

# **The Trump Administration Used The Pandemic To Shove Through Environmentally Damaging And Unpopular Projects To Benefit Donors, Lobbyist, And Extractive Industries**

## **DOI And USDA Cut Back On Environmental Reviews To Shove Through Environmentally Threatening Projects During The Pandemic After Trump's Executive Order**

### **Trump Issued An Executive Order For Agencies To Hasten Energy, Environmental, And Natural Resources Projects...**

Trump Issued An Executive Order Requiring Agencies To Expedite "Infrastructure, Energy, Environmental, Or Natural Resources-Related Projects." "Section 9(b) of E.O. 13927 additionally requires agencies to utilize their statutory and regulatory authorities that provide for emergency or expedited treatment of infrastructure, energy, environmental, or natural resource-related projects and project reviews "to the fullest extent permitted to facilitate the Nation's economic recovery.'" [USDA Report On EO 13927, [07/07/20](#)]

### **...Allowing DOI And USDA To Push Through Extractive Industry Projects While Cutting Environmental Reviews.**

In Response To Trump's Executive Order, The Interior Department Reduced "Time Required For Environmental Reviews On All Projects." "I am responding on behalf of the Department of the Interior (Department) to the initial reporting requirement in Executive Order (E.O.) 13927 "On Accelerating the Nation's Economic Recovery from the COVID-19 Emergency by Expediting Infrastructure Investments and Other Activities." I am pleased to report that the Department has developed multiple mechanisms for reducing the time required for environmental reviews on all projects where we are either the lead or a cooperating agency, including activities that will promote economic recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic." [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

- **In Her Letter, Katherine MacGregor Highlights Interior's Expediting Of Environmental Processes Well Before Trump Issued The Executive Order.** "The Department's efforts to streamline environmental reviews have been underway since the start of the Trump Administration." [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]
- **Interior Department And Department Of Agriculture Expedited 82 Projects. 25 Of The Projects Were Pertaining To Oil And Gas Development, Mining, Or Energy Storage.** [USDA Report On EO 13927, [07/07/20](#)]

### **...While The Pandemic Limits Opportunities For Public Comment.**

The Bureau Of Land Management Moved Discussions To Zoom Where The Muted Microphones. "In April, the Bureau of Land Management canceled in-person meetings and

instead held eight Zoom sessions on a plan to develop as many as 250 oil wells in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. [...] She complains that one man's microphone was muted as he was providing his opinion. Whittington-Evans acknowledges the man was swearing and probably would have been asked to leave an in-person meeting. But "you can't just, like, hold your hand over somebody's face in a public hearing," she says. During the Zoom sessions many opponents of the drilling plan complained that the hearing format was unfair." [NPR, [05/28/20](#)]

**Some Hearings Were Cancelled Due To COVID-19, Yet The Comment Periods Were Not Extended Despite Additional Requests.** "In March, federal agencies also canceled hearings on a proposal to remove dams to help threatened salmon in the Columbia River Basin. Thirteen members of Congress from the Pacific Northwest asked to extend the comment period. [...] The request was not granted, and the comment period is now closed. The Trump administration has also moved ahead with changes that affect state water pollution permits and liquefied natural gas development, in addition to relaxing the Obama-era rules on fuel efficiency and pollution in streams and wetlands." [NPR, [05/28/20](#)]

**The Navajo Nation Has Passed Legislation Asking For Oil And Gas Production Activity To Be Delayed As Coronavirus Has Hindered Their Ability To Have Meaningful Discussions On Projects.** "On Thursday, the Navajo Nation Council passed emergency legislation (Resolution No. CS-75-20) requesting both the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) immediately and indefinitely suspend planning activities by the federal government for the oil and gas production activity in the Mancos Shale/Gallup Formation. In-person forums must have meaningful discussions of the Programmatic Agreement and the Farmington Mancos-Gallup Resource Management Plan Amendment. In-person forums of the size that are needed for these meaningful discussions are currently not advisable due to COVID-19." [Navajo Nation Council, [10/01/20](#)]

## **The Trump Administration Has Repeatedly Use The Pandemic To Tear Down Environmental Protection**

### **The Trump Administration Has Rolled Back Environmental Regulations, Limited Wildlife Protections, And Handed More Land Over To Oil And Gas Companies**

**Under The Trump Administration, The Environmental Protection Agency Has Rolled Back Regulations On Power Plant Emissions And Wetland Protections, Among Other Actions.**

"The bulk of the rollbacks identified by the Times have been carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency, which has weakened Obama-era limits on planet-warming carbon dioxide emissions from power plants and from cars and trucks; removed protections from more than half the nation's wetlands; and withdrawn the legal justification for restricting mercury emissions from power plants." [New York Times, updated [10/15/20](#)]

**The Interior Department Has Opened More Public Land To Extractive Industries And Weakened Wildlife Protections.** "At the same time, the Interior Department has worked to open up more land for oil and gas leasing by limiting wildlife protections and weakening environmental requirements for projects." [New York Times, updated [10/15/20](#)]

**Prior To Trump's Executive Order, The Administration Rolled Back NEPA, The Process For Assessing The Environmental Impact Of Federal Projects.** "One of these rules is the 50-year-old National Environmental Policy Act, which created a review process for assessing the environmental impact of federal projects such as building highways or energy plants. The rollback of NEPA narrows the scope of projects that have to go through the environmental review process, she says. But even before the rollback, only 1% of federal projects go through an intensive environmental review." [WBUR, [07/28/20](#)]

**Clients Of David Bernhardt And Daniel Jorjani's Old Employers Had Projects Expedited By The Interior Department And Department Of Agriculture During The Pandemic**

**Jordan Cove Gas Terminal Was Sped Up Despite Slumping Demand And Environmental Concerns After Paying David Bernhardt's Old Lobbying Firm \$40,000**

The Jordan Cove Liquefied Natural Gas Terminal Was Among The Projects Expedited During Coronavirus. [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

The Jordan Cove LNG Terminal Is Owned By Canadian Company Pembina Pipeline Corp. "Owned by Canada's Pembina Pipeline Corp., the terminal would have federal authority to export up to 1.08 billion cubic feet per day of natural gas, from both the United States and Canada." [Washington Post, [07/06/20](#)]

The Jordan Cove LNG Terminal Has Previously Faced Pushback From Landowners And Over Its Threat To Wildlife. "Regulator and public concern about expected harm from the terminal and its 230-mile feeder pipeline in southern Oregon to threatened wildlife species and to landowners had slowed the project previously." [Washington Post, [07/06/20](#)]

