

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR REGULATORY PLAN

2026 Unified Agenda

INTRODUCTION

The U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior or the Department) manages the Nation's vast public lands and natural resources for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people. This includes managing approximately 500 million surface acres of Federal land or about 20 percent of the Nation's land area, approximately 700 million subsurface acres of Federal mineral estate,¹ and nearly 3.2 billion acres of submerged lands on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS).² Through development of our Nation's energy and mineral resources, timber and grazing operations, and abundant recreation opportunities, Interior powers American prosperity. The Department also protects wildlife and ecosystems, manages water resources, and leads Federal wildland fire management and response activities. Interior's work is done collaboratively with States, local communities, federally recognized Indian Tribes, Alaska Natives, the Native Hawaiian Community, and U.S. Territories.

Interior plays a central role in the Trump administration's energy dominance agenda. The development of domestic energy, minerals, and other natural resources on Federal lands advances the Trump administration's agenda and generates billions of dollars in revenue for current and future generations. Interior is unleashing America's natural resources with a focus on affordable and reliable energy and prioritizing productive uses of Federal land, including grazing and timber harvesting.

Interior provides access to some of the best recreation opportunities in the Nation. Hundreds of millions of people visit Interior-managed lands each year in order to engage in camping, hiking, hunting, fishing, and various other forms of outdoor recreation, all of which support local communities and their economies. Interior is committed to increasing access to these opportunities.

REGULATORY REFORM OVERVIEW

The Department is committed to advancing President Trump's deregulation agenda. Federal regulations have imposed massive costs on millions of Americans and constrained our Nation's economy and productive uses of public lands and natural resources. On February 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum issued Secretary's Order (SO) 3421, "Achieving Prosperity through Deregulation," which implements the January 31, 2025, Executive Order (EO) 14192, "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation." SO 3421 ensures that the Department's Bureaus and Offices are focused on cutting all red tape to promote America's economic prosperity, further national security, and foster the highest possible quality of life for each United States citizen. Shortly thereafter, in SO 3418, "Unleashing American Energy," Secretary Burgum directed the Department to suspend, rescind, or revise certain rules and guidance documents that may conflict with the goal of unleashing affordable and reliable energy. Interior has been methodically and expeditiously evaluating the rules and guidance documents referenced in SO 3418. As discussed below, Interior has proposed the repeal or modification of many of the rules referenced in SO 3418, including the Biden administration's overly burdensome rules regarding the Department's Endangered Species Act regulations, management of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and multiple use of public lands in the Conservation and Landscape Health rule. During Fiscal Year (FY) 2025, the Department rescinded dozens of obsolete, unnecessary, or redundant regulations to advance the President's energy dominance agenda. These rescissions accord with the Trump administration's broader commitment to decrease regulatory burdens, streamline agency processes, and promote energy development on public lands.

As part of President Trump's government-wide deregulatory agenda, Interior published a request for information (RFI) inviting the public to identify outdated, overly complex, or burdensome regulations. The effort aims to lower costs and regulatory burdens on the American people. The Department received hundreds of thoughtful comments and is in the process of identifying ideas for implementation.

¹ <https://www.doi.gov/sites/default/files/u.s.-department-of-the-interior-fy-2022-2026-strategic-plan.pdf>

² <https://www.boem.gov/factsheet/about-boem>

In FY 2026, Interior will continue its successful efforts to identify and repeal, replace, or modify regulations that are unlawful, unnecessary, ineffective, or impose costs that are not adequately justified by benefits. Interior will also continue to encourage and seek public input on these regulatory reform efforts, including through its RFI, which remains open to the public. In FY 2026, Interior expects to complete deregulatory actions that will provide significant regulatory cost savings.

REGULATORY AND DEREGULATORY PRIORITIES

To help the Secretary advance his priorities to promote energy dominance, affordability, and reliability, including by implementing SO 3418 and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA); right-size its implementation of environmental statutes; increase access to recreational opportunities on Federal land, and more. we are highlighting a few key regulatory and deregulatory efforts below.

