of CDT visitors, but for the landscapes, watersheds, and wildlife that call these places home."

***Teresa Martinez, Executive Director, [Continental Divide Trail Coalition](#)***

## Maine

“Maine’s economy and outdoor businesses are dependent on the health and well-being of natural areas – which give us clean air, fresh drinking water and safe places to get outside. Access to the outdoors has become more important than ever during the

pandemic. Increasing opportunities for outdoor recreation can play a significant role in helping Maine's economy and our communities recover and rebound, which is why putting a 30x30 plan in place at the national and state levels to protect more natural areas and ensure equitable access to the outdoors is so important."

*Jenny Kordick, Executive Director, [Maine Outdoor Brands](#)*  
[The Wilderness Society, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

*TWS Deputy VP of Energy & Climate statement on federal oil and gas leasing pause  
[Biden's public lands-themed Executive Order calls on Secretary of the Interior to halt new oil and gas leases on federal lands](#)*

Today, President Biden is anticipated to sign an Executive Order that takes initial steps to transition public lands to be part of the solution to the climate crisis by pausing new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters.

The following statement is from Chase Huntley, Interim Deputy Vice President of Energy & Climate at The Wilderness Society:

"Biden's order pausing fossil fuel leasing on federal public lands and waters is a step toward making these lands part of the solution to the climate crisis. At a time when we should be pumping the brakes on fossil fuel leasing and production – for the sake of combating climate change and the health of the communities who shoulder the greatest burdens of fossil fuel pollution and development – it makes sense to pause and fix the program now.

The current system is broken and nearly four decades overdue for a review. It gives handouts to oil and gas companies, prioritizes oil and gas drilling over conservation and recreation, and has entangled community welfare and state budgets for schools and social services with the fossil fuel industry's profits. This pause on leasing affords the Biden administration an important opportunity to fix and align the current program with the administration's climate goals while working with fossil-fuel reliant communities to ensure safeguards are in place to support economic transitions.

By taking bold action now to fix the leasing system, protect and connect forests and other landscapes that absorb climate-changing pollution, and ramp up responsible renewable energy development on public lands, all in ways that keep transitioning communities whole, the Biden administration can accelerate the urgent work of making

public lands and waters a net-zero source of emissions by 2030 – a major step toward ultimately making them pollution-free.”

[The Wilderness Society, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Union of Concerned Scientists

### Climate Executive Order Aims to Tackle Issue Across Agencies, Remedy Climate Injustices

WASHINGTON (January 27, 2021)—President Joe Biden signed a sweeping executive order today aimed at addressing the climate crisis across government agencies in a just and equitable way.

Below is a statement by [Angela Ledford Anderson](#), director of the Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS).

“President Biden used his executive order authority to affirm what scientists have been saying for decades: climate change is not a distant crisis but rather one that has already reached our doorstep and can no longer be ignored. Its fingerprints are everywhere in the form of more intense hurricanes; a longer wildfire season; and worsening heat, floods and drought.

“Black, brown, Indigenous and low-income communities are among the most devastated by the climate crisis. The executive order takes steps to remedy this unfair burden by incorporating equity and justice throughout the climate agenda. New, high-level staff and interagency bodies have been created to elevate environmental justice issues across the federal government. These are hopeful signs that frontline communities will now have a seat at the decision-making table as equal stakeholders as the Biden administration endeavors to reduce global warming emissions and help communities prepare for unavoidable climate impacts. The executive order also requires at least 40 percent of all federal clean energy and climate resilience investments be directed towards communities of color and low-income communities, a long-overdue step toward righting past injustices and inequities. A climate and environmental justice screening tool will be developed to help focus these efforts.

“Over the last four years, fossil fuel CEOs have had free reign to continue their polluting business practices secure in the knowledge they wouldn’t be charged with violations—that ends today. The executive order instructs the EPA to once again enforce existing anti-pollution laws that safeguard our air, water and health. The directive to federal agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies will help level the playing field for clean, renewable forms of energy. Fulfilling a campaign pledge, the administration has also instituted a temporary halt on new oil and gas leases on federal lands, which will be followed by a careful agency review to develop a long-term strategy. Directing federal

agencies to invest in climate resilience and climate forecasting, as today's executive order does, is also vital to preparing for and protecting the nation from the impacts of climate change.

"Additionally, the executive order's creation of a White House Office on Domestic Climate Policy and the National Climate Task Force will make it easier to tackle the climate crisis across all economic sectors and within every corner of government. The administration also pledged to have the government lead by example, promising to electrify the federal fleet and procure zero-carbon electricity for federal agencies.

"The order establishes an interagency group to focus on economic revitalization, especially in coal and power plant communities, and to support workers and communities during the clean energy transition. This promising first step is consistent with the administration's commitment to ensure the clean energy economy is a driver of good jobs with high labor standards and family-sustaining wages.

"In its efforts to limit the worst climate impacts, the Department of Agriculture can leave no stone unturned. The executive order has outlined some of their key policies to ensure farmers are a part of the solution when tackling the climate crisis. The administration must also help farmers and rural communities successfully adapt to the changing climate while ensuring all communities equitably share in the benefits of climate action.

"With these actions, the Biden administration has begun laying the foundation for significant action to limit climate change, and we look forward to working with them on these and additional priorities to Build Back Better. Congress must also play its part in advancing ambitious, just and equitable climate solutions."

UCS released separate statements on the [scientific integrity executive order](#) and [the announcement](#) of a U.S.-hosted leaders' climate summit slated for this spring. [Union of Concerned Scientists, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Earth Day Summit Signals US Serious About Working with World Leaders to Address Climate Crisis

WASHINGTON—Just a week after formally requesting to rejoin the Paris climate agreement, the Biden administration has announced the United States will host a world leaders' summit on April 22—which is both Earth Day and the fifth anniversary of the signing ceremony of the Paris Agreement.

Below is a statement by [Dr. Rachel Cleetus](#), policy director and lead economist for the Climate and Energy Program at the Union of Concerned Scientists. Dr. Cleetus has attended the U.N.'s international climate talks and partnered with the international community on climate and energy policies for more than 14 years.

“A U.S.-hosted climate summit sends a positive signal that the Biden administration is serious about working together with the international community to address the worsening climate crisis and will help build momentum on climate action in the lead-up to the U.N. climate talks in Glasgow this November.

“As one of the largest emitters of global warming pollution, it’s imperative the United States comes to the Earth Day summit with a robust 2030 commitment that outlines how it will drastically curb carbon emissions nationwide. Likewise, the United States must deliver on providing funding for developing countries as they transition toward a clean energy future and cope with the impacts of climate change. With today’s announcement that the Biden administration has begun the process of developing the U.S. contribution to global climate action, the nation and the world will be looking for ambition.

“In addition to the climate summit announcement, the Biden administration also released an executive order affirming the United States will prioritize climate change in all international engagement with other nations, including via the G7, G20, as part of trade agreements, and in the U.N. Security Council. Under John Kerry’s leadership as part of the national security council, the markedly positive change in the U.S. posture on international climate issues will no doubt be welcomed by the global community. The urgency is palpable as our choices over the next decade will greatly dictate our ability to meet the goals outlined in the Paris Agreement and stave off the worst climate impacts.”  
[Union of Concerned Scientists, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Vet Voice Foundation

Kate Hoit, Western States Director

“Our nation’s public lands have long provided veterans with inspiration and crucial opportunities for civilian reentry. For too long, America’s broken federal leasing system has allowed oil and gas CEOs to get their way at the expense of these opportunities and for those who fought for our country and the American public. This announcement is an excellent first step to finally ensuring our public lands serve all of us. Now, Congress must work with the administration to permanently reform the leasing system so that the public lands we served to protect are accessible and beneficial for all, not just oil and gas CEOs.”

## Western Leaders Network

Gwen Lachelt, Founder & Director

Western Leaders Network applauds President Biden’s order to hit the pause button on federal leasing. This action presents an opportunity for the administration to ‘build back better’ and fix the leasing and permitting system. We look forward to working with the Administration to ensure states receive meaningful support to help fossil fuel-dependent communities make successful economic transitions. That includes investments in training and new job creation in renewable energy, methane mitigation, reclamation and other industries.”

## Western Spirit Cycling

Ashley Korenblat, CEO

At Western Spirit Cycling, we work all over the rural west bringing people to places with great bike trails, and more and more these communities are looking to quality of life and access to natural lands as their future economic drivers. With the long term outlook for oil and gas investments iffy at best, and demand for outdoor recreation steadily growing, we need to support these cities and towns as they transition to the future. This pause on oil and gas leasing is timely and important to avoid tying up lands in unproductive leases, when there are better opportunities for both the American people and nearby communities.

## Western Values Project / Accountable.US

“The iconic and imperiled Western sage grouse are a keystone species in the sagebrush sea, and the last four years of mismanagement and industrial development has degraded vast swaths of critical habitat for the bird and the other 350-plus species that call it home,” said Jayson O’Neill, [Western Values Project](#) director. “The Biden administration’s 30x30 plan is the path to restoring and protecting critical sage-grouse

habitat by building back and growing the one billion dollars of outdoor economic activity and good jobs it supports in the rural West.”

## World Resources Institute

STATEMENT: Biden Administration Commits to Protect 30% of U.S. Land and Ocean by 2030

**WASHINGTON (January 27, 2021)**—President Biden signed sweeping [Executive Orders](#) to address climate change, protect biodiversity, improve environmental justice and create clean energy jobs across America. As a science-based, data-driven organization, WRI is encouraged to see a return to scientific integrity and evidence-based policymaking.

The announcements include a significant new commitment to protect at least 30% of U.S. lands and ocean by 2030.

Following is a statement from Dr. Charles Barber, Senior Biodiversity Advisor, WRI:

“Our forests, lakes, coasts and ocean are a critical part of our planet’s ‘operating system’ and protecting these natural ecosystems is essential for us now and for future generations. President Biden’s commitment to effectively protect 30% of U.S. lands and sea by 2030 is a bold step that will help ensure our natural resources continue to contribute to the welfare of the American people. Protecting our coastal ecosystems and old growth forests will build our resilience to the effects of climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. America’s national parks and reserve systems need to be strengthened and expanded. Achieving the 30% goal will require unprecedented cooperation with states, private landowners and in particular Native American tribal governments and stakeholders.

“The Biden administration’s 30x30 commitment is not just good for America, but also provides U.S. leadership on the international stage. It shows that 30x30 – a target already adopted by many other governments – is a floor and not a ceiling for the increase in ambition that is so desperately needed if we are to effectively tackle both climate change and biodiversity loss.”

Following is a statement from Kristian Teleki, Director, Sustainable Ocean Initiative, WRI:

“The ocean provides people with indispensable benefits every day – from the air we breathe and millions of jobs, to renewable energy and nutritious food. For the ocean to continue to provide benefits to humanity, it needs to be protected, and currently less than 8% of the ocean is protected. Leading by example, in December 2020 the 14 countries of the Ocean Panel committed to sustainably manage 100% of their national waters and to support a global target of protecting 30% of the ocean.

“President Biden’s commitment to 30x30 raises the bar for protection of one of the world’s most critical resources - the ocean - which will benefit people, nature and the economy. To achieve this important milestone, the Biden administration should significantly strengthen protection of existing marine conservation areas, including expansion of “no-take zones”, prohibit offshore oil development and more effectively regulate shipping to reduce pollution.”

[World Resources Institute, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Wyoming Outdoor Council

Wyoming Outdoor Council statement on federal oil and gas leasing pause

Lander, Wyo. — On January 20, the U.S. Department of the Interior issued an order that paused many agency actions for 60 days — including oil and gas lease sales. Today, an [executive order announced by President Joe Biden](#) will continue this pause on new leasing while the Interior conducts a “rigorous review of all existing leasing and permitting practices related to fossil fuel development on public lands and waters.”

Public lands are the backbone of Wyoming’s economy and way of life. They support all of our core industries — energy, tourism, and agriculture — and Wyoming people want a balance on their public lands that allows these special places to sustain wildlife, recreation, open space, and cultural values while also generating a financial return for taxpayers.

For years now, that balance has not been upheld. The federal government has offered up millions of acres of public lands in Wyoming for leasing — indiscriminately offering lands with low development potential in sensitive wildlife habitat, pristine backcountry areas, and cultural and historic sites, while ignoring public input. But oil and gas activity is down and our state’s budget, largely reliant on mineral taxes and royalties, is threadbare. It’s plain to see that unbridled leasing was not the ticket out of Wyoming’s boom-bust economy.

The Bureau of Land Management oversees 18 million acres of public lands in Wyoming. Of this, 11 million acres are already leased for development. Recent administrative decisions have blatantly disregarded the value these lands hold for wildlife, hunting and fishing, outdoor recreation, and other uses. Change is needed to make sure future leasing and development is done right: This is the time for the BLM to refocus on its congressionally mandated duty to manage public lands for *all* the uses they sustain, and for Congress to consider meaningful reforms to our century-old system of leasing.

Allowing anonymous speculators to nominate millions of acres for development under a leasing

framework from 1920 is not compatible with the other values public lands support, which benefit our communities, state revenue, and quality of life. Noncompetitive leases and \$2/acre minimum bids are another relic of the past: American taxpayers deserve fair compensation when our public lands are leased to private companies.

Many values of our public lands— hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, wildlife, quiet solitude, unspoiled views, cultural and historic sites, and more — have been left on the back burner while a single use is prioritized. It's time to reimagine revenue from public lands, and for Wyoming to heed this latest wake-up call that we need to take control of our economic future.

## Local/Regional Groups

### Archaeology Southwest

Paul Reed, Preservation Archaeologist and Chaco Scholar

“For four years, the Trump administration ignored the calls of Indigenous communities in pursuit of ‘energy dominance.’ Places that are sacred to these communities, including Chaco Canyon, Bears Ears, and Chimney Rock National Monument, were all threatened by reckless oil and gas leasing proposals. We need a dramatic course-correction, and this decision to pause leasing is a much-needed first step in the right direction. I look forward to engaging with the Interior Department as it moves forward with leasing reform, and to the day when the ancestral homes of Indigenous communities are no longer targeted for oil and gas drilling.”

### Montana Conservation Voters

MCV Welcomes ‘Courageous New Leaders’ in Washington  
*Conservation Group Praises Keystone XL Cancellation, Re-entry into Paris Agreement*

(BOZEMAN, Mont.) - Whitney Tawney, Executive Director of Montana Conservation Voters, today released the following statement in response to President Joe Biden’s orders cancelling the Keystone XL Pipeline, re-entering the Paris Climate Agreement, and launching a comprehensive review of the Trump Administration’s disastrous rollbacks of environmental and public land protections:

**“We welcome courageous new leaders in Washington whose priorities honor the future, our communities, our environment and our public lands. We will work with**

**any and all who are committed to fighting the crisis of climate breakdown and racial injustice, and we'll do it with renewed faith in our fragile democracy.”**

Hours before their inauguration, President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris announced a [comprehensive review of dozens controversial actions](#) taken by the Trump Administration over the past four years--most of them rollbacks to environmental and public land protections.

## Montana Wilderness Association

Business, Conservation, and Hunting and Angling Groups  
Applaud Biden's Pause on Oil and Gas Leasing  
*Groups say pause is a much-needed opportunity to reform a broken leasing system*

Helena, MT – A group of Montana-based business, conservation, and hunting and angling organizations have come together in support of the executive order President Biden is expected to sign today pausing oil and gas leasing on federally managed public lands.

The organizations point to the fact that 65% of all oil and gas leases in Montana, covering 1.2 million acres of public lands, are currently not being used, primarily because there is very little, if any oil and gas potential on public lands in Montana. They also point to the fact that currently there isn't a single operating oil rig in the state.

“Our current leasing system hasn't worked for Montana's diverse economy and communities for a long time,” says Marne Hayes, executive director of Business for Montana's Outdoors. “It makes no economic sense to lease public lands that have no oil and gas potential when land management agencies could instead be looking at how those lands could be used in service of creating more jobs and supporting more businesses that rely on our outdoor recreation economy - driven as it is by hunting, fishing, hiking, wildlife viewing, and other activities that, all in all, generate some \$7 billion a year for our state.”

Hayes adds that the pause will not at all restrict funding for the Land and Water Conservation Fund. “That's an unfounded argument that has no basis in reality, as money for LWCF is funded entirely through currently producing off-shore oil and gas operations - which are unaffected by the pause - not areas that won't be leased as a result of Biden's executive order.”

Despite the fact that Montana holds little oil and gas potential, the BLM has not let up on offering hundreds of leases a year at regularly scheduled auctions. During the four years of the Trump administration, 30% of the leases the BLM auctioned off went for the minimum bid of \$2 an acre.

Leases that aren't bid on at the minimum \$2 per acre are sold off the shelf for \$1.50 an acre – a practice referred to as noncompetitive leasing. During fiscal year 2018, the BLM sold more than 262,000 acres of public lands in Montana noncompetitively for a \$1.50 acre.

Sen. Tester introduced a bill last year, called the Leasing Market Efficiency Act, that would have put an end to noncompetitive leasing.

“The BLM spends millions of dollars every year administering leases that lead to no oil and gas production, no jobs, no royalties, no public benefit,” says Joe Offer, executive director at Friends of the Missouri Breaks. “That’s money and resources the BLM could be spending on habitat improvements, law enforcement, and maintenance of trails, trailheads, fishing access sites, boat ramps, and many other things that are critical for Montanans’ outdoor recreation economy and our way of life.”

The group of Montana-based organizations supporting the leasing pause would like Congress and the administration to use the time to enact new policy and pass laws, such as Sen. Tester’s Leasing Market and Efficiency Act, that would reform the country’s oil and gas leasing system.

“There’s no doubt that our hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation opportunities have suffered from a broken oil and gas leasing system, which also hurts taxpayers,” said Alec Underwood, federal conservation campaigns director for the Montana Wildlife Federation. “A pause on oil and gas leasing will allow for a review of wasteful and outdated policies and ensure our \$7 billion outdoor recreation economy, and the jobs it supports, are protected for this and future generations.”

Aubrey Bertram, eastern Montana field director at Montana Wilderness Association, argues that Congress must also update its bonding rates to cover reclamation costs, which haven’t been updated since the 1960s, and update royalty rates paid to local communities from nearby oil and gas production. Taxpayers for Common Sense estimate that Montanans lost out on approximately \$56 million in rental revenue on federal oil and gas leases between FY09 and FY18.

“America’s current oil and gas leasing system - the leasing of publicly owned resources to private companies – is working against the American public and only serves Wall Street investors and wildcat speculators,” Bertram says. “We appreciate President Biden giving us a break while we take a hard look at this system so we can move forward with meaningful reforms to protect our Montana way of life.”

## PennEnvironment

Statement: President Biden to make important strides in climate action

*New administration will lay out national and international plans to cut carbon pollution*

WASHINGTON -- President Joseph Biden will release a far-reaching plan Wednesday afternoon that outlines the actions his administration will take to tackle climate change both domestically and internationally. With the scientific target squarely in focus -- reaching [net zero emissions by 2050](#) to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius -- the new administration will lay out elements of a roadmap for the nation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a broad range of sectors, from agriculture to manufacturing.

Notably, today's announcements will include the creation of a National Climate Task Force, chaired by White House National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, which will bring together twenty one federal agencies to work on ambitious domestic pollution reduction goals. The executive orders will also emphasize science in policy making at federal agencies; recommit the United States to international climate leadership, including hosting a global summit on Earth Day, April 22; and **preserve public lands and oceans by pausing oil and gas leases on federal lands.**

PennEnvironment issued the following statement:

"Pennsylvanians have been working for years to move our state to cleaner and healthier energy sources like wind and solar," **said Flora Cardoni, PennEnvironment's Field Director.** "But time is running out, and what's seemed like a marathon for so many years must now become a sprint. Thankfully, President Biden's bold and ambitious climate action plan is the type of galvanizing vision that can get us moving faster toward a better future for ourselves and our grandchildren. We are grateful to the Biden administration for taking this kind of leadership on climate action within a week of entering office. We are excited for the Commonwealth to follow his lead and enact bold climate and clean energy policies right here at home."

[PennEnvironment, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## Save the Boundary Waters Campaign

President's Executive Order on Climate Change will Preserve 30 Percent of US Land and Water by 2030

*Preserving Minnesota's Boundary Waters Wilderness is key to solving the climate and extinction crisis*

**Ely, MN--**Today President Biden signed a laudable Executive Order that directs the government to conserve 30 percent of all land and water within the United States by 2030, creates a task force to assemble a government-wide action plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and elevates climate change to a national security priority. A key part of fulfilling the 'whole-of-government' approach to the climate crisis should include development of specific actions by federal land management agencies to determine which public lands should be protected from mining and other extraction. Protecting and preserving Minnesota's Boundary Waters Wilderness and its surrounding boreal forests from sulfide-ore copper mining is a key part of the climate solution, including carbon sequestration and climate adaptability and resilience.

**"Today's Executive Order is a visionary step forward to protect our world for our children and children's children. It sets a national 30X30 land and water conservation goal and launches a process of engagement for identifying strategies. Among the first 30X30 actions should be restoration and expansion of**

**protections for the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and its watershed to ban sulfide-ore copper mining on nearby public lands. Only a ban would guarantee that the Wilderness and the larger 4.3-million-acre Quetico Superior ecosystem remain biologically and ecologically intact. This region has been identified as crucial to our ability to sustain biodiversity in the face of a changing climate,"** said Becky Rom, National Chair of the Campaign to Save the Boundary Waters. **"The Order marks a return to a government committed to decision-making rooted in science."**

The 4.3 million-acre Quetico-Superior region is primarily boreal forest. Boreal forests store more carbon than any other terrestrial ecosystem — almost twice as much per acre as tropical forests. Destruction of boreal forest for industrial mining is a double whammy — the release of much of that carbon into the atmosphere and the loss of the capacity of the land to take up carbon in the future. The loss is even greater if wetlands are destroyed. Soil carbon levels in wetlands are nearly double the level in the terrestrial boreal forest.

The Boundary Waters is also crucial for climate adaptation and resilience. The Wilderness Society identified 74 places in the United States that are crucial to our ability to sustain biodiversity in the face of a changing climate. These areas have three essential characteristics: (1) an especially high degree of wildness; (2) connectivity to existing protected areas; and (3) diversity of unprotected species and ecosystem types. The analysis found that the Quetico-Superior region is one of the top places in the nation with this “Wildland Conservation Value.”

A recent study by The Nature Conservancy with similar findings underscores the necessity of keeping these areas intact and undeveloped. Consistent with this, The Nature Conservancy, The Conservation Fund, and The Trust for Public Land have acquired large swaths of land across northern Minnesota to keep them protected. Allowing the creation of an industrial mining zone in the watershed of the Boundary Waters would undermine the work that these and other organizations are doing to prepare us for the future.

Minnesotans support protecting the Boundary Waters Wilderness from sulfide-ore copper mining by wide margins. Polling from July 2020 shows that 68% of Minnesotans support a permanent ban on copper mining near the Boundary Waters, including by a 15 point margin in Northeastern Minnesota (MN CD 8).

## Twenty Aquariums’ Statement

As the nation’s leading aquariums committed to ocean and freshwater conservation, we fully support the Biden-Harris administration’s bold actions to assert U.S. leadership in the fight against global climate change.

We celebrate today’s clear mandate for a government-wide approach to addressing the climate crisis that focuses on scientific integrity, environmental justice and job creation. Through actions like joining the Paris Agreement, initiating the rollback of environmentally damaging federal regulations of the past four years and setting a goal to conserve 30 percent of federal land and waters by 2030 with strong stakeholder engagement, the Biden-Harris administration is setting a course for our nation that acknowledges the role that a healthy ocean, lakes and rivers play in addressing the climate crisis and increasing our national prosperity.