The Jordan Cove Terminal Was Expedited Despite Slumping Energy Demand. "The administration's export authorization for the Oregon project comes as legal challenges and slumping consumer energy demand amid the coronavirus pandemic and recession block some of the country's most prominent oil and gas pipeline projects." [Washington Post, [07/06/20](#)]

Jordan Cove Energy Project Has Spent \$170,000 On Lobbying In 2020. [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/19/20](#)]

- **Included In That Total, Jordan Cove Energy Project Has Paid Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck \$40,000 To Lobby On Issues "Supporting The Establishment Of An LNG Export Facility" In 2020.** [Senate Lobbying Database, Lobbying Report, [07/19/20](#)] [Senate Lobbying Database, Lobbying Report, [04/20/20](#)]
- **BHFS Is One Of The Top-Grossing Lobbying Firms In The Country And Former Employer Of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.** "Before becoming acting secretary, Bernhardt spent about eight years as a partner in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, one of the nation's top-grossing law and lobbying firms, according to public rankings. There he represented energy, mining and Western water interests that deal with the Interior

Department, including two California entities, Westlands Water District – the nation’s largest irrigation district – and Cadiz Inc.” [*LA Times*, [04/11/19](#)]

## **A Brownstein Hyatt Client With A History Of Improperly Disclosed Interior Department Lobbying Got A PPP Bailout And Had Their High Speed Rail Accelerated During The Pandemic**

The Maglev High Speed Rail Was Expedited By The Department Of Agriculture During Coronavirus. [USDA Report On EO 13927, [07/07/20](#)]

The Northeast Maglev, LLC is a company committed to building a "superconducting magnetic levitation train in the Northeast Corridor," connecting Washington D.C., Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York City, and Boston. [Emails between Holly Noles and Catherine Gulac, [page 16](#) and The Northeast Maglev Project, accessed [04/02/19](#)]

Northeast Maglev LLC Got A PPP Bailout For \$350,000-\$1M. [COVID Bailout Tracker, [04/10/20](#)]

Northeast Maglev Has Spent \$390,000 On Lobbying In 2020. [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/20/20](#)]

- **Included In Northeast Maglev’s Lobbying Expenditure Is \$20,000 To David Bernhardt’s Former Employer Brownstein Hyatt Faber Schreck.** [Senate Lobbying Database, Lobbying Report, [04/20/20](#)]
- **BHFS Is One Of The Top-Grossing Lobbying Firms In The Country And Former Employer Of Interior Secretary David Bernhardt.** “Before becoming acting secretary, Bernhardt spent about eight years as a partner in Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, one of the nation’s top-grossing law and lobbying firms, according to public rankings. There he represented energy, mining and Western water interests that deal with the Interior Department, including two California entities, Westlands Water District – the nation’s largest irrigation district – and Cadiz Inc.” [*LA Times*, [04/11/19](#)]
- **In 2017, Brownstein Hyatt Faber Schreck Failed To Timely Report Lobbying Of The Interior Department On Behalf Of Northeast Maglev.** Brownstein Hyatt reported it did not engage in any lobbying activity at the Interior Department on behalf The Northeast Maglev, LLC in 2017. Brownstein, which first registered to lobby on behalf of The Northeast Maglev, LLC on June 1, 2017, did not report it was lobbying the Interior Department on behalf of The Northeast Maglev, LLC until the third quarter of 2018. [Brownstein Hyatt Registration, [06/01/17](#); Brownstein Hyatt Lobbying Report, [Second Quarter 2017](#); Brownstein Hyatt Lobbying Report, [Third Quarter 2017](#); Brownstein Hyatt Lobbying Report, [Fourth Quarter 2017](#); Brownstein Hyatt Lobbying Report, [First Quarter 2018](#); Brownstein Hyatt Lobbying Report, [Second Quarter 2018](#); Brownstein Hyatt Lobbying Report, [Third Quarter 2018](#)]

**Northeast Maglav Has Failed To Answer Questions On Financing The \$10B-\$12B Project Or Concerns Over Its Impact On Neighborhoods.** “Building the D.C.-Baltimore stretch could cost

between \$10 billion and \$12 billion, of which Northeast Maglev had said it has secured \$5 billion from Japan. Residents and local elected leaders along the route have voiced concerns about the project, citing impacts on private and public property and fears that the project will need a public subsidy. Some residents say Northeast Maglev has not provided answers to basic question about the project's financing, how much it will cost to ride once completed, construction impacts on neighborhoods and the depth of the tunnel." [*Washington Post*, [12/17/19](#)]

### **The Bureau Of Land Management Expedited The Borderlands Wind Project After The Owners Spent Over \$2.6M On Lobbying In 2020 – Including Through Daniel Jorjani's Old Employer**

**Borderlands Wind Project Was Expedited During The Coronavirus Pandemic By The Bureau Of Land Management.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**Borderlands Wind Is A Subsidiary Of NextEra Energy Inc.**" Borderlands Wind LLC (a subsidiary of NextEra Energy) is proposing to develop an up to 100-megawatt (MW) wind-powered electrical generation facility in western Catron County, New Mexico." [Bureau Of Land Management, accessed [10/15/20](#)]

**NextEra Energy Inc Has Spent \$2,675,000 On Lobbying In 2020.** [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/15/20](#)]

- **Included In Their Lobbying Total, NextEra Energy Paid Daniel Jorjani's Former Employer Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld \$80,000 For Lobbying In 2020.** [Senate Lobbying Database, [07/20/20](#)] [Senate Lobbying Database, [04/19/20](#)]
- **Daniel Jorjani Previously Worked At Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Feld.** [LinkedIn, Daniel Jorjani, accessed [10/15/20](#)]

**NextEra Energy Has Given \$567,300 To Federal Candidates In The 2020 Election Cycle.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [10/15/20](#)]

### **DOI And USDA Have Repeatedly Sped Up Projects That Threaten Wildlife And Public Lands, Dismissing Environmental Concerns.**

### **The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Environmental Impact Statement Was Hasten During COVID-19 Despite Threats To Water Resources.**

**The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area Environmental Impact Statement And Land Use Plan Were Expedited During Coronavirus.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Plan Has Been Controversial Due To Its Impact On Water Resources In The Area, Concerns The BLM Has Brushed Off.** "The BLM received seven official protests to the final Haiwee plan, published in January, all of which the BLM either dismissed or denied. The Center for Biological Diversity and the Conservation Lands

Foundation, both environmental groups, said the Haiwee development would harm protected public lands. They also accused the BLM of failing to fully analyze geothermal energy's impacts to water resources in the area. The bureau, in its response, said that the geothermal leases would require developers to protect groundwater supplies. It dismissed local water district concerns, saying they have no standing to protest." [Bloomberg, [04/23/20](#)]

