

**To:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]  
**From:** POLITICO Pro Energy Whiteboard  
**Sent:** Wed 10/25/2017 5:41:09 PM  
**Subject:** Interior draft plan pushes energy development, omits climate change

By Esther Whieldon

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A leaked draft of the Interior Department's five-year strategic plan omits any references to climate change and emphasizes increasing energy production on federal lands, generating revenues, speeding up infrastructure approvals, increasing outdoor recreation opportunities and securing the U.S.-Mexico border.

The [draft plan](#) for 2018 through 2022, which is dated Sept. 27 and was first reported by [The Nation](#), doesn't mention climate change, and instead calls for using the best available science to conserve water and land and to "safeguard communities against natural hazards."

The report stands in stark contrast to the Obama Interior's plan for 2014 through 2018, which mentioned climate change more than 40 times and included concrete targets for promoting solar and wind generation. The new draft report mentions renewables in the context of the agency's "all of the above" energy priorities and as part of the agency's review of rents and royalty rates.

On energy and infrastructure development, Interior is creating an "executive committee for expedited permitting" to help carry out Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's related directive. And by Sept. 30, 2019, the Bureau of Land Management aims to eliminate its backlog of oil and gas drilling permit applications and to have processed 80 percent of expressions of interest for public land leases.

And the plan would have the Fish and Wildlife Service inform all of its Endangered Species Act listing designations using "input from state fish and wildlife agencies" that opt to participate in the process by the end of fiscal 2018.

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