We recognize that climate change is the greatest threat to the future of our planet, of people and of our ocean and freshwater systems. For the well-being of people and all life on Earth, we must take immediate and significant action to address the climate crisis. Climate action can produce local economic benefits, generate new jobs, restore public lands and waters and engage current and future generations to help rebuild our infrastructure and create a clean-energy future. We must also ensure that communities bearing the brunt of climate impacts are fully involved in designing equitable strategies for a path forward.

To fight climate change, we need a healthy ocean. Our ocean has already absorbed 25 percent of the carbon dioxide generated by human activities, and more than 90 percent of the excess heat. But these services have come at a tremendous cost. By altering the chemistry and temperature of the ocean, we have put marine ecosystems and wildlife at increasing risk. The life-giving benefits we derive from ocean and freshwater systems — including food and water, transportation, defense, tourism and other enterprises — underpin our global prosperity.

Our ocean, lakes and rivers are also sources of climate solutions. Together, we can build resilience to the impacts of climate change by restoring and conserving natural habitats, curbing pollution and managing fisheries and other natural resources in sustainable ways. We also can protect and restore our tidal marshes, seagrasses, wetlands and mangroves that sequester atmospheric carbon and develop new offshore sources of renewable energy in an environmentally responsible way.

Our aquariums, which make up the Aquarium Conservation Partnership, play unique and powerful roles in promoting climate solutions. We are trusted science-based communicators, conservation stewards and local business leaders. We are committed to working with our communities, government leaders, business partners and public audiences to meet these challenges and accelerate the pace of progress for our planet.

We are eager to work with the Biden-Harris administration, Congress and other leaders across the country to step up efforts to protect the nation's invaluable ocean and freshwater resources, strengthen the resilience of our communities and accelerate solutions to the climate crisis.

## Western Organization of Resource Councils

### Press Statement

Westerners support reforming broken leasing system for federal coal, oil and gas

Billings, MT -- President Biden today signed several executive orders, including a pause on further leasing of oil and gas by the federal government, and a review of all existing leasing and permitting practices related to fossil fuel development on public lands.

Federal mineral leasing programs have been repeatedly criticized by government watchdogs for wasting public resources. Additionally, development of these publicly-owned fossil fuels remains one of the single largest sources of climate-disrupting carbon pollution in the country, necessitating reform and actions to address the climate crisis. Pausing new oil and gas leasing will not result in a shortage of leases available to continue production. In fact, the industry is already sitting on millions of unused acres of leases. Nearly half (47.1 percent) of the 22.1 million actively leased acres are currently sitting idle, generating only \$1.50 per acre for taxpayers annually while preventing other beneficial use of the land.

In response, representatives of grassroots community organizations in Western states issued the following:

“We applaud the new administration for their immediate action to pause and review oil and gas leasing programs on federal lands and minerals. This is a necessary and long overdue action to stop the looting of public resources as fossil fuel developers accumulate excess leases at today’s bargain basement prices. Thousands of acres of federal subsurface resources are already leased and undeveloped, so this pause in breakneck leasing will neither harm producers with economic resources nor slow our energy economy

What it will do is give our nation time to thoughtfully rationalize and restructure management of our vast national energy resources to meet America’s future needs of climate, restoration, multiple use, and revenues. World energy markets are evolving very fast, and we’ll be left far behind if we continue down the same path we’ve been on for half a century. This leasing moratorium will give us room to look ahead and remain competitive in a carbon-constrained economy

In addition, the new executive order promises serious aid to coal mining, power plant, and oil and gas communities that will be economically challenged by these world market changes, and promises projects to address the problems caused by the thousands of abandoned and orphan oil and gas wells that BLM has failed to deal with in Wyoming in the past.” Bob LeResche, Powder River Basin Resource Council, Clearmont, Wyoming

"In the last four years there has been an all-out effort by the BLM to short-circuit its already industry-friendly lease review policies in order to give away as much of the public’s oil and gas resources as operators could absorb. As we anticipate a more responsible administration, it is important to temporarily stop leasing and reestablish meaningful policy before any more resource giveaways. A moratorium on leasing is critical to create space for improvement in leasing rules to fully account for impacts on citizens and the environment, and to properly assess the monetary value of leases prior to resuming any federal leasing." Rodger Steen, Chairman of the Western Colorado Alliance's Oil & Gas Committee, Steamboat Springs, Colorado

“We’re encouraged to see that the administration will take a hard look at our broken coal leasing system. When a private company can buy a ton of coal for less than the price of a cheeseburger, something is seriously wrong. Taxpayers are shortchanged billions of dollars because of this flawed system, the public pays the costs of increased climate change, and coal companies too often leave behind degraded lands that are never properly reclaimed. It’s long past time to revise these corporate-friendly policies and put the public back in the driver’s seat on publicly owned resources.” Steve Charter, Northern Plains Resource Council board member who ranches above an underground coal mine in Shepherd, Montana

“A pause in our broken leasing system will allow the administration to reform their ‘oil-and-gas giveaway’ program, protect public health and the environment, and end the corporate monopolization of these lands so ranchers, residents, recreationalists, and wildlife can safely live in the West. The BLM needs to rededicate itself to its multi-use charter after the past four years under an ‘energy dominance’ policy. Given the decade-plus backlog of undeveloped leases and valid permits for federal minerals held by industry, there should be no impact on jobs. At the same time, taxpayer equity should be addressed by reviewing and updating the prices for leases and royalties. Finally, bonding policy should be adjusted for the real cost of plugging wells and remediating sites to ensure it doesn’t fall to us, the taxpayers or owners of split-estate surface, to pay to clean up the mess. Barbara Vasquez, leader in the Western Organization of Resource Councils, Cowdrey, Colorado

## Members of Congress

### SENATE

#### Sen. Michael Bennet (D-CO)

Washington, D.C. – Today, Colorado U.S. Senator Michael Bennet issued the following statement ahead of President Joe Biden signing an executive order on clean energy and climate action:

“Climate change is a major threat to our national security, our economy, our health, and our way of life. I applaud the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to tackling this challenge and encourage them to work with the state, tribal, and local leaders who have led on this issue for years.

“We have a real opportunity to create jobs and restore American leadership by addressing climate change through strong clean car standards, energy efficiency investments, and smart climate solutions. We should also invest in our forests and watersheds—the natural infrastructure of the West—to grow our economy and build climate resilience.

“Federal leadership on clean energy helped spark our economic recovery in Colorado in 2009. It’s a welcome breath of fresh air to have a partner who can help us achieve that again in the White House. I look forward to working with President Biden—guided by the best available science and in partnership with community leaders in Colorado—to strengthen our economy and our clean energy future through climate action.”

Yesterday, Bennet sent a letter urging the Director of the U.S. Policy Council Susan Rice and the Director of the U.S. Economic Council Brian Deese to increase investment in, expand access to, and improve the delivery of federal funding for rural communities going through energy transitions in a future economic recovery package to spur growth and create jobs.

Bennet is a leader in the Senate on climate, championing policies that implement forward-looking measures to combat the growing threat of climate change. In August 2020, Bennet joined his colleagues on the Senate Democrats Special Committee on the Climate Crisis in

releasing a report calling for action to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by no later than 2050, invest in a clean energy future, and create millions of jobs.

## Sen. Tom Carper (D-DE)

Carper Statement On President Biden's Executive Order On Climate.

According to Tom Carper, "Meeting the demands of the climate crisis is an urgent challenge that presents us with an incredible opportunity. I'm thrilled that the Biden Administration is wasting no time capitalizing on that opportunity in ways that benefit the American people and our planet. With his executive action today, President Biden is laying the foundation for bold, government-wide action that puts us on a path to net-zero emissions by 2050. Importantly, he's doing so in a way that prioritizes American workers, environmental justice, and scientific integrity. 'President Biden's executive action furthers progress on several key issues that I have been focused on for many years in the Senate. It directs the State Department to prepare for the ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, a global agreement to phase down the use of powerful greenhouse gases known as hydrofluorocarbons or HFCs. This will build upon the implementation of my AIM Act, which was signed into law last year. The executive order will stimulate more offshore wind and electric vehicle production here at home and protect our beautiful coasts and public lands for future generations. I'm also glad it invests in communities that too often feel left behind when it comes to transitioning to a clean economy. 'Getting to net-zero is not going to be easy. It's going to require bold action throughout our government and across society. I'm encouraged by the Biden Administration taking leadership on this urgent issue and pushing us in the right direction. Now it's time for Congress to come together and seize on this moment.'" [Tom Carper, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)

National Journal: A Spokeswoman for Sen. Cortez Masto's Said She Supports the Biden Administration's Decision to Temporarily Pause Oil and Gas Permits. "Lauren Wodarski, a spokeswoman for Cortez Masto, said the Nevada Democrat supports the Biden administration's decision to temporarily pause oil and gas permits while it reevaluates and updates its leasing priorities. Wodarski pointed to Cortez Masto's [End Speculative Oil and Gas Leasing Act](#), which would restrict leasing on public lands with improbable prospects for production." [National Journal, 1/26/21]

Sen. Masto: "Fighting climate change not only improves the health of our communities and our planet, it creates an innovative, 21st century economy with many new jobs. abcnews.go.com/Politics/biden..." [@SenCortezMasto, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. Diane Feinstein (D-CA)

Sen. Feinstein: "California understands all too well the danger that offshore drilling poses to our oceans and coastal economies. @POTUS is committed to reducing our carbon emissions, and I applaud his decision to enact a moratorium on gas drilling in federal waters off of California. [Twitter, @SenFeinstein, [1/27/21](#)]

Sen. Feinstein: I just introduced a bill to make that ban permanent so future administrations can't overturn it. Banning offshore drilling represents a giant step toward the vital goal of building a cleaner, more sustainable energy future. [Twitter, @SenFeinstein, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

AP: Heinrich Said He Would Not Support a Permanent, Unilateral Ban on New Oil and Gas Leases But He Believes a Pause is Appropriate. "Local officials and residents in New Mexico's oil patches are anxious as the Biden administration takes aim at the oil and natural gas industry with a series of new executive orders. But the state's two U.S. senators are supporting the actions, saying it's time to rethink the nation's energy policies. Democrat Sen. Martin Heinrich said he would not support a permanent, unilateral ban on new oil and gas leases but he believes a pause is appropriate despite concerns from industry groups and others that doing so could have immediate implications for the state's bottom line. 'It's also crystal clear that the zero carbon, zero pollution economy is coming,' Heinrich told The Associated Press. 'Even oil and gas majors are planning for that future. To weather that change, New Mexico needs a transition plan with a predictable glide path for producers and robust investments in the communities where our energy veterans have produced our country's transportation fuels.'" [Associated Press, [1/27/21](#)]

Sen. Heinrich: "I'm so pleased to see @POTUS announce the creation of a Civilian Climate Corps that mirrors my own legislation to tackle the climate crisis, rebuild our economy, and mobilize the next generation of conservation workers." [@MartinHeinrich, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. John Hickenlooper (D-CO)

@SenatorHick: What a relief to see President Biden working to repair the damage the previous admin inflicted on our environment. Conserving 30% of our land and waters by 2030 is a bold step forward in protecting Colorado's precious outdoor spaces and fighting climate change. #30x30" [Twitter, @SenatorHick, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)

"It is prudent to evaluate if taxpayers are receiving a fair return for the use of their resources," Manchin said, noting 53 percent of onshore acres leased and 77 percent of offshore acres leased are inactive. "This executive order will not impact energy activity like drilling or permitting on existing leases."

He also stressed he would hold the administration's feet to the fire to reinvest in communities that have seen lost jobs amid the transition to cleaner energy sources.

"I intend to hold the Administration to this while ensuring that the burden of any acceleration in already changing markets due to these actions is not unduly placed on these communities that powered our nation to greatness," Manchin said. "I stand ready to work with this Administration to ensure West Virginia communities see these much needed investments."

## Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Merkley Applauds Signing Of Urgently Needed Executive Orders On Climate.

"Oregon's U.S. Senator Jeff Merkley released the following statement today after President Biden signed a series of executive orders aimed at tackling climate chaos: 'From extreme forest fires and crippling droughts to severe hurricanes, torrential rains, floods, and winter storms, Americans in every corner of the country have experienced firsthand how climate chaos is claiming lives and causing billions of dollars in destruction. We've also seen how that damage has a disproportionate impact on Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income families. We've also seen that climate chaos has a massive impact on rural communities, deeply damaging three of pillars of rural economies: Farming, fishing, and forestry. The American people are demanding action, and gave President Biden a massive mandate in November in part because he promised to deliver that action. 'President Biden has already taken a number of important steps that demonstrate his commitment to heeding Americans' call. His decision today to move toward banning new oil and gas leases on federal land—leases which currently add up to almost 25 percent of America's total carbon dioxide emissions—sends a powerful message that to tackle climate boldly, we must address both the supply and demand factors in the burning of fossil fuels.'" [Office of Senator Jeff Merkley, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. Jacky Rosen (D-NV)

Sen. Rosen: "The climate crisis puts our health, national security, & economy at risk. President Biden's actions today will:  Support clean energy jobs & infrastructure  Halt new oil & gas leasing on public lands  Increase conservation efforts  Restore science-based decision-making" [@SenJackyRosen, [1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

Sen. Schumer: "I'm proud that President Biden is announcing a slew of executive actions on climate: To support workers, people, disadvantaged communities To address environmental justice and place science at the heart of our climate policy To halt new oil and gas development on federal lands" [[@SenSchumer, 1/27/21](#)]

## Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT)

Tester Statement On Oil And Gas Leasing Executive Order. "U.S. Senator Jon Tester today released the following statement after the Administration signed an executive order placing a one-year moratorium on new oil and gas leases on federal land and ordering a comprehensive review of federal leasing practices:

'These lands belong to taxpayers, and with less than half of currently leased acres producing, we need to ensure Montanans are getting a fair return for the natural resources on their property. The federal government should not be wasting taxpayer dollars on bureaucratic red tape or thousands of unused leases, but that effort cannot come at the expense of Montana jobs. That's why I'll hold the Biden Administration accountable to completing a review in a timely manner.' In Fiscal Year 2019, Montana had 1.91 million leased acres of land with 671,464 acres producing, which is just over a third. In Montana, there are 1,385 producing leases of 2,759 total." [Office of Senator Jon Tester, Press release, [1/27/21](#)]

## HOUSE

### Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA-08)

Rep. Beyer: The federal government should not be promoting fossil fuels, the consumption of which poses a threat to human existence on this planet. After years of expansions of drilling, we finally have an administration looking out for public health and working to make our economy greener. [Twitter, [@RepDonBeyer, 1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Suzanne Bonamici (D-OR-01)

Rep. Bonamici: We must #ActOnClimate, and today's Executive Orders demonstrate the Biden-Harris Admin's commitment to #SolvingTheClimateCrisis by: pausing new oil and gas leases on

public lands & offshore waters; restoring labor standards to support good-paying, union jobs; directing federal agencies to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies [Twitter, @RepBonamici, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Salud Carbajal (D-CA-24)

Rep. Carbajal: “.@POTUS' #30x30 order builds on the commitment California has already made to fight climate change. It will protect 30% of #publiclands & waters by 2030, like the #CarrizoPlain & @LosPadresNF in #CA24. thehill.com/changing-ameri...” [ @RepCarbajal, [1/28/21](#)]

### Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA-27)

Rep. Chu: Thank you, President Biden, for committing to preserving 30% of our land and oceans by 2030! The #30x30 goal will connect more communities, like ours in the San Gabriel Valley, to millions of acres of outdoor spaces while ensuring cleaner air and water for all of us. [Twitter, @RepJudyChu, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Charlie Crist (D-FL-13)

Rep. Crist: Floridians know just how dangerous offshore drilling can be for our economy, environment, and way of life. THANK YOU @POTUS for #ProtectingOurCoasts & keeping Florida off the table! [Twitter, @RepCharlieCrist, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO-01)

Rep. DeGette: For those of us who've been leading the 30x30 charge in Congress, having a partner in the White House is invaluable. Soon, we will be reintroducing the Protecting America's Wilderness Act to preserve more than 1.3 million acres of wilderness. This is the year we get it done! [Twitter, @RepDianaDeGette, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Suzan DelBene (D-WA-01)

Rep. DelBene: The Biden administration is prohibiting new oil & gas drilling on federal lands. This is a big win for our environment & the future of our planet. [Twitter, @RepDelBene, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D-TX-35)

Rep. Doggett: “These actions direct the federal government to plan for climate adaptation and resilience at home and abroad, to preserve public lands, to buy American-made electric vehicles and to restore scientific integrity.” [[@RepLloydDoggett, 1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Ruben Gallego (D-AZ-07)

Rep. Gallego: Public lands are meant for the public to benefit from and they should stay that way. The pause on new oil & gas leasing on federal land will help Tribes, local communities, & the climate w/o hurting the jobs & wallets of hardworking Americans. It's a step in the right direction. [Twitter, [@RepRubenGallego, 1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Raúl M. Grijalva (D-AZ-03)

**Chair Grijalva Statement on Today's Environmental Executive Orders: “The Right Way to Start Our Overdue Transition to a More Sustainable Economy”**

*Washington, D.C.* – Chair Raúl M. Grijalva (D-Ariz.) released the following statement on President Joe Biden’s new environmental executive orders.

“The last four years have been a feeding frenzy on our public lands and waters, and this moratorium is the right way to start our overdue transition to a more sustainable economy. We need to think about the big picture from now on instead of taking industry demands at face value, which is why the American Public Lands and Waters Climate Solution Act calls for [exactly this step](#). The Ocean-Based Climate Solutions Act creates a blueprint for protecting 30 percent of our ocean by 2030 with a public input process, and we're going to move both of these bills forward in this Congress because as President Biden recognizes, we don't have any more time to waste.”

Rep. Grijalva: The American people elected [@POTUS](#) to [#ActOnClimate](#). In his first week he’s stopped drilling on our [#PublicLands](#) and vowed to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands, fresh waters, and ocean areas by 2030. This is how we are [#SolvingTheClimateCrisis](#). [[@RepRaulGrijalva, 1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Grijalva: “We have a White House taking the [#ClimateCrisis](#) seriously. As Chair of [@NRDems](#), I've introduced [#OurClimateSolution](#) legislation to decrease greenhouse gas emissions on [#publiclands](#) while providing a [#JustTransition](#) for those working in fossil fuels. [kold.com/2021/01/27/az-...](#)” [[@RepRaulGrijalva, 1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Grijalva: “The American people elected [@POTUS](#) to [#ActOnClimate](#). In his first week he’s stopped drilling on our [#PublicLands](#) and vowed to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands, fresh waters, and ocean areas by 2030. This is how we are [#SolvingTheClimateCrisis](#). [ow.ly/cGBF50DjZaF](#)” [[@RepRaulGrijalva, 1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Grijalva: “The last four years have been a feeding frenzy on our public lands and waters, and this is right way to begin our overdue transition to a more sustainable economy. With @NRDems, we have legislation ready to go to #ActOnClimate & put #PeopleOverPolluters ow.ly/XgV550DjQBO” [@RepRaulGrijalva, [1/27/21](#)]

## Rep. Jared Huffman (D-CA-02)

Rep. Huffman: “Along with @POTUS’s latest round of climate-focused executive orders, we are showing our united commitment to combating climate change by giving our coasts the protections their communities and ecosystems deserve. #ProtectOurCoasts thehill.com/policy/energy-...” [@RepHuffman, [1/28/21](#)]

## Rep. Jim Langevin (D-RI-02)

Rep. Langevin: “The science is clear: we have no time to waste in protecting America's natural lands. @POTUS's commitment to conserve 30% of America's lands and oceans by 2030 will preserve the natural spaces that provide us clean water, clean air, and a more stable climate. #30x30” [@JimLangevin, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Langevin: “This executive action will also establish a Civilian Climate Corps, creating good jobs and putting a new generation of Americans to work conserving and restoring public lands and waters, increasing reforestation, and bolstering resilience.” [@JimLangevin, [1/27/21](#)]

## Rep. Mike Levin (D-CA-49)

[Rep. Mike Levin Applauds President Biden’s Action to Combat Climate Crisis](#)

January 27, 2021

San Juan Capistrano, CA – U.S. Representative Mike Levin (CA-49) applauded President Joe Biden’s executive action today to combat the climate crisis, protect public lands, and foster clean energy job creation. Rep. Levin specifically praised Biden’s Executive Order pausing new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or offshore waters in order to review leasing practices, which aligns with legislation he introduced during the 116th Congress to reform the Bureau of Land Management’s oil and gas leasing program, strengthen public land protections, and increase community participation in the program. Rep. Levin is planning to re-introduce that legislation in the coming weeks.

“The climate crisis is the defining challenge of our time, and President Biden’s historic action today is a breath of fresh air for everyone fighting to protect our planet for our children and

grandchildren,” said Rep. Levin. “After four years of climate science denial, we finally have leaders in the White House again who recognize that the climate crisis is also a national security, economic, and public health crisis. Among many important actions taken today, I am particularly heartened to see a pause on new oil and gas leases on public lands and offshore waters in order to review leasing practices, which aligns with legislation I led to end giveaways to fossil fuel companies and instead provide transparency and accountability over their efforts to exploit public lands. I’m also glad to see Biden’s action to adopt zero-emission vehicles, something I have long-called for to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and grow our economy by creating clean energy jobs of the future right here in America. I look forward to partnering with the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to advance robust climate action.”

Rep. Levin introduced the Restoring Community Input and Public Protection in Oil and Gas Leasing Act during the 116th Congress to protect taxpayers and end giveaways for fossil fuel companies by eliminating noncompetitive oil and gas leasing, requiring companies to pay a fee to nominate lands for leasing, and raising the onshore oil and gas royalty rate, rental fee, and the minimum bid amount. The bill also increases transparency in the leasing process, restores community input, and safeguards environmental resources by enhancing reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act

Rep. Levin also introduced the Zero-Emission Vehicles (ZEV) Act during the 116th Congress to facilitate nationwide adoption of zero-emission vehicles, and the Green Spaces, Green Vehicles Act to fund the installation of ZEV charging infrastructure on public lands and facilitate the conversion of Park Service and Forest Service fleets to ZEVs.

Rep. Levin is a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis.

## Rep. Alan Lowenthal (D-CA-47)

Rep. Lowenthal: I applaud President Biden’s freeze on new oil and gas leasing on federal public lands. My statement: [...] [Twitter, @RepLowenthal, [1/27/21](#)]

Congressman Lowenthal Applauds President Biden’s Move To Bar New Oil And Gas Leases On Federal Lands  
January 27, 2021 Press Release

Congressman Alan Lowenthal (CA-47), today, issued the following statement regarding an executive order to be signed by President Biden this afternoon that will indefinitely bar new oil and gas leases on federal lands:

“I applaud President Biden’s freeze on new oil and gas leasing on federal public lands. Our federal lands should be a model for our nation and the world to emulate. Sadly, this has simply not been the case. About a quarter of all carbon emissions in the United States come from fossil

fuel development on public lands and waters. There is no need for new oil and gas, especially after the Trump Administration oversaw an unprecedented giveaway of our public lands to oil and gas interests. If we are to begin to address the climate crisis, and leave a recognizable future for our children and grandchildren, it is imperative that we begin to transition away from these polluting energy sources and move toward renewable energy development on our public lands. This freeze is even more critical for the frontline and disadvantaged communities that bear the vast brunt of our air, water, and ground pollution every single day. President Biden's move today is a necessary first step in securing that future."