**The Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Plan Further Showcases Trump Administration Rollbacks Of Environmental Protections.** "The BLM contends it can balance competing interests with its plans to amend Obama-era restrictions on energy development across 22,000 acres in a region it calls the Haiwee Geothermal Leasing Area. [...] But critics believe it marks the beginning of the end of California's desert protections. During the Obama administration, deals were cut on which lands would be conserved, which would be leased for mining and energy development, and which would be designated for recreation." [Los Angeles Times, [01/23/20](#)]

### **Major Energy Firms Plan To Take Advantage Of The Expedited Converse County Oil And Gas Plan That Threatens Sage Grouse Habitats.**

**The Bureau Of Land Management Expedited The Converse County Oil And Gas Project During The Pandemic.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**Major Oil And Gas Companies Occidental Petroleum, Chesapeake Energy, Devon Energy, And EOG Resources Are Among Energy Firms Planning To Develop Oil And Gas In Converse County.** "A team of energy firms, including Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Chesapeake Energy Corporation, Devon Energy, EOG Resources Inc. and Northwoods Energy, submitted the proposal to develop oil and gas in the eastern Wyoming county." [Casper Star Tribune, [09/04/20](#)]

**The Project Would Threaten Sage Grouse Habitats.** "The BLM is even saying in the final (environmental impact statement) that leks could be abandoned, nests could be destroyed, that nesting sage grouse would be killed. But the proposed alternative still waives timing limitations for grouse in general habitat management area, and the project would disturb over 11,000 acres within core sage grouse habitat or priority habitat management area." [Casper Star Tribune, [09/04/20](#)]

### **Approved Under Illegal Acting Direct William Pendley, The Moneta Divide Natural Gas And Oil Development Project Would Pump 1.26M Gallons Of Polluted Water A Day. It Was Accelerated By The BLM During The Pandemic.**

**During COVID-19, The Bureau Of Land Management Expedited The Moneta Divide Natural Gas And Oil Development Project.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**The Moneta Divide Project Would Pump 1.26M Gallons Of Polluted Water Daily Into A Madison Aquifer.** "A developer at the Moneta Divide gas- and oilfield wants to inject millions of gallons a day of polluted water into the Madison aquifer east of Riverton, a move watchdog groups say threatens the "most valuable" potable aquifer in the state. Aethon Energy, a private Dallas-based firm, filed a 282-page application with the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation

Commission on Aug. 14 seeking an injection permit and “aquifer exemption.” The company seeks to pump up to 1.26 million gallons (30,000 barrels) a day of polluted water 15,000 feet underground, most of it into the Madison formation.” [WyoFiles, [10/13/20](#)]

- **BLM Approved The Developer’s Request To Expand The Oilfield Without Resolving Concerns Over The Pollution.** “The U.S. Bureau of Land Management in August approved Aethon’s request to expand the Moneta Divide gas- and oilfield by 4,250 wells but didn’t resolve the challenge of disposing tainted “produced water.”” [WyoFiles, [10/13/20](#)]

**The Moneta Divide Project Is Among Those Approved Under Illegal Acting Deputy Director William Pendley That Is Now At Risk Of Being Overturned.** “The groups listed amendments for a resource management plan amendment to make way for the Moneta Divide oil and gas project in Wyoming as an example, according to court documents reviewed by the Star-Tribune.” [Casper Star-Tribune, [10/08/20](#)]

### **Fish And Wildlife Accelerated An East Collier Habitat Plan That Would Hurt One Of The Rarest Species In North America.**

**The Fish And Wildlife Service Expedited The Misleadingly Named East Collier Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan During The Pandemic.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**The East Collier Habitat Conservation Plan Was Drafted By Landlords To Cluster Developments Around 45,000 Acres Of Immokalee.** “The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is currently reviewing a proposal – called a Habitat Conservation Plan, drafted by 11 private Collier landowners – that would cluster development on 45,000 acres around Immokalee.” [Naples Daily News, [12/01/18](#)]

**Despite The Name, The Plan Threatened Eight Federally Listed Species Including Cutting Off Vital Corridors For Panthers In The Region.** “But the Conservancy of Southwest Florida says a study it commissioned shows that the proposed development could do just the opposite, potentially fragmenting and severing corridors panthers use to move from one area to the next. [...] The plan, called an HCP for short, is the basis for a proposed 50-year federal environmental permit that would allow development to affect eight federally listed species, three species that are being considered for federal listing, and eight species listed as threatened by the state. Among the animals potentially affected by the plan are wood storks, sandhill cranes, bonneted bats and Eastern indigo snakes.” [Naples Daily News, [12/01/18](#)]

- **The Florida Panther Is One Of The Rarest Species In North America And Would Be Harmed By Losing “Even A Single Additional Acre” Of Their Habitat.** “The Florida panther is one of the rarest species in North America, and is now just in 5% of its historic habitat, which is all concentrated in South Florida. Scientists say that the panther cannot afford to lose even a single additional acre.” [WUSF, [09/16/20](#)]

### **The Lake Powell Pipeline Was Expedited By Interior Despite Requests From Six States To Slow Down The Review Process.**

**The Bureau Of Reclamation Expedited The Lake Powell Pipeline During Coronavirus.**  
[Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**Vincent Divito Had A Phone Call With Lake Powell Pipeline Project Manager John Fredell On May 29, 2018.** [Vincent Divito 2018 Calendar, accessed [12/14/20](#)]

**Vincent Divito Had A Meeting With Lake Powell Pipeline Project Manager John Fredell And Consultants On July 19, 2018.** [Vincent Divito 2018 Calendar, accessed [12/14/20](#)]

**Vincent Divito Had A Meeting Regarding “Lake Powell Pipeline And ‘One Federal Decision’ Policy” On June 27, 2018.** [Vincent Divito 2018 Calendar, accessed [12/14/20](#)]

**Vincent Divito Has A Meeting Regarding The Lake Powell Pipeline On August 22, 2018.** [Vincent Divito 2018 Calendar, accessed [12/14/20](#)]

**Six States Requested BOR Slow Down Their Review Of The Lake Powell Pipeline.** “State water officials have asked the Bureau of Reclamation to pump the brakes on their review of the controversial Lake Powell Pipeline after six states with rights to Colorado River water threatened to sue over the project earlier this month.” [*The Spectrum*, [09/25/20](#)]

- **The States Warned Against Moving Forward With The Lake Powell Pipeline Without First Resolving Legal Questions About Water Access.** “The six states fear approval of the Utah project without first resolving the legal questions would upset the delicate web of agreements that has held the interstate compact together through a period when the river has experienced extraordinary pressure from drought and explosive population growth.”

