



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

NEWS RELEASE

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PHOTOS: EPA Administrator Pruitt Visits Utah to Kick-Off State Action Tour *Administrator Pruitt to re-visit Utah's 2015 Regional Haze Plan*

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah – (July 18, 2017) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt began a multistate tour in Utah today where he held talks with state and local leaders in regard to EPA issues that are important to Utah, including the agency's recent decision proposal to rescind the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule—the first step in a comprehensive, two-step process to review and revise the definition of WOTUS. Administrator Pruitt also announced EPA's decision to revisit Utah's 2015 regional haze plan to allow the state to replace its federal plan with one that better reflects local needs.

Administrator Pruitt joined Utah Governor Gary Herbert and Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes at the State Capitol for a roundtable focused on these issues and the importance of restoring cooperative federalism. Attorney General Reyes joined a 20-state coalition on June 20, 2017, requesting EPA preserve the role of the states in protecting the nation's water sources.

"EPA is committed to re-evaluating the definition of a 'Water of the United States' ~~to quickly~~ while respecting traditional state and local powers," **said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt.** "By working hand-in-hand with Governor Herbert and Attorney General Reyes, we can help keep waters pollution-free, while also promoting economic growth and minimizing regulatory burdens for farmers, ranchers, and property owners."

Administrator Pruitt began the day touring Bitner Ranch and Conservatory in Park City to see first-hand how a local Utah ranch would be affected by expanded federal regulations, pursuant to through the 2015 definitions of "navigable waters," as defined in the 2015 WOTUS rule.

This morning Administrator Pruitt joined 2News This Morning on KUTV to discuss his visit to Utah and EPA's decision to re-evaluate WOTUS and Utah's 2015 regional haze plan. You can watch the interview here:
<LINK TO TV HIT>.

Follow EPA's State Action Tour on social media, at: #EPAinAction #WOTUS.

Commented [FD1]: Could be read as EPA-inaction.

<INSERT PHOTO(S)>



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PHOTOS: EPA Administrator Pruitt Continues State Action Tour in Minnesota *Meetings Include Top State Officials and Agriculture Stakeholders*

ST. PAUL, Minn. – (July 19, 2017) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in Minnesota on Wednesday, visiting with Governor Mark Dayton and John Stine, commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and president of the Environmental Council of States, a key EPA partner in protecting the environment and public health.

Following these meetings in the state capitol, Administrator Pruitt convened a roundtable with agricultural stakeholders at the Minnesota AgriGrowth Council where he discussed the agency's decision to re-evaluate the 2015 "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) rule and seek to provide regulatory certainty for Minnesota farmers and land owners.

"The 2015 ~~definition of the~~ WOTUS rule created regulatory uncertainty, threatened economic growth, and ~~did would~~ not make our water any cleaner," said Administrator Pruitt. "The agriculture industry provides more than 340,000 jobs for Minnesotans, and by re-visiting this rule, we are helping ensure waters are kept clean while also ~~ensuring~~ promoting economic growth."

Commented [FD2]: The 2015 rule was stayed and never went into effect—hard to argue it didn't make the water cleaner in light of this.

During his time in the Twin Cities on Wednesday, Administrator Pruitt spoke with WCCO-AM radio host Dave Lee about his state action tour. Listen to the WCCO radio interview here: <LINK TO RADIO HIT>.

Follow EPA's State Action Tour on social media, at: #EPAinAction #WOTUS.

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PHOTOS Pruitt Stops in Arkansas for State Action Tour
Recognizes State Water Improvements with Governor Hutchinson

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. – (July 20, 2017) U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Scott Pruitt continued his state action tour in Arkansas today. Administrator Pruitt met with Governor Asa Hutchinson to discuss restoring cooperative federalism by re-visiting the 2015 “Waters of the United States” (WOTUS) rule. He also announced EPA’s approval of Arkansas’ 303B water quality standards that list impaired waters for the state of Arkansas, dating back to 2010. EPA is clearing the backlog that existed for the years 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016.

“The previous Administration could not reach an agreement with the state,” said EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt. “We recognize the state efforts to provide promote clean water to for their citizens. I am proud to announced that EPA is now approving the 303B list that recognizes Arkansas’s water quality improvements made under Governor Hutchinson’s leadership.”

Commented [FD3]: This makes EPA’s action sound like it’s related to drinking water, which isn’t quite right.

As a result of Arkansas’s efforts and approved by EPA’s actionAs a result of this EPA action, 76 percent of water bodies impaired in 2008 are no longer showing impairments and a total of 335 waters are now meeting Arkansas Water Quality Standards.

Administrator Pruitt also held a breakfast roundtable this morning hosted by Arkansas Poultry Federation where he stressed EPA’s decision to re-evaluate the 2015 WOTUS Rule.

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt also spoke with KATV this morning about WOTUS and its approval of Arkansas’s 303B water quality standards. Watch the interview here:
(INSTERT LINK TO VIDEO)

Follow EPA’s State Action Tour on social media, at: #EPAinAction #WOTUS.

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