### Rep. Sean Maloney (D-NY-18)

Rep. Maloney: "So far on climate @POTUS has: Rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement, restored the vehicle emissions standard, committed to conserving 30% of fed land/water by 2030 & paused new drilling leases. We've got a ways to go to undo Trump Admin damage but this is a heck of a good start." [@RepSeanMaloney, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Betty McCollum (D-MN-04)

Rep. McCollum: Our broken federal oil & gas leasing system puts corporate profits above the public good. Pres. Biden's halt of new oil & gas drilling on our public lands is a huge win for the environment, for tribal treaty rights, for wildlife, & for our future. (3/5) [Twitter, @BettyMcCollum04, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. McCollum: . @POTUS has also set a national goal to protect 30% of America's lands & ocean by 2030 – safeguarding biodiversity, wildlife habitats, and the systems that provide our food, clean water, & clean air. #Protect30x30 (4/5) [Twitter, @BettyMcCollum04, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA-32)



Rep. Napolitano: Tribes & local communities know all too well the harmful impacts of a broken oil & gas leasing system. The Biden admin's swift action to pause the broken system ensures our public lands are managed w/ the public's interest in mind, NOT the profits of oil & gas CEOs. #TimeToAct [Twitter, @gracenapolitano, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Napolitano: 74% of communities of color and 70% of low-income communities in the lower 48 live in nature-deprived areas. @POTUS ' historic effort to conserve 30% of our lands and waters by 2030 will ensure nature's benefits are more accessible for all people. #NatureForAll [Twitter, @gracenapolitano, [1/27/21](#)]

## Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO-02)

Congressman Neguse Applauds Biden Administration Action To Tackle The Climate Crisis, Preserve Public Lands And Establish A Civilian Conservation Corps. According to Joe Neguse, “Climate change is an existential threat, which gone unaddressed will continue to impact our communities, and the lands and forests across Colorado. I applaud President Biden for taking decisive action today to invest in good-paying clean energy jobs and sustainable infrastructure that will power our future. The actions today move us towards conserving 30% of U.S. lands and oceans by 2030, encourage the creation of a 21st Century Civilian Conservation Corps, and promote scientific integrity, three proposals that I have championed over the last two years. These actions will benefit Coloradans and will provide vital pillars as we work to preserve treasured public lands in our state and build the clean energy economy for our future.” [Joe Neguse, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Neguse: “The science is clear: we must conserve 30% of our lands and oceans by 2030 to prevent the collapse of the natural systems that provide our food, clean water, clean air, and stable climate. Thank you @POTUS for setting a national #30x30 goal.” [@RepJoeNeguse, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Neguse: “@POTUS @RonWyden I applaud the decisive action taken today by @POTUS to tackle the climate crisis, preserve our public lands, establish a conservation corps and safeguard science. Read my full statement   [neguse.house.gov/media/press-re...](#)” [RepJoeNeguse, [1/27/21](#)]

## Rep. Frank Pallone (D-NJ-06)

Pallone Applauds President Biden’s Executive Orders Tackling The Climate Crisis And Protecting The Coastline, Calls For Permanent Ban On Offshore Drilling. According to Frank Pallone, “After four years of reckless climate denial and threats to sell our coastline to oil and gas companies, today’s executive actions are a breath of fresh air. Together, President Biden’s orders elevate the climate crisis to the economic and national security concern that it is and represent a step in the right direction to permanently banning offshore drilling along the Atlantic coast. ‘It is a relief to finally have a president who sees this moment not only as a challenge, but as the opportunity that it is. This is an opportunity to empower our workers with new, good paying jobs that can’t be shipped overseas; to prioritize the needs and the voices of our environmental justice communities; to revitalize our energy communities with the support they need to rebuild from this pandemic; and to return our economy to a position of strength after a long, dark year of historic job losses and pain. ‘I look forward to working with the Biden Administration to permanently ban offshore drilling so we can protect our coast from the threat of oil and gas production. The coastal communities in New Jersey depend on a healthy ecosystem to thrive. An oil spill would threaten the ecosystem and economic vitality of the Jersey shoreline and communities along the Atlantic Coast. There’s simply no reason why we can’t codify a permanent offshore drilling ban as we transition our country to a clean, low-carbon

future. 'I'm proud to stand with the president in this effort and join him in saying: now is our time to act. We will not stand idly by as the rest of the world transitions to clean energy and our workers get left behind, and we will not watch from the sidelines as the climate crisis wreaks havoc on Americans' health and homes.'" [Frank Pallone, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Pallone: I look forward to working with the Biden Administration to permanently ban offshore drilling to protect our coast from the threat of oil and gas production. The coastal communities in New Jersey depend on a healthy ecosystem to thrive. [Twitter, @FrankPallone, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-20)

Rep. Panetta: Oil and gas leasing on federal public lands and waters threaten pristine environments, and today's Executive Order to halt new drilling is an important step to preserving these spaces for future generations. [Twitter, @RepJimmyPanetta, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Chellie Pingree (D-ME-01)

Pingree Applauds Biden Administration's Climate Executive Orders. According to Chellie Pingree, "The Biden Climate plan is a visionary departure from an Administration that dismissed the well-established science of climate change. This plan will direct every arm of the federal government to recognize the greatest environmental challenge facing humanity and work together to mitigate it. As the newly appointed Chair of the House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, I am committed to helping this administration act with urgency to ensure that no more time is wasted in dealing with this most critical issue. 'I am extremely pleased that the Biden administration's climate plan will direct the Department of the Interior to help reduce America's reliance on fossil fuels and conserve at least 30% each of our nation's lands and waters by 2030. The Biden plan will pause new oil and natural gas leasing in offshore waters and public lands, and calls for the Department of Interior to accelerate development of renewable energy in their place. 'As an organic farmer for 40 years, I am particularly encouraged that President Biden's climate executive order will direct the USDA to gather input from farmers who are on the frontlines of this crisis. Given a seat at the table, farmers can be among our greatest allies in this fight. That's exactly why I introduced the Agriculture Resilience Act last year.'" [Chellie Pingree, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Pingree: "THIS IS BIG: The Biden #climate plan will pause new oil and natural gas leasing in offshore waters and public lands, and calls for the @Interior to accelerate development of renewable energy in their place. nytimes.com/2021/01/27/cli..." [@chelliepingree, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA-09)

Rep. Smith Applauds Biden Administration's Executive Actions To Address The Climate Crisis. According to Adam Smith, " 'President Biden is delivering on his promise to prioritize addressing the existential threat climate change poses to Americans and across the world. The Executive Orders will build on key actions the President took on day one including rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and rolling back harmful standards implemented by the Trump administration in order to better protect our air, water, public lands, and communities. 'The President's Executive Order to leverage the federal government's purchasing power to purchase zero-emission vehicles and carbon pollution-free electricity is enormously important to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create good-paying clean energy jobs here in the U.S., and spur wider adoption of electric vehicles. In addition, the Biden Administration put a pause on entering into new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or offshore waters and directs the Secretary of the Interior to identify steps that can be taken to double renewable energy production from offshore wind by 2030. 'Today's Executive Actions reaffirm the central role that equity and justice must play in addressing climate change. Adverse impacts of the climate crisis disproportionately affect Black, Brown, and disadvantaged communities. The order creates a government-wide Justice40 Initiative that will aim to deliver 40 percent of the overall benefits of relevant investments to disadvantaged communities. The order makes environmental justice a priority across the federal government, establishing a new Interagency Council and Advisory Council on the issue and directing federal agencies to develop programs and policies that address the disproportionate environmental and health impacts on disadvantaged communities. 'While there is still much work to be done, including Congressional action to provide robust investments in a clean energy economy, the steps being taken by the Biden-Harris administration clearly demonstrate their commitment to treating the climate crisis with the scale and intersectional approach we need. I look forward to building on these executive actions and working with my colleagues to better address the climate crisis.'" [Adam Smith, [1/27/21](#)]

Rep. Smith: President Biden's Executive Orders today will build on key actions he took on day one including rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and rolling back harmful standards implemented by the Trump administration in order to better protect our air, water, public lands, and communities. [Twitter, @RepAdamSmith, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Tom Suozzi (D-NY-03)

Rep. Suozzi: "Today the President signed several EOs that elevate climate change to a natl security priority, commit to conserving 30% of US lands/waters, create an action plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero by 2050 & to focus on environmental justice, green jobs & clean energy" [@RepTomSuozzi, [1/27/21](#)]

### Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV-01)

Rep. Titus: "Climate change is the existential threat of our time. @POTUS' executive order will:  
✔ Protect 30% of the country's land and water by 2030 ✔ Ban new oil & gas drilling on federal land ✔ Form an interagency council on environmental justice Let's get to work."  
[@repdinatitus, [1/27/21](#)]

## Rep. Nydia Velazquez (D-NY-07)

Rep. Velazquez: “Today, @POTUS affirmed our nation’s commitment to addressing the climate crisis by establishing a White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council & cutting back on oil and gas drilling. [nyti.ms/39m75pn](https://nyti.ms/39m75pn)” [@NydiaVelazquez, [1/27/21](#)]

## Governors

### Colorado

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis Said that CO would Work with the Biden Administration as it Reviews its Policies on Energy Development on Public Lands. “Gov. Jared Polis, whose goal is to see the state's electric grid 100% carbon-free by 2040, said in a statement that Colorado will work closely with the Biden administration as it reviews policies around energy development on public lands. ‘And as long as the review is completed expeditiously, we don’t expect an economic impact in the short-term with current market factors and the many existing unused leases and permits,’ Polis said. But the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, an industry organization, said a recent study by a Wyoming trade group shows a prolonged leasing moratorium could cost eight Western states as much as \$33.5 billion over Biden's first term and 58,676 jobs annually. The president doesn't have the authority to ban leasing on public lands, said Kathleen Sgamma, the group's president, and the group filed a lawsuit Wednesday to stop the executive order. [The Denver Post, [1/27/21](#)]

- Gov. Polis: I applaud @POTUS for taking action on climate initiatives. National progress on moving to cleaner, less expensive cars and cleaner energy is good for America and good for Colorado. [Twitter, @GovofCO, [1/27/21](#)]

### Nevada

Nevada Gov Steve Sisolak: “I applaud this next step in @POTUS ’s climate action to address the need for a long-term transition from fossil fuels, expanding the use of renewable energy, and complementing our own @NevClimate strategy. #NevClimateAction [Twitter, @GovSisolak, [1/27/21](#)]

### New Mexico

NM Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham “said she supports Biden’s efforts to review federal policies. But she’ll push for a ‘balanced’ approach...” “Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham said she supports Biden’s efforts to review federal policies. But she’ll push for a ‘balanced’ approach that includes working with industry to implement new regulations. ‘It is essential that climate change be prioritized,’ Lujan Grisham said in a statement. ‘In the interest of developing new, more sustainable federal-and-state climate policy that is so urgently needed to protect our planet, a review of all climate-related policies, including energy policies, will ensure we do the right thing - across the country and here in New Mexico.’” [Albuquerque Journal, [1/27/21](#)]

- Ms. Grisham said she was “reviewing these orders to evaluate the scope of the impact they will have on our state.” “Ms. Grisham said she was ‘reviewing these orders to evaluate the scope of the impact they will have on our state.’ ‘As I said, I look forward to working with the federal administration to make sure New Mexico is protected and secure,’ the governor said.” [The Washington Times, [1/28/21](#)]

## Clips

### National Outlets

#### ABC

##### **Biden Says Tackling Climate Change Will Create Jobs, Bring Economic Recovery.**

According to ABC, “President Joe Biden took a series of actions on climate change on his seventh full day in office, fulfilling campaign promises such as freezing new oil and gas leasing on federal land and kicking off his ambitious agenda to reduce greenhouse gas emissions -- making tackling climate change a priority across the federal government. Biden’s actions Wednesday will follow up on several climate-related executive orders he signed in his first few days in office, including rejoining the Paris Agreement on climate, and revoking the permit for the Keystone XL pipeline. Biden and his top climate advisers, former Secretary of State John Kerry and former EPA administrator Gina McCarthy, said the steps to tackle climate change will also be good for the economy and create jobs for former energy industry workers struggling with a downturn in industries like coal or oil production.” [ABC, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

#### Associated Press

**New Mexico Senators, Advocates Back Biden Oil And Gas Plans.** According to Associated Press, “Local officials and residents in New Mexico’s oil patches are anxious as the Biden administration takes aim at the oil and natural gas industry with a series of new executive orders. But the state’s two U.S. senators are supporting the actions, saying it’s time to rethink the nation’s energy policies. Democrat Sen. Martin Heinrich said he would not support a permanent, unilateral ban on new oil and gas leases but he believes a pause is appropriate

despite concerns from industry groups and others that doing so could have immediate implications for the state's bottom line. 'It's also crystal clear that the zero carbon, zero pollution economy is coming,' Heinrich told The Associated Press. 'Even oil and gas majors are planning for that future. To weather that change, New Mexico needs a transition plan with a predictable glide path for producers and robust investments in the communities where our energy veterans have produced our country's transportation fuels.' President Joe Biden aims to cut oil and gas emissions and double energy production from offshore wind turbines. He's also directing agencies to focus investments on regions that face job losses as the U.S. begins to shift toward wind, solar and other resources." [Associated Press, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden: 'We Can't Wait Any Longer' To Address Climate Crisis.** According to Associated Press, "In the most ambitious U.S. effort to stave off the worst of climate change, President Joe Biden signed executive orders to transform the nation's heavily fossil-fuel powered economy into a clean-burning one, pausing oil and gas leasing on federal land and targeting subsidies for those industries. The directives aim to conserve 30 percent of the country's lands and waters in the next 10 years, double the nation's offshore wind energy, and move to an all-electric federal vehicle fleet, among other changes. Biden's sweeping plan is aimed at staving off the worst of global warming caused by burning fossil fuels. But his effort it also carries political risk for the president and Democrats as oil- and coal-producing states face job losses from moves to sharply increase U.S. reliance on clean energy such as wind and solar power. 'We can't wait any longer' to address the climate crisis, Biden said Wednesday at the White House. 'We see with our own eyes. We know it in our bones. It is time to act.'" [Associated Press, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**AP Sources: Biden To Pause Oil And Gas Sales On Public Lands.** According to Associated Press, "President Joe Biden is set to announce a wide-ranging moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on U.S. lands and waters, as his administration moves quickly to reverse Trump administration policies on energy and the environment and address climate change. Two people with knowledge of Biden's plans outlined the proposed moratorium, which will be announced Wednesday. They asked not to be identified because the plan has not been made public; some details remain in flux. The move follows a 60-day suspension of new drilling permits for U.S. lands and waters announced last week and follows Biden's campaign pledge to halt new drilling on federally controlled land and water as part of his plan to address climate change. The moratorium is intended to allow time for officials to review the impact of oil and gas drilling on the environment and climate. ... Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, which represents oil and gas drillers in Western states, said the expected executive order is intended to delay drilling on federal lands to the point where it is no longer viable. Her group pledged to challenge the order in court. ... The drilling moratorium is among several climate-related actions Biden will announce Wednesday. He also is likely to direct officials to conserve 30% of the country's lands and ocean waters in the next 10 years, initiate a series of regulatory actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and issue a memorandum that elevates climate change to a national security priority." [Associated Press, [1/26/21](#) (=)]

## Axios

**Takeaways From Biden's Sweeping Climate Order.** According to Axios, “President Biden’s mammoth executive order on climate policy weighs in at over 7,500 words and resists any single narrative, but I’ve got a few initial takeaways. Catch up fast: I summarized the order in yesterday’s newsletter. Why it matters: The order aims to marshal the entire federal government behind new initiatives, so that means agencies that may not have the muscle memory or expertise of the resource and environmental branches like EPA and DOE. A few other (deep) thoughts for now... Time, part 1: Executive orders are largely statements of intent to make and enact policy (though the oil leasing freeze is more immediate, so more on that in a moment). So whether this succeeds at enabling steep emissions cuts, helping fossil fuel industry workers transition, or easing racial disparities in pollution exposure, to name just three goals, won’t be known for years. Time, part 2: OK, that said, one noteworthy thing is that the order says the administration is shooting to reveal its updated pledge under the Paris Agreement — called a ‘nationally determined contribution’ — ahead of the April 22 global ‘climate leaders summit’ Biden will host. Congress: For all the focus on executive actions in yesterday’s splashy rollout, remember that some key parts of Biden’s agenda will need Capitol Hill to succeed — including huge new investments in climate-friendly infrastructure deployment and Biden’s goal to hugely scale up clean energy research, development and deployment funding.” [Axios, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

## Bloomberg

**Biden’s Oil-Leasing Review May Alter Royalties Set In 1920s.** According to Bloomberg, “President Joe Biden’s moratorium of oil and gas leasing buys time for a broad review of whether -- and how -- fossil fuels should be extracted from lands under the U.S. government’s control. The result could have a profound impact on an industry that employs hundreds of thousands of Americans by determining what access it will have on a 10th of the nation’s land and almost all of its coastal waters. Biden on Wednesday directed the Interior Department to pause issuing new oil and gas leases ‘to the extent consistent with applicable law,’ as part of a series of new climate policies and directives. ‘We’re going to review and reset the oil and gas leasing program,’ Biden said in a speech at the White House. ‘We’ll start to properly manage lands and waterways in ways that allow us to protect and preserve the full value they provide to us for future generations.’” [Bloomberg, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden To Order Climate Measures Including Oil Leasing Moratorium.** According to Bloomberg, “President Joe Biden will sign a series of executive actions on Wednesday to combat climate change, including temporarily blocking new leases for oil drilling on federal lands and ordering other measures to overhaul U.S. energy, according to people familiar with the plan. Biden will call on federal agencies to consider climate change in their decision-making on

everything from government purchases to financial regulations, the people said. He will also direct U.S. intelligence agencies to consider global warming as they review national security threats, added the people, who asked not to be identified before the announcement. ... Biden will also invite world leaders to a climate summit on April 22 -- Earth Day -- in a sign of the new president's commitment to not just rejoin the Paris climate accord but strengthen it. ... Biden is committing to conserve 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030 and revitalize communities that have borne the brunt of pollution. It is unclear what form those protections might take but conservation could involve designating areas as wilderness, refuges or national monuments -- and walling off industrial development or even hiking and other recreational activity.”  
[Bloomberg, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden climate measures include oil leasing pause, subsidy review.** “President Joe Biden will take executive action on Wednesday to combat climate change, including temporarily blocking new leases for oil drilling on federal lands, ordering a review of fossil-fuel subsidies and other measures to overhaul the U.S. energy mix. Biden will sign broad-ranging directives instructing federal agencies to consider climate change in everything from government purchases to national security. He will order U.S. intelligence authorities to estimate how climate change affects national security and tell agencies to do a better job assessing the threat. ‘Just one week into his administration, President Biden is continuing to move us forward at the breadth and the pace that climate science demands,’ said White House national climate adviser Gina McCarthy. ‘We’re going to power our economy with clean energy’ and do it in a way that will produce millions of good-paying jobs.” [BNN Bloomberg, [1/27/21](#)]

## CBS

**"It's Time To Act": Biden Rolls Out New Actions On Climate Change.** According to CBS, “In a trio of directives, Mr. Biden directed the Interior secretary to freeze new oil and gas leases on public lands and offshore waters ‘wherever possible,’ and review existing leasing and permitting practices related to fossil fuel development on federal lands and water. Mr. Biden stressed, as he did during the presidential campaign, that his administration is not going to ban fracking. The president’s executive order sets a goal of conserving at least 30% of land and water by 2030, and begins the process for the U.S. to develop an emission reduction target and a climate finance plan. Mr. Biden established climate as a key element of foreign policy and national security, instructing the director of national intelligence, Avril Haines, to prepare a ‘National Intelligence Estimate’ on the security implications of climate change. In elevating climate in U.S. foreign policy, Mr. Biden’s special presidential envoy for climate, Kerry, will sit on the National Security Council. Through his executive actions, the president formally created the White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy and established the National Climate Task Force, composed of officials from 21 federal agencies and departments. Before he took the reins of the government, Mr. Biden tapped McCarthy, former administrator of the Environmental Protection

Agency, as national climate adviser, and she will lead the Office of Domestic climate Policy.”  
[CBS, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## CNBC

### **Biden Suspends Oil And Gas Leasing In Slew Of Executive Actions On Climate Change.**

According to CNBC, “President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed a series of executive orders that prioritize climate change across all levels of government and put the U.S. on track to curb planet-warming carbon emissions. Biden’s orders direct the secretary of the Interior Department to halt new oil and natural gas leases on public lands and waters, and begin a thorough review of existing permits for fossil fuel development. In addition to the pause on leasing, Biden will direct the federal government to conserve 30% of federal lands and water by 2030 and find ways to double offshore wind production by that time. The series of actions kick off the president’s agenda to reduce the country’s emissions and establish stricter targets under the Paris climate accord, the landmark agreement by nearly 200 nations aimed to mitigate climate change. ‘We’ve already waited too long to deal with the climate crisis. We cannot wait any longer,’ Biden said during a briefing on Wednesday. ‘Our climate plans are ambitious,’ Biden said. ‘But we are America. We are unwavering in our commitment to innovation.’” [CNBC, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## CNN

### **Biden aims for comprehensive climate approach as he halts new oil and gas leases on federal land.**

“President Joe Biden signed several executive actions related to the climate crisis on Wednesday, including one directing the secretary of the interior to pause on entering into new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or offshore waters. Biden and other administration officials have emphasized that the White House is taking a ‘whole of government’ approach to climate change. They’ve also underscored that they believe the President’s actions will help spur job growth, and categorized people working in industries vulnerable to job loss, such as coal miners, under their umbrella of environmental justice. ‘Today is climate day at the White House and, which means that today is jobs day at the White House. We’re talking about American innovation, American products, American labor,’ Biden said at the outset of his remarks at a signing ceremony. ‘We’re talking about the health of our families and cleaner water cleaner air and cleaner communities. We’re talking about national security.’” [CNN, [1/27/21](#)]

## E&E News

**2 Western Governors, 2 Tacks On Biden Lease Freeze.** According to E&E News, “The governors of Wyoming and New Mexico — two states with a lot to lose in President Biden’s

effort to reform federal oil and gas leasing — are taking different tacks on addressing strategies so far to deal with the administration's effort. At issue is a Biden executive order signed yesterday that indefinitely paused oil and gas leasing on federal lands while the administration conducts a programmatic review of the leasing program and considers whether royalties could be adjusted to charge drillers for climate impacts. It was a small step compared to Biden's campaign promises of ending leasing and permitting for good, but it was widely viewed as a promise of more to come. Oil country and its political allies reacted strongly. 'President Biden's ban on new oil, gas, and coal leases is illegal and it robs people in Wyoming of their livelihoods,' Wyoming Sen. John Barrasso, the ranking Republican on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, said in a statement today. He added, 'I will fight it every step of the way.' Wyoming Gov. Mark Gordon (R) called the executive action 'disingenuous and disheartening' in a statement and accused the administration of reviving Obama-era hostilities between the state and federal governments over fossil fuel development." [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Seeks Economic Answers For Coal Country.** According to E&E News, "As he signed executive orders meant to turbocharge the country's shift away from fossil fuels, President Biden instructed the federal government to explore how to find new ways to ramp up economic activity in communities that have long depended on mining coal, drilling for oil and gas or generating electricity. The creation of the interagency working group came in a wide-ranging executive order that many expected would include a moratorium on coal leasing on public lands, a measure absent even as the president mandated an indefinite pause on oil and gas leasing. That omission may be as much a recognition of the ailing coal industry's diminished appetite for new leases as it is a gesture to coal communities that mistrust many Democrats in Washington. While many advocates said the federal focus on helping struggling regions is necessary, others cautioned that more input from people in communities is necessary to truly address the profound economic challenges they face. They also emphasized that, eventually, the Biden administration will need to find federal resources to put into the effort. Gina McCarthy, Biden's national climate adviser, and National Economic Council Director Brian Deese will chair the working group, whose members come from a dozen agencies, including the Interior, Labor and Energy departments. In a speech yesterday at the White House, Biden said his administration intends to find ways to invest in power plant towns, coalfields and oil patches to create high-paying union jobs in other sectors." [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**How Biden's Orders Hit EVs, Oil And Clean Energy.** According to E&E News, "The Biden administration released a sweeping set of climate and energy actions yesterday that aim to block oil leasing on federal lands, create thousands of new clean energy jobs and give nearly every federal agency a role in tackling emissions. The executive order outlines new policies on electric vehicles, clean electricity and renewable power, and calls for slashing oil methane emissions. It also maps out multiple changes at the Department of Energy, including requesting the Energy secretary to help convene an interagency working group that will look at ways to assist fossil fuel communities, and work with the secretary of State, Treasury secretary and the