**The Lake Powell Pipeline Also Faces Push Back For Environmental Reasons As The River Flow Has Already Been Depleted.** “In its own comments, Nevada went further, insisting Utah do more to conserve water before embarking on a project that could further deplete Lake Mead, which has been less than half full for several years. [...] In the meantime, the river’s flow has become seriously depleted and levels on its two largest reservoirs have dropped to the point where their continued operation is in question.” [*Salt Lake Tribune*, [10/09/10](#)]

### **During Coronavirus, BLM Accelerated The Controversial North Corridor Highway Project That Threatens Endangered Desert Tortoises In A National Conservation Area.**

**During Coronavirus, BLM Expedited The Northern Corridor Highway Project.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**The Northern Corridor Highway Project Threatens Endangered Desert Tortoises In The Red Cliffs National Conservation Area.** “The proposed Northern Corridor Highway would cut through the southern end of the Red Cliffs National Conservation Area, connecting Washington City with Santa Clara and Ivins and going through land set aside to protect the endangered desert tortoise.” [*Moab Sun News*, [09/24/20](#)]



**The Expedited Plan Also Includes An Amendment To Allow “Direct Harm Or Habitat Destruction To An Endangered Species” If Other Protection Steps Are Taken Elsewhere.**

“The scoping period also includes an opportunity for people to comment on whether the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can issue an incidental take permit for the reserve in relation to the road. The permit allows for entities to cause direct harm or habitat destruction to an endangered species – like the Mojave desert tortoises – if additional steps are taken to protect the animal elsewhere.” [*The Spectrum*, [12/14/19](#)]

**The Contentious Mountain Valley Pipeline Has Been Expedited During The Pandemic Despite Threats To Wildlife, Ongoing Litigation, And Lacking Necessary Permits.**

DOI Expedited The Mountain Valley Pipeline Southgate During The Pandemic. [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

The Mountain Valley Pipeline LLC Has Spent \$180,000 On Lobbying In 2020. [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/19/20](#)]

**The Mountain Valley Pipeline Was Denied The Necessary Water Quality Certification In August, 2020.** “North Carolina denied a water quality certification needed to build an extension of the Mountain Valley Pipeline into the state.” [*Bloomberg Law*, [08/11/20](#)]

**Several Of The Mountain Valley Pipeline’s Permits Are Suspended Or In Litigation.** “The state Department of Environmental Quality announced Tuesday that it was denying the certification and an associated buffer authorization because of the uncertainty surrounding the natural gas project. Several permits associated with the main line have been suspended or are in litigation, the department said in a letter to developers.” [*Bloomberg Law*, [08/11/20](#)]

**The Mountain Valley Pipeline Is Facing Legal Action For Endangered Species Act Violations After Failing To Consult With Federal Wildlife Services.** “The agency was required under the act to consult with the federal wildlife services on the cumulative impact of NWP 12-authorized activities on protected species or their habitat. Its failure to do so when reinstating the permit is arbitrary, capricious, and otherwise not in accordance with the law, the groups say. Claims alleging an agency’s violation of the ESA must be brought under the act’s citizen-suit provision, which gives district courts jurisdiction, the Army Corps argued.” [*Bloomberg*, [10/09/20](#)]

**The Lower Valley Energy Crow Creek Pipeline Has Faced Lawsuits Over Endangered Species Act Violation And Would Run Through Six Roadless Areas In A National Forest. The Forest Service Expedited The Plan During The Pandemic.**

The US Forest Service Expedited The Caribou-Targhee National Forest Lower Valley Energy Crow Creek Pipeline Project During The Pandemic. [USDA Report On EO 13927, [07/07/20](#)]

**The Lower Valley Energy Crow Creek Pipeline Would Create A Road Through Six Roadless Areas While Cutting Through The Caribou-Targhee National Forest.** “The environmental groups said an 18-mile portion of the 50-mile pipeline would cut a corridor through Caribou-

Targhee National Forest and create a road through six roadless areas. The 2001 Roadless Rule prevents road construction and timber harvest in designated roadless areas, which are typically 5,000 acres or larger." [*Casper Star Tribune*, [05/26/20](#)]

**The Lower Valley Energy Crow Creek Pipeline Has Faced Lawsuits Over Violating The Endangered Species Act, Threatening Multiple Species In The Region.** "The groups contend that Forest Service approval of the Crow Creek Pipeline Project in November violated the Endangered Species Act. The groups also said the Forest Service violated its own requirements involving sage grouse contained in its 2015 Forest Plan. [...] Along with affecting grizzly bears, the groups said the pipeline could also harm Ute Ladies' tresses orchid and yellow-billed cuckoo, which are also on the endangered species list. The groups also say lynx and wolverine, which are candidates for listing, could be in the area." [*Casper Star Tribune*, [05/26/20](#)]

### **The Forest Service Hastened The Lake Elsinore Advanced Pump Storage Project That Would "Obliterate" A Sacred Site Of The Pechanga Bank Of Luiseño Indians.**

The Forest Service Expedited The Lake Elsinore Advanced Pump Storage (LEAPS) During COVID-19. [USDA Report On EO 13927, [07/07/20](#)]

**The LEAPS Project Would "Obliterate" A Sacred Site Of The Pechanga Bank Of Luiseño Indians.** "The Pechanga Band of Luiseño Indians once warned that a proposed mine would obliterate a sacred site equal to the Biblical Garden of Eden. Now, the southwest Riverside County tribe is sounding a similar alarm about the Lake Elsinore Advanced Pumped Storage Project, or LEAPS, a hydroelectric project proposed for the Lake Elsinore area." [*The Press-Enterprise*, [08/25/20](#)]

**As Of August 4, 2020, The LEAPS Project Lacked Details On Endangered Species Protections.** "On Aug. 4, Riverside County supervisors approved written comments to the federal commission that question the need for LEAPS and call for a more rigorous environmental review. The new application lacks crucial details, including how endangered species would be protected, the board's comments read." [*The Press-Enterprise*, [08/25/20](#)]

### **Admin Expediting Projects**

Bruce Westerman Is A Republican Serving Arkansas's Fourth Congressional District Since 2015. [Congress.gov, Bruce Westerman, accessed [10/01/20](#)]

**Companies That Spent Millions On Lobbying And Donations In 2020 Saw Their Projects Accelerated By The Trump Administration**

**The Surry-Skiffs Creek Transmission Line Threatens Historic And Environmental Resources, Yet It Was Expedited After The Parent Company Gave Hundreds Of Thousands To Federal Candidates And Spent Nearly \$2M On Lobbying.**