OBBB Implementation.

Following President Trump's signing of the OBBBA, H.R. 1, on July 4, 2025, the Department began implementing statutory directives that will promote U.S. energy production and timber development.

For example:

- Applying for Commingling and Allocation Approval Onshore, RIN 1004-AF38.
The Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) proposed rule "Requirements for Site Security and Production Handling; Applying for Commingling and Allocation Approval," (RIN 1004-AF38), would revise its regulations to make it easier for operators to combine production from multiple leases—a practice known as commingling—in response to Congress' direction in OBBBA section 50101(d)(3) to approve onshore commingling applications. This approach allows oil and gas production from different leases, often under different ownership, using the same well pad, which reduces environmental impacts, lowers operating costs, and increases overall efficiency. If finalized, the updated rule could result in as much as \$1.8 billion in industry savings annually.
- Offshore Downhole Commingling Regulatory Updates, RIN 1014-AA68.
The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) published the final rule "Offshore Downhole Commingling Regulatory Updates." See 90 FR 38935, August 13, 2025. This rule revises the downhole commingling regulations on the OCS to ensure consistency with the OBBB when BSEE reviews a request for downhole commingling. This rule clarifies that the Department should approve requests for commingling with only limited exceptions.
- Offshore Distribution Cap Changes, RIN 1012-AA41.
The Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR) published the direct final rule "Offshore Distribution Cap Changes." See 90 FR 38938, August 13, 2025. In this rule, ONRR amended its regulations at 30 CFR 1219.512 to raise the cap on the distribution of OCS revenues from \$500 million to \$650 million for FY 2025.

Right-Sizing Implementation of Environmental Statutes.

The Department has made massive strides towards reforming its implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

In June 2025, Secretary Burgum, in coordination with President Trump, announced reforms to modernize the Department's NEPA regulations and prevent them from being weaponized to delay American innovation and energy infrastructure construction. These modifications implement direction from all three branches of government (President Trump in EO 14154 "Unleashing American Energy;" the U.S. Congress in its BUILDER Act amendments as part of the 2023 Fiscal Responsibility Act; and the U.S. Supreme Court in its recent landmark decision in Seven County Infrastructure Coalition v. Eagle County).

In response to SO 3418 and other directives, the Department recently proposed new ESA rules that would better align the Department's regulations with the text and intent of the ESA and would reduce burdens on project proponents. This includes the following:

- Listing Endangered and Threatened Species and Designating Critical Habitat, RIN 1018-BI73.
The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a proposed rule on November 21, 2025, proposing to revise portions of its regulations that implement section 4 of the ESA. This is a joint proposed rule with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). The proposed revisions concern the procedures and criteria used for listing, reclassifying, and delisting species on the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants and designating critical habitat, clarifying, among other things, that the Department can only designate unoccupied habitat if occupied habitat isn't enough for the preservation of the species.
- Regulations Pertaining to Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants, RIN 1018-BI74.
FWS published a proposed rule on November 21, 2025, proposing to revise its regulations concerning protection of threatened species under the ESA. FWS proposes to remove the "blanket rule" option for protecting newly listed threatened species pursuant to section 4(d) of the ESA, right-sizing protections for threatened species and decreasing permitting burdens in line with the best reading of the ESA.
- Interagency Cooperation Regulations, RIN 1018-BI75.
FWS published a proposed rule on November 21, 2025, proposing to revise portions of its regulations that implement section 7 of the ESA. This is a joint proposed rule with NMFS. The proposed revisions to the interagency cooperation implementing regulations confirm FWS' and NMFS' longstanding application of statutory requirements for interagency cooperation and aim to facilitate quicker consultations.
- Regulations for Designating Critical Habitat, RIN 1018-BI76.
FWS published a proposed rule on November 21, 2025, proposing to amend portions of its regulations that implement section 4 of the ESA. Specifically, FWS proposes to revise regulations related to ESA section 4(b)(2), which requires consideration of the economic, national security, and any other relevant impacts of designating any particular area as critical habitat. Section 4(b)(2)(d) authorizes the exclusion of areas from critical habitat if the benefits of excluding the area outweigh the benefits of designating it as critical habitat. Here, the Department proposes text that would permit additional industry and landowner participation when excluding lands from the designation of critical habitat.
- Definition of "Harm" Under the Endangered Species Act, RIN 1018-BI38.
FWS published a proposed rule on April 17, 2025, to rescind the regulatory definition of "harm" in its ESA regulations. This is a joint proposed rule with NMFS. The existing regulatory definition of "harm," which includes habitat modification, runs contrary to the best meaning of the statutory term "take." FWS undertakes this change to adhere to the single, best meaning of the ESA.

