THE DRILLING AND MINING INDUSTRY WISH LIST

Trump’s Interior Department is delivering policy favors at a breakneck pace

July 2019
TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION 3.

METHODOLOGY 3.

- Oil and Gas Policies 4.
- Wildlife Policies 5.
- Mining Policies 6.

A Red Carpet for Oil and Gas Drilling 7.
Cutting Protections for Wildlife 7.
Expanding Mining on Public Lands 8.
The Well-Oiled Revolving Door is Swinging 9.

CONCLUSION 10.

APPENDIX: Policy Actions by Status 11.
- Completed 11.
- In Progress 17.
- Identified for Action 19.

COVER PHOTO | EcoFlight
Since taking office, the Trump administration has moved aggressively to roll back protections for public lands, water, and wildlife, enacting a policy agenda written by drilling and mining industries. A new analysis by the Center for Western Priorities finds the Interior Department has completed or taken action on at least 53 policy changes requested or supported by energy companies and associations as of June 2019. From rescinding major oil and gas safeguards to revising agency handbooks on wildlife protection, the staggering scope of these actions is the result of a concerted effort to rip out key conservation policies by the roots.

The Interior Department’s unabashedly pro-industry agenda is being set by Interior Secretary David Bernhardt, a former oil and gas lobbyist with nearly two dozen former clients that have business before the agency. Prior to becoming Secretary, Bernhardt led the Trump administration’s Interior transition team, stocking the agency with industry-friendly appointees, before serving as the agency’s second-in-command. In testimony before Congress, Bernhardt has been clear that his priority is to expand drilling and mining on public lands and that he “hasn’t lost any sleep” over record carbon dioxide levels.

Shortly after President Trump’s inauguration, the Interior Department asked industry and the public to identify policies “that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced resources,” with the goal of repealing or relaxing them. Corporations and trade associations, such as the National Mining Association, American Petroleum Institute, and ConocoPhillips, responded readily, submitting long wish lists of policies to be rolled back. Those same industries developed a cozy relationship with senior Interior officials, inviting them to speak at conferences and bringing lobbyists in for meetings. Armed with those policy requests, the Interior Department has moved full speed ahead to translate drilling and mining industry requests into official policy actions.