**The Surry-Skiffs Creek-Whealton Aerial Transmission Line Was Expedited By The Department Of Interior During COVID-19.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**The Surry-Skiffes Creek Transmission Line Is Owned By Dominion Energy.** [Dominion Energy, accessed [10/19/20](#)]

**Dominion Energy Has Spent \$1,905,000 On Lobbying In 2020.** [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/19/20](#)]

**Dominion Energy Has Given \$366,000 to Federal Candidates In The 2020 Cycle.** [OpenSecrets, accessed [10/19/20](#)]

**The Surry-Skiffes Creek Transmission Line Has Previously Been Criticized For Its Threat To “Environmental And Historic Resources.”** “On the other side of the issue, preservationists and conservationists have opposed the line, saying it threatens local environmental and historic resources.” [Virginia Gazette, [01/17/20](#)]

- **The Surry-Skiffes Creek Transmission Line Would Specifically Threaten The Colonial National Historic Park, Carter’s Grove, And The Colonial Parkway.** “But a proposed 8-mile transmission line to connect the Peninsula to a higher voltage network has faced fierce opposition because it would be close to national historic landmark Carter's Grove, the Colonial Parkway and the Colonial National Historical Park which includes Historic Jamestowne in addition to crossing the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.” [Chicago Tribune, [02/04/17](#)]

**A Transmission Line Project Was Expedited During COVID-19 Despite “Nearly Unanimous Opposition” After One Of The Line Owners Spent \$90,000 On Lobbying.**

**The USDA And Fish And Wildlife Service Expedited The Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Project.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**American Transmission Co, ITC Midwest LLC, And Dairyland Power Cooperative Are Involved In The Transmission Line Project.** “American Transmission Co., ITC Midwest LLC and Dairyland Power Cooperative have plans for a high-voltage transmission line connecting northeast Iowa and western Wisconsin that would provide economic savings, support renewable energy policy and improve electric system reliability.” [Cardinal-Hickory Creek, accessed [10/19/20](#)]

**The American Transmission Co Has Spent \$90,000 On Lobbying In 2020.** [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/19/20](#)]

**The Cardinal-Hickory Creek Transmission Line Received “Nearly Unanimous Opposition” Citing A “Litany Of Concerns” Including High Cost To Ratepayers.** “Following six years of public involvement and regulatory review, during which citizen groups and government agencies in the Driftless Area voiced nearly unanimous opposition to the proposal, ITC

Midwest and Dairyland Power Cooperative have received approval for the Cardinal-Hickory Creek (CHC) Transmission Line Project from the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB). [...] A brief filed by Dane County with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin last year claimed there is no need for the power transmission line, citing “a litany of concerns” and arguing it is “readily apparent” the line shouldn’t be built at this time. [...] Critics of the line say the total cost to ratepayers will be even more than the estimated price tag of the CHC. They claim that it will cost more than \$270 billion due to the cost of constructing new power stations to create energy for the line.” [*Middleton Times*, [06/06/20](#)]

### **Coeur Mining Has Spent \$120,000 On Lobbying And Donated \$92,500 To Candidates In 2020. Their Silver And Gold Mine Was Expedited During The Pandemic.**

**Coeur Mining’s Rochester Silver And Gold Mine Plan Was Expedited By The Bureau Of Land Management During Coronavirus.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

- **BLMs Actions Support The Extension Of The Mine’s Life.** “U.S. Bureau of Land Management issued a record of decision on March 30 approving the expansion project at Rochester near Lovelock in Pershing County that includes construction of a new leach pad, a new crushing facility equipped with a second high-pressure grinding roll unit and a new Merrill-Crowe process plant, as well as additional infrastructure to support the extension of Rochester’s mine life.” [*Elko Free Press*, [06/04/20](#)]

**Coeur Mining Inc Spent \$120,000 On Lobbying Through Freemyer & Associates In 2020 On “Mining, EPA, And Department Of Interior Issues.”** [Senate Lobbying Database, Coeur Mining Inc First Quarter Report, [04/20/20](#)] [Senate Lobbying Database, Coeur Mining Inc Second Quarter Report, [07/24/20](#)]

- **Freemyer & Associates Lobbies Mostly For Mining Corporations.** Its other clients include Alton Coal Development, Americas Gold and Silver, Coeur Mining, Elko Mining Group, Enefit American Oil, Nev Nevada Resources, and Western Exploration, among others. [Senate Lobbying Disclosure, accessed [08/05/20](#)]

**Coeur Mining PAC Has Given \$92,500 To Federal Candidates In The 2020 Election Cycle.** [OpenSecrets, Coeur Mining, accessed [10/14/20](#)]

### **The Trump Administration Accelerated Four Different Plans That Would Open Up Public Lands And Refuges In Alaska To Oil And Gas Drilling**

### **The Integrated Activity Plan For The National Petroleum Reserve In Alaska As BLM Attempts To Open 82% Of The Refuge To Fossil Fuel Extraction...**

**The Bureau Of Land Management Expedited The Integrated Activity Plan For The National Petroleum Reserve In Alaska.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**BLM Wants 82% Of The Critical Refuge Next To The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge For Fossil Extraction.** “The Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management wants to allow fossil fuel extraction in roughly 82 percent of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska on the state’s North Slope. Less famous than the nearby Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, it is one of the most ecologically valuable tracts of federal property – providing a critical refuge to polar bears as well as tens of thousands of migrating caribou and waterfowl.” [*Washington Post*, [06/25/20](#)]

- **The Expedited Plan Coincides With The Trump Administration Opening 1.6M Acres Of The Nearby Arctic National Wildlife Refuge To Drilling.** “The Trump administration said Monday it will open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, a move that will allow oil and gas rights to be auctioned off in the heart of one of the nation’s most iconic wild places. Achieving a goal Republicans have sought for 40 years, the action marks a capstone for an administration that has ignored calls to reduce fossil fuel consumption in the face of climate change. The move will allow leasing on the 1.6 million-acre coastal plain, part of a nearly pristine wilderness that is home to migrating caribou and waterfowl as well as polar bears and foxes that live there year-round.” [*Washington Post*, [08/17/20](#)]

### **...Ignoring Recommendations To Protect To Reserve From Trump’s Own Fish And Wildlife Service.**

**The Trump Administration’s Own Fish And Wildlife Services Recommended Keeping The Reserves Current Safeguards In Order To Protect Its “Ecologic Integrity.”** “U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service officials last year recommended the administration maintain the long-standing safeguards, according to documents obtained under the Freedom of Information Act by The Wilderness Society. In them, the agency said it believes the “full protection of these areas is necessary to sustain the biodiversity and ecologic integrity of the North Slope/coastal plain, especially given the impacts of climate change including increased coastal erosion and permafrost subsidence.”” [*Washington Post*, [06/25/20](#)]