Achieving U.S. Energy Dominance while Promoting Affordable and Reliable Energy.

As discussed above, the Department is implementing the President's and Secretary's energy

dominance agenda as outlined in several Executive and Secretary's orders.³ These orders direct the removal of impediments imposed on the development and use of our Nation's abundant energy and natural resources by obsolete, unnecessary, and burdensome regulations. In FY 2026, the Department will continue to focus on deregulating with an eye towards promoting affordable and reliable energy. This includes potential changes to regulations involving energy and critical minerals identification, permitting, leasing, development, production, transportation, refining, distribution, exporting, and generation capacity onshore and offshore.

The Department will pursue finalizing the following rules to advance the administration's energy dominance agenda:

- Rescission of Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, RIN 1004-AF03.
On September 11, 2025, BLM proposed rescinding the Biden-era, Conservation and Landscape Health rule. In its proposed rule, BLM explained that the Conservation and Landscape Health rule is inconsistent with the Federal Land Management and Policy Act's (FLPMA) multiple-use mandate and that rescission would provide the framework for future land management plans to better enable energy development as well as ranching, grazing, timber production, and recreation across America's public lands.
- Risk Management and Financial Assurance for OCS Lease and Grant Obligations, RIN 1010-AE26.
BOEM has reviewed market conditions of supply and demand in the crude oil and gas markets, and, as a result, is proposing to amend its existing risk management and financial assurance regulations. If finalized, this revision will reduce the economic burden on OCS lessees and grant holders and promote OCS oil and gas development. BOEM estimates that a reduction of approximately \$6.2 billion of financial burden to the regulated community will be achieved through this rulemaking. This reduction of the financial burden increases the amount of capital available for oil and gas exploration and production on the OCS.
- Rescission of the Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Regulations, RIN 1004-AF02.
On November 17, 2025, BLM published the final rule, Rescission of the Management and Protection of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Regulations. See 90 FR 51470. This final rule is a major step towards unlocking the energy potential of the roughly 23-million-acre reserve. This rule implements direction that President Trump issued on his first day in office through EO 14153 and responds to calls from Alaskans, including North Slope leaders, to rescind restrictive regulations that had downstream effects on energy development and economic growth.
- Federal Oil, Gas, and Coal Amendments, RIN 1012-AA39.
Consistent with Executive and Secretary's orders, ONRR is proposing to clarify the scope of review for Director-level appeals and amend its Federal oil, gas, and coal valuation regulations. Through this rulemaking, ONRR seeks to propose changes that will reduce cost and burden to industry by simplifying regulatory requirements.
- Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy, RIN 1004-AF32.
BLM intends to propose rescission of the final rule, Rights-of-Way, Leasing, and Operations for Renewable Energy. If finalized, the rule will eliminate biased renewable energy rules that advantage intermittent energy over other energy sources. "Eliminating the Biden administration's preferential treatment of unaffordable, unreliable intermittent

³ See e.g., EO 14153 "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential;" EO 14154 "Unleashing American Energy;" EO 14156 "Declaring a National Energy Emergency;" SO 3417 "Addressing the National Energy Emergency;" SO 3418 "Unleashing American Energy;" SO 3422 "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential."