U.S. Export-Import Bank to identify steps the U.S. can take to promote the international financing of fossil fuel-based energy. A second executive order reestablished the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology (PCAST), which went dormant under former President Trump but contributed to setting energy and climate agendas under President Obama, producing reports on topics including advanced manufacturing and the private sector's adaptation to climate change. ... Liz Burdock, president of the Business Network for Offshore Wind, said she welcomed 'a clear signal of support' for that resource: One clause assigned the Interior Department with identifying ways of streamlining permitting and siting processes for offshore wind, with the aim of doubling production by 2030. Yet the language offered little clarity as to how it defined the 2030 goal, given that no utility-scale projects are in operation. But Biden's actions, said Burdock, 'confirm the critical role that offshore wind energy will play in creating a clean U.S. energy grid.'" [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Pause On Drilling Leases Seeks To Avoid Obama's Stumbles.** According to E&E News, "President Biden's executive order directing the Interior Department to pause new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters drew swift backlash from industry yesterday, but proponents say the administration's climate action is on firm legal ground. The acting Interior secretary has broad discretion under federal law to determine what public lands and waters should be eligible for leasing, legal experts said. The executive order puts a hold on new onshore and offshore leasing while Interior embarks on a full 'review and reset' of its federal oil and gas program in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Biden said before signing the order yesterday (Greenwire, Jan. 27). Biden's directive does not affect existing leases, including 13.9 million acres of public lands and 9.3 million acres of public waters that are held by companies but are not yet developed. The order also excludes tribal land or allotments held by tribal members, according to a press release from Interior. 'If they said they were going to end [leasing], that would be more vulnerable, but the administration clearly has the authority to not issue leases in particular to do this review,' said Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, executive director of the Western Environmental Law Center." [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Adds Something New To Climate Politics — Swagger.** According to E&E News, "Republicans spent President Biden's first week in office bashing his climate actions. The administration responded yesterday by rolling out even more — and bragging about it. National climate adviser Gina McCarthy spent the day jumping between media appearances and talking to official Washington through the daily White House briefing and an environmental journalism conference. But she also touted the new climate actions to more mainstream audiences. 'We're not asking for sacrifice here. ... It's not without risk. Along with relatively symbolic actions like rejoining the Paris climate agreement, Biden has blocked construction of the Keystone XL oil pipeline and halted new oil and gas leasing on public lands — actions that disrupt thousands of jobs, even if many were temporary construction positions. 'Even a temporary moratorium [on public land leasing] is incredibly damaging to the American economy, global emissions, and

union jobs,' five Texas Republican members of Congress wrote yesterday in a letter to the administration." [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**The Citizen Climate Corps Has Roots In Past Crises.** According to E&E News, "President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps. President John F. Kennedy launched the Peace Corps. And now President Joseph R. Biden has the Civilian Climate Corps — the latest in a long line of Oval Office efforts designed to marshal young Americans to solve big problems. Biden unveiled the program yesterday as part of a sweeping package of climate-related executive orders. Similar in scope to its Great Depression and Cold War predecessors, this one seeks to hire a 'new generation of Americans' to tackle global warming and kick-start the U.S. economy. Few details about the program have been released. But the administration made clear yesterday that the effort aims to generate well-paying jobs while also restoring public lands, increasing carbon sequestration, slashing emissions and helping communities adapt to rising temperatures. According to the executive order, the heads of the Interior, Agriculture and other relevant departments have 90 days to submit a plan to 'mobilize the next generation of conservation and resilience workers and maximize the creation of accessible training opportunities and good jobs.' That's a huge deal, proponents argue, given intensifying climate impacts, the ongoing health crisis and a monthslong economic downturn that's left millions of Americans without work." [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Pause On Drilling Leases Seeks To Avoid Obama's Stumbles.** According to E&E News, "President Biden's executive order directing the Interior Department to pause new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters drew swift backlash from industry yesterday, but proponents say the administration's climate action is on firm legal ground. The acting Interior secretary has broad discretion under federal law to determine what public lands and waters should be eligible for leasing, legal experts said. The executive order puts a hold on new onshore and offshore leasing while Interior embarks on a full 'review and reset' of its federal oil and gas program in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, Biden said before signing the order yesterday (Greenwire, Jan. 27). Biden's directive does not affect existing leases, including 13.9 million acres of public lands and 9.3 million acres of public waters that are held by companies but are not yet developed. The order also excludes tribal land or allotments held by tribal members, according to a press release from Interior. 'If they said they were going to end [leasing], that would be more vulnerable, but the administration clearly has the authority to not issue leases in particular to do this review,' said Erik Schlenker-Goodrich, executive director of the Western Environmental Law Center." [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Embraces Ambitious Conservation Plan. Will Congress?** According to E&E News, "One of President Biden's new executive orders calls for conserving 30% of the nation's lands and waters by 2030 — a highly ambitious objective that will require support from a polarized

Congress. Getting congressional buy-in will demand a massive education campaign of lawmakers and their staff, many of whom may have never heard of the initiative known as '30 by 30,' or more simply, 30x30. The endeavor will necessitate a certain element of indoctrination and convincing that every possible piece of legislation should incorporate language that would contribute to meeting 30x30 goals. And it will require assuring skeptics of good intentions while changing the minds of critics. Advocates say those conversations on Capitol Hill have already begun, with efforts ramped up after Biden's victory in November and expected to further accelerate in the wake of the executive order. 'Our hope is that more and more people become aware of the nature crisis and that protecting more land and water is a key strategy for dealing with climate change and the loss of natural areas,' said Alex Taurel, conservation program manager at the League of Conservation Voters. 'We all have a role to play, both on an individual level but certainly at a policy level. So what can folks do that's within their sphere of control to protect more nature?'" [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Republicans Rip Biden Orders But Have Limited Options.** According to E&E News, "Congressional Republicans excoriated President Biden's sweeping climate change executive action, but their plans to fight it are scarce. Biden's orders — including policies to halt oil and natural gas leasing on federal land, transition the federal government's vehicle fleet to electric, and conserve 30% of the nation's land and waters by 2030 — met sharp opposition from the GOP, which argued Biden is giving gifts to foreign nations, being overly divisive and killing jobs. But while they encouraged Biden to reconsider his actions, the Republicans, who are in the minority in both chambers of Congress, had few strategies to fight back through legislative means. 'On Inauguration Day, we heard President Biden rightly encourage the American people to strive toward unity. A week later, he is signing a divisive and illegal executive order that would damage Wyoming's economy and the economies of other states like New Mexico, North Dakota and Louisiana,' said Sen. John Barrasso of Wyoming, the top Republican on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, whose state hosts extensive oil and gas production on federal land. 'If President Biden is serious about bringing our country together, he needs to understand that actions speak louder than words,' Barrasso said." [E&E News, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Launches Historic, Governmentwide Climate Action.** According to E&E News, "President Biden raced toward fulfilling his gargantuan climate promises today with a sweeping effort to create clean energy jobs and begin phasing out fossil fuels one week into his presidency. The executive orders signed by Biden this morning focus on helping front-line communities affected by pollution, address job losses in coal mining regions and bring climate science back to federal agencies after facing isolation during the Trump administration. ... Biden's orders will impose a moratorium on new leasing for fossil fuel production on federal lands, establish climate change as a national security threat and stand up a White House task force to direct greenhouse gas reduction policies. It will also create an initiative called Justice40 to track and ensure that 40% of federal climate investments go to disadvantaged communities. ... The U.S. will have its first Civilian Climate Corps focused on improving resiliency in

communities across the country. And the actions today seek to conserve 30% of all federal land and water by 2030. It will also ratify the Kigali Amendment to phase down hydrofluorocarbons, a potent greenhouse gas, and establish a scientific integrity policy to ensure government regulations are based on the best available science. It also reestablishes the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology." [E&E News, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Debuts Bold Conservation Goal, Job Corps.** According to E&E News, "President Biden today is signing off on an aggressive conservation goal aimed at permanently protecting at least 30% of the nation's undeveloped land and waters by 2030, while calling for the creation of a jobs program focused in part on restoring public lands. The undertaking is part of a sweeping set of executive orders issued today addressing climate change policies. Biden's public lands directive tasks the Interior Department with detailing how to reach the conservation goal and mandates coordination with tribal nations and state and local governments, as well as landowners, fishermen and recreation advocates. A top Biden Interior aide suggested last week that the program could link a variety of elements, including wildlife corridors, conservation easements, urban parks and 'landscape-level connectivity' (E&E News PM, Jan. 21). The announcement drew praise from environmentalists who began advocating for the policy in 2019, arguing that aggressive conservation could be used to sequester carbon and greenhouse gas emissions, as well as to shore up biodiversity in both plants and wildlife (Greenwire, Aug. 6, 2019). 'Scientists tell us we have a very small window to stop the extinction of millions of species and avoid the most catastrophic effects of climate change,' Center for Western Priorities Executive Director Jennifer Rokala said in a statement. 'By committing to the 30x30 goal, we can set an example for the world in land and ocean conservation.'" [E&E News, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**What Biden's 'Climate Day' Means For 100% Clean Electricity.** According to E&E News, "The Biden administration has dubbed today 'climate day' and is prepared to unveil details of the president's strategy for removing carbon emissions from the U.S. electric power generation by 2035, the first step to decarbonizing the nation's economy by midcentury. Yesterday, a steering committee of senior power-sector executives was briefed on possibilities and risks of the level of grid reconstruction President Biden is calling for, at a web conference called by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC). While the enormity of the challenge was recognized, along with the need to assess its risks, no one said 'stop.' The president is expected to sign a flurry of executive orders in line with his climate agenda, from freezing oil and gas production to launching an effort to preserve a third of the nation's land and water by 2030. What's not clear is how Biden intends to tackle slashing carbon from the nation's power grid, but electricity experts are offering competing views on how to get there. A central focus of the NERC meeting was a report by Princeton University researchers, 'Net-Zero America: Potential Pathways, Infrastructure, and Impacts,' released last month. 'The transformation of our national energy infrastructure ... is not going to be easy,' Jesse Jenkins, one of the Princeton analysts, told the meeting of NERC's Reliability Issues Steering Committee (RISC)." [E&E News, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden To Freeze Drilling, Boost Scientific Integrity.** According to E&E News, “President Biden is planning to make a major climate push tomorrow, unveiling multiple science- and environment-focused executive orders, including an oil and gas freeze that became a flashpoint in the presidential campaign. The thrust this week comes as the new president inks dozens of executive orders on the environment, racial equity and the pandemic. Plans for tomorrow include a moratorium on new federal oil and gas leasing, an order that emphasizes science-based policies, a revamp of the president’s Council of Science Advisors, and a plan to preserve 30% of water and land in the U.S. The activity has been welcome news for environmentalists and progressives who have extolled Biden’s rigorous timeline for implementing campaign promises. ‘Week two of Biden’s term makes clear that climate is a top priority,’ said Natalie Mebane, associate director of policy at 350.org. ‘He’s gotten straight to work reversing the devastating ignorance of science and catastrophic environmental rollbacks over the last four years.’” [E&E News, [1/26/21](#) (=)]

## Greentech Media

**Biden Executive Orders Set Broad Federal Role In Clean Energy And Climate Change Mitigation.** According to Greentech Media, “President Joe Biden signed a sprawling set of executive orders on Wednesday ordering federal agencies to procure carbon-free energy and electric vehicles, spur commercialization of clean energy technologies, accelerate clean energy generation and transmission projects and ensure that disadvantaged communities get a fair share of the ensuing economic and environmental benefits. Wednesday’s executive orders are the latest step in the Biden-Harris administration’s aggressive early actions seeking to combat climate change and reverse Trump administration policies seen as harming that goal. Their overarching aim is to ‘center the climate crisis’ in U.S. foreign policy and national security, and to create a ‘whole-of-government approach’ to shifting the country from reliance on fossil fuels to sources of low- or no-carbon energy, according to a White House fact sheet. Wednesday’s orders provide some early indications of how Biden will seek to use the spending power of the federal government to bolster his pledges to cut electricity-sector carbon emissions to zero by 2035 and achieve a carbon-free U.S. economy by 2050. [...] Fossil fuels will see more restrictions under Wednesday’s executive orders, which call for a temporary pause on new oil and gas leasing on public lands and a review of existing leases in light of their carbon emissions impact. That move has drawn intense criticism from those industries and from states where they’re an important source of jobs and economic activity. ” [Greentech Media, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## Grist

**Everything You Need To Know About Biden’s Climate Policy Spree.** According to Grist, “Themes make everything more fun, according to that friend who was always making you put on

a costume for their parties pre-pandemic. Our newly elected president, Joe Biden, seems to agree. Possibly thinking some fun is just what the country needs right now, Biden dedicated each day of his first full week in office to a different theme, starting with 'buying American' on Monday and racial equity on Tuesday. And Wednesday, it was climate day. 'We've already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis,' Biden said in a speech at the White House on Wednesday afternoon. 'We can't wait any longer. We see it with our own eyes, we feel it. We know it in our bones. And it's time to act.' Through three sweeping executive orders, Biden brought to fruition all kinds of promises he made on the campaign trail to address climate change. He directed federal agencies to stop subsidizing fossil fuels and to stimulate clean energy development. He hit the pause button on issuing new oil and gas drilling leases on federally owned lands and waters and requested a review of existing leases. (To be clear, that's not a ban on fracking generally, which Biden can't do unilaterally.) He hit the play button on developing a plan for the U.S. to fulfill its emissions-reduction obligation under the Paris Agreement. He hit fast-forward on getting solar, wind, and power transmission projects sited, permitted, and built. ... He revived a conservation jobs program from the New Deal era under a new name — the Civilian Climate Corps — to plant trees, protect biodiversity, and restore public lands. Along those lines, he also pledged to conserve at least 30 percent of national lands and oceans by 2030, a nod to the biodiversity initiative known as 30×30 that more than 50 other countries have signed on to." [Grist, [1/27/21](#) (+)]

## HuffPost

**Unpacking Biden's New Environmental Executive Orders.** According to HuffPost, "For the second time in as many weeks, President Joe Biden issued sweeping executive orders to confront global climate change and other environmental crises. The orders elevate climate change as a key foreign policy and national security priority, temporarily pause new oil and gas leasing on federal lands, and set a national goal of protecting 30% of America's land and water by 2030. The orders are part of a blitz of early executive actions unraveling former President Donald Trump's legacy, from his botched response to the coronavirus pandemic to his ban on transgender Americans serving in the military. 'Today is climate day at the White House, which means that today is jobs day at the White House,' Biden said, kicking off a signing ceremony Wednesday afternoon at the White House. 'In my view, we've already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis. We can't wait any longer.' Environmentalists are celebrating the latest orders as confirmation that climate will continue to be a top priority of the new Biden administration." [HuffPost, [1/27/21](#) (+)]

## State And Local Leaders Push Biden To Protect 30% Of U.S. Land, Waters By 2030.

According to HuffPost, "Hundreds of state and local elected officials are calling on President Joe Biden to lead a speedy, aggressive national effort to combat the climate and extinction crises by protecting 30% of America's lands and 30% of its waters by 2030. An open letter to the administration from 450 officials representing 43 states comes as Biden's team works to

dismantle former President Donald Trump's legacy of rolling back environmental regulations and weakening protections for federal lands and wildlife. Biden also made a campaign promise to establish the 30% by 2030 target, which is in line with the United Nations' plan for protecting biodiversity, and the president is expected to issue an executive order on it any day now. A 2018 study from the Center for American Progress found that about 12% of the U.S. landmass and 26% of the nation's ocean waters were protected. 'Our nation is at a pivotal moment,' the letter said. 'We cannot continue down the current path and watch as our nation's land, water, and biodiversity disappears. Instead, we pledge to confront America's nature crisis and pursue a national goal of 30x30. Together, we can and must protect nature for generations to come.'" [HuffPost, [1/26/21](#) (+)]

## InsideEPA

**Oil Sector Fight On Leasing Pause Offers Early Test Of Biden's Climate EO.** According to InsideEPA, "The oil and gas sector and its supporters are mounting fierce opposition to President Joe Biden's just-announced moratorium on new lease sales on federal lands, arguing the move would have immediate harmful effects but also signals potentially tougher restrictions in the future. However, Biden and his top advisers say the leasing pause should have a relatively limited effect on current oil and gas production, and that the step is just one aspect of his broader push to infuse climate policy throughout the government and create a net benefit to the economy. While the president on Jan. 27 announced a pause in new leases -- which does not affect permitting or production on existing leases -- the move 'appears to be a first step toward an end goal of halting oil and gas development on federal lands and waters,' charged Mike Sommers, president of the American Petroleum Institute (API), during a press call. The Interior Department's (DOI) leasing pause is already drawing tough scrutiny on Capitol Hill as well. Sen. John Barrasso (R-WY), the top Republican on the Senate energy committee, in a statement charged that the action amounts to a 'ban' on leasing." [InsideEPA, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Chamber Touts Methane Cuts To Oppose Biden EO Halting Energy Leases.** According to InsideEPA, "The U.S. Chamber of Commerce is strongly opposing President Joe Biden's anticipated order suspending new leases for fossil energy production on federal lands, arguing the move would undermine the new administration's climate change goals while citing a recent drop in methane emissions and the industry's commitment to new methane rules. 'The chamber's message to the Biden administration is simple, there's a better way,' said the Chamber's global energy institute leader Martin Durbin in a Jan. 26 call with reporters. 'We share the goal of climate progress, but reducing domestic energy production, especially when we hope the demand for energy will be once again increasing as our recovery accelerates' will undermine both objectives, Durbin said. The Chamber scheduled the call in anticipation of Biden signing a series of climate policy orders on Jan. 27 which some news reports indicate will include a moratorium on new leases of oil and gas drilling on federal lands while the administration reviews the program." [InsideEPA, [1/26/21](#) (=)]

## Los Angeles Times

### **Biden Orders Sweeping Actions To Pause Energy Drilling And Fight Climate Change.**

According to Los Angeles Times, “President Biden announced Wednesday a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on public lands, one of a slate of executive actions to demonstrate his commitment to fighting climate change, despite opposition from the fossil fuel industry and many Republicans. The move in effect hit pause on the federal government’s leasing program while the administration considers an overhaul, weighing the climate and public health risks of continued oil and gas development against the government’s legal obligations to energy companies. This review is the first step toward an outright ban on new drilling, one of Biden’s campaign promises. The president aims to harness federal authority as never before to reduce planet-warming emissions. The orders amount to a sweeping repudiation of the Trump administration’s efforts to weaken environmental regulations and deny the seriousness of climate change. And they reflect how the new administration thinks about climate policy — as an existential crisis demanding an all-of-government approach. ‘We’ve already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis,’ Biden said at a White House signing ceremony. ‘We can’t wait any longer. We see it with our own eyes, we feel it, we know it in our bones. And it’s time to act.’ ... The executive orders included directives to federal agencies to end fossil fuel subsidies, called for a task force to plan for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and a declared climate change a national security priority for the first time. The president also directed his administration to protect 30% of federal land and coastal waters by 2030, a proposal that climate scientists and environmentalists have advocated for internationally to curb global warming and protect endangered species.” [Los Angeles Times, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden: ‘Can’t Wait Any Longer’ On Climate Crisis.** According to Los Angeles Times, “President Biden announced new actions to combat climate change and take the first step toward a ban on oil leasing on federal land. Even as opponents were claiming the initiatives would cost jobs, Biden emphasized that a comprehensive climate effort would create clean energy jobs nationwide.” [Los Angeles Times, [1/27/21](#) (+)]

## Mother Jones

**Biden Signs Sweeping Executive Orders On Climate Change.** According to Mother Jones, “On Wednesday, one week after taking office, President Joe Biden signed a series of sweeping executive orders on climate in his effort to create clean energy jobs, promote environmental justice, and reintroduce pressing climate-change concerns into America’s foreign policy. Among the orders’ most substantive bits are a pause in new oil and gas leasing on federal lands, and a

proposed doubling of offshore wind production by 2030. At a press conference prior to the signing, former Secretary of State John Kerry, now the United States' first special presidential envoy for climate, stressed that improving the economy and facing the climate crisis are not mutually exclusive. 'Workers have been fed a false narrative,' he said. 'They've been fed the notion that somehow, dealing with climate is coming at their expense. No it's not.'" [Mother Jones, [1/27/21](#) (+)]

## National Geographic

[The U.S. commits to tripling its protected lands. Here's how it could be done.](#)

Sarah Gibbens | January 27, 2021

In an executive order issued on January 27 to address the climate crisis, President Joe Biden ordered a pause on new oil and gas leases on public lands and created a White House office of environmental justice. He also quietly committed his administration to an ambitious conservation goal—to protect 30 percent of U.S. land and coastal seas by 2030.

That target, referred to as “30 by 30” by the conservation community, is backed by scientists who argue that reaching it is critical both to fighting climate change and to protecting the estimated one million species at risk of going extinct.

The U.S. is currently conserving around 26 percent of its coastal waters but only about 12 percent of its land in a largely natural state, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

To reach the 30 by 30 target will require conserving an additional area twice the size of Texas, more than 440 million acres, within the next 10 years. The White House has yet to specify who will oversee the initiative at the federal level and which lands and waterways might be prioritized.

Conservation scientists who have been advocating the idea for years, however, say the secret to pulling it off will be making decisions based on sound science, avoiding shortcuts, and ensuring voices from those most impacted, like rural voters and American Indian tribes, are heard. Biden's order promises to engage a broad range of stakeholders, including local governments, in the process.

“The conservation crisis is as important as the climate crisis,” says Tom Cors, government relations director for land at the Nature Conservancy. He describes the decision to tackle 30 by 30 as both “daunting and heartening.”

What is it exactly?

International bodies have been setting conservation targets for decades, but scientists have long debated how much nature is enough.

In a book published in 2016, the renowned biologist E.O. Wilson introduced his idea of “half Earth,” arguing that protecting half the planet would save as many as 90 percent of imperiled species.

The movement was energized by Swiss philanthropist Hansjörg Wyss, who donated a billion dollars to launch the Wyss Campaign for Nature, an initiative devoted to achieving 30 by 30. In late 2018, several large conservation organizations, including the nonprofit National Geographic Society, published a statement calling for 30 percent of the planet to be sustainably managed by 2030 and 50 percent to be sustainably managed by 2050.