### **The Project Benefits ConocoPhillips, A Big Oil Company That Had Another Of Their Plans Expedited, Has Spent Over \$3M On Lobbying In 2020, And Is One Of David Bernhardt’s Former Clients.**

**ConocoPhillips Has Already Been Exploring The National Petroleum Reserve In Alaska For Their Willow Master Development Plan.** “ConocoPhillips Alaska’s Willow oil project took a final step toward approval Thursday with the Bureau of Land Management’s publication of the final environmental review for the development. The company plans to produce up to 590 million barrels of oil through at least 2050 as part of the Willow Master Development Plan for the eastern edge of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska on the Arctic Ocean coastal plain, according to the land bureau.” [*Bloomberg*, [08/13/20](#)]

- **The Willow Master Development Plan Was Also Expedited By The Bureau Of Land Management After Trump’s Executive Order.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

- **ConocoPhillips Has Spent \$3.16M On Lobbying In 2020.** [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/15/20](#)]
- **ConocoPhillips PAC Has Give \$152,000 To Federal Candidates In 2020.** [OpenSecrets, ConocoPhillips PAC, accessed [10/15/20](#)]
- **ConocoPhillips Is A Member Of The US Oil And Gas Association, A Former David Bernhardt Client.** [Conoco Phillips 2017 Trade Association Memberships, [accessed 02/20/19](#)]
- **David Bernhardt is Recused from Working on Particular Matters Involving the U.S. Oil and Gas Association until August 3, 2019 Under EO 13770.** [[Bernhardt Ethics Agreement](#), 8/15/17]

### **BLM Is Additional Expediting Plans To Open 1.6M Acres Of The Nearby Arctic National Wildlife Refuge For Drilling...**

**The Bureau Of Land Management Expedited A Plan To Open The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge For Drilling During The Global Pandemic.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**The Trump Administration Finalized A Plan To Open The 1.6M Acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge To Oil And Gas Drilling.** “The Trump administration finalized plans Monday to open up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, a move that will auction off oil and gas rights in the heart of one of the nation’s most iconic wild places. The move will allow leasing on the 1.6 million-acre coastal plain, the center of a nearly pristine wilderness home to migrating caribou and waterfowl as well as polar bears and foxes that live there year-round.” [*Washington Post*, [08/17/20](#)]

### **...Despite Insufficient Environmental Assessments And Threats To Endangered Species In The Refuge.**

**The BLM Claims The Plans New Well Pads And Pipelines Would Not Have An Undue Environmental Impact, However The Administration Restricted The Environmental Analysis To Only Consider 2,000 Acres.** “In issuing a “record of decision,” officials at the Interior Department’s Bureau of Land Management concluded that establishing a network of well pads and pipelines would not pose an undue threat to the wildlife that depend on the refuge for survival. [...] David J. Hayes, who served as Interior deputy secretary under both Bill Clinton and Barack Obama, said he believes the administration’s decision is legally vulnerable because it restricted its environmental analysis to the leasing stage and said it would only affect 2,000 acres on the surface.” [*Washington Post*, [08/17/20](#)]

**Interior Downplayed The Impact Drilling Will Have On The Area, Especially Threatening Endangered Polar Bears, While Violating Four Environment And Wildlife Protection Acts.** “The Gwich’in is the first group to file a lawsuit against Interior’s decision last week to open the 10-02 area of the refuge. In its complaint, the tribe alleges Interior’s decision violated the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Wilderness Act and the Endangered Species Act. [...] Critics have contended that Interior’s

environmental review downplays the impact that drilling in the area would have on polar bears, an animal listed as threatened under the endangered species act." [*Politico Pro*, [08/24/20](#)]

### **Interior Continued Their Attack On Alaska's Natural Resources Pushing Forward The Ambler Mining District Industrial Road Access...**

**The Ambler Mining District Industrial Road Access Was Expedited During The COVID-19 Pandemic.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

### **...Despite Major Environmental Concerns...**

**The Ambler Road Would Run Through The Arctic National Park.** "The Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Project, known as the Ambler Road, would stretch from the Dalton Highway to the Ambler Mining District northeast of Kotzebue and cross Gates of the Arctic National Park." [*Alaska Public Media*, [03/31/20](#)]

- **According To The Army Corps Of Engineers, Even If The Road Didn't Pass Through A National Park It Would Still Negatively Affect Wildlife, Air And Water Quality, And Erosion.** "The Army Corps of Engineers released its final Environmental Impact Statement on the road on Friday. They say all three suggested road routes, including one that doesn't cross through a national park, could impact air and water quality, wildlife migration and erosion in the region." [*Alaska Public Media*, [03/31/20](#)]

### **...And Limited Chance For Public Comment.**

**The Alaska Industrial Development And Export Authority Limited Chances For Public Comment, Giving Little Notice Of Their Board Meeting And Shortening Public Testimony Time.** "The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority board received overwhelming critical public testimony at a board meeting Friday. The backlash didn't stop the board from putting \$35 million toward the controversial Ambler Road project. People who testified questioned the timing of the action, amid the coronavirus pandemic. [...] The board scheduled the meeting with three days notice and some felt there wasn't time for the public to weigh in on the motions. Public testimony per person had also been reduced from the listed three minutes down to two, which Georgette criticized." [*Alaska Public Media*, [03/31/20](#)]

### **An Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project Was Also Expedited To Allowing Drilling Despite Doubts Over Its Economic Viability.**

**FWS, NPS, And BLM Moved Expedited An Alaska Liquefied Natural Gas Project During Coronavirus.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

**The Alaska LNG Project Is Another Attempt To Drill In Alaska Despite Doubts Over Its Economic Viability.** "The Alaska LNG Project is the latest attempt to commercialize the large volumes of North Slope natural gas. [...] However, frequently changing market and political conditions, combined with the tremendous expense of developing a North Slope gas project, have scuttled prior efforts. To that end, it's also unclear at this point if the Alaska LNG Project is

economically viable, especially at current low prices amid a global oversupply.” [Anchorage Daily News, [03/06/20](#)]

## **J.R. Simplot Co Got Three Different Project Expedited During The Pandemic, Including One That Threatens Shoshone-Bannock Tribes’ Cultural Resources**

### **Three J.R. Simplot Co Projects Were Accelerated During The Pandemic Despite Concerns Over Pollution And Damage To Cultural Resources.**

**J.R. Simplot Co’s Dairy Syncline Phosphate Mine Project Was Expedited By The Bureau Of Land Management During Coronavirus.** [Letter From Katherine MacGregor To Larry Kudlow, [07/15/20](#)]

