

THE OUTDOOR REPORT | September 25th, 2024

Congress Inches Towards Shutdown

Current funding remains in jeopardy as Congress nears the September 30th deadline to avoid a government shutdown. Should Congress not pass a continuing resolution before that deadline, the government will shut down. This will have impacts on a wide variety of outdoor recreation, public lands, and conservation programs. Agencies will likely release memos on how programs will (or will not) operate during a government shutdown. Republicans are currently pushing for a "clean" continuing resolution. Democrats are pushing for additional funding for healthcare. Neither side seems to be negotiating at the moment, and a meeting between the Democratic leadership and the White House was canceled. The risk of a government shutdown is dramatically increasing, with limited options moving forward. A short-term CR to provide extra time for negotiation is still possible.

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CEQ and Interior Nominees Approved in Senate

Following the Senate rule changes to more easily confirm nominees, several notable political nominations were confirmed. Katherine Scarlett was confirmed as Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality. She previously worked on the Environment and Public Works Committee. In her role at CEQ, she will be instrumental in implementing changes to NEPA, monument designations, and coordinating environmental regulations across the administration. Dr. Andrea Travnicek was confirmed as Assistant Secretary for Water and Science at the Department of Interior. She will play a critical role in Colorado River negotiations.

USDA and Interior Wildland Fire Memo Released

Last week, USDA and DOI issued a new [memorandum](#) building on President Trump's [Empowering Commonsense Wildfire Prevention and Response Executive Order](#) (EO 14308). The memo lists a number of actions that are intended to streamline wildland firefighting, forest management, and partnerships across the two departments. Some of these actions will need Congressional authorization, which Congress is working on now.

Administration Moves to End the Public Lands Rule

The Department of the Interior has announced their intention to rescind the Biden Administration's Bureau of Land Management Public Lands Rule. There is currently an open comment period until November 10th. Secretary Burgum noted that "the previous administration's Public Lands Rule had the potential to block access to hundreds of thousands of acres of multiple-use land – preventing energy and mineral production, timber management, grazing and recreation across the West. The most effective caretakers of our federal lands are those whose livelihoods rely on its well-being. Overturning this rule protects our American way of life and gives our communities a voice in the land that they depend on." Republicans on Capitol Hill voiced strong opposition to the rule when it was originally released.

Outdoor Community Updates



JOB OPPORTUNITY

America 250 is hiring a Director of Federal Partnerships. Apply [here](#).



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Grand Canyon Trust is hiring a Development Director. Apply [here](#).



JOB OPPORTUNITY

Save the Redwoods League is hiring a Conservation Finance Director. Apply [here](#).