2. Methodology

The Center for Western Priorities analyzed policy requests of extractive companies, trade associations, and electric utilities, as identified by public comments submitted to, and litigation against, the Interior Department. The requests were then compared to policy actions taken by the agency since President Trump took office, assessing whether the policy action was complete, in progress, or identified for action. See the Appendix for links to sources and background documents.
Out of 53 total policy changes undertaken by the Department of the Interior since the start of the Trump administration, the Center for Western Priorities identified 20 oil and gas policy changes favored by industry interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Revise Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation Rule</td>
<td>Gut regulations to reduce methane waste from oil and gas wells on public lands</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind BLM Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands Rule</td>
<td>Eliminate rule to increase the safety and transparency of fracking operations on public lands</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Rule</td>
<td>Weaken offshore drilling safety rules developed in response to Deepwater Horizon</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Offshore Oil and Gas Production Safety Systems rule</td>
<td>Weaken safety rules for offshore oil and gas production</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cease work on BOEM Offshore Air Quality, Control, Reporting, and Compliance Rule</td>
<td>Kill major update to regulations regarding air pollution from offshore drilling</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct field offices to use Categorical Exclusions, Determinations of NEPA Adequacy, and programmatic NEPA analysis when reviewing oil and gas proposals</td>
<td>Reduce environmental review of proposed oil and gas projects</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End Master Leasing Plans</td>
<td>End efforts to plan for multiple land uses and conflicts prior to offering oil and gas leases</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind IM 2010-117, “Oil and Gas Leasing Reform - Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews”</td>
<td>Require quarterly oil and gas lease sales to be held</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct field offices to use existing, rather than pending, Resource Management Plans when making oil and gas leasing decisions</td>
<td>Continue to make oil and gas leasing decisions using old land use plans, regardless of whether new plans are under consideration</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancel mineral withdrawal for 10 million acres of Sagebrush Focal Areas</td>
<td>Open key sage-grouse habitat for new drilling and mining leases</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue guidance on BLM review of wells drilled from private lands into federal minerals</td>
<td>Restrict oversight of wells drilled on private lands into federal minerals</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise BSEE Notice to Lessees 2010-G05</td>
<td>Revise policy on decommissioning idle and toppled offshore drilling infrastructure</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish policy on overlapping oil and gas communitization agreements</td>
<td>Allow oil and gas operators to utilize overlapping communitization agreements when paying royalties</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop new Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program</td>
<td>Develop plan to significantly expand offshore oil and gas leasing</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue new Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for BLM-managed lands in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska</td>
<td>Dramatically expand areas within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska available for oil and gas leasing</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suspend implementation of BOEM Notice to Lessees 2016-N01</td>
<td>Delay enforcement of rules to protect taxpayers from offshore drilling cleanup costs</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf Rule for possible revision or rescission</td>
<td>Roll back policy increasing safety of Arctic offshore drilling</td>
<td>Identified for Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop streamlined permitting approach for offshore seismic testing</td>
<td>Speed approvals for offshore seismic testing</td>
<td>Identified for Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights Rule</td>
<td>Revise regulations of potential oil and gas operations in National Wildlife Refuges</td>
<td>Identified for Action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise General Provisions and Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights Rule</td>
<td>Revise policy governing oil and gas operations within National Park Service units</td>
<td>Identified for Action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Center for Western Priorities identified 21 wildlife policy changes favored by industry interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw Fish and Wildlife Service Mitigation Policy</td>
<td>Rescind policy mitigating adverse impacts of development on fish, wildlife, and plants for a &quot;net conservation gain&quot;</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Withdraw Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy</td>
<td>Rescind Endangered Species Act policy allowing requiring &quot;net conservation gain&quot;</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act</td>
<td>Weaken enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amend Greater Sage-Grouse conservation plans</td>
<td>Weaken sage-grouse conservation plans to allow more drilling and mining in key habitat</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revoke Secretary’s Order 3330, “Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior”</td>
<td>Revoke Secretarial Order underpinning policy aimed at avoiding and compensating for impacts to lands, water, and wildlife</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorporate de-listing and downlisting species into National Listing Workplan</td>
<td>Plan to downlist or de-list certain species from the Endangered Species List</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind DOI Departmental Manual Part 600, Chapter 6: Landscape-Scale Mitigation Policy (10.23.2015)</td>
<td>Rescind policy aimed at avoiding and compensating for impacts to lands, water, and wildlife</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind BLM Manual Section 1794-Mitigation</td>
<td>Eliminate agency manual on how to mitigate impacts of resource extraction on land, water, and wildlife</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind BLM Mitigation Handbook H-1794</td>
<td>Eliminate agency handbook on how to mitigate impacts of resource extraction on land, water, and wildlife</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue guidance to remove compensatory mitigation requirements</td>
<td>Remove requirement to offset development impacts with offsite conservation efforts</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issue guidance on when to obtain an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act</td>
<td>Change interpretation on when to seek permit for accidentally killing or injuring endangered species</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No longer pursue programmatic environmental impact statement on potential impacts of a proposal to authorize incidental take of birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act</td>
<td>Stop review of a proposal authorizing incidental injury or death of migratory birds</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Modify FWS Director’s Order No. 218 (Policy Regarding Voluntary Prelisting Conservation Actions)</td>
<td>Revise policy encouraging voluntary conservation of at-risk species</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Endangered Species Act regulations: Listing Species and Designating Critical Habitat</td>
<td>Weaken implementation of the Endangered Species Act by reducing protections for certain habitat and increasing economic consideration</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Endangered Species Act regulations: Prohibitions to Threatened Wildlife and Plants</td>
<td>Weaken Endangered Species Act regulations by reducing protections for threatened species</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Endangered Species Act regulations: Interagency Cooperation</td>
<td>Weaken Endangered Species Act regulations regarding habitat destruction and interagency cooperation</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Downlist the American Burying Beetle on the Endangered Species List</td>
<td>Reduce protections for the American Burying Beetle under the Endangered Species Act</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delist the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo</td>
<td>Remove the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo from the Endangered Species List</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy</td>
<td>Revise policy incentivizing companies and citizens to enter voluntary conservation agreements for at-risk species</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Propose streamlined eagle incidental take permitting process for “low-risk” wind projects</td>
<td>Propose streamlined process for incidental harm or death of eagles by certain wind projects</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Collision Risk Model for estimating eagle fatalities at wind energy facilities</td>
<td>Revise model used to estimate Golden and Bald Eagle fatalities</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
MINING POLICIES:

The Center for Western Priorities identified 10 mining policy changes favored by industry interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Repeal Consolidated Federal Oil &amp; Gas and Federal &amp; Indian Coal Valuation Reform Rule</td>
<td>Reopen loophole allowing companies to skirt royalties owed from drilling and mining on public lands</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revoke Secretary's Order 3338, &quot;Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program&quot;</td>
<td>Rescind moratorium on new federal coal leases and suspend environmental review of the federal coal program</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments</td>
<td>Shrink national monuments to allow more drilling and mining</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Solicitors Opinion M-37036, &quot;Twin Metals Minnesota Application to Renew Preference Right Leases&quot;</td>
<td>Overturn legal opinion to allow mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind Policy Advisory for Self-Bonding</td>
<td>Rescind policy to protect taxpayers from mine cleanup costs</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise INE-35</td>
<td>Reduce requirements for federal regulators to conduct independent inspections of surface mining operations</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise REG-8</td>
<td>Reduce oversight of state mine permitting programs</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rescind &quot;A More Complete Enforcement of SMCRA and its Implementing Regulations&quot; memorandum</td>
<td>Rescind guidance to enforce the Clean Water Act at surface mining sites</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revise Natural Resource Damages regulations</td>
<td>Revise rules that help the public repair or replace natural resources damaged by hazardous material spills</td>
<td>In Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Review existing mineral withdrawals for reduction or revocation</td>
<td>Lift moratorium on new mining claims near the Grand Canyon</td>
<td>Identified for Action</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MISCELLANEOUS POLICIES:

The Center for Western Priorities identified 2 miscellaneous policy changes favored by industry interests.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>POLICY</th>
<th>DESCRIPTION</th>
<th>STATUS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rescind DOI Departmental Manual Part 523, Chapter 1: Climate Change Policy (12.20.2012)</td>
<td>Rescind policy aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establish time and page limits for environmental reviews</td>
<td>Limit time and length of environmental reviews</td>
<td>Complete</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. **A red carpet for oil & gas drilling**

From the American Petroleum Institute to Anadarko Petroleum, the oil and gas industry has asked for dozens of policy rollbacks, and the Interior Department has given them almost everything they’ve asked for. The Bureau of Land Management has eliminated regulations to increase the safety and transparency of fracking operations on public lands and gutted a program to reduce methane waste from drilling on public lands. Industry asks have led to numerous actions that don’t garner headlines—changing agency manuals and guidance to make land use plans and public lands leasing more favorable for oil and gas development.

Offshore drillers, led by the National Ocean Industries Association, a former client of Secretary Bernhardt, have been particularly successful at influencing Interior. The department has taken steps to open virtually the entire American coastline to drilling while rolling back safety regulations implemented after the Deepwater Horizon explosion and killing a major update to offshore air pollution regulations. The two major agencies responsible for offshore drilling oversight are also in the process of speeding approvals for seismic testing and rolling back safety regulations for drilling off the coast of Alaska.