- **The Dairy Syncline Phosphate Mine Project Is Controlled By J.R. Simplot Co.** “Federal land managers have released a final plan for a phosphate mine with five open pits as well as reclamation work in eastern Idaho proposed by Idaho-based J.R. Simplot Company. The U.S. Bureau of Land Management and U.S. Forest Service released the jointly-prepared final environmental impact statement Friday for the Dairy Syncline Mine Project about 14 miles (23 miles) east of Soda Springs.” [AP, [11/11/19](#)]

**The East Smoky Panel Phosphate Mine Project Was Expedited By The Bureau Of Land Management And Department Of Agriculture During The Pandemic.** “The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Falls District and USDA Forest Service (USFS) Caribou-Targhee National Forest today each released a Record of Decision (ROD) approving portions of the East Smoky Panel Mine and Reclamation Plan under their jurisdiction. The J.R. Simplot Company (Simplot) proposed expanding the Smoky Canyon Mine into the East Smoky Panel” [Bureau Of Land Management, [07/28/20](#)]

**J.R. Simplot’s Blackrock Land Exchange Was Expedited By The Bureau Of Land Management.** “As part of the Trump Administration’s commitment to responsibly develop the nation’s natural resources, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Idaho Falls District Office has approved the Blackrock Land Exchange. The exchange will enable the J.R. Simplot Company (Simplot) to expand its operations at the Don Plant near Pocatello.” [Bureau Of Land Management, [08/13/20](#)]

- **The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes Have Opposed The Land Exchange Over Cultural Resource Concerns And Pollution.** “The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, however, issued a statement indicating they plan to appeal the exchange. The tribes are concerned the agreement would pave the way for further pollution of an already contaminated site, imperiling cultural resources. [...] Among the cultural resource concerns, Teton said the agreement could lead to continued groundwater contamination reaching the Fort Hall Bottoms – sacred land where members of the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes go to exercise their hunting and fishing treaty rights.” [Post Register, [08/15/20](#)]

**J.R. Simplot Co Spent \$40,000 In 2020 On Lobbying, Including Advocating For Agriculture Trade Issues And COVID 19 Relief Issues.** [Senate Lobbying Database, Coeur Mining Inc First Quarter Report, [06/20/20](#)] [Senate Lobbying Database, Coeur Mining Inc Second Quarter



Report, [07/14/20](#)]

J.R. Simplot Co's PAC Has Given \$39,000 To Federal Candidates In 2020. [OpenSecrets, J.R. Simplot Co, accessed [10/14/20](#)]

**Midas Gold Has Previously Been In Trouble For Illegal Pollution And Authoring Their Own Biological Assessment Of Their Mine. Now Under The Ownership Of A Billionaire Former Trump Campaigner The Project Is Getting Expedited.**

### **The Forest Service Expedited A Mine Controlled By A Billionaire Former Hedge Fund Owner That Worked For Trump's 2016 Campaign...**

The Forest Service Expedited Midas Gold's Stibnite Gold Mine Project During The Pandemic. [USDA Report On EO 13927, [07/07/20](#)]

In August, Billionaire-Owned Former Hedge Fund Paulson & Co Took A Majority Stake In Midas Gold Corp. "Paulson & Co. Inc. is a former hedge fund run by billionaire John Paulson, who outlined plans in July to convert the firm into a family office. Paulson & Co. declared Aug. 26 that it would take a majority stake in Midas Gold Corp., a mineral exploration company heading the feasibility-stage Stibnite gold-silver-antimony project in Idaho." [S&P Global, [09/03/20](#)]

- **Paulson & Co's Owner, John Paulson, Has Hosted Trump Fundraisers And Worked On Trump's 2016 President Campaign.** "Paulson served on the economic team of Trump's 2016 presidential campaign and has hosted big-dollar fundraisers for Trump as recently as August. The billionaire has taken a keen interest in mining and gold over the years, but the timing of his interest in this particular company led environmentalists to question whether it could play a role in the U.S. government's advancement of the project." [S&P Global, [09/03/20](#)]

### **...After Letting The Mining Company, Midas Gold, Author Their Own Biological Assessment...**

In 2018, The Forest Service Let Midas Gold Lead The Biological Assessment Of The Mine's Impact On Endangered Species. "The Forest Service said they didn't want Midas Gold helping to write the document because the massive project would likely harm protected fish. But by October 2018 – and after the Trump officials became involved – Midas Gold was not only a participant, it had taken over leading the process and writing the document." [AP, [01/27/20](#)]

### **...While Illegally Polluting An Area That Has Endured Decades Of Environmental Damage From Mines.**

Midas Gold Was Sued In 2019 For Illegal Discharge Of Toxic Pollutants At The Stibnite Site. "Midas Gold was sued in 2019 by the Nez Perce Tribe under the Clean Water Act for its alleged role in illegal discharges of arsenic, cyanide, mercury and other toxic pollutants at the Stibnite

project site. In January, the judge overseeing the case denied a request by Midas Gold to stay the case, and legal proceedings are ongoing." [S&P Global, [09/03/20](#)]

**The Midas Gold Mine Would Double The Size Of An Already Disturbed Mining Area That Is The Source Of Elevated Arsenic And Blocks A Salmon Spawning Stream.** "Mining in the area about 40 miles (65 kilometers) east of McCall dates back more than a century and has resulted in two open pits, including one that has been blocking a salmon spawning stream since the 1930s. The site also has extensive tailings left from mining operations that are the source of elevated levels of arsenic. [...] Midas Gold plans additional mining in the two open pits and to create a third open pit. The work would roughly double the size of the disturbed mining area to about 2,000 acres (800 hectares) and eliminate some previous reclamation work." [AP, [01/27/20](#)]

### **Interior Expedited A Pipeline That Caused A 2015 Oil Spill, Benefitting ExxonMobil And Plains All American After Spending Hundreds Of Thousands On Lobbying And Donations**

#### **The Plains Pipeline Has Been Hastened By Interior And The Forest Service After The Pipeline Owners Spent \$400,000 On Lobbying...**

The Department Of Interior And US Forest Service Expedited The Plains Pipeline During The Pandemic. [USDA Report On EO 13927, [07/07/20](#)]

Plains All American Pipeline Has Spent \$400,000 On Lobbying In 2020 Alone. [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/20/20](#)]

Plains All American Pipeline PAC Has Given \$54,699 To Federal Candidates In The 2020 Election Cycle. [OpenSecrets, accessed [10/20/20](#)]

James Cason Had An External Meeting Regarding The Plains Pipeline Project On July 30, 2018. [James Cason January-November 2018 Calendar, accessed [12/14/20](#)]