projects and dismantling excessive, one-sided restrictions on traditional energy sources like oil, gas, and critical minerals, will unlock the full potential of America's natural resources," said Secretary Burgum. "This step will restore balance, strengthens our energy independence, and ensures taxpayers get the maximum return from the responsible use of our public lands."⁴

- Oil and Gas Leasing Rescission Rule, RIN 1004-AF05.
BLM proposes revising its oil and gas regulations regarding allocation schedules in multi-party agreements that outline how royalties are distributed across different leases within the agreement. BLM also proposes to return the minimum bonds to the amounts that existed before the 2024 rule. Finally, the proposed rule would improve BLM's leasing process to ensure stewardship of public lands as required by the Mineral Leasing Act.
- Royalty for Oil and Gas Lost from Onshore Federal and Indian Leases, 1004-AF33.
BLM proposes to modify its existing regulations pertaining to royalties due on oil and natural gas lost on Federal and Tribal leases. These modifications would reduce unnecessary compliance burdens for operators and streamline BLM's royalty determinations on lost oil or natural gas.
- Revisions to the 2023 Well Control Rule, RIN 1014-AA63.
BSEE proposes to revise certain regulatory provisions in its 2023 well control rule (88 FR 57334, August 23, 2023) to clarify certain reporting and recordkeeping requirements. This rule would reduce duplicative submissions and provide consistency and clarity of information available for BSEE review.

Increase Access to Recreational Opportunities on Public Land.

The Department manages 480 million acres of public land and welcomes over 565 million visitors each year. Interior offers recreational activities like hunting, fishing, boating, hiking, and sightseeing, which contribute over a trillion dollars to our Nation's economy.⁵ The Department seeks to increase access to these activities and improve access to public lands more generally. Rules that will further this goal include the following:

- Process for Authorizing Seasonal Migratory Game Bird Hunting, RIN 1018-BI04.
To better meet Federal, State, and Tribal rulemaking needs, reduce the complexity and delays associated with the current process, and ensure the timely start to hunting seasons, FWS proposes a streamlined approach to authorizing annual hunting seasons. Essentially, FWS proposes to change the authorization process from promulgating annual Federal regulations with State hunting seasons to issuing general Federal regulations that authorize States to establish regulations for the seasonal hunting of migratory game birds in accordance with Federal authorization conditions and the general regulations.
- Deregulatory Actions for Migratory Bird and Eagle Permits, RIN 1018-BF58.
FWS proposes to deregulate migratory bird and eagle permitting to better serve the American public, streamline government operations, and reduce permitting requirements. FWS proposes to leverage technology in support of innovative approaches to permitting by using general permits and regulatory authorizations. Specifically, FWS would create a general permit option for 75 percent of existing migratory bird and eagle-specific permits, primarily those that authorize possessions such as exhibition and breeding. FWS also proposes replacing the current paper system with an electronic registration system for the eight existing depredation and control orders that authorize take of depredating, overabundant, or otherwise injurious birds. FWS also intends to eliminate situations

⁴ <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-initiate-action-rescind-blms-intermittent-energy-rule>

⁵ https://www.bia.gov/sites/default/files/dup/tcinfo/sp_final_for_consultation_and_comment.pdf

where previously two Federal permits were required for the same or similar actions.

- Annual station-specific hunting and fishing regulations, RIN 1018-BI01.
FWS annually proposes regulatory additions and revisions to hunting and fishing at its national wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries. These actions are part of an annual update for the national wildlife refuge and the national fish hatchery systems to ensure adequate public notice of openings and changes. These actions enhance conservation stewardship and outdoor recreation and improve the management of game species and their habitat. FWS seeks to maximize hunting and fishing opportunities at its refuges and hatcheries to benefit the American people.
- Alaska Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves, RIN 1024-AE96.
The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to amend its regulations for hunting, fishing, trapping, and other natural resource harvest in national preserves in Alaska and for the procedures used to restrict public use and access in Alaska park lands. These changes restore regulations adopted to implement the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (P.L. 96-487) that were in effect for several decades, which allows for bear baiting consistent with State law. Rulemaking in 2015, 2017, and 2024 preempted methods of State-authorized fish and wildlife harvests, revised codified and established procedures for restricting public access and activities in Alaska park lands. This rulemaking would walk back those 2024 changes.

