



WESTERN LEADERS NETWORK OPPOSES TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED WEAKENING OF NEPA RULES

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“The Interior West is once again under attack by the federal administration's plans to roll back critical protections in the National Environmental Policy Act. NEPA is a fundamental tool protecting western lands from major proposals that threaten public health, safety, welfare and the environment. While improvements can be made to any law, gutting NEPA for corporate interests severely threatens our air, water quality, and wildlife habitat and corridors. Moreover, this proposal eliminates the law’s requirement to consider climate impacts before beginning a project, which is something we can’t afford if we hope to address our climate crisis. Over the past three years, the Trump administration has continuously eroded due process by limiting public input on major federal issues, including the rollbacks of federal methane rules and the reduction of our national monuments in Utah. Local western officials value public input in the federal decision-making process, and this proposal to weaken NEPA is yet another attempt to undermine the voice of the public, at the expense of our environment.”

– Gwen Lachelt, Executive Director, Western Leaders Network

Background

The Trump administration has released a draft rule rolling back the National Environmental Policy Act, a bedrock environmental protection law, in an attempt to streamline the permitting process for development projects that impact public lands, air and water. Since its implementation in 1970, NEPA has required a public review process to examine impacts to the environment and public health before decisions are made on resource extraction and other large-scale projects proposed on federal lands.