#### **...To The Benefit Of ExxonMobil, A Company Trump Recently Bragged About Doing Favors For In Exchange For Campaign Donations.**

The Pipeline Would Benefit ExxonMobil By Allowing Them To Reopen Certain Offshore Platforms. "The pipeline replacement project would allow ExxonMobil to reopen offshore platforms off the Santa Barbara coast." [The Tribune, [02/27/19](#)]

- ExxonMobil Spent \$150,000 On Lobbying In 2020. [Senate Lobbying Database, accessed [10/20/20](#)]
- In Just 2020, ExxonMobil's PAC Has Given \$956,300 To Federal Candidates. [OpenSecrets, accessed [10/20/20](#)]

- **Trump Recently Boasted About Doing Favors For ExxonMobil In Exchange For Campaign Donations.** ““I call the head of Exxon. I don’t know, you know, ‘How are you doing? How’s energy coming? When are you doing the exploration? Oh, you need a couple of permits?’” Trump told supporters. “I say, ‘You know, I’d love [for] you to send me \$25 million for the campaign.’ ‘Absolutely sir, why didn’t you ask? Would you like some more?’” [Washington Post, [10/20/20](#)]

## **Plains All American Pipeline Was Previously Found Guilty For Their Role In A 2015 Oil Spill From The Same Pipeline That’s Now Being Expedited.**

**The Plains Pipeline Proposal Would Rebuild A Corroded Pipeline That Caused An Oil Spill In 2015.** “Santa Barbara County is hosting scoping meetings in Santa Barbara and Arroyo Grande for the Plains All-American Pipeline’s proposal to rebuild a pipeline that corroded, leading to an oil spill on Refugio State Beach in May 2015.” [The Tribune, [02/27/19](#)]

- **Plains All American Pipeline Was Found Guilty In 2018 For Felony Connection To The Oil Spill, Failing To Respond In A Timely Manner, And Killing Animals.** “In 2018, Plains was found guilty of several crimes including a felony in connection to the Refugio Oil Spill, for failing to properly maintain the line, failing to inform emergency response agencies about the spill in a timely fashion and for killing animals.” [The Tribune, [01/31/19](#)]

**The Pipeline Would Threaten Multiple Endangered Species Habitats In The Carrizo Plain And Los Padres National Forest.** “The pipeline would cross several areas of endangered species habitat in the Carrizo Plain and Los Padres National Forest.” [The Tribune, [02/27/19](#)]

## **USDA Expedited A Mine In Minnesota’s Boundary Waters. Its Owner Is A Chilean Billionaire Who Rents A House To Ivanka Trump**

### **USDA Identified The Controversial Twin Metals Mine For Expedited Approval**

**The US Department Of Agriculture Recommended Expediting Twin Metals.** Twin Metals is an “undeground copper, nickel, platinum group metals and cobalt mine in Minnesota.” [EO 13927 USDA Report on Actions, [07/07/20](#)]

**In December 2016, The Obama Administration Denied Renewing Mining Leases to Twin Metals Minnesota.** “In a major victory for environmentalists, the federal government said it will not renew two mineral leases held by Twin Metals Minnesota, saying its proposed copper mine near Ely poses too great a risk of contaminating the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.” [Star Tribune, 12/15/16]

- **Joint Decision Meant Any Mine Construction Was Effectively Halted.** “The joint decision by the Agriculture and Interior departments, which found that the region’s ecological richness and unusual hydrology merited special protection from a possible \$3 billion copper-nickel mine, highlights the extent to which the president is determined to exercise his executive authority with just a month left in office. While the move by the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service does not constitute a rule, it

effectively halts construction of any mine in the region and triggers a detailed scientific and policy review of future operations there." [[Washington Post](#), 12/16/16]

- **The Forest Service Took Additional Steps To Protect Areas Outside of Twin Metals Leases.** "In a related and emphatic step, the Forest Service said it also wants to protect 234,000 acres outside the Boundary Waters from mining and geothermal activity – an expanse considerably larger than the area covered by Twin Metals' mineral leases." [[Star Tribune](#), 12/15/16]
- **The Forest Service Also Asked Interior To Withdraw Affected Areas From Mining Activities For The Next 20 Years.** "The Forest Service said it has applied to the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw the affected acres, all of which lie inside Minnesota's Superior National Forest, from mining activity for the next 20 years. A final decision on that request could take up to two years." [[Star Tribune](#), 12/15/16]

### **Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner Rent A Home From A Chilean Billionaire Whose Family Owns Twin Metals Project**

**Ivanka Trump And Jared Kushner Rented Washington D.C. Home From Chilean Billionaire.** "Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner are renting a Washington, D.C., home from a Chilean billionaire who bought it after the November election and whose company is embroiled in a dispute with the U.S. government over a mine potentially worth billions of dollars." [[Wall Street Journal](#), 03/08/17]

**The Home Was Originally Purchased In December 2016 By A Company Controlled By Andrónico Luksic.** "The six-bedroom house in the capital's Kalorama neighborhood was bought for \$5.5 million in late December by a company controlled by Andrónico Luksic, according to public records and interviews. Mr. Luksic's family is the wealthiest in Chile, by some accounts, and controls a mining, banking and industrial empire that Forbes estimates is valued at \$13.1 billion." [[Wall Street Journal](#), 03/08/17]

**As Of February 2019, Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner Still Lived In the Kalorama Neighborhood Of Washington, D.C.** "Jared and Ivanka live in a \$6 million Kalorama home – they're reportedly renting it – around the corner from Barack and Michelle Obama, who recently bought the place they were previously renting." [[Esquire](#), 02/01/19]

### **Andrónico Luksic's Family Owns The Twin Metals Mine Project**

**Twin Metals Minnesota Is Owned By Mining Company Antofagasta.** "Twin Metals, which is owned by the Chilean mining company Antofagasta, wants to build an underground mine and ore processing facility near Ely on Birch Lake, which flows into the popular wilderness area." [[Associated Press](#), 06/25/18]

**Luksic 's Family Controls Antofagasta, Which Owns a 100 Percent Interest In Twin Metals Mine Project.** "President Donald Trump's daughter and son-in-law are renting a house from the Chilean family that owns the Twin Metals copper mining project proposed near Ely, according to a report Wednesday in the Wall Street Journal. The report said Ivanka Trump and

Jared Kushner are renting a Washington home owned by Chilean billionaire Andronico Luksic, whose family controls Antofagasta, the Chilean global mining giant that owns a 100 percent interest in the Twin Metals project." [[Duluth News Tribune](#), 03/08/17]