ADDITIONAL REGULATORY PRIORITIES BY BUREAU

The following sections give an overview of some of the other major deregulatory and regulatory priorities of the Department's Bureaus and Offices in FY 2026.

I. Bureau of Indian Affairs

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) enhances the quality of life, promotes economic opportunity, and protects and improves the trust assets of approximately 1.9 million American Indians, Indian Tribes, and Alaska Natives. BIA maintains a government-to-government relationship with the 573 federally recognized Indian Tribes. BIA also administers and manages 55 million acres of surface land and 57 million acres of subsurface minerals held in trust by the United States for American Indians and Indian Tribes.

Other deregulatory and regulatory actions

- Leasing of Osage Reservation Lands for Oil and Gas Mining, RIN 1076-AF59.
The proposed rule was published on January 13, 2023 (88 FR 2430). This final rule will revise the regulations in 25 CFR part 226 to strengthen BIA's management of the Osage mineral estate and improve accounting and production measurement standards; offer consistency in production valuation; address inadequate bonding; support the implementation of electronic reporting systems; enhance accountability; clarify lessees' obligations; prevent waste; promote safe and environmentally sound operations; and protect resource values. The Department received Tribal government input through consultation sessions held pursuant to EO 13175 and the Department's policy on communication and collaboration with Tribal officials.
- Agricultural Leasing of Indian Land, RIN 1076-AF66.
This proposed rule would update provisions addressing leasing of Indian trust or restricted lands for agricultural purposes to reflect updates that have been made to business and residential leasing provisions and address outdated provisions.
- Mineral Leasing Regulations, RIN 1076-AF76.
This rule proposes to modernize the Department's trust responsibility in the areas of energy and minerals. This rule would propose to increase the benefit to Indian

beneficiaries by revising definitions, authorities, bonding requirements, royalty rates, and leasing and cooperative agreements. The Department will seek Tribal government input through consultation sessions held pursuant to EO 13175 and the Department's policy on communication and collaboration with Tribal officials

II. Bureau of Land Management

BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land, known as the National System of Public Lands, primarily located in 12 Western States, including Alaska. BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the Nation. As a steward, BLM pursues its multiple-use mission, providing opportunities for economic growth through uses such as energy development, ranching, mining and logging, as well as outdoor recreation activities such as camping, hunting, and fishing, while also supporting conservation efforts. Public lands provide valuable, tangible goods and materials that we, as Americans, use every day to heat our homes, build our roads, and feed our families. BLM strives to be a good neighbor in the communities it serves and is committed to keeping public landscapes healthy and productive.

Other regulatory and deregulatory actions

In addition to the deregulatory and regulatory actions addressed above, the BLM intends to propose rules in FY 2026 re-imagining its grazing regulations, land use planning regulations, and regulations governing areas of critical environmental concern, among others. These rules would help lower the price of beef by, among other things, increasing the amount of cattle grazing on public lands and eliminate red tape that is slowing down BLM's execution of its multiple-use mandate.

Specifically, under the rulemaking, Grazing Administration- Exclusive of Alaska (RIN 1004-AE82), BLM will be revising the livestock grazing regulations found at 43 CFR Part 4100. This rulemaking includes removing subpart 4180 from the grazing regulations and moving the Fundamentals of Rangeland Health to Part 1700 for the evaluation and achievement of the fundamentals of land health across all BLM programs. The proposed revisions are intended to modernize the BLM's grazing program, increase flexibility for ranchers, better protect rangeland health, and align with amendments to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) and recommendations of the Government Accountability Office.

For the land use planning regulations, BLM will be proposing the Planning and Designation of Areas of Critical Environment Concern ((RIN 1004-AF53) which intends to modernize the BLM's land use planning. The proposed rule would eliminate unnecessary procedures that impose delays and roadblocks to an efficient process and remove program-specific procedures from the planning regulations while improving the BLM's coordination responsibilities in a more streamlined process. The proposed rule would also improve the readability of the planning regulations.

III. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management

BOEM is committed to ongoing efforts and initiatives vital to its mission to manage development of the Nation's offshore energy, mineral, and geological resources in an environmentally and economically responsible way. BOEM's mission is foundational to advancing the administration's oil and gas energy policies on the OCS.

Offshore energy development is a vital component of U.S. national security and a critical driver of American prosperity. In accordance with EO 14154 and SO 3418, both titled "Unleashing American Energy," EO 14192, titled "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation," and SO 3421, titled "Achieving Prosperity Through Deregulation," BOEM is committed to the safe development of our offshore energy and mineral resources, with the goal of decreasing regulatory burdens that unnecessarily restrict energy production, constrain economic growth, and prevent job creation. During the coming year, BOEM will continue to be committed to identifying deregulatory

opportunities and policies that lower costs and boost exploration, investment, development, and production.

Other deregulatory and regulatory actions

- Offshore Wind Regulatory Reform, RIN 1010-AE38.
As part of the Interior Department's full review of offshore wind energy regulations to ensure alignment with the [Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act](#) and the President's energy priorities, BOEM will propose revisions to the offshore wind regulations addressing bidding credits and financial assurance.

IV. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

BSEE's mission is to promote offshore development and production of energy resources, while ensuring that offshore operations are safe and environmentally sound. BSEE's priorities in fulfillment of its mission are to, promote and regulate offshore energy development and build and sustain the organizational, technical, and intellectual capacity within and across BSEE's key functions in order to keep pace with offshore industry technology improvements, innovate in economically sound regulation and enforcement, and reduce risk through appropriate risk assessment and regulatory and enforcement actions.

Consistent with the direction in EO 14154 and SO 3418, both titled "Unleashing American Energy," EO 14192, titled "Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation," and SO 3421, titled "Achieving Prosperity through Deregulation," BSEE has reviewed and will continue to review its existing regulations to determine whether they unnecessarily burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources, constrain economic growth, or prevent job creation. BSEE is a well-positioned partner ready to help all stakeholders maintain the Nation's position as a global energy leader and foster energy independence for the benefit of the American people, while ensuring that offshore oil and gas activity on the OCS is performed in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.

Other deregulatory and regulatory actions

- Updates of Documents Incorporated by Reference--Oil and Gas and Sulphur Operations in the Outer Continental Shelf, RIN 1014- AA56.
BSEE proposes to update the editions of industry documents (e.g., standards incorporated by reference in 30 CFR part 250). BSEE incorporates by reference over 125 standards in its regulations. Incorporation of a specific edition of a standard into the regulations requires the regulated industry to comply with the terms of that edition and will promote regulatory clarity.
- Oil-Spill Response Requirements for Facilities Located Seaward of the Coast Line, RIN 1014-AA44.
BSEE proposes to update its existing regulations to incorporate the latest advancements in spill response and preparedness policies and technologies. These advancements include recent lessons learned and recommendations from reports related to the Deepwater Horizon explosion and subsequent oil spill..
- Revisions to Subpart J—Pipelines and Pipeline Rights-of-Way, RIN 1014-AA45.
BSEE proposes to revise specific provisions of the current pipelines and pipeline rights-of-way regulations under 30 CFR part 250, subpart J. This proposed rule would align with current technology and state-of-the-art safety equipment and procedures, primarily through the incorporation of industry standards.

V. Office of Natural Resources Revenue

ONRR collects, accounts for, and disburses revenues from Federal offshore energy and mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on Federal and Indian lands. ONRR operates nationwide

and is primarily responsible for timely and accurate collection, distribution, and accounting for revenues associated with mineral and energy production.

Other deregulatory and regulatory actions

- Federal Oil, Gas, and Coal Amendments, RIN 1012-AA39.
ONRR proposes to amend its oil, gas, and coal valuation regulations and to specify the standard of review for Director-level appeals. This proposed rule likely would reduce cost and administrative burden to industry and the Federal Government by simplifying regulatory requirements and would ultimately incentivize production to unleash energy dominance.