4. **Cutting protections for wildlife**

In less than three years, the Interior Department has taken at least 21 policy actions that reduce wildlife protections at the behest of the oil, coal, and utility industries. Groups including the Independent Petroleum Association of America and Western Energy Alliance asked the agency to weaken Endangered Species Act regulations, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service delivered, proposing three rule changes that would reduce protections for threatened species and limit protections for habitat. The agency has also accepted industry recommendations to focus on downlisting and de-listing at-risk animals and plants, both as a general policy and for specific species, such as the American burying beetle and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo.

Oil and gas companies asked the department to weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the agency’s top lawyer soon issued a legal opinion arguing that the industry could not be held liable for accidentally killing or injuring migratory birds in oil spills and toxic waste ponds. Many of those same companies lobbied to weaken landmark sage-grouse conservation plans and open key habitat for oil and gas drilling. The Bureau of Land Management obliged, opening millions of acres of key habitat to drilling and rolling back plans designed to help the imperiled bird recover.

Industry groups aggressively sought to roll back Obama-era policies requiring drilling and mining companies to offset impacts to wildlife with offsite conservation efforts for a “net conservation gain.” In response, the Interior Department has eliminated almost every wildlife mitigation policy identified by the industry, from overarching Fish and Wildlife Service policies down to Bureau of Land Management guidance manuals.
5.

Expanding mining on public lands

The Interior Department is increasingly focusing on rolling back policies identified by mining companies. The agency has reopened loopholes allowing coal companies to skirt royalty payments for coal mined on public lands and lifted a moratorium on new coal leasing. Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke oversaw the dramatic reduction of Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments, opening vast swaths of land for uranium and coal mining.

Early in the Trump administration, the National Mining Association submitted a list of 15 specific policy rollbacks, and the Interior Department has taken action on at least 10 of them. The Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement has revised regulations to reduce oversight of state mine permitting operations, rescinded a policy to protect taxpayers from mine cleanup costs, and eliminated guidance to enforce the Clean Water Act at surface mining sites.

Notably, the administration recently released a strategy to ramp up mining on public lands for dozens of minerals, including uranium, arsenic, and potash. As a part of that strategy, the Interior Department is considering lifting protections for critical landscapes across the West, including a moratorium on new uranium mining claims outside of Grand Canyon National Park. The National Mining Association previously sued to overturn the Grand Canyon protections, a lawsuit that was eventually defeated when the U.S. Supreme Court declined the case.
The well-oiled revolving door is swinging

Led by former oil and gas lobbyist David Bernhardt, the Interior Department is well stocked with drilling and mining interests. The agency’s top lawyer, acting Solicitor Daniel Jorjani, was a longtime advisor for the Koch brothers. Jorjani has since offered controversial legal opinions to weaken the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, advance mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in Minnesota, and greenlight a water pipeline in the California desert near Joshua Tree National Park.

Kathleen Benedetto, currently serving as Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior, founded the Women’s Mining Coalition and has met extensively with mining interests, including leading opponents of sage-grouse conservation plans. The department has since weakened those sage-grouse conservation plans and opened millions of acres of key habitat to drilling and mining.

Scott Angelle was serving on the board of Sunoco Logistics Partners LP, an oil and gas pipeline company—a $380,000 per year job—when he left to become director of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement. Angelle has led a teardown of offshore drilling safety regulations and famously gave his cell phone number to oil and gas executives at an industry conference.

Many key Interior officials have already left the department to take lucrative jobs with the extractive industries that lobbied them. Downey Magallanes was the chief architect of the department’s plan to shrink national monuments while serving as deputy chief of staff. Magallanes recently left the department to join the lobbying team at BP. Megan Bloomgren, Magallanes’ predecessor as deputy chief of staff, left her position to become Vice President of Communications at the American Petroleum Institute. Recently, the department’s top energy advisor, Vincent DeVito, stepped down to become executive vice president at Cox Oil, an offshore drilling company.