The 2030 target outlined by nonprofit groups then had three core objectives: to conserve species threatened by development, to protect ecosystems that offer services like storing carbon, and to restore degraded habitats.

In his campaign platform, Biden pledged to commit to 30 by 30 for similar reasons: “protecting biodiversity, slowing extinction rates, and helping leverage natural climate solutions.”

So how do we get there?

Currently, the federal government owns about 640 million acres of land, about 28 percent of all the land in the U.S. But most of it isn’t managed in a way that meets the 30 by 30 standard, in part because resources are regularly extracted from a lot of it. Fossil fuels extracted from federal lands and U.S. waters contribute nearly a quarter of the country’s carbon dioxide emissions.

Biden’s executive order also places a moratorium on all new federal oil and gas leases; existing leases are not expected to be impacted. But a drilling ban alone is not enough to convert land into a biodiversity haven, advocates say.

“If the federal government says ‘we banned oil and gas, now it’s conserved,’ a lot of the conservation community will be unsatisfied,” says Justin Brashares, a wildlife ecologist at the University of California, Berkeley.

To understand why, says Brashares’s colleague Arthur Middleton, also a Berkeley wildlife ecologist, consider the Europeans who first colonized the U.S.

“They favored places that were productive and had good soil, forests, healthy grasslands, and so forth, and that weight of historical preference for areas that are richer means by and large our public lands have not ended up being where most of the biodiversity is in our country,” he says.

Meeting the 30 by 30 target will require improving conservation on land that’s now in private hands. Around 70 percent of land in the U.S. is owned by individuals or companies.

“We need private landowners, livestock producers, and tribes,” says Brashares. “Let’s identify a geography and let that lead us to the table and see what levers we can pull.”

As far as federal land goes, however, one of the quickest levers the Biden Administration can pull is creating and restoring national monuments. The Antiquities Act grants the president the authority to designate monuments on land or sea, and unlike national parks, they don't have to be approved by Congress.

Former President Barack Obama established the Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument off New England and dramatically expanded two huge marine monuments in the Pacific. He also established the 1.35-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument in Utah.

Former President Donald Trump, however, withdrew some two million acres from Bears Ears and a nearby monument, Grand Staircase-Escalante, and opened the New England marine monument to fishing.

Restoring those monuments is one of the first actions toward 30 by 30 that President Biden can take. He began the 60-day review process to restore the two Utah monuments on his first day in office.

"Certainly [restoring] Bears Ears and Grand Staircase are at the top of the list," says Aaron Weiss, the deputy director at the Center for Western Priorities. "Those are low-hanging fruit."

(Read more about what it will take to restore the Utah monuments.)

Conservationists still hope he'll restore fishing restrictions in the New England monument. There are active campaigns underway to get more monuments designated as well.

Additionally, the National Park Service has long identified more than 11,000 tracts of land it would like to purchase near park boundaries, comprising a total of 1.6 million acres. That backlog would cost an estimated \$2 billion.

Even if the park service acquired all of it, though, it would barely put a dent in the more than 400 million additional acres required to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands.

### Taking conservation local

About two-thirds of species listed on the U.S. endangered species list are found on privately owned lands, and around half of the country's forests considered usable for carbon storage sit on private property.

While experts hope for a White House point person, such as National Climate Advisor Gina McCarthy, to oversee the initiative across federal agencies, successfully executing it will require giving local stakeholders seats at the table early on.

In a study published in February 2020, researchers looked at how rural U.S. voters influence conservation. While many voters understood the need for environmental regulations, they hesitated to offer their full support when they felt regulations were being done “to” them and not with them, says Emily Diamond, one of the study’s authors.

For 30 by 30 to work, “the more local, the better,” Diamond says. “Rural communities have the most trust for state and local governments.”

Incentives like conservation easements would allow landowners to keep their property and receive tax breaks or payments in exchange for giving up development rights.

Tribal governments also “need to be in the driver’s seat when it comes to this initiative,” says Raina Thiele, an alumna of the Obama White House who facilitates conversations among tribes.

Currently, there are about 56 million acres of tribal lands held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Most of that land, says Thiele, would not be counted in the 12 percent of U.S. land that is considered protected.

Historically, she says, conservation groups have equated human-free wilderness with protection, leading to tribes being pushed out of large parks like Yellowstone and Yosemite.

Now, she says, “they need to be the stewards of the land, as they have for thousands of years. In the indigenous lifeway, the environment and people are one.”

“I think 30 by 30 is exciting for many tribal leaders,” says Thiele. “It offers an opportunity to refrain from the traditional conservation model and favor one that’s more respectful and better for diversity.”

In the weeds

For now, it remains mostly unclear where the extra two Texas’ worth of well-conserved land needed to meet the 30 by 30 target will come from—and how it will be paid for.

“There is no secret plan here. There is no list,” says Tracy Stone-Manning, associate vice president for public lands at the National Wildlife Federation.

A comprehensive estimate of what the initiative will cost has yet to be circulated. In addition to the twobillion-dollar land acquisition backlog, the National Park Service, Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Land Management already have a combined backlog of maintenance projects estimated to cost over \$19 billion.

The Great American Outdoors Act, passed last year, fully funded the Land and Water Conservation Fund to the tune of \$900 million a year—considered progress but not nearly enough to satisfy some conservationists.

“The number we celebrated last year, \$900 million, is a 1978 number,” says the Nature Conservancy’s Cors. Adjusted for inflation, he says, “We should have been going for \$3.4 billion.”

Conservation experts are hopeful that 30 by 30 will be a bipartisan effort, as the Great American Outdoors Act was. That remains to be seen—along with all the details.

“I think as this announcement rolls out, people are going to want to dive into the weeds of what it means,” Stone-Manning says, “but they can’t forget the scale of ambition the president is asking us to consider. It’s going to be hard work.”

## **Natural Gas Intelligence**

**Legal Battles Loom As Biden Order Pauses Federal Oil, Natural Gas Leasing.** According to Natural Gas Intelligence, “The U.S. oil and gas industry reacted with dismay and the first of perhaps multiple lawsuits Wednesday ahead of an executive order (EO) by President Biden directing the Department of the Interior (DOI) to pause new oil and natural gas leasing on federal lands and offshore waters. The EO published Wednesday afternoon follows a 60-day freeze on new federal drilling permits and leases by acting DOI Secretary Scott de la Vega on Jan. 20 after Biden was sworn in. The latest order entails a ‘targeted pause’ that ‘does not impact existing operations or permits for valid, existing leases, which are continuing to be reviewed and approved,’ DOI said. ‘The order does not restrict energy activities on private or state lands, or lands that the United States holds in trust or restricted status for Tribes or individual Indians.’ ... The Western Energy Alliance, a regional oil and gas trade group, filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Wyoming challenging the EO on grounds that it violates the Mineral Leasing Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act. ... The EO is to direct the Interior to identify steps to accelerate renewable energy development on public lands and waters, including a goal of doubling power generation from offshore wind by 2030. DOI also will be instructed to outline steps to achieve Biden’s pledge of conserving at least 30% each of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.” [Natural Gas Intelligence, [1/27/21](#) (-)]

## **NBC**

**Biden Signs Executive Actions On Climate Change: 'It's Time To Act'.** According to NBC, “President Joe Biden delivered remarks Wednesday about his plan to tackle climate change and signed related executive actions to further the key part of his agenda, which includes ‘creating jobs and restoring scientific integrity,’ the White House said Wednesday. Biden said that his administration’s plan is addressing the existential threat ‘with a greater sense of urgency.’ ‘In my view, we’ve already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis. We can’t wait any longer. We see it with our own eyes we feel it. We know it in our bones. And it’s time to act,’ Biden said before signing the executive actions in the White House State Dining Room. The executive actions Wednesday direct the federal government to elevate climate change to a national security priority, conserve about 30 percent of all federal land and water by 2030 and suspend new leases for natural gas and oil development on federal lands and waters. The actions also will create a commission focused on environmental justice and green jobs, direct federal agencies to rely on science in their rulemaking and convene a climate summit of world leaders on Earth Day, April 22. ‘It’s a whole of government approach to put climate change at the center of our domestic national security and foreign policy,’ Biden said. ‘It’s advancing conservation, revitalizing communities and cities and on the farmlands and securing environmental justice. Our plans are ambitious, but we are America. We’re bold, we’re unwavering in the pursuit of jobs and innovation, science and discovery.’” [NBC, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## **NPR**

**Biden Hits 'Pause' On Oil And Gas Leasing On Public Lands And Waters.** According to NPR, “In an effort to slow the nation’s contribution to climate change, President Biden has signed an executive order to begin halting oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters. The much-anticipated move is one of several executive actions the president took on Wednesday to address the worsening climate crisis and the broader decline of the natural world, but it won’t come without pushback. ‘Today is Climate Day at the White House, which means it’s Jobs Day at the White House,’ Biden said at the top of his remarks, also citing the health and national security impact of climate change, which Biden called a ‘maximum threat.’ The president said there is increased bipartisan concern about climate change, though many Republicans have criticized Biden’s actions, claiming they will eliminate jobs. Biden emphasized work in agriculture and manufacturing to advance energy conservation. He also promised 1 million new jobs in the auto industry as federal agencies aim to lead on a transition to electric vehicles. ... In addition to the leasing order, Biden directed the Department of the Interior to conserve 30% of the nation’s land and waters by the 2030 and to identify ways to double offshore wind production by that same deadline.” [NPR, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## Offshore Engineer

**Biden Pauses Federal Oil & Gas Leasing, Eyes Offshore Wind Growth.** According to Offshore Engineer, “President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed a new raft of executive actions to combat climate change, including pausing new oil and gas leases on federal land and cutting fossil fuel subsidies, as he pursues green policies he billed as a boon for job creation. The orders map out the direction for the Democratic president’s climate change and environmental agenda and reverse the policies of his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump, who sought to maximize U.S. oil, gas, and coal output by removing regulations and easing environmental reviews. ‘In my view, we’ve already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis,’ Biden told a White House ceremony, noting the threats the nation faces from intensifying storms, wildfires, floods, and droughts linked to climate change as well as air pollution from burning fossil fuels. ‘It’s time to act.’ Biden unveiled a ‘whole-of-government approach’ to put climate change concerns at the center of U.S. national security and foreign policy as well as domestic planning. He said building a modern and resilient climate-related infrastructure and a clean energy future for America would create millions of good-paying union jobs. ... Biden also set a goal to conserve 30% of federal land and waters to protect wildlife by 2030 and seek to double renewable energy production from offshore wind, also by 2030.” [Offshore Engineer, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## Politico

**Biden Pitching A Much Vaster Climate Plan Than Obama Ever Attempted.** According to Politico, “President Joe Biden is launching his sweeping assault on climate change with a much larger army of allies than Barack Obama had 12 years ago — a coalition that ranges from labor unions, anti-fracking activists and racial justice advocates to leaders of Wall Street, the auto industry and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. But Biden also faces a challenge: holding together this teeming coalition, with its many competing agendas, long enough to break the logjam in Congress that doomed Obama’s efforts to force his policy changes through Congress. He’s also pitching a much vaster climate plan than Obama ever attempted, with calls for trillions of dollars in new spending along with efforts to make combating global warming a prime mission for the entire executive branch. ‘That big of a tent requires a big bank account, and that really to me is more of the question — how much money are they going to be willing to commit to this?’ said Phil Smith, spokesperson for the United Mine Workers of America labor union. ‘How much money is Congress going to be willing to let them commit to this?’ ... In another move, Biden will call for meeting his campaign promise to place 30 percent of U.S. land and waters under conservation protections by 2030. The so-called 30x30 plan was proposed by Rep. Deb Haaland, Biden’s nominee to lead the Interior Department, and former New Mexico Sen. Tom Udall.” [Politico, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Climate Orders Include Focus On Transportation, Infrastructure.** According to Politico, “President Joe Biden put forward a sweeping executive order on climate Wednesday, including a shift to clean vehicles and an end to oil and gas subsidies. The order included: — A shift to zero-emission vehicles for federal, state, local, and tribal government fleets, including vehicles of the United States Postal Service; — A ‘pause’ on new oil and natural gas leases on public lands or in offshore waters pending a comprehensive review; — The elimination of federal subsidies for fossil fuels; — A sustainable infrastructure initiative with the White House Council on Environmental Quality and OMB working to ensure that federal infrastructure investment reduces climate pollution; — A reversal of Trump-era permitting rules that stopped federal agencies from considering the effects of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change in their environmental reviews; — The establishment of a Civilian Climate Corps; — An environmental justice initiative working to ensure that 40 percent of the benefits of federal investments in energy, transit and other programs flow to disadvantaged communities; and — Inclusion of the DOT secretary on task forces, working groups and interagency councils focused on climate, environmental justice and the economic revitalization of coal and power plant communities.” [Politico, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**White House Releases Text Of Biden's Climate Orders.** According to Politico, “The White House on Wednesday released the full text of several executive orders issued by President Joe Biden aimed at sweeping action on climate change. — Biden’s full executive order pausing auctions of federal lands and waters to oil and gas companies, enhancing environmental justice, promising a transition to fossil fuel-producing areas and offering other commitments, is available here. — Biden also signed an executive order establishing the ‘President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology’ and a memorandum enhancing scientific integrity principles to promote ‘evidence-based decisions.’” [Politico, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden's New Climate Orders To Reshape U.S. Energy Policy.** According to Politico, “President Joe Biden will issue a slate of executive orders on Wednesday designed to make climate change a national security priority for years to come, reshaping the U.S. oil and gas industry and delivering victories for environmental advocates on a central pillar of his new administration. In a sharp contrast to the Trump administration’s focus on increasing fossil fuel production, Biden’s orders will press pause on auctions of federal lands and waters to oil and gas companies, expand conservation protections for large swathes of federal land, create a new civilian conservation corps and promise to deliver economic help to coal-producing regions suffering from the industry’s decline. Biden will still need Congress to accomplish his target of spending \$2 trillion on climate change to help reach the goal of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector by 2035 and across the economy by 2050. But the orders to be issued Wednesday show Biden taking aggressive steps to launch a government-wide effort toward tackling climate change. ... In another move, Biden will call for meeting his campaign

promise to place 30 percent of U.S. federal land and waters under conservation protections by 2030. The so-called 30x30 plan was proposed by Rep. Deb Haaland, Biden's nominee to lead the Interior Department, and former New Mexico Sen. Tom Udall." [Politico, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## Public News Service

**ND Group: Biden Moratorium On Oil Leases "Good Step".** According to Public News Service, "President Joe Biden has placed a freeze on new oil and gas leases on public lands and waters. A North Dakota conservation group hopes the moratorium will result in a productive evaluation of regulations, so future projects will have minimal impact on natural resources. Biden's action coincides with a host of orders he's signed to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions. The administration cited 'irresponsible leasing' and the effects on surrounding communities. Scott Skokos, executive director of the Dakota Resource Council, said while it's clear this is temporary and existing projects aren't affected, it's a good step. 'It's a good time to press the pause button from the previous administration, which kind of, in a lot of ways, pushed drilling on federal lands pretty quickly,' Skokos asserted. But the moratorium has drawn sharp criticism from the oil and gas industry, as well as GOP lawmakers and governors from states with high energy production." [Public News Service, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Executive Orders Prioritize Climate, Environmental Justice.** According to Public News Service, "President Joe Biden will release a slew of executive orders aimed at curbing pollution, conserving natural lands, and addressing environmental injustice. Among the orders, he'll establish a new Office of Climate Change at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to address the overlap between global warming and public health, as well as forming a new National Climate Task Force. Susannah Tuttle, director of North Carolina Interfaith Power and Light, said the actions are welcome, and convey the urgency of the climate crisis that many people face, especially those in coastal communities. 'The Biden administration is taking important action to protect the health of our communities, the public lands, oceans and waters we enjoy, the wildlife that we treasure and the future of our climate,' Tuttle stated. She pointed out research shows investing in clean energy will help create good jobs and spur long-term economic growth. She also noted the administration's actions are in step with Gov. Roy Cooper's statewide Clean Energy Plan, which calls for a 40% reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions by 2025. President Biden will lay out a ten-year goal of conserving 30% of U.S. lands and oceans by 2030." [Public News Service, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## Reuters

**Western oil industry group sues Biden administration over federal drilling freeze.** “The Western Energy Alliance oil industry group said on Wednesday it filed a lawsuit challenging U.S. President Joe Biden’s executive order temporarily suspending oil and gas leasing on federal lands.” [Reuters, [1/27/21](#)]

[Reuters, [1/27/21](#)]

**Biden Takes Sweeping Measures To Curb Climate Change, Vows Job Creation.** According to Reuters, “President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed a new raft of executive actions to combat climate change, including pausing new oil and gas leases on federal land and cutting fossil fuel subsidies, as he pursues green policies he billed as a boon for job creation. The orders map out the direction for the Democratic president’s climate change and environmental agenda and reverse the policies of his Republican predecessor, Donald Trump, who sought to maximize U.S. oil, gas and coal output by removing regulations and easing environmental reviews. ‘In my view, we’ve already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis,’ Biden told a White House ceremony, noting the threats the nation faces from intensifying storms, wildfires, floods and droughts linked to climate change as well as air pollution from burning fossil fuels. ‘It’s time to act.’ Biden unveiled a ‘whole-of-government approach’ to put climate change concerns at the center of U.S. national security and foreign policy as well as domestic planning. He said building a modern and resilient climate-related infrastructure and a clean energy future for America would create millions of good-paying union jobs. ... Biden also set a goal to conserve 30% of federal land and waters to protect wildlife by 2030 and seek to double renewable energy production from offshore wind, also by 2030.” [Reuters, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## **The 19th**

**Biden’s Climate Plan Emphasizes Environmental Justice.** According to 19th News, “President Joe Biden marked his first week in office by releasing a plan to address climate change that directs federal agencies to craft programs and policies with environmental justice in mind, underscoring the disproportionate impact of pollution and energy extraction on economically disadvantaged communities. In three executive orders signed Wednesday, Biden outlined an overarching climate agenda intended to enable the United States to reach zero net carbon emissions by 2050. One directs all federal agencies to consider and address the ‘disproportionate health, environmental, economic, and climate impacts on disadvantaged communities’ that are often near landfills, factories, ports, power plants and other infrastructure projects with deleterious environmental impacts. Asthma, for example, can be caused or exacerbated by environmental factors such as pollution. Black, Latinx and Indigenous people

grapple with the long-term respiratory disease at disproportionate rates. ... Biden's administration will also double offshore wind energy production and pause all new oil and natural gas leases on non-tribal public lands and in public waters, as well as review all existing leases. It aims to conserve at least 30 percent of the country's lands and oceans by 2030, aided by a new Civilian Climate Corps that will also create conservation jobs. The Department of Agriculture will ask farmers for input about 'climate smart' practices. Scientists will be protected from political interference, and a presidential council of scientific advisers will be reestablished to consult on policy across departments." [19th News, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## The Guardian

### **Biden Signals Radical Shift From Trump Era With Executive Orders On Climate Change.**

According to The Guardian, "Joe Biden has warned the climate crisis poses an 'existential threat' to the world as he unveiled a radical change in direction from the Trump era by halting fossil fuel activity on public lands and directing the US government to start a full-frontal effort to lower planet-heating emissions. 'We have already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis, we can't wait any longer,' the US president said as he signed a battery of executive orders on Wednesday. 'We see it with our own eyes, we feel it in our bones. It's time to act.'

Advertisement Biden has instructed the US government to pause and review all oil and gas drilling on federal land, eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and transform the government's vast fleet of cars and trucks into electric vehicles, in a sweeping new set of climate executive orders. 'We desperately need unified national response to the climate crisis, because there is a climate crisis,' Biden said. He pledged to put 'environmental justice' at the center 'of all we do' to help mitigate the disproportionate effects of climate change on Black and brown communities in the US, with policy and funding changes. ... Alongside the review of public lands, the Biden administration will install climate as an 'essential element' of US foreign policy and national security, craft a strengthened national emissions reduction target, seek to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and will set a new goal of conserving 30% of American land and oceans by 2030. The new emissions goal may well be presented at an international climate summit that Biden is planning for Earth Day, on 22 April." [The Guardian, [1/27/21](#) (+)]

## The Hill

**White House Lays Groundwork For International Approach On Climate Change.** According to The Hill, "The White House on Wednesday announced it would begin to craft the goals the U.S. will need to meet under the Paris climate accord while further cementing the role climate change will play in the administration's diplomacy and national security planning. President

Biden signed a trio of executive orders on Wednesday afternoon that drive numerous policy changes surrounding climate change while seeking to establish a new reputation for the U.S. on the world stage. 'He makes climate central to foreign policy planning, to diplomacy, and to national security preparedness,' special envoy John Kerry said at a White House briefing. [...] Republicans have already vocally opposed other aspects of the orders, including a measure that calls for a pause on new oil and gas leases on federal lands. 'President Biden's war on America's energy producers - and the jobs they create - shows he is more interested in appeasing the radical left than in helping America's workers and families,' Sen. Kevin Cramer (R-N.D) said in a release." [The Hill, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Expected To Issue Orders On Climate, Conservation.** According to The Hill, "The White House is expected to announce Wednesday a host of actions advancing President Biden's climate goals, a policy area the commander-in-chief has pledged to prioritize. A document obtained by The Hill describes Wednesday's actions as a climate-themed day that will incorporate a series of actions including an executive order that 'initiates a series of regulatory actions to combat climate change domestically and elevates climate change as a national security priority.' Also expected are actions directing science-based decision making at federal agencies and reestablishing a presidential council of science and technology advisers, as well as announcing data for a Climate Leaders Summit. The administration is also expected to take aim at fossil fuel leasing on public lands and further conservation efforts. The New York Times reported this week that Biden will instruct the government to conserve 30 percent of federal lands and waters by 2030. He'll also start a task force to create a plan to reduce emissions and put forth a memo calling climate change a national security priority, according to the newspaper." [The Hill, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## The New York Times

**Analysis: The Battle Lines Are Being Drawn In Biden's Climate Push.** According to The New York Times, "As President Biden prepares on Wednesday to open an ambitious effort to confront climate change, powerful and surprising forces are arrayed at his back. Automakers are coming to accept that much higher fuel economy standards are their future; large oil and gas companies have said some curbs on greenhouse pollution lifted by former President Donald J. Trump should be reimposed; shareholders are demanding corporations acknowledge and prepare for a warmer, more volatile future, and a youth movement is driving the Democratic Party to go big to confront the issue. [...] A suite of executive actions planned for Wednesday does include a halt to new oil and gas leases on federal lands and in federal waters, a move that is certain to rile industry. But that would not stop fossil fuel drilling. As of 2019, more than 26 million acres of United States land were already leased to oil and gas companies, and last

year the Trump administration, in a rush to exploit natural resources hidden beneath publicly owned lands and waters, leased tens of thousands more.” [The New York Times, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden, Emphasizing Job Creation, Signs Sweeping Climate Actions.** According to The New York Times, “President Biden on Wednesday signed a sweeping series of executive actions — ranging from pausing new federal oil leases to electrifying the government’s vast fleet of vehicles — while casting the moves as much about job creation as the climate crisis. Mr. Biden said his directives would reserve 30 percent of federal land and water for conservation purposes, make climate policy central to national security decisions and build out a network of electric-car charging stations nationwide. But much of the sales pitch on employment looked intended to counteract longstanding Republican attacks that Mr. Biden’s climate policies would inevitably hurt an economy already weakened by the pandemic. Mr. Biden argued instead that technological gains and demands for wind and solar infrastructure would create work that would more than make up for job losses even in parts of the country reliant on the fracking boom. Using the government’s purchasing power to buy zero-emissions vehicles, Mr. Biden said, would help speed the transition away from gasoline-powered cars and ultimately lead to ‘one million new jobs in the American automobile industry.’” [The New York Times, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden Walks The Climate-Economy Tightrope.** According to The New York Times, “President Biden issued a range of sweeping executive orders yesterday aimed at confronting the climate crisis, framing the actions as an equally significant investment in job creation. In one order, he committed to using the federal government’s purchasing power to order up a vast fleet of zero-emissions vehicles. ‘This will mean one million new jobs in the American automobile industry,’ he said. He also pledged to reserve 30 percent of federal land and water for conservation purposes, and said he would create a civilian ‘climate corps’ to employ people in conservation work. He ordered a pause to new oil and gas leases on federal lands and in federal waters — though that does not put a stop to drilling. (As of 2019, more than 26 million acres of federal land had been leased to oil and gas companies.) And Biden became the first president to mandate that climate change be taken into consideration in all major foreign policy and national security decisions — a move that could have a far-reaching impact. Earlier in the day, Biden’s climate envoy, John Kerry, announced that the United States would host an international climate change summit meeting on Earth Day, April 22. Kerry said that by then, he would announce a new set of specific targets as the United States aims to lower its carbon dioxide emissions under the terms of the Paris Agreement, which Biden has committed to rejoining.” [The New York Times, [1/28/21](#) (=)]

