

Shutdown Ends, Agencies Begin to Re-Open

The longest government shutdown in American history officially ended after 43 days. For land management agencies, this means that funding and projects will be able to resume, although likely with some delay as staffing and systems return. There are a number of significant issues facing these agencies at the moment, from the Forest Service

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Reorganization (consolidating regional offices into five hubs) to the Department of Interior's ongoing implementation of the EXPLORE Act, which passed earlier this year.

Trade Landscape Shifts Focus to IEEPA Case

There continues to be a lot in play across the trade policy space, including decisions around Section 232 Tariffs, a comment period around the Section 301 tariffs, potential renegotiation of the US-Canada-Mexico Agreement (USMCA), and a handful of agreements to be finalized with major trading partners.

However, much of the focus is currently on the case being considered in the Supreme Court around whether the President has the authority to issue tariffs under the International Emergency Economic Protection Act (IEEPA). The Supreme Court has announced that it will expedite the ruling, aiming to complete it by the end of this year or early in 2026.

Senate ENR Holds FLPMA Hearing

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a hearing to examine the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) land management plans under the Federal Land Management Policy Act (FLPMA). Chairman Lee (R-UT) highlighted that "Congress intended the resource management plan to be flexible and these processes to involve flexible instruments that could adapt with changing circumstances and according to local needs." But instead, they've often become these very large, in fact, enormous static documents that take many, many years to write and even longer to revise.

Ranking Member Heinrich noted that "Congress passed FLPMA and directed the BLM to keep public lands public and to manage public lands under the principles of multiple use and sustained yield. And to do that, it requires the BLM to periodically produce land use plans to guide its management decisions."

There were additional concerns expressed about the rigidity of these management plans and their frequency, which has made them more difficult to implement, given the shifts in user groups on BLM lands.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Brumidi Group Managing
Partner Charles Cooper
has been selected to sit
on the Board of Outdoor
Alliance. Read more
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EVENT

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