Former Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke, who enacted a raft of industry-friendly policies, was forced to resign amid ethical scandals in early 2019. In a matter of months, Zinke joined a D.C. lobbying firm and accepted a position on the board of U.S. Gold Corp., a mining company whose CEO cited Zinke’s “excellent relationship” with the Bureau of Land Management and the Interior Department.
7. Conclusion

In less than three years since President Trump took office, the Department of the Interior has transformed from an agency balancing multiple uses on our public lands—leasing some lands for development while conserving others for future generations—to a rubber stamp for the drilling and mining industries.

Oil, gas, and coal companies have taken advantage of the Interior Department’s open door, meeting extensively with senior officials, then hiring them when they leave public office. While the agency has grabbed periodic headlines for rolling back drilling and mining safeguards, a comprehensive review of policy actions shows the shocking extent to which Secretary Bernhardt has translated industry requests into Interior Department policy, large and small.
**APPENDIX**

*Policy action by status*

---

**Completed**

**Policy:** Revise Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation Rules  
**Description:** Gut regulations to reduce methane waste from oil and gas wells on public lands  
**Industry request:** Independent Petroleum Association of America, American Exploration and Production Council | ConocoPhillips | GPA Midstream Association | Encana Oil and Gas Inc.  
**Interior action:** BLM Rule

**Policy:** Rescind BLM Hydraulic Fracturing on Federal and Indian Lands Rule  
**Description:** Eliminate rule to increase the safety and transparency of fracking operations on public lands  
**Industry request:** ConocoPhillips | Encana Oil and Gas Inc.  
**Interior action:** BLM Rule

**Policy:** Revise Blowout Preventer Systems and Well Control Rule  
**Description:** Weaken offshore drilling safety rules developed in response to Deepwater Horizon  
**Interior action:** BSEE Rule

**Policy:** Revise Offshore Oil and Gas Production Safety Systems rule  
**Description:** Weaken safety rules for offshore oil and gas production  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute, National Ocean Industries Association, Offshore Operators Committee | Chevron North America Exploration and Production Company | Louisiana Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association  
**Interior action:** BSEE Rule

**Policy:** Cease work on BOEM Offshore Air Quality, Control, Reporting, and Compliance Rule  
**Description:** Kill major update to regulations regarding air pollution from offshore drilling  
**Industry request:** National Ocean Industries Association  
**Interior action:** DOI Secretary Order
**Policy:** Repeal Consolidated Federal Oil & Gas and Federal & Indian Coal Valuation Reform Rule  
**Description:** Reopen loophole allowing companies to skirt royalties owed from drilling and mining on public lands  
**Interior action:** ONRR Rule

**Policy:** Revoke Secretary's Order 3338, “Discretionary Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement to Modernize the Federal Coal Program”  
**Description:** Rescind moratorium on new federal coal leases and suspend environmental review of the federal coal program  
**Industry request:** National Mining Association | Utah Mining Association | Bowie Resource Partners | Wyoming Mining Association | Cloud Peak Energy | American Coal Council | Colorado Mining Association  
**Interior action:** DOI Secretary Order

**Policy:** Revise interpretation of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
**Description:** Weaken enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act by removing liability for accidentally killing or injuring migratory birds  
**Industry request:** Independent Petroleum Association of America | Cross-Cutting Issues Group | Independent Petroleum Association of America, American Exploration and Production Council | Western Energy Alliance | National Rural Electric Cooperative Association  
**Interior action:** DOI Solicitor M-Opinion

**Policy:** No longer pursue programmatic environmental impact statement on potential impacts of a proposed rule to authorize incidental take of migratory birds under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act  
**Description:** Stop review of a proposal authorizing incidental injury or death of migratory birds  
**Industry request:** National Mining Association | National Rural Electric Cooperative Association | Energy and Wildlife Action Coalition | Western Energy Alliance, Petroleum Association of Wyoming | Wyoming Mining Association  
**Interior action:** FWS Announcement