**The Battle Takes Shape.** According to The New York Times, “President Biden on Wednesday signed a raft of executive orders on climate that focus on three main themes: job creation, environmental justice and weaving climate change into every facet of the government. In a

significant step toward one of Mr. Biden's campaign promises, one of the orders directs the secretary of the Interior Department to 'pause' on entering into new oil and natural gas leases on public lands and waters. Mr. Biden will have the support of some unlikely allies for the new measures. He'll also face huge obstacles, some quite likely put up by members of his own party. That's because an evenly divided Senate has given enormous power to any single senator and some lawmakers, even on the Democratic side, will very likely oppose any policies perceived as hurting industry in their home states. Here's how the battle lines are shaping up. The measures Wednesday followed a burst of executive actions by Mr. Biden on his first day in office. He rejoined the Paris Agreement and canceled the Keystone XL pipeline. A budgeting maneuver could free up as much as \$10 billion in federal funds to protect against climate disasters before they strike. Pete Buttigieg has vowed to make climate change a top priority when he takes over at the Department of Transportation. Despite the new measures, the environmental protections weakened or repealed by former President Trump can't be reinstated overnight." [The New York Times, [1/27/21](#) (+)]

## The Press Democrat

**Biden Pauses New Offshore Oil Leases, Shielding California Coast From More Drilling Rigs.** According to The Press Democrat, "President Joe Biden's order Wednesday pausing new offshore oil leases will temporarily shield California coastal waters from the prospect of expanded oil development under a Trump administration plan unveiled two years ago. 'It's a day people on the coast will never forget,' said Richard Charter of Bodega Bay, an anti-drilling advocate since the 1970s. 'It's a day for popping corks.' Charter, a senior fellow at the Ocean Foundation, called the presidential order — included in a package of measures addressing climate change — 'the biggest step in half a century toward protecting coastal resources.' The order stipulates that new oil and natural gas leases on public lands and offshore waters must await comprehensive review by multiple federal agencies, including 'potential climate and other impacts.' 'This is a return of sanity and science in the interest of a sustainable environment and a healthy economy,' Charter said, acknowledging that the move had been expected since the Biden administration took office. 'Nothing bad can happen as we take the next step toward permanent protection,' he said." [The Press Democrat, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## The Wall Street Journal

**Biden Makes New Push To Address Climate Change.** According to The Wall Street Journal, "President Biden took a series of steps to address climate change Wednesday, suspending new oil and gas leases on federal land and confronting the issue through diplomatic, conservation

and other initiatives. In three executive orders, Mr. Biden directed the Department of the Interior to identify steps to double offshore wind production by 2030 and to employ Americans on climate-focused public-works projects. He also set a goal for delivering 40% of the benefits of all federal spending on climate initiatives to poor and minority communities. Mr. Biden framed climate change as a matter of national security and directed all major government departments to take action aimed at curbing greenhouse-gas emissions and the country's decadeslong reliance on oil. 'In my view, we've already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis. We can't wait any longer. We see it with our own eyes, we feel it, we know it in our bones and it's time to act,' Mr. Biden said. Mr. Biden's actions Wednesday, which followed an order last week for the U.S. to rejoin the Paris climate accord, is putting more pressure on fault lines in the business community that divide the allies of renewable power and fossil fuels. ... In one of his orders Wednesday, he directed the Department of the Interior to identify steps to double offshore wind production by 2030. The order also calls for a commitment to protecting 30% of federal land and water by 2030, and establishing a new version of the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps—to be called the Civilian Climate Corps—to employ Americans on climate-focused public-works projects like reforestation." [The Wall Street Journal, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

### **Biden's Order To Freeze New Oil Drilling On Federal Land: What You Need To Know.**

According to The Wall Street Journal, "President Biden has long signaled his intention to curb oil-and-gas drilling on federal land as part of a sweeping effort to reduce U.S. emissions to combat climate change. On Mr. Biden's first day in office, the Interior Department ordered a 60-day pause on issuing new drilling permits and leasing on federal land unless they are approved by the department's senior leaders, the first step in a process to begin implementing a promise he made during his campaign. On Wednesday, Mr. Biden signed executive orders to suspend new oil and gas leasing while the Interior Department reviews existing leases and permitting practices. Some permitting related to existing leases will continue during the review, an Interior spokesman said. Here is a look at what a freeze on federal drilling permits means for America's oil industry." [The Wall Street Journal, [1/27/21](#) (-)]

## **The Washington Post**

**As Biden Vows Monumental Action On Climate Change, A Fight With The Fossil Fuel Industry Has Only Begun.** According to The Washington Post, "Joe Biden had long promised to become the climate president, and on Wednesday he detailed far-ranging plans to shift the U.S. away from fossil fuels, create millions of jobs in renewable energy, and conserve vast swaths of public lands and water. 'This is not a time for small measures,' Biden said at the White House, adding that the nation had already wasted precious years as it delayed in dealing with the climate crisis. But as he detailed his plans, the gas, oil and coal industries were already mobilizing on all fronts. From an oil patch in Alaska to state capitals to the halls of Congress, the

industries and their allies are aiming to slow Biden's unprecedented push for climate action and keep profits from fossil fuels flowing. Republican attorneys general from six states wrote to the new president, warning him not to overstep his authority. GOP lawmakers attacked his executive orders as 'job killers.' And the petroleum industry revived television ads promoting drilling on federal lands. Industry executives expressed dismay at the scope, speed and direction in which Biden is heading, saying he is going much further than President Barack Obama ever did, while environmentalists said the danger that Earth faces is far more dire now than it appeared during Obama's tenure and requires an extraordinary response. Last year essentially tied with 2016 as the hottest year ever recorded, and scientists say the planet is speeding toward irreversible damage." [The Washington Post, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden To Place Environmental Justice At Center Of Sweeping Climate Plan.** According to The Washington Post, "President Biden on Wednesday plans to make tackling America's persistent racial and economic disparities a central part of his plan to combat climate change, prioritizing environmental justice for the first time in a generation. As part of an unprecedented push to cut the nation's greenhouse gas emissions and create new jobs as the United States shifts toward cleaner energy, Biden will direct agencies across the federal government to invest in low-income and minority communities that have traditionally borne the brunt of pollution, according to two individuals briefed on the plan who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it had not been formally announced. Biden will sign an executive order establishing a White House interagency council on environmental justice, create an office of health and climate equity at the Health and Human Services Department and form a separate environmental justice office at the Justice Department, the individuals said. ... Biden on Wednesday plans to impose a moratorium on all new federal oil and gas leasing, pledge to protect 30 percent of the nation's public lands and waters by the end of the decade and direct federal agencies to factor climate change into a wide range of issues, including procurement, regulations and legal settlements." [The Washington Post, [1/26/21](#) (=)]

## **The Washington Times**

### **Biden hit with same-day lawsuit over ban on oil-and-gas leasing on federal lands.**

"President Biden capped Wednesday his one-two punch on climate, thrusting global warming to the forefront of his administration and suspending new oil-and-gas leases on federal land, despite warnings that his jabs at carbon emissions would knock out jobs and flatten the economy. A week after reentering the Paris climate accord and canceling the Keystone XL pipeline, the Democrat signed executive orders to put the nation on an 'irreversible path' to a renewable-energy economy, citing the risks of wildfires, floods, droughts and storms that he said were made worse by climate change. 'We can't wait any longer,' Mr. Biden said at the White House. 'We see it with our own eyes. We feel it. We know it in our bones. It is an

existential threat. There is a climate crisis. We know what to do; we've just got to do it.' The president's executive actions also called on government agencies to protect scientists from 'political interference'; eliminate fossil fuel subsidies; create a 'Civilian Climate Corps Initiative,' and conserve 30% of U.S. lands and oceans by 2030 in an effort to fight the 'climate crisis.'" [The Washington Times, [1/27/21](#)]

**Biden signs executive order promoting climate change agenda, halts new drilling on federal land.** "President Biden signed executive orders on Wednesday that require the government to prioritize climate change and 'environmental justice' in all federal decisions, and suspended new leases for oil and gas drilling on federal lands, moves that critics say are costing thousands of jobs already in the energy field. Mr. Biden said the actions will begin to ease the impact of wildfires, floods, droughts and tropical storms, all of which he said are worsened by climate change. 'We can't wait any longer,' Mr. Biden said at the White House. 'We see it with our own eyes, we feel it. We know it in our bones. It is an existential threat. There is a climate crisis. We know what to do, we've just got to do it.' Among the goals of his order is to create a carbon-free electric sector by 2035. The president also signed an executive action calling on government agencies to protect scientists from 'political interference.'" [The Washington Times, [1/27/21](#)]

## USA Today

**Biden prioritizes climate change as national security concern, pauses oil drilling on public lands.** "President Joe Biden signed another raft of executive actions Wednesday to combat climate change, prioritizing science and evidence-based policy across federal agencies and pausing oil drilling on public lands in the latest move to unwind the Trump administration's environmental policies. Biden pledged to be the most aggressive president on climate change, which he called 'an existential threat.' His goal is to decarbonize the U.S. power sector by 2035 on the way to reaching net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The USA emits the second-largest amount of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), producing about 5.41 billion metric tons in 2018. China emits nearly twice that amount. 'We've already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis,' Biden said from the White House State Dining Room. 'We can't wait any longer. ... We know it in our bones. And it's time to act.' Just as a national response was needed to combat the coronavirus pandemic, a unified response is required to fight the climate crisis, Biden said." [USA Today, [1/27/21](#)]

## Washington Examiner

**Biden Orders Government To Buy Carbon-Free Power And Electric Cars In Sweeping Climate Executive Order.** According to Washington Examiner, “Beyond the leasing pause, Biden is taking additional steps to conserve U.S. lands and waters, adopting a national goal to protect 30% by 2030. That commitment fulfills a promise Biden made in his climate plans on the campaign trail, in which he pledged to protect biodiversity, slow extinction rates, and help store carbon in forests and soils. The goal is rooted in scientific research. Gov. Gavin Newsom, a Democrat, has already enshrined that goal in his own executive order last fall, making California the first state to do so. Nearly 40 countries have also made a commitment to conserve 30% of their lands and waters by 2030. Democrats in Congress have backed the effort, too. Former New Mexico Democratic Sen. Tom Udall, once in the running to be Biden’s interior secretary, led efforts in Congress to codify the goal legislatively with a resolution last year. Vice President Kamala Harris was a co-sponsor of that resolution when she was in the Senate. To reach that goal, however, Biden will have to look to Congress for resources. ‘We’re going to need resources. ... Especially for the restoration components of conservation, we’re going to need flat-out investment from our government, putting people to work on both public and private land in restoration activities,’ said Tracy Stone-Manning, associate vice president for public lands at the National Wildlife Federation.” [Washington Examiner, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Kerry Says Biden Is Offering Displaced Fossil Fuel Workers 'Better Choices'.** According to Washington Examiner, “President Biden’s top climate officials on Wednesday sought to assure that their actions targeting fossil fuel production in order to combat climate change won’t lead to a massive displacement of jobs. ‘What President Biden wants to do is make sure those folks have better choices, that they have alternatives,’ Biden’s international climate envoy John Kerry said of fossil fuel workers. ‘They can be the people who go to work to build the solar panels, making them here at home.’ Coal has been losing out to cleaner, cheaper fuels in recent years, Kerry noted, adding that jobs installing solar panels and wind turbines were among the fastest-growing before the coronavirus pandemic slowed that momentum. ‘Unfortunately, workers have been fed a false narrative,’ Kerry said at a White House press briefing. ‘They have been fed the notion somehow dealing with climate is coming at their expense. No, it’s not. What’s happening to them is happening because of other market forces already taking place.’ Biden, in his early days, is looking beyond coal to also take aim at oil and gas in order to speed the transition to cleaner energy. The president signed a sweeping executive order on Wednesday afternoon that, in part, pauses new oil and gas leasing on federal lands and waters, which the fossil fuel industry says could harm state budgets that earn royalties from federal drilling.” [Washington Examiner, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

## Local Outlets

## Alaska

**Biden orders sweeping actions to pause drilling and fight climate change.** “President Joe Biden announced Wednesday a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on public lands, one of a slate of executive actions he is taking to demonstrate his commitment to fighting climate change, despite opposition from the fossil fuel industry. The move effectively hit pause on the federal government’s leasing program while the administration considers an overhaul, weighing the climate and public health risks of continued oil and gas development against the government’s legal obligations to energy companies. This review is the first step toward an outright ban on new drilling, one of Biden’s campaign promises. With the executive actions on climate policy, Biden aims to harness the authority of the government as never before to reduce planet-warming emissions. The orders amount to a sweeping repudiation of the Trump administration’s efforts to weaken environmental regulations and deny the seriousness of climate change. And they are a reflection of how the new administration thinks about climate policy as an existential crisis demanding an all-of-government approach. ‘We’ve already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis,’ Biden said at a White House signing ceremony.” [Anchorage Daily News (via Los Angeles Times), [1/27/21](#)]

## Arizona

**Biden: 'We can't wait any longer' to address climate crisis.** “In the most ambitious U.S. effort to stave off the worst of climate change, President Joe Biden signed executive orders to transform the nation’s heavily fossil-fuel powered economy into a clean-burning one, pausing oil and gas leasing on federal land and targeting subsidies for those industries. The directives aim to conserve 30 percent of the country’s lands and waters in the next 10 years, double the nation’s offshore wind energy, and move to an all-electric federal vehicle fleet, among other changes. Biden’s sweeping plan is aimed at staving off the worst of global warming caused by burning fossil fuels. But his effort it also carries political risk for the president and Democrats as oil- and coal-producing states face job losses from moves to sharply increase U.S. reliance on clean energy such as wind and solar power. ‘We can’t wait any longer’ to address the climate crisis, Biden said Wednesday at the White House. ‘We see with our own eyes. We know it in our bones. It is time to act.’ [Arizona Daily Star (via Associated Press), [1/27/21](#)]

## Colorado

**Opinion: Biden's 'pause' is OK; as long as it's defined.** “President Joe Biden took a series of executive actions on Wednesday to advance his administration’s climate goals, including an order instructing the Department of Interior to suspend new oil and natural gas leases on public lands and offshore waters. Predictably, the oil and gas industry and its supporters, including the Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce, began sounding alarms about job losses, compromised energy security and affordability, plunging government revenues and diminished economic activity in western towns that serve as drilling hubs. [...] If this were a permanent ban, the alarm bells would be deafening. But it’s a ‘pause,’ implying there will be a resumption of lease auctions at some point — though likely under new guidelines. Critics contend that the government’s leasing program is ‘broken’ and warrants examination regardless of any role it plays in exacerbating climate change. More on that in a moment.” [The Daily Sentinel, [1/28/21](#)]

**Federal lease moratorium met by cheers, legal challenge.** “A climate-action executive order signed by President Joe Biden on Wednesday was cheered by conservationists and top Colorado Democratic political officeholders while being met by an immediate legal challenge over a provision suspending oil and gas leasing involving federal lands and waters pending a review. The wide-ranging executive order also includes measures such as making climate considerations an essential element of U.S. foreign policy and national security, seeking to conserve 30% of lands and oceans by 2030, creating a White House Office of Domestic Climate Policy and a National Climate Task Force, and directing federal agencies to procure carbon-free electricity and zero-emission vehicles, eliminate fossil fuel subsidies and work to spur clean-energy technologies and infrastructure. ‘The United States and the world face a profound climate crisis,’ Biden’s order says. ‘We have a narrow moment to pursue action at home and abroad in order to avoid the most catastrophic impacts of that crisis and to seize the opportunity that tackling climate change presents.’” [The Daily Sentinel, [1/27/21](#)]

**In Colorado, President Biden's energy leasing moratorium on public lands brings praise, lawsuit.** “President Joe Biden's order issued Wednesday to pause new oil and gas leasing on public lands was praised by Coloradans who see the move as crucial to fighting climate change but was immediately met with a lawsuit by a Colorado-based industry group. The order makes tackling climate change a priority and will be in place for public lands and waters while leasing and permitting practices for fossil fuel development undergo a ‘rigorous review.’ It follows a directive issued Jan. 22 that halted new leases and permits for 60 days but allowed high-ranking Interior Department officials to approve activities on federally managed lands. That directive is still in place. Kelly Nordini, executive director of Conservation Colorado, said in a statement that Coloradans overwhelmingly support addressing climate change ‘based in science and grounded in equity and health to protect our state now and for future generations.’ Gov. Jared Polis, whose goal is to see the state’s electric grid 100% carbon-free by 2040, said in a statement that Colorado will work closely with the Biden administration as it reviews policies around energy development on public lands.” [The Denver Post, [1/27/21](#)]

**Oil and Gas Industry Blames Biden, Ignores Reality.** “The future is coming, and it doesn't smell like gasoline. On Wednesday, President Joe Biden ordered a moratorium on new leases for oil and gas drilling on public lands. As Judith Kohler reports for The Denver Post[1], this decision led to a lot of angry shaking fists from O&G industry backers: The order makes tackling climate change a priority and will be in place for public lands and waters while leasing and permitting practices for fossil fuel development undergo a 'rigorous review.' It follows a directive issued Jan. 22 that halted new leases and permits for 60 days but allowed high-ranking Interior Department officials to approve activities on federally managed lands. But the Denver-based Western Energy Alliance, an industry organization, said a recent study by a Wyoming trade group shows a prolonged leasing moratorium could cost eight Western states as much as \$33.5 billion over Biden's first term and 58,676 jobs annually. The president doesn't have the authority to ban leasing on public lands, said Kathleen Sgamma, the group's president, and the group filed a lawsuit Wednesday to stop the executive order. The O&G industry went with a predictable 'sky is falling' response to Biden's moves, but as Kohler continues for thePost, the reality is much different: Brad Handler, senior fellow for public policy at the Payne Institute at the Colorado School of Mines, said he believes the near-term impact of the leasing moratorium will be much less than the industry says.” [Colorado Pols, 1/28/21]

**Op-Ed: Biden's new climate executive orders could mean economic opportunities.** In an op-ed, Craig Cox wrote: “Through Biden's executive order, America's manufacturing sector will be harnessed to produce climate-friendly technologies that the Biden campaign estimated could create more than 10 million well-paying jobs[6]. America's agricultural sector will be encouraged to pursue new opportunities such as profitable carbon-capture farming practices[7], while portions of the West's public lands[8] can be tapped for their rich renewable energy resources. America's electric utilities will have new incentives to modernize their power generation technologies and transmission infrastructure[9] to produce clean, affordable and abundant electricity. America's transportation sector will gain new opportunities to meet the rapidly growing demand for clean and reliable electric vehicles[10], trucks and other modes of transport, along with new investments in electrification of the nation's massive transportation system. All these industries will rely on regulatory and policy frameworks guided by scientific data and technical information, some of which will come from another Biden executive action implementing science- and evidence-based decision-making in federal agencies. Biden is also re-establishing the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology[11]and convening a Climate Summit of international leaders to re-engage with the world community in April.” [Colorado Newslines, Author: Craig Cox, [1/28/21](#)]

## Florida

**Biden plans surge of climate policies, including drilling pause; The White House will announce the creation of a national climate task force to span the executive branch.**

“President Joe Biden is expected to unveil a raft of climate, environment and public lands moves on Wednesday, including leasing moratoriums for coal, oil and natural gas on federal land and in federal water, according to multiple congressional, industry and environmental sources. The White House will announce the creation of a national climate task force to span the executive branch, the formation of environmental justice roles across government and the unveiling of a presidential memorandum on ‘scientific integrity,’ according to people familiar with the plans. Biden will also set a national goal to permanently protect 30 percent of the country’s federal lands and waters from development by 2030, and the administration is also expected to pause new oil and gas leases on federal land and in federal waters through a one-year moratorium, as well as issue a three-year moratorium on coal leasing on federal territory, according to an industry source.” [Tampa Bay Times, 1/27/21]

**Biden orders sweeping actions to pause drilling and fight climate change.** “President Joe Biden announced Wednesday a moratorium on new oil and gas leasing on public lands, one of a slate of executive actions he is taking to demonstrate his commitment to fighting climate change, despite opposition from the fossil fuel industry. The move effectively hit pause on the federal government’s leasing program while the administration considers an overhaul, weighing the climate and public health risks of continued oil and gas development against the government’s legal obligations to energy companies. This review is the first step toward an outright ban on new drilling, one of Biden’s campaign promises. With the executive actions on climate policy, Biden aims to harness the authority of the government as never before to reduce planet-warming emissions. The orders amount to a sweeping repudiation of the Trump administration’s efforts to weaken environmental regulations and deny the seriousness of climate change.” [Miami Herald (via Los Angeles Times), [1/27/21](#)]

**Biden set to sign executive actions tackling climate change. Here’s what they’ll do.**

“President Joe Biden will take executive actions Wednesday to address the climate crisis. [...] Biden will sign a sweeping executive order that establishes “climate considerations” as a matter of U.S. foreign policy and national security and initiates a number of steps to combat the climate crisis in the U.S. and around the world. [...] ▪ Oil and natural gas leases: The order directs the interior secretary to pause new leases on public lands and offshore waters, to review existing leases and permits related to “fossil fuel development on public lands and waters” and to identify possible steps toward doubling renewable energy production from offshore wind by 2030.” [Miami Herald, [1/27/21](#)]

**FL Environmentalists Applaud Biden Orders To Address Climate Change.** According to Florida Phoenix, “Two of Florida’s leading environmental organizations applauded President Joe

