

Journal #4888 from sdc 3.4.21

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Susan Collins supports Deb Haaland, sealing her approval

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Virtual Disaster Response Training

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Reversing Trump, Interior Department Moves Swiftly on Climate Change



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[Trudeau gives up on Keystone XL pipeline, says Biden made his decision](#)
[Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau says he's given up on the Keystone XL oil pipeline as President Biden has made clear his decision to nix the project. Trudeau recently held a virtual me...](#)

indiancountrytoday.com

[Susan Collins supports Deb Haaland, sealing her approval](#)
[Matthew Daly Associated Press WASHINGTON — Maine Sen. Susan Collins said Wednesday she will support New Mexico Rep. Deb Haaland to be Interior secretary, the](#)

Rep. Dina Titus (D-NV) and Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) introduced legislation Tuesday that would require consent from state, local and tribal governments to construct a national nuclear waste repository, including at Yucca Mountain about 90 miles Northwest of Las Vegas. [Our man in D.C., Humberto Sanchez, reports.](#)

Nevada Democrats Re-Introduce Push To Block Yucca Mountain

By The Associated Press

Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada is reviving a push to block the creation of a national nuclear-waste dump at Yucca Mountain.

Cortez Masto, Nevada's other Democratic Sen. Jacky Rosen and the state's three Democratic Reps. Dina Titus, Susie, Lee and Steven Horsford re-introduced legislation on Tuesday that Cortez Masto has run in past years which would bar the federal government from moving nuclear waste into a state without first receiving permission from the governor and local officials.

President Joe Biden has long opposed the idea and has said no nuclear waste would be stored in Nevada under his administration.

[Biggest NV Conservation Bill Ever Would Better Protect 2 Million Acres](#)

[House passes bill adding 535,000 acres of new California wilderness areas](#)

[The Decades-Long Political Fight to Save the Grand Canyon](#)

[One-Third of Freshwater Fish Species Are at Risk of Extinction](#)

I try not to editorialize or pontificate in these pages, saving that for my column in the American Indian Reporter (the editor and I do come from poles apart but we both agree on education and has facilitated the online, searchable archive of these pages)(try www.shaynedel.com).

However there are two federal bill pending (Build Back Better and Climate Corps) and potential changes within the Department of Interior for which I hope all tribal communities had pulled hopes, dreams and visions out of the drawer and have "gussied up". For those of you that took typing in the old days, "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their party."

Now is the time to assert your overall development documents, put details in your action plans, upgrade/refigure costs for each component, and identify the appropriate manpower so that your negotiating position will be one of strength and competence. sdc

Build Back Better: Joe Biden's Jobs and Economic Recovery Plan for Working Families ...

This starts with passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, ...

The Biden plan will mobilize the American people in service of four bold, national efforts to address four great national challenges. As President, Biden will:

- 1. Mobilize American [manufacturing and innovation](#) to ensure that the future is made in America, and in all of America.** We've seen the importance of bringing home critical supply chains so that we aren't dependent on other countries in future crises. But Biden believes we can't stop there — *he is releasing a plan today to build a strong industrial base and small-business-led supply chains to retain and create millions of good-paying union jobs in manufacturing and technology across the country.*
- 2. Mobilize American ingenuity to build a modern [infrastructure and an equitable, clean energy future](#).** We've seen the need for a more resilient economy for the long-term, and that means investing in a modern, sustainable infrastructure and sustainable engines of growth — from roads and bridges, to energy grids and schools, to universal broadband. *Biden will soon release updated proposals to meet the climate crisis, build a clean energy economy, address environmental injustice, and create millions of good-paying union jobs.*
- 3. Mobilize American talent and heart to build a 21st century [caregiving and education workforce](#) which will help ease the burden of care for working parents, especially women.** We've seen in this pandemic the immense burdens working parents, and especially women, carry in juggling their jobs and their caregiving responsibilities. We've learned anew how hard this work is, and how underappreciated those who do it are. *Joe Biden will soon announce a plan to make it far easier to afford child care and to ensure aging relatives and people with disabilities have better access to home and community-based care; to elevate the pay, benefits, and professional opportunities for caregivers and educators; to create millions of good-paying new jobs in these areas with a choice to join a union; and to free up millions of people to join the labor force and grow a stronger economy in return.*

4. **Mobilize across the board to advance [racial equity](#) in America.** We've seen again this year the tragic costs of systemic racism. Biden believes that addressing those costs has to be core to every part of the economic agenda, and also a distinct priority in its own right. *As President, he will pursue a dedicated agenda to close the racial wealth gap, to expand affordable housing, to invest in Black, Latino, and Native American entrepreneurs and communities, to advance policing and criminal justice reform, and to make real the promise of educational opportunity regardless of race or zip code.*

Building back better means an updated social contract that treats American workers and working families as essential at all times, not just times of crisis — with higher wages, stronger benefits, and fair and safe workplaces. We've seen millions of American workers put their lives and health on the line to keep our country going. As Biden has said, let's not just praise them, let's pay them — a decent wage, at least \$15 per hour, and ending the tipped minimum wage and sub-minimum wage for people with disabilities, and strong benefits so they can live a middle class life and provide opportunity for their kids. This starts with passing the Protecting the Right to Organize (PRO) Act, providing public service and federal government workers with bargaining rights, and taking other steps to make it easier for workers to organize unions and collectively bargain. Biden will also address discrimination and harassment in the workplace, and pass the Paycheck Fairness Act as the next step in efforts to ensure women are paid equally for equal work. He will pass universal paid sick days and 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave. And he has a plan to ensure that every American has access to quality, affordable health care, by providing a public option and lowering costs for care and for prescription drugs.

Building back better means helping small businesses and entrepreneurs come out the other side of this crisis strong, while demanding more from corporate America. We've seen the second bailout in 12 years for big corporations and Wall Street. And we've seen the Trump Administration provide all the tools necessary to help big businesses and well-connected cronies, while small businesses had to jump through hoops and many couldn't access the relief they needed. Biden will ensure that corporate America finally pays their fair share in taxes, puts their workers and communities first rather than their shareholders, and respects their workers' power and voice in the workplace. And Biden will help small businesses manage through the pandemic and recover, so that millions of entrepreneurs can get back on their feet and carry this economy forward.