VI. Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSMRE)

OSMRE was created by the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA). Under SMCRA, OSMRE has two principal functions, regulation of surface coal mining and reclamation operations, and reclamation and restoration of abandoned coal mine lands. In enacting SMCRA, Congress directed OSMRE to “strike a balance between protection of the environment and agricultural productivity and the Nation’s need for coal as an essential source of energy.” OSMRE seeks to develop and maintain a regulatory program that provides a safe, cost-effective, and environmentally sound supply of coal to help support the Nation’s economy and local communities.

Other deregulatory and regulatory actions

- Rescission of the “Ten-Day Notices and Corrective Action for State Regulatory Program Issues” Rule, Issued April 9, 2024, RIN 1029-AC89.
OSMRE proposed rescinding the Biden-era 10-day notices and corrective action rule. This rescission would align the regulations with the single, best meaning of the statutory language in SMCRA, streamline OSMRE’s coordination with State regulatory authorities to minimize duplication of efforts, and appropriately recognize that State regulatory authorities are the primary regulatory authorities of non-Federal, non-Indian lands within their borders.

VII. National Park Service

NPS preserves the natural and cultural resources and values within 433 units of the National Park System encompassing more than 85 million acres of lands and waters for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations.

Other deregulatory and regulatory actions

- During the coming year, NPS plans to develop deregulatory actions that further the purposes of EO 14192 “Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation,” EO 14153 “Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential,” EO 14219 “Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency’ Initiative,” and EO 14314 “Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks.” These actions will create new opportunities for recreational access in park areas through off-road vehicle use, bicycling, horseback riding, fishing, hiking, use of powered micromobility devices (e.g., e-scooters), use of motorized vessels and personal watercraft, and hunting and trapping.

In addition to the Alaska Hunting and Trapping in National Preserves rule referenced above, NPS highlights the following deregulatory actions:

- Olympic National Park; Fishing (1024-AF00). This rule would give the superintendent more flexibility to allow salmon fishing in park waters, consistent with a new fishery management plan under development. This could result in the NPS opening the Elwha

River to salmon fishing by the general public for the first time in decades. This would create a new, highly anticipated opportunity for recreational fishing in the park, consistent with the direction in Executive Order 14314, Making America Beautiful Again by Improving Our National Parks, to improve the recreational experience in national parks for American residents.

- Revisions to Bicycle Regulations (1024-AE97). This rule would remove unnecessary procedural requirements for the designation of trails for bicycle use in park areas. Existing regulations require the NPS to prepare an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement to evaluate the potential impacts of bicycle use whether or not they would be required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). As a result, the NPS conducts levels of review that may not be justified by the scope of the action or needed under Federal law. These regulations should therefore be modified consistent with the direction in Executive Order 14219, “Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President’s ‘Department of Government Efficiency’ Deregulatory Initiative.” By streamlining the process for designating trails for bicycle use in park areas, this rule may lead to increased opportunities for recreation and access in park areas thereby improving the recreational experience in national parks for American residents, consistent with Executive Order 14314.

VIII. *Other Regulatory Actions of the Department of the Interior*

- Practices Before the Department of the Interior. RIN 1094-AA57.
The Office of Hearings and Appeals (OHA) will make comprehensive procedural changes to Federal regulations governing hearings and appeals proceedings before Interior’s administrative tribunals. OHA will modify and update its regulations located in title 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations in parts 4 and 30 to: (1) promote expeditious and meaningful review of administrative decisions; (2) reflect changes in the law; (3) reorganize and streamline procedures and retitle subparts to improve clarity to parties; (4) consolidate redundant language; (5) eliminate outdated procedures; and (6) allow OHA to continue to modernize its practice and keep pace with technological and other advancements, including the establishment of a regulatory framework for an electronic filing and case docket management system.

BILLING CODE 4334-63-P