Biden Wednesday for issuing executive orders to slow climate change that is fueling more frequent hurricanes, extreme heat and sea-level rise in the state. They called on Gov. Ron DeSantis to follow suit with bold action to protect Florida. Biden's new orders also halt offshore drilling for oil and gas in federal waters, a bipartisan issue dear to Floridians who adopted a state Constitutional Amendment in 2018 to ban drilling in state waters (up to 10 miles from Florida shores). 'President Joe Biden is proving that he is a true conservation leader,' said Jonathan Webber, deputy director of Florida Conservation Voters, in emails to the Phoenix. 'Today's executive orders reflect what we would like to see in Florida, including strong commitments to land and water conservation, climate action, and centering Black, Indigenous, and people of color in the environmental policy conversation.' Webber continued, 'Protecting our environment requires leadership at every level of government and today, the president set a bold standard. Now, Governor Ron DeSantis and the Legislature must rise to meet the challenges here in Florida.'" [Florida Phoenix, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**Biden's climate executive orders will turn environmental challenges into economic opportunities | Opinion.** In an op-ed, Craig Cox wrote: ""Through Biden's executive order, America's manufacturing sector will be harnessed to produce climate-friendly technologies that the Biden campaign estimated could create more than 10 million well-paying jobs[6]. America's agricultural sector will be encouraged to pursue new opportunities such as profitable carbon-capture farming practices[7], while portions of the West's public lands[8] can be tapped for their rich renewable energy resources. America's electric utilities will have new incentives to modernize their power generation technologies and transmission infrastructure[9] to produce clean, affordable and abundant electricity. America's transportation sector will gain new opportunities to meet the rapidly growing demand for clean and reliable electric vehicles[10], trucks and other modes of transport, along with new investments in electrification of the nation's massive transportation system. All these industries will rely on regulatory and policy frameworks guided by scientific data and technical information, some of which will come from another Biden executive action implementing science- and evidence-based decision-making in federal agencies. Biden is also re-establishing the Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology[11]and convening a Climate Summit of international leaders to re-engage with the world community in April." [South Florida Sun Sentinel, Author: Craig Cox, [1/27/21](#)]

## Iowa

### **Biden to pause new oil and gas leases on public lands in sweeping climate order.**

"President Joe Biden is set to sign a host of executive orders on climate Wednesday that will put a hold on new oil and gas leases on federal property, place environmental justice in the center

of climate reform and set goals of conserving nearly a third of the nation's land and water. On the leases, likely to be among the most contentious climate actions by the new administration, the secretary of Interior would be directed to pause all new oil and natural gas leases on public lands and offshore waters and initiate a review of all leases and permits related to fossil fuel. The review will then identify measures that can be taken to 'double renewable energy production from offshore wind by 2030,' according to an administration fact sheet.[1] The order does not ban new leases on coal. But some environmental groups argue that the executive order to pause new leases doesn't go far enough to curb greenhouse gases. Mitch Jones, the climate and energy program director at the non-profit advocacy group Food & Water Watch, said the order should levy a permanent ban on not only new leases for gas and oil but also for lease permit renewals. 'While there is a pause on new leases, drilling is still going to be taking place,' said Jones." [Iowa Capital Dispatch, 1/27/21]

## Louisiana

**Why Joe Biden's Oil And Gas Moratorium Is Expected To Have Long-Term Effects On Louisiana's Economy.** According to The Advocate, "A wide-ranging moratorium on new oil and gas leases on federal land and water that is expected Wednesday from President Joe Biden could have a long-ranging impact on Louisiana's economy and an already struggling oil and gas industry. The biggest long-term impact would be in the Gulf of Mexico, where drilling has been ravaged in recent years by low prices and reduced demand caused by the coronavirus pandemic, while the effect of the pause is expected to be minimal onshore because Louisiana has a relatively small amount of drilling happening on federal lands, said Eric Smith, associate director of the Tulane Energy Institute. Drilling on private lands is largely regulated by states. Smith also foresees a potential hit to the downstream sector, where chemical plants and refineries depend on a stable supply of low-priced oil and natural gas as raw materials for the products they make and potentially would shift their oil needs to overseas sources if prices rise. According to figures from the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, there were just under 59,000 acres of producing oil and gas leases on federal land in Louisiana in fiscal 2019. That compares to 1.1 million acres of producing leases in Utah, 1.5 million acres in Colorado, 3.9 million acres in New Mexico and 4.1 million acres in Wyoming." [The Advocate, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**A reeling Louisiana oil and gas industry anticipates another setback: Loss of federal subsidies** "Federal subsidies for fossil fuels are expected to be pulled back while more investment goes toward clean energy and water, with a hefty portion targeted to areas like Louisiana under an executive order signed Wednesday by President Joe Biden. The pull-back on subsidies is another setback for the oil and gas industry in Louisiana, which is already reeling from low oil prices and the economic recession, and hit earlier this week by Biden with a moratorium on new federal leases offshore in the Gulf of Mexico that was highly criticized by the

industry. The moratorium also affected federal lands, which aren't being drilled as much in Louisiana as in other areas of the country. During his speech Wednesday on climate change initiatives aimed at transitioning from fossil fuels to cleaner energy, Biden projected that the federal government has allocated \$40 billion for federal subsidies to oil and gas businesses nationally, which appears to include tax breaks. He later committed '40% of the benefits of key federal investments in clean energy, clean water and wastewater infrastructure' to help support communities across the country that are near industrial sites, singling out two areas that included the industrial corridor from Baton Rouge to New Orleans in the comment." [The Advocate, [1/27/21](#)]

## Montana

### **Oil and gas production on Montana federal lands has been sputtering for years.**

"President Joe Biden is expected to suspend oil and gas leasing on federal land Wednesday, a move not likely to crimp Montana oil production despite the bluster from Republican politicians. Oil and gas production on federal lands in Montana has been sputtering for years, making the state a very poor cousin to neighboring North Dakota and Wyoming. Revenue from all oil and gas leases on federal land in Montana in 2019 was \$21.21 million, according the U.S. Department of Interior. By comparison, revenue from federal lands in Wyoming was \$647.52 million and in North Dakota \$276.9 million. The dollars don't match the fury of Montana's Republican delegation, which has denounced Biden's moratorium, compelled by climate change, as a 'war on energy.' 'You can't just turn a switch and expect our entire country to find an alternative way to heat their homes and put fuel in their vehicles,' U.S. Rep. Matt Rosendale said in a tweet Tuesday. 'President Biden's war on American energy proves that he's already putting American interests last and caving to the far-left of his party.'" [Missoulian, [1/27/21](#)]

**Biden halts new oil and gas leases on federal lands.** "President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed an executive order<sup>[1]</sup> placing a moratorium on the leasing of federal land and waters for oil and gas development, making good on a campaign promise<sup>[2]</sup> to take significant action to address climate change. The U.S. is the largest oil producer in the world, and nearly a quarter of all fossil fuel emissions in the United States come from burning resources mined on federal land. The order, which will apply only to future leases and does not apply to tribal lands, will continue to allow drilling on existing leases. The executive order, part of a series of actions<sup>[3]</sup> taken by the federal government on Wednesday to prioritize climate change and environmental justice, was widely praised by Montana conservation groups and outdoor business organizations. The action could keep up to 450 billion tons of climate pollutants in the ground. The Trump administration had aggressively leased federal lands for the past four years, and Biden's order amounts to a sharp rebuke from a new administration that has already rejoined the Paris Climate Agreement and rescinded a critical permit for the Keystone XL pipeline<sup>[4]</sup>. It's

a huge deal,' said Melissa Hornbein, an attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, who has successfully challenged oil and gas leases during the Trump administration[5] for failing to consider their impacts on the climate and water quality. 'It's both symbolically important and, as a practical matter, it's incredibly significant as well,' Hornbein said." [Montana Free Press, [1/27/21](#)]

**Biden: 'We can't wait any longer' to address climate crisis.** "In the most ambitious U.S. effort to stave off the worst of climate change, President Joe Biden signed executive orders to transform the nation's heavily fossil-fuel powered economy into a clean-burning one, pausing oil and gas leasing on federal land and targeting subsidies for those industries. The directives aim to conserve 30 percent of the country's lands and waters in the next 10 years, double the nation's offshore wind energy, and move to an all-electric federal vehicle fleet, among other changes. Biden's sweeping plan is aimed at staving off the worst of global warming caused by burning fossil fuels. But his effort it also carries political risk for the president and Democrats as oil- and coal-producing states face job losses from moves to sharply increase U.S. reliance on clean energy such as wind and solar power. 'We can't wait any longer' to address the climate crisis, Biden said Wednesday at the White House. 'We see with our own eyes. We know it in our bones. It is time to act.'" [Billings Gazette (via Associated Press), [1/27/21](#)]

## Nevada

**Biden makes ambitious aim for US to curb climate change.** "In what would be the most ambitious U.S. effort ever to stave off the worst effects of climate change, President Joe Biden is aiming to cut oil, gas and coal emissions and double energy production from offshore wind turbines through executive orders Wednesday. The orders awaiting his signature target federal subsidies for oil and other fossil fuels and halt new oil and gas leases on federal lands and waters. They also intend to conserve 30 percent of the country's lands and ocean waters in the next 10 years, move to an all-electric federal vehicle fleet and elevate climate change to a national security priority. The conservation plan would set aside millions of acres for recreation, wildlife and climate efforts by 2030 as part of Biden's campaign pledge for a \$2 trillion program to slow global warming." [Las Vegas Review-Journal (via Associated Press), [1/27/21](#)]

**NV conservationists welcome Biden's pause on oil & gas leases.** "President Joe Biden signed a host of executive orders on climate Wednesday that put a hold on new oil and gas leases on federal property, place environmental justice in the center of climate reform and set goals of conserving nearly a third of the nation's land and water.' Our plans are ambitious, but we are America,' Biden said. 'We're bold, we're unwavering in the pursuit of jobs and

innovation, science and discovery. We can do this.' On the leases, likely to be among the most contentious climate actions by the new administration, the secretary of Interior would be directed to pause all new oil and natural gas leases on public lands and offshore waters and initiate a review of all leases and permits related to fossil fuel. The review will then identify measures that can be taken to 'double renewable energy production from offshore wind by 2030,' according to an administration fact sheet.[1]The order does not ban new leases on coal. During a press briefing Wednesday, Gina McCarthy, the former EPA administrator who's currently serving as the White House National Climate Advisor, said that the Biden administration knows it's important to make sure that Americans can transition to union jobs in the clean energy sector and move away from fossil fuels. She said that's one of the components in the temporary pause of new oil and gas leases." [Nevada Current, [1/27/21](#)]

## **New Mexico**

**New Mexico Senators, Advocates Back Biden Oil And Gas Plans.** According to Associated Press, "Local officials and residents in New Mexico's oil patches are anxious as the Biden administration takes aim at the oil and natural gas industry with a series of new executive orders. But the state's two U.S. senators are supporting the actions, saying it's time to rethink the nation's energy policies. Democrat Sen. Martin Heinrich said he would not support a permanent, unilateral ban on new oil and gas leases but he believes a pause is appropriate despite concerns from industry groups and others that doing so could have immediate implications for the state's bottom line. 'It's also crystal clear that the zero carbon, zero pollution economy is coming,' Heinrich told The Associated Press. 'Even oil and gas majors are planning for that future. To weather that change, New Mexico needs a transition plan with a predictable glide path for producers and robust investments in the communities where our energy veterans have produced our country's transportation fuels.' President Joe Biden aims to cut oil and gas emissions and double energy production from offshore wind turbines. He's also directing agencies to focus investments on regions that face job losses as the U.S. begins to shift toward wind, solar and other resources." [Associated Press, [1/27/21](#) (=)]

**'Pause' on oil and gas leases riles industry.** "President Joe Biden charged into a direct confrontation with the oil and gas industry Wednesday with an executive order to indefinitely 'pause' all new leasing activity on federal lands. The lease ban is just one element in a broad range of actions contained in Biden's order, which outlines aggressive federal efforts to tackle climate change. But industry leaders pounced on the leasing issue as a potentially devastating blow to domestic oil and gas production that could constitute the opening salvo in a string of new restrictive regulations to come. 'While this move suspends new leasing, this decision appears to be a first step toward an end goal of stopping natural gas and oil development on federal lands and waters,' American Petroleum Institute president and CEO Mike Sommers told

reporters in a national press call Wednesday morning. Leaders from four states participated in the call, including New Mexico Oil and Gas Association Executive Director Ryan Flynn, who said New Mexico will be hit harder than any other state because of the high level of production on federal lands here. 'New Mexico accounts for 57% of all federal onshore oil production and 31% of all onshore natural gas production in the country,' Flynn said. '... Nearly one-third of our state's budget comes directly from oil and gas revenue, and of that one-third, approximately \$1 billion, comes from revenue generated on federal public lands.'" [Albuquerque Journal, [1/27/21](#)]

### **New Mexico industry warns of dire impact as President Biden pauses oil and gas leasing.**

"President Joe Biden's Wednesday executive order that halted any new leasing of federal land for oil and gas development drew the ire of New Mexico fossil fuel industry which warned of devastation to the state's economy. The order was immediately condemned by both national and state industry leaders as trade groups argued more than half of oil and gas development in New Mexico occurs on federal land. It also included multiple actions intended to address climate change and pollution while also ending federal subsidies for fossil fuel companies, following a 60-day suspension of most new oil and gas permits announced last week. The industry was credited with generating a third of New Mexico's budget, and industry leaders in the state and around the country said the negative impact on U.S. fossil fuel development would be dire. During a Wednesday press call with the American Petroleum Institute, New Mexico Oil and Gas Association President Ryan Flynn said a ban on oil and gas leasing on federal land would devastate New Mexico's economy and lead to funding shortfalls for state-funded services like public education." [Carlsbad Current-Argus, [1/27/21](#)]

## **New York**

**Biden pitches Green New Deal-like \$2 trillion environmental plan.** "President Biden on Wednesday unveiled his environmental plan, a Green New Deal-like initiative aimed at putting 'climate change at the center of our domestic, national security and foreign policy,' which is drawing criticism for its high cost and potential job losses as the US tries to dig out of its COVID-19-induced economic troubles. Biden pitched the package of policy changes — including eliminating coal, oil and natural gas as electricity sources by 2035 — as a boon to the workforce, but was met with worry over the current jobs that would be lost amid a health crisis, economic crisis and \$27 trillion national debt. Patrick Morrissey, West Virginia's Republican attorney general, said Wednesday that Biden's policies will be 'destructive' to the economy, especially as it tries to recover from the coronavirus business slowdown." [New York Post, [1/27/21](#)]

## North Dakota

**N.D. lawmakers criticize executive orders on energy.** “North Dakota's Congressional delegation have each issued statements condemning President Joe Biden's executive orders limiting oil and gas development on federal land. The executive order issued Wednesday directs the Secretary of the Interior to halt any new oil and gas leases on public land or offshore waters and to review existing leases. Sens. John Hoeven and Kevin Cramer and Rep. Kelly Armstrong all issued statements Wednesday, Jan. 29, condemning the order and saying the moves would weaken the United States' economy and security. ‘Our nation has increased energy production and grown into a dominant force in global energy markets, all while our emissions have been on a downward trend for more than a decade,’ Hoeven said. ‘This has supported good jobs, lower prices for families and businesses and been a strong source of revenue for all levels of government. The executive order signed today is the wrong approach and undermines our economic and national security. We can achieve better environmental stewardship through technological innovation, but locking away access and creating new burdensome and costly regulations that restrict new energy development on federal lands won't get us there.’” [Williston Daily Herald, [1/27/21](#)]

## Texas

**Gov. Abbott calls Biden's energy plan a 'hostile attack,' vows to sue.** “Gov. Greg Abbott vowed on Thursday to fight the new Biden administration's climate change agenda, calling it a direct threat to the state's energy sector. ‘Texas is going to protect the oil and gas industry from any type of hostile attack launched from Washington, D.C.,’ he said after a roundtable meeting with industry leaders in Odessa. The Republican governor announced he had directed state agencies to immediately begin looking for opportunities to sue over new environmental regulations, and said he wants legislation passed in Austin that bans cities and counties from prohibiting natural gas appliances. Some Democratic-led cities in other states have moved to regulate gas appliances in new buildings. On Wednesday, President Joe Biden signed several executive orders aimed at reversing the Trump administration's environmental record, implementing a pause on new oil and gas leases on federal lands and declaring climate change a national security concern.” [The Houston Chronicle, [1/28/21](#)]

**Four Texas Democrats urge Joe Biden to rescind executive order pausing oil and gas leases on federal lands, waters.** “Four Texas Democrats in the U.S. House have come out against President Joe Biden's Wednesday executive order directing the secretary of the interior to halt new oil and gas leases on federal public lands and waters ‘to the extent possible.’ In a

letter, Democratic Reps. Vicente Gonzalez of McAllen, Henry Cuellar of Laredo, Lizzie Pannill Fletcher of Houston and Marc Veasey of Fort Worth called Biden's order 'far-reaching' and demanded he rescind it, arguing that banning 'responsible energy leasing' would eliminate jobs, decrease the country's gross domestic product, increase crude imports from foreign countries and chip away at federal revenue, among other concerns. 'Texas ... has been ravaged by the coronavirus and this recent Executive Order will hurt an already suffering community. Therefore, I urge the Biden administration to rescind this federal order and reevaluate the impact of this measure with input from relevant stakeholders and experts,' Gonzalez said in a news release. 'I, and my colleagues, stand ready to work with President Biden, the incoming secretary of interior and other stakeholders to develop a thoughtful policy that addresses climate change, protects American jobs and moves us forward.'" [The Texas Tribune, [1/27/21](#)]

**Biden fast-tracks shift from fossil fuels; Spate of executive orders has Texas lawmakers urging 'thoughtful' change.** "President Joe Biden began shifting the United States from fossil fuels through a series of executive orders Wednesday, carrying through on a campaign promise to fight climate change while protecting the economies of states such as Texas that have delivered the nation's energy supply for more than a century. In doing so, he is putting to the test a notion championed by Democrats and climate advocates that hundreds of thousands of jobs in U.S. oil fields and coal mines can be replaced by new industries building electric cars, installing solar panels and developing technologies needed to transform the global economy to clean energy. Biden on Wednesday ordered a one-year moratorium on new leasing for fossil fuel extraction from federal lands and waters - including the Gulf of Mexico - while directing federal agencies to buy American-made zero-emissions vehicles and stop purchasing electricity generated from coal, oil and natural gas. He also ordered federal agencies 'to eliminate fossil fuel subsidies as consistent with applicable law.' It's unclear which subsidies would be affected since many of the industry's tax breaks were approved by Congress and would require legislation to repeal them." [The Houston Chronicle, [1/27/21](#)]

**OPINION: O&G: Biden's leasing ban threatens jobs, tax revenue.** In an op-ed Mella McEwan wrote: "Energy industry associations unanimously support the Biden administration's efforts to combat climate change. But last week's executive order placing a 60-day moratorium on new drilling permits on federal lands and Wednesday's order placing a moratorium on oil and gas leasing on federal lands are not the answer, they insist. 'We share President Biden's goal for addressing climate change,' said Mike Sommers, president and chief executive officer of the American Petroleum Institute. But, he said during a media call that included associations representing states that would be impacted by the moratoriums, the president's actions represent a step backwards not only for the nation's economic recovery but environmental progress. He said he feared the decision is the first step toward a policy of banning oil and natural gas development on federal lands and waters. That would lead to increased oil imports, more emissions from the power sector as the transition from coal to cleaner natural gas is slowed — an estimated 55 percent increase in carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 as coal use

rises an estimated 15 percent, the API said. In addition, he said it would also cost nearly 1 million jobs by 2022 and put \$9 billion in government revenue at risk.” [Midland Reporter-Telegram, Author: Mella McEwan, [1/27/21](#)]

## Utah

**President Joe Biden halts federal oil and gas leasing to review the program.** “In a sweeping move to confront the global climate crisis head on, President Joe Biden on Wednesday signed executive orders aimed at establishing American leadership in the effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Central to this campaign is a moratorium on federal oil and gas leasing, pending a review of the program, that is sure to spark a backlash from the fossil fuel industry and energy-producing states like Utah. ‘In my view, we’ve already waited too long to deal with this climate crisis. We can’t wait any longer,’ Biden said at the White House. ‘We see it with our own eyes. We feel it. We know it in our bones. And it’s time to act.’ His orders did not include outright bans on leasing and drilling that climate activists have clamored for, but they send a strong signal that the Biden administration is headed in a diametrically opposite direction from his predecessor. Donald Trump’s ‘American energy dominance’ agenda swept aside most hurdles to oil and gas extraction on public lands.” [The Salt Lake Tribune, [1/27/21](#)]

## Wyoming

**Wyoming congressional delegates move to block Biden's oil and gas moratorium.** “Wyoming’s trio of delegates in Washington have introduced legislation to block the Biden administration from ordering a moratorium on new federal leases to energy companies. Three bills swiftly prepared by Wyoming lawmakers for introduction Thursday in the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate come in direct response to an executive order issued by President Joe Biden the day before. Biden’s order directed the Interior Department to stop issuing new federal leases to oil and gas companies to provide the agencies with time to examine the program. Biden’s order issued Wednesday directs the Interior Department to pause leasing, ‘pending completion of a comprehensive review and reconsideration of Federal oil and gas permitting and leasing practice,’ according to the order”. [Casper Star Tribune, [1/28/21](#)]

**Wyoming leaders critical of Biden's pause on new oil, gas leasing on federal lands.** “Many of Wyoming’s political and industry leaders were critical of President Joe Biden’s executive order, signed Wednesday morning, that halts new oil and gas leasing on federal lands, saying

the pause is likely to have a significant impact on the state's economy and revenue streams. In contrast, conservation groups in the state backed the decision as a step to fix the existing leasing process. CHEYENNE - Many of Wyoming's political and industry leaders were quick to criticize President Joe Biden's executive order halting new oil and gas leasing on federal lands, saying the pause is likely to have a significant impact on the state's economy and revenue streams. Biden announced the ban Wednesday, about a week after he unveiled a 60-day moratorium on new federal oil and gas leasing that drew similar opposition from the state's leaders. The order signed Wednesday, which was one of several steps recently taken by Biden aiming to reduce the nation's carbon footprint contributing to climate change, directs the secretary of the Department of the Interior to 'launch a rigorous review of all existing leasing and permitting practices related to fossil fuel development on public lands and waters.' It does not indicate when the pause on new leasing activity could be lifted. "[Wyoming Tribune Eagle, [1/27/21](#)]

**Sen. Barrasso Op-Ed: Biden Administration sacrificing American energy jobs.** In an op-ed, Senator John Barrasso wrote: "The following is from a speech Sen. John Barrasso gave on the Senate floor Jan. 27 about President Biden's recent actions on American energy that will crush energy jobs and hurt American families. At his inauguration, President Biden spoke about the importance of uniting the country, bringing us together. The importance of unity. I agree. We have been much too divided as a nation. We need to bring America together. Yet just a few hours after his inaugural address, President Biden issued one executive order after another that I believe is only going to drive America further apart. He hasn't really reached out. He hasn't really tried to work with us. At a time when millions of people across the country are struggling with unemployment and the effects of a global pandemic, President Biden has taken actions that will actually raise the cost of living on people all across the country. In particular, President Biden has taken aim at American energy." [Laramie Boomerang, Author: Sen. John Barrasso, [1/28/21](#)]

## Opinion Media

[San Miguel County Commissioner Hilary Cooper Op-ed: Congress must protect Colorado's outdoors from depredations of oil and gas](#)

Durango Herald | January 28, 2021

[To protect our parks, hit pause on leasing](#)

The Hill | January 25, 2021

[Mayor Snover Op-ed: Reform the broken federal oil and gas system](#)

Santa Fe New Mexican | January 26, 2021

# Twitter

Below is a snapshot of environmental groups' usage of the hashtag #TimeToAct and President Biden on 1/27 and 1/28 on Twitter in response to the executive order.

