



Congress targets widely supported, commonsense BLM Public Land Planning

Some members of Congress want to repeal the Bureau of Land Management's land use planning rule using the Congressional Review Act.

The 2016 planning rule ("Planning 2.0") improves the process for updating Resource Management Plans – essentially a blueprint for managing areas of public land over 15-20 years. For example, in these plans, the BLM may decide where the best places for development are and where to conserve for wildlife habitat or recreation. Canceling it will undo sensible guidance that took years to develop—eliminating opportunities for public engagement, efficiency, and responsiveness to the pressing challenges land managers face today in managing the 247 million acres of public land.

Updated planning guidance...

...increases public participation

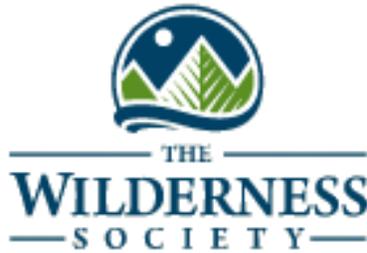
- **Taxpayers and the BLM will save money** on avoided disputes with new initiatives that require the BLM to spend time upfront collaborating with locals and stakeholders on prospective management strategies.
- **Public voices will help develop plans with multiple opportunities for involvement**, including new comment periods and electronic methods for faster, easier protest submissions – improving the likelihood that plans meet Americans' diverse set of conservation and resource needs.

...increases transparency.

- **It will prevent closed door decision-making** between the BLM and special interests by updating guidance that gives American people the ability to participate in the planning process at all stages.
- **The BLM will reveal the direction of planning** with summary reports during the draft and monitoring stages.

...improves science-based decision making.

- **High quality data will be a foundation for BLM planning and management.** The 2016 Planning Rule incorporates the best available science, geospatial data and technology to evaluate landscapes at the regional level.
- **The changes will enable faster response to today's environmental, economic and social realities** with new evaluation markers and agency flexibility to plan across traditional administrative boundaries, keeping our lands great places to hike, hunt, and fish.



The Congressional Review Act: A reckless and extreme tool

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) gives Congress the power to overturn a new rule issued by a federal agency.

When an agency publishes a new rule, it triggers a short period (60 session days) during which Congress can issue a resolution of disapproval under the CRA. This process is faster and simpler than what standard bills go through. And legislative tools that could force more in-depth discussion, like filibustering or amending, can't be used.

The CRA is a process that snubs the American people.

- **All proposed federal rules undergo a rigorous review process** that can take years, including multiple opportunities for the public to weigh in.
- **The CRA ignores public opinion** by circumventing the usual legislative process and nullifying input submitted by the public to federal agencies.
- **When federal agencies create rules, they are enforcing the law** as Congress wrote it. Congress should take these agencies' expertise into account.
- **The CRA is an extreme and rarely used tool.** With the CRA, sensible guidance can be undone through a quick, little-understood, and underhanded process. That's why it has only been used once successfully since it was passed in 1996.

The CRA causes significant, lasting harm.

If the CRA is successful, two things happen:

- 1) The regulation is void.
AND
- 2) The agency is prohibited from issuing another, similar rule *ever again*.

BLM's Planning Rule must not be undone with the CRA.

- **With the update in place, the American people have more of a voice** when it comes to land planning. The future of the land that belongs to all Americans can be determined by all Americans.
- **The rule simply makes economic and environmental sense.** It will save taxpayers and the BLM money on avoided conflicts and enables faster response to land management challenges.

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