**Policy:** Amend Greater Sage-Grouse conservation plans  
**Description:** Weaken sage-grouse conservation plans to allow more drilling and mining in key habitat  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute, Western Energy Alliance, American Exploration and Production Council, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Montana Petroleum Association, North Dakota Petroleum Council, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Texas Oil and Gas Association, Treasure State Resources Association of Montana  
**Interior action:** BLM Records of Decision
Policy: Cancel mineral withdrawal for 10 million acres of Sagebrush Focal Areas
Description: Open key sage-grouse habitat for new drilling and mining leases
Industry request: National Mining Association
Interior action: BLM Notice

Policy: Withdraw Fish and Wildlife Service Mitigation Policy
Description: Rescind policy mitigating adverse impacts of development on fish, wildlife, and plants for a “net conservation gain”
Interior action: FWS Policy Withdrawal

Policy: Withdraw Endangered Species Act Compensatory Mitigation Policy
Description: Rescind Endangered Species Act policy allowing requiring “net conservation gain”
Interior action: FWS Policy Withdrawal

Policy: Revoke Secretary’s Order 3330, “Improving Mitigation Policies and Practices of the Department of the Interior”
Description: Revoke Secretarial Order underpinning policy aimed at avoiding and compensating for impacts to lands, water, and wildlife
Industry request: Arizona Mining Association | Western Energy Alliance
Interior action: DOI Secretary Order

Policy: Rescind BLM Mitigation Handbook H-1794
Description: Eliminate agency handbook on how to mitigate impacts of resource extraction on land, water, and wildlife
Interior action: DOI Deputy Secretary Order
**Policy:** Rescind BLM Manual Section 1794-Mitigation  
**Description:** Eliminate agency manual on how to mitigate impacts of resource extraction on land, water, and wildlife  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute, Western Energy Alliance, American Exploration and Production Council, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Montana Petroleum Association, North Dakota Petroleum Council, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Texas Oil and Gas Association, Treasure State Resources Association of Montana  
**Interior action:** DOI Deputy Secretary Order

**Policy:** Issue guidance to remove compensatory mitigation requirements  
**Description:** Remove requirement to offset development impacts with offsite conservation efforts  
**Industry request:** GPA Midstream Association  
**Interior action:** BLM Instruction Memorandum

**Policy:** Rescind DOI Departmental Manual Part 600, Chapter 6: Landscape-Scale Mitigation Policy  
**Description:** Rescind policy aimed at avoiding and compensating for impacts to lands, water, and wildlife  
**Industry request:** Arizona Mining Association | American Petroleum Institute, Western Energy Alliance, American Exploration and Production Council, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Montana Petroleum Association, North Dakota Petroleum Council, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Texas Oil and Gas Association, Treasure State Resources Association of Montana | Western Energy Alliance | GPA Midstream Association  
**Interior action:** DOI Deputy Secretary Order

**Policy:** Incorporate de-listing and downlisting species into National Listing Workplan  
**Description:** Plan to downlist or de-list certain species from the Endangered Species List  
**Industry request:** National Rural Electric Cooperative Association | Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. | Energy and Wildlife Action Coalition  
**Interior action:** FWS Workplan

**Policy:** Modify FWS Director’s Order No. 218 (Policy Regarding Voluntary Prelisting Conservation Actions)  
**Description:** Revise policy encouraging voluntary conservation of at-risk species  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute, Western Energy Alliance, American Exploration and Production Council, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Montana Petroleum Association, North Dakota Petroleum Council, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Texas Oil and Gas Association, Treasure State Resources Association of Montana | Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** FWS Policy Change
**Policy:** Issue guidance on BLM review of wells drilled from private lands into federal minerals  
**Description:** Restrict oversight of wells drilled on private lands into federal minerals  
**Industry request:** Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** BLM Instruction Memorandum

**Policy:** Direct field offices to use Categorical Exclusions, Determinations of NEPA Adequacy, and programmatic NEPA analysis when reviewing oil and gas proposals  
**Description:** Reduce environmental review of proposed oil and gas projects  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute | Independent Petroleum Association of America, American Exploration and Production Council | ConocoPhillips | Encana Oil and Gas Inc. | Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** BLM Informational Bulletin

**Policy:** Direct field offices to use existing, rather than pending, Resource Management Plans when making oil and gas leasing decisions  
**Description:** Continue to make oil and gas leasing decisions using old land use plans, regardless of whether new plans may be under consideration  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute | ConocoPhillips | GPA Midstream Association | Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** BLM Instruction Memorandum

**Policy:** End Master Leasing Plans  
**Description:** End efforts to plan for multiple land uses and conflicts prior to offering oil and gas leases  
**Industry request:** ConocoPhillips | GPA Midstream Association | Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** BLM Instruction Memorandum

**Policy:** Rescind IM 2010-117, “Oil and Gas Leasing Reform - Land Use Planning and Lease Parcel Reviews”  
**Description:** Require quarterly oil and gas lease sales to be held  
**Industry request:** Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** BLM Instruction Memorandum

**Policy:** Establish policy on overlapping oil and gas communitization agreements  
**Description:** Allow oil and gas operators to utilize overlapping communitization agreements when paying royalties  
**Industry request:** ConocoPhillips  
**Interior action:** BLM Instruction Memorandum

**Policy:** Establish time and page limits for environmental reviews  
**Description:** Limit time and length of environmental reviews  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute | Independent Petroleum Association of America, American Exploration and Production Council | Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** DOI Secretary Order
Policy: Revise BSEE Notice to Lessees 2010-G05
Description: Revise policy on decommissioning idle and toppled offshore drilling infrastructure
Industry request: National Ocean Industries Association
Interior action: BSEE Notice to Lessees

Description: Overturn legal opinion to allow mining near the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness
Industry request: Twin Metals Minnesota
Interior action: DOI Solicitor M-Opinion

Policy: Issue guidance on when to obtain an incidental take permit under the Endangered Species Act
Description: Change interpretation on when to seek permit for accidentally killing or injuring endangered species
Industry request: Southern Company
Interior action: FWS Memorandum

Policy: Revise OSMRE REG-8
Description: Reduce oversight of state mine permitting programs
Industry request: National Mining Association | Murray Energy Corporation
Interior action: OSMRE Directive

Policy: Revise OSMRE INE-35
Description: Reduce requirements for federal regulators to conduct independent inspections of surface mining operations
Industry request: National Mining Association | Murray Energy Corporation
Interior action: OSMRE Directive

Policy: Rescind “A More Complete Enforcement of SMCRA and its Implementing Regulations” memorandum
Description: Rescind guidance to enforce the Clean Water Act at surface mining sites
Industry request: National Mining Association | Murray Energy Corporation
Interior action: OSMRE Rescission

Policy: Rescind Policy Advisory for Self-Bonding
Description: Rescind policy to protect taxpayers from mine cleanup costs
Industry request: National Mining Association | Murray Energy Corporation
Interior action: OSMRE Rescission
**Completed**

**Policy:** Rescind DOI Departmental Manual Part 523, Chapter 1: Climate Change Policy  
**Description:** Rescind policy aimed at mitigating the impacts of climate change  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute, Western Energy Alliance, American Exploration and Production Council, Independent Petroleum Association of America, Colorado Oil and Gas Association, Montana Petroleum Association, North Dakota Petroleum Council, Petroleum Association of Wyoming, Texas Oil and Gas Association, Treasure State Resources Association of Montana | Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** DOI Deputy Secretary Order

**Policy:** Reduce Bears Ears and Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monuments  
**Description:** Shrink national monuments to allow more drilling and mining  
**Industry request:** Western Energy Alliance  
**Interior action:** DOI Memorandum

---

**In process**

**Policy:** Develop new Five-Year Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program  
**Description:** Develop plan to significantly expand offshore oil and gas leasing  
**Industry request:** National Ocean Industries Association | ASRC Exploration, LLC  
**Interior action:** BOEM Proposed Program

**Policy:** Issue new Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for BLM-managed lands in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska  
**Description:** Dramatically expand areas within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska available for oil and gas leasing  
**Industry request:** Resource Development Council | ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. | Arctic Slope Regional Corporation  
**Interior action:** BLM Notice of Intent

**Policy:** Revise Endangered Species Act regulations-Prohibitions to Threatened Wildlife and Plants  
**Description:** Weaken Endangered Species Act regulations by reducing protections for threatened species  
**Industry request:** Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc. | Energy and Wildlife Action Coalition  
**Interior action:** FWS Proposed Rule

**Policy:** Revise Endangered Species Act regulations-Interagency Cooperation  
**Description:** Weaken Endangered Species Act regulations regarding habitat destruction and interagency cooperation  
**Interior action:** FWS Proposed Rule
In process

**Policy:** Revise Endangered Species Act regulations—Listing Species and Designating Critical Habitat  
**Description:** Weaken implementation of the Endangered Species Act by reducing protections for certain habitat and increasing economic consideration  
**Interior action:** FWS Proposed Rule

**Policy:** Downlist the American burying beetle on the Endangered Species List  
**Description:** Reduce protections for the American burying beetle under the Endangered Species Act  
**Industry request:** Independent Petroleum Association of America, Osage Producers Association | Independent Petroleum Association of America  
**Interior action:** FWS Proposed Rule

**Policy:** Delist the Western Distinct Population Segment of the Yellow-Billed Cuckoo  
**Description:** Remove the Western Yellow-Billed Cuckoo from the Endangered Species List  
**Industry request:** Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.  
**Interior action:** FWS Notice

**Policy:** Suspend implementation of BOEM Notice to Lessees 2016-N01  
**Description:** Delay enforcement of rules to protect taxpayers from offshore drilling cleanup costs  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute | ASRC Exploration, LLC  
**Interior action:** DOI Secretary Order

**Policy:** Revise Natural Resource Damages regulations  
**Description:** Revise rules that help the public repair or replace natural resources damaged by hazardous material spills  
**Industry request:** National Mining Association  
**Interior action:** DOI Notice

**Policy:** Propose streamlined eagle incidental take permitting process for “low-risk” wind projects  
**Description:** Propose streamlined process for incidental harm or death of eagles by certain wind projects  
**Industry request:** Southern Company | National Rural Electric Cooperative Association | Energy and Wildlife Action Coalition  
**Interior action:** FWS Presentation
**In process**

**Policy:** Revise Collision Risk Model for estimating eagle fatalities at wind energy facilities  
**Description:** Revise model used to estimate Golden and Bald Eagle fatalities  
**Industry request:** Cross-Cutting Issues Group | Energy and Wildlife Action Coalition  
**Interior action:** FWS Reopening of Comment Period

**Policy:** Revise Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances Policy  
**Description:** Revise policy incentivizing companies and citizens to enter voluntary conservation agreements for at-risk species  
**Interior action:** FWS Policy Review

---

**Identified for action**

**Policy:** Review existing mineral withdrawals for reduction or revocation  
**Description:** Lift moratorium on new mining claims near the Grand Canyon  
**Industry request:** National Mining Association | National Mining Association  
**Interior action:** Multi-agency proposed strategy

**Policy:** Review Requirements for Exploratory Drilling on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf Rule for possible revision or rescission  
**Description:** Roll back policy increasing safety of Arctic offshore drilling  
**Industry request:** National Ocean Industries Association | ASRC Exploration, LLC  
**Interior action:** DOI Secretary Order

**Policy:** Revise Management of Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights Rule  
**Description:** Revise regulations of potential oil and gas operations in National Wildlife Refuges  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute, Independent Petroleum Association of America  
**Interior action:** Executive Order

**Policy:** Revise General Provisions and Non-Federal Oil and Gas Rights Rule  
**Description:** Revise policy governing oil and gas operations within National Park Service units  
**Industry request:** American Petroleum Institute, Western Energy Alliance, Independent Petroleum Association of America, American Exploration and Production Council  
**Interior action:** Executive Order