

THE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT | Aug 28th, 2025

Keeping corporate leaders up to date on how policy decisions in DC are impacting sustainability efforts across the country.

USDA Moves to Rescind the Roadless Rule

The USDA has formally opened the next step in rescinding the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule, which currently protects nearly 59 million acres of national forest and grassland from roadbuilding and large-scale logging. In a press release on August 27, 2025, Secretary Brooke Rollins announced the launch of a public comment period alongside a Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This review will evaluate the ecological, wildfire management, and economic implications of removing the rule, while also considering alternatives and public feedback. The move follows the administration's June announcement that the Roadless Rule would be rolled back to expand flexibility for local land managers.

Washington, DC Update

Congress will return next week after a month of August recess. They return to a busy month with multiple priorities, including passing appropriations bills, considering the National Defense Authorization Act, and other bills that must be reauthorized by the end of the fiscal year. While not all sustainability-specific bills, most legislation will impact policy areas in the sustainability space (energy, infrastructure, grant funding, etc.). We expect to see more from the EPA on its deregulatory agenda and continued implementation of the One Big Beautiful Bill that Congress passed in July.

Engagement Opportunities

- EPA is extending its [public comment period](#) on the endangerment finding through **September 22**. This is a rule finalized during the Obama Administration that recognizes climate change as a threat to public health
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture opened up a [comment period](#) for rescinding the roadless rule. The USDA is proposing to change forest management to allow for more road construction on Forest Service lands. **The comment period is open through September 19.**
- The Department of the Interior opened up a [public comment period](#) to weigh in on the 2025 list of critical minerals. DOI last issued a list of critical minerals in 2022 and is required to update the list every 3 years. **Comments are due by September 25.**

Want to Learn More?

- Read the USDA press release [here](#).
- The Los Angeles Times covers what this could mean [here](#).