## #TimeToAct

- 1,166 tweets
- 614 retweets
- 935 contributors
- 8.1 million potential impressions

## “Biden” Mentions

All uses of “Biden” on 1/27 and 1/28 from 24 prominent national environmental groups

- 298 tweets
- 101 retweets
- 43.2 million potential impressions

# Paid Media

## Taxpayers for Common Sense

Display ads, running through February 5:

The image shows a screenshot of a Washington Post article. The article title is "Biden calls climate change an 'existential threat'" and the sub-headline is "Live updates: Biden focuses on climate change, environmental justice; Senate examines more Cabinet nominees". The article text mentions that President Biden signed executive orders on Jan. 27 to address climate change and that he has asked his cabinet to deal with the "climate crisis". The article is by Felicia Sonmez, Cathy N. Davidson, and John Wagner, dated Jan. 27, 2021 at 4:18 p.m. EST. The article text continues: "President Biden sought Wednesday to focus on climate change, signing an array of executive actions, including one that directs federal agencies to invest in low-income and minority communities that have traditionally borne the brunt of pollution. He also imposed a moratorium on new federal oil and gas leasing and announced he would host an international climate summit on Earth Day in April. A week into Biden's presidency, the Senate is also moving forward with hearings and votes on several of his Cabinet nominees and preparing for an impeachment trial of former president Donald Trump."

On the right side of the screenshot is a Taxpayers for Common Sense advertisement. The ad features a dark background with a person in a suit and a briefcase. The text reads: "The gravy train for Big Oil has to stop." Below this, it says: "It's time to protect taxpayers and fix federal oil and gas leasing." and includes a "Learn More" button. The Taxpayers for Common Sense logo is at the bottom.

Google Search ad:

Fix Federal Oil & Gas Leasing | Put Taxpayers First | We Need Common Sense Reforms  
[www.taxpayer.net/Reform-Leasing](http://www.taxpayer.net/Reform-Leasing)  
Big Oil CEOs don't need more giveaways.  
Taxpayers deserve better.

Politico display ads (run of site),  
running through February 7:

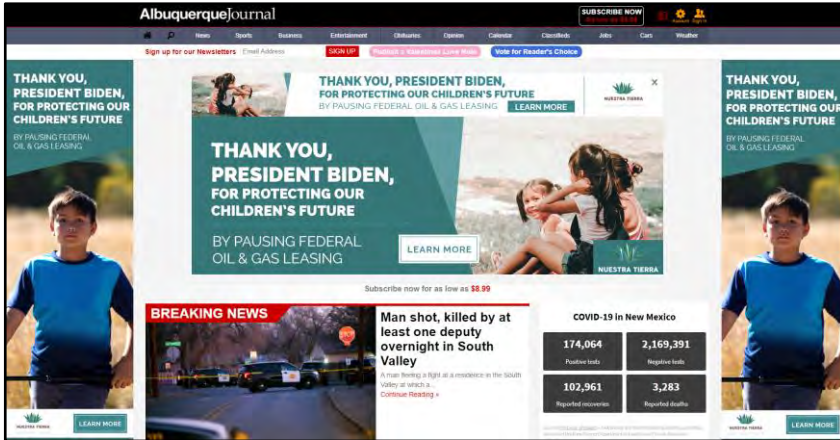
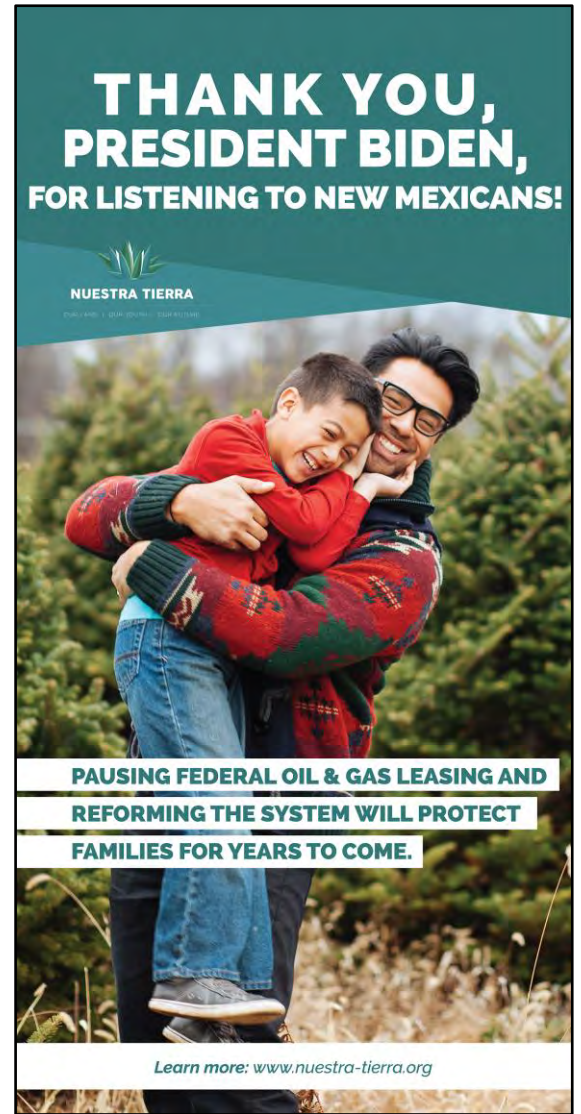
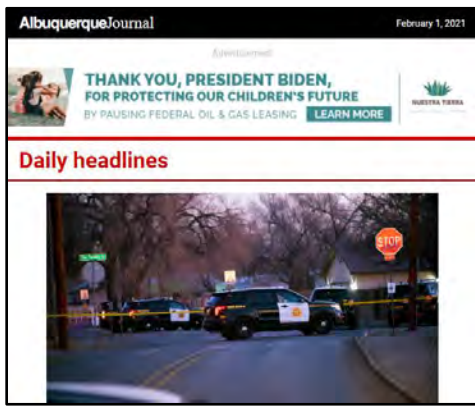


Twitter ad:



## Nuestra Tierra

Full page print ads in the Albuquerque Journal and  
Santa Fe New Mexican (ran on Sunday, January 31, 2021):



Display ads running as programmatic ads as of January 29th in NM, & on the ABQ Journal's homepage & newsletter from 2/1-2/5

Radio Ad (spanish language, NM-wide)  
 Flight Dates: February 3- February 17th  
 Download the 30-second ad [here](#)

## The Wilderness Society



## Telepressers/Events

### Coalition [Telepresser](#)

Wednesday, January 27, at 12:45 p.m. ET

Featuring:

- John Podesta, Chairman, Center for American Progress
- Fred Krupp, President and CEO, Environmental Defense Fund
- Peggy Shepard, Co-Founder and Executive Director, WE ACT for Environmental Justice
- Kendra Pinto, Chaco Organizer, Dine Citizens Against Ruining Our Environment

### Western Energy Project [Telepresser](#)

Wednesday January 27, at 4:15 p.m. ET

Featuring:

- Dave Jenkins, President, Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship
- Tracy Stone Manning, Associate Vice President for Public Lands, National Wildlife Federation
- Marne Hayes, Executive Director, Business for Montana's Outdoors
- Autumn Hanna, Vice President, Taxpayers for Common Sense
- Adrian Angulo, Deputy Director, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

## Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship Radio Tour

*National and Western States (Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico and Utah)*

*Ongoing*

Featuring:

- Dave Jenkins, President

Clips:

- The Laura Coates Show
  - [Recording](#)
  - [Tweet](#)

## [Fire Drill Friday](#) with Jane Fonda

Friday, January 15

Featuring:

- Jane Fonda, Actress and Activist
- Quannah Chasinghorse, Han Gwich'in and Oglala Lakota Tribes
- Jayeesha Dutta, Entrepreneur and Co-founding Member, Another Gulf Is Possible Collaborative

**From:** [Lefton, Amanda B](#)  
**To:** [Culver, Nada L](#); [Daniel-Davis, Laura E](#); [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Cc:** [Diera, Alexx A](#); [Jackson, Danna R](#)  
**Subject:** RE: talking points for tomorrow HRN  
**Date:** Friday, April 16, 2021 7:51:09 AM  
**Attachments:** [House Natural Resources Cmtte 4-14-21AL.docx](#)

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Resending talking points here—these reference back to nada to try to deal with some of the repeat and also shortens the conclusion to just make it clear that we are here to hear from them!

A

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**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 9:43 PM  
**To:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: talking points for tomorrow HRN

Excellent!

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

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**From:** Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 6:58:08 PM  
**To:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>; Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: talking points for tomorrow HRN

These are great. I like all of your wrap up points esp this one:

Our goal is to strike a better balance with the other important uses of these lands – outdoor recreation, wildlife and landscape conservation – while meeting the goals that have been set for us regarding renewable energy development and helping to conserve 30 % of our lands and waters by 2030.

---

**From:** Culver, Nada L <[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 5:08 PM  
**To:** Lefton, Amanda B <[Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov](mailto:Amanda.Lefton@boem.gov)>; Daniel-Davis, Laura E <[laura\\_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov](mailto:laura_daniel-davis@ios.doi.gov)>; Sanchez, Alexandra L <[alexandra\\_sanchez@ios.doi.gov](mailto:alexandra_sanchez@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Diera, Alexx A <[adiera@blm.gov](mailto:adiera@blm.gov)>; Jackson, Danna R <[djackson@blm.gov](mailto:djackson@blm.gov)>  
**Subject:** talking points for tomorrow HRN

Here are the points I have for tomorrow. And at end will pass to Amanda.

Nada Wolff Culver  
Deputy Director, Policy and Programs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Cell: 202-255-6979  
[nculver@blm.gov](mailto:nculver@blm.gov)

## House Natural Resources Committee Listening Session

April 16, 2021

Time 12: 45-2:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Via Zoom

Amanda Lefton, BOEM Director

### INTRO/ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- Chairman Grijalva, Ranking Member Westerman, and members of the Committee, I am pleased to speak with you today to discuss the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, or BOEM's, role in developing America's energy resources on the Outer Continental Shelf, or OCS.
- My name is Amanda Lefton and I am the Director of BOEM. I am proud to have assumed this role and I am eager pursue the Bureau's mission in developing America's offshore natural resources in an environmentally and economically sustainable way.

### E.O. 14008 & THE COMPREHENSIVE OIL AND GAS REVIEW

- President Biden has made tackling the climate crisis a centerpiece of his agenda. In January he issued *Executive Order 14008: Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.*
- This E.O. directs DOI to pause new oil and gas leasing on public lands and offshore waters pending completion of a comprehensive review of oil and gas leasing and permitting activities, and an evaluation of royalty rates and fiscal terms to ensure a fair return to taxpayers.

- This E.O. does not impact existing operations or permits for valid, existing leases. Work will continue on existing leases and we will continue to review and approve plans and permits.
- BOEM is currently undertaking that review to ensure that our offshore leasing and permitting programs serve the public interest and balance our nation's energy needs with our climate goals to benefit current and future generations.
- During this review we will:
  - Consider whether the royalties and other monies paid to the federal government amount to a fair return for the American taxpayer.
  - Account for the corresponding costs to the climate.
  - Ensure that our actions respect our government-to-government relationships with Tribal nations and commit to principles of environmental justice in our decision making.
- E.O. 14008 also directs federal agencies to elevate certain priorities in federal leasing, including:
  - Controlling greenhouse gas emissions and promoting economic growth and family-supporting jobs.
- BOEM will need to supplement the analyses it historically performs to ensure proper consideration of such priorities.
- The National OCS Program will be part of the comprehensive review. However, we are currently reviewing all options and have not made any

final decisions regarding next steps for the National OCS Program.

- Throughout the review we are committed to engaging in extensive outreach to hear from a diverse set of perspectives.
- Information gathered will inform a report outlining recommendations and actions for moving the nation toward an equitable energy future.
- We expect the review to be done in a timely fashion, but we don't have an exact timeframe at this point. We will keep you informed as the review progresses.
- As Nada already mentioned, as part of the review the Department of the Interior and BOEM have been meeting with Governors, partners, and stakeholders, including industry representatives, to ensure we are getting a broad view on all issues related to oil and gas development on the outer continental shelf. We have been hearing from Governors and from
- As part of our outreach efforts, we held a forum with BLM and the Department, that Nada already mentioned and solicited feedback from the public, the period to accept written recommendations just closed this past Thursday on April 15.

#### OFFSHORE WIND

- Section 207 of President Biden's E.O. 14008 called for a review of offshore renewable energy siting and permitting processes, with the goal of doubling offshore wind by 2030.
- BOEM will play a critical role in implementing the White House's offshore wind strategy. To date, we have leased approximately 1.7 million acres in

the OCS for offshore wind development and have 17 commercial leases on the Atlantic, from Cape Cod to Cape Hatteras.

- During a White House forum on March 29<sup>th</sup>, the Departments of Interior, Energy, and Commerce committed to a target to deploy 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030, which would create nearly 80,000 jobs. Meeting this target could:
  - Trigger more than 12 billion/year in capital investments in project on both coasts.
  - Employ more than 44,000 workers in offshore wind by 2030.
  - Create nearly 33,000 additional jobs in communities supported by offshore wind activity.
- BOEM has already made considerable progress towards achieving that ambitious goal.
  - We finalized the NY Bight Wind Energy Areas, which will make new areas available for offshore wind leases near major population centers.
  - The vineyard wind environmental impact statement was finalized
  - The review of a third commercial scale project was initiated, the Ocean Wind project off of the coast of New Jersey
  - And the Bureau will review all of the 14 construction and operations plans in front of us before 2025, which, if approved, could represent 19gw of renewable energy
- In addition to the important announcements made by the Interior, the Departments of Commerce, Energy and Transportation all advanced initiatives on offshore wind at the forum.
- These announcements represent a sea change for our offshore wind process, demonstrating an all-of-government approach that will catalyze the industry in the United States.

- BOEM continues to work with other Federal Agencies and within the Department to review it's process for renewable energy siting, as directed in the Executive Order, to ensure there is a more certain and efficient process for all involved parties, including developers, tribal governments, ocean users, such as the commercial fishing industry and stakeholders.

## CONCLUSION

- BOEM and the Department will continue to engage partners and stakeholders to consider diverse perspectives as we move forward with a review of the oil and gas programs and the advancement of offshore wind.
- Today is an important opportunity to hear from you about these initiatives. We look forward to listening to you and learning what is more important from your perspective.
- Thank you for the opportunity for this important discussion.

## SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION

### Marine Minerals (if asked)

- BOEM partners with communities to address serious erosion along the Nation's coastal beaches, dunes, barrier islands, and wetlands. Erosion affects coastal habitat, tourism and energy, defense, and public infrastructure.
- Making sand and sediment resources from the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) available to coastal communities helps them improve their resiliency in the face of climate change and contribute to the Administration's goal of climate change resilience (EO 14008).
- We are preparing to execute an agreement with St. Johns County, Florida, granting the county up to 1.1 million cubic yards of sand from Federal waters for shoreline restoration along 5 miles of South Ponte Vedra Beach.
- The project will address critical erosion caused by Hurricanes Matthew and Irma, two powerful storms that struck the area in 2016 and 2017, respectively.
- BOEM supports President Biden's Executive Order on America's Supply Chains by working with other Federal agencies to identify potential offshore sources of critical minerals that could bolster domestic supplies.

**From:** [Macdonald, Cara Lee](#)  
**To:** [Sanchez, Alexandra L](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Print shop contact or phone number?  
**Date:** Sunday, May 2, 2021 4:49:10 PM

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Alex,

See below. I believe there are a few things that need to be corrected; e.g., I DO NOT believe we want them delivered directly to the WH!!!! Yikes! What gave them that idea?????? Please let me know what else we need to correct. If you prefer, you can just reply all introducing yourself and injecting the correcting info.

Enjoy the last bits of the weekend. ☹️  
Cara Lee

\*\*\*\*TELEWORKING CONTACT NUMBER: (Cell) 202.578.4543

Cara Lee Macdonald  
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary,  
Land and Minerals Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 6624  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
(Off) 202.208.2654  
(Cell) 202.578.4543  
[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Stevenson, Jennifer M <jennifer\_stevenson@ios.doi.gov>  
**Sent:** Saturday, May 1, 2021 9:16 AM  
**To:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <cara\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov>  
**Cc:** Spano, Julie L <julie\_spano@ios.doi.gov>  
**Subject:** RE: Print shop contact or phone number?

Hi Cara Lee,

I look forward to working with you and meeting you. I've heard a lot of good things about you. I had a conference call with Mr. Ravas after my training and he briefed me on his conversation with you and the project. Please contact me if you want to add or change any information below.

- The books will be going to the White House so this project is TOP priority.
- Design work needs to be done and will be performed by John Klaja and TJ Ravas.
- TJ Ravas will work with the Public Affairs Office for images of the History of Oil and Gas.
- John Klaja will start working on a Cover Design.

Pie charts will be set up ahead of time without numbers.

- TJ Ravas will receive the file around Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>.
- The finished product will be roughly 100 pages (after getting all of the images).
- Printing and coil binding will be done inhouse at Creative Communications Services.
- The books will be coil bound with a clear front and black backing.
- An immediate shipment of 100 books will be delivered directly to the White House.
- 508 Compliance is not done in house, so Mr. Ravas will contract it out.
- After the document is 508 Compliant, it will be posted to the website.

Cara Lee, so it doesn't impact your budget and because it's for the White House, Julie authorized using our Deposit Account for any costs associated with this project. I'll fill out the necessary forms and work with Mr. Ravas directly on payment and follow up with him throughout the project. Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Jen

*Jennifer Stevenson*

Management Analyst-Team Lead, Business and Administrative Division  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administrative Services  
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 5020  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
Phone - 202-208-3169  
Mobile - 202-695-4659

---

**From:** Spano, Julie L <[julie\\_spano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:julie_spano@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Friday, April 30, 2021 7:30 AM

**To:** Stevenson, Jennifer M <[jennifer\\_stevenson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jennifer_stevenson@ios.doi.gov)>; Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Re: Print shop contact or phone number?

I love seeing two of my favorite people working and meeting each other! Happy Friday Ladies!

*Julie L. Spano*

Director, Business and Administrative Services Division

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administrative Services  
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 5022  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
Phone - 202-208-7624  
Mobile - 202-568-9364  
Fax - 202-573-2740

AWS - Friday(s), May 7th and May 21st

8-hour days - Thursday, May 6th and Thursday, May 20th (Departure at 2:30 p.m.)

**\*\*I AM CURRENTLY ON FULL TIME TELEWORK DUE TO COVID-19. IF YOU NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CALL MY MOBILE PHONE.**

**WARNING:** *This e-mail and any attachments may contain Privacy Act Data/Sensitive Data which is intended only for the use of the individual(s) to whom it is addressed. It may contain information that is privileged, confidential, or otherwise protected from disclosure under applicable law's. If you are not the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any distribution or copying of this email is strictly prohibited.*

---

**From:** Stevenson, Jennifer M <[jennifer\\_stevenson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jennifer_stevenson@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spano, Julie L <[julie\\_spano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:julie_spano@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Print shop contact or phone number?

Thank you Cara Lee.

I've sent an email to TJ and waiting to hear back. I'll let you know if anything is needed.

Jen

*Jennifer Stevenson*

Management Analyst-Team Lead, Business and Administrative Division  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administrative Services  
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 5020  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
Phone - 202-208-3169  
Mobile - 202-695-4659

---

**From:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:27 PM  
**To:** Stevenson, Jennifer M <[jennifer\\_stevenson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jennifer_stevenson@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spano, Julie L <[julie\\_spano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:julie_spano@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Print shop contact or phone number?

Hi! Getting ready to jump on a meeting, but had a great convo with TJ Ravas today. We got a lot of good info. Go on and take a break after your long day of training and we can catch up tomorrow or next week with anything you need from your side.

Thank you!  
Cara Lee

\*\*\*\*TELEWORKING CONTACT NUMBER: (Cell) 202.578.4543

Cara Lee Macdonald  
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary,  
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1849 C Street NW, Room 6624  
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(Off) 202.208.2654  
(Cell) 202.578.4543  
[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Stevenson, Jennifer M <[jennifer\\_stevenson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jennifer_stevenson@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 4:23 PM  
**To:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spano, Julie L <[julie\\_spano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:julie_spano@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** RE: Print shop contact or phone number?

Hi Cara Lee,

Can I call you to discuss the print job?

Jen

*Jennifer Stevenson*

Management Analyst-Team Lead, Business and Administrative Division  
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, Management and Budget  
Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administrative Services  
1849 C Street, N.W., Room 5020  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
Phone - 202-208-3169  
Mobile - 202-695-4659

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**From:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 8:59 AM  
**To:** Stevenson, Jennifer M <[jennifer\\_stevenson@ios.doi.gov](mailto:jennifer_stevenson@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Cc:** Spano, Julie L <[julie\\_spano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:julie_spano@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** FW: Print shop contact or phone number?

Good morning Jennifer!

I see from your out of office message that you're in training today, but I wanted to touch base with you re an incredibly important print job the ASLM needs done. A description is at the bottom. Will you possibly be able to speak with me and the political special assistant on the ASLM hallway sometime today or do we need to sked something for tomorrow morning? Or if there are forms that need to be filled out in order to get the process, could you send those to me? Please let me know.

Many thanks!  
Cara Lee

\*\*\*\*TELEWORKING CONTACT NUMBER: (Cell) 202.578.4543

Cara Lee Macdonald  
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary,  
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 6624  
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(Off) 202.208.2654  
(Cell) 202.578.4543  
[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Spano, Julie L <[julie\\_spano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:julie_spano@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 29, 2021 6:32 AM  
**To:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>  
**Subject:** Re: Print shop contact or phone number?

Hey, sorry I missed this! (b) (6)

Well, that's us, we make sure that's done for you! Jennifer Stevenson is our GPO regulations and Print Council Representative. We make arrangements to send everything to the print shop or out to GPO and then we can have it delivered to wherever or whomever you want!

I'm going to put together a list of services so you know what we can do for you so you don't have to worry yourself!

On another note I gave you a shout out at the meeting with the Secretary yesterday as one of the best Chiefs of Staff that I've worked with! You and Kerry Rae! My FAVS!

J

Julie L. Spano

Director, Business and Administrative Division

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy Management and Budget

Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Administrative Services

U.S. Department of the Interior

1849 Cst N.W., Room 5022

Washington, D.C. 20240

Phone- 202-208-7624

Mobile- 202-568-9364

---

**From:** Macdonald, Cara Lee <[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 5:30:56 PM

**To:** Spano, Julie L <[julie\\_spano@ios.doi.gov](mailto:julie_spano@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** FW: Print shop contact or phone number?

Hey girlfriend!

You have any insight into the question I asked Gareth below?

Thank you!

Cara Lee

\*\*\*\*TELEWORKING CONTACT NUMBER: (Cell) 202.578.4543

Cara Lee Macdonald  
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary,  
Land and Minerals Management  
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(Off) 202.208.2654  
(Cell) 202.578.4543  
[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)

---

**From:** Macdonald, Cara Lee

**Sent:** Wednesday, April 28, 2021 5:27 PM

**To:** Rees, Gareth C <[Gareth\\_Rees@ios.doi.gov](mailto:Gareth_Rees@ios.doi.gov)>

**Subject:** Print shop contact or phone number?

Hey Gareth,

Do you have a name and/or phone number for the print shop? We need them to print and bind the O&G report for the WH. None of the ASLM staff has any contact info and I cannot find anything on the website.

Thanks for any intel you may have!

Cara Lee

\*\*\*\*TELEWORKING CONTACT NUMBER: (Cell) 202.578.4543

Cara Lee Macdonald  
Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary,  
Land and Minerals Management  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW, Room 6624  
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(Off) 202.208.2654  
(Cell) 202.578.4543  
[cara\\_macdonald@ios.doi.gov](mailto:cara_macdonald@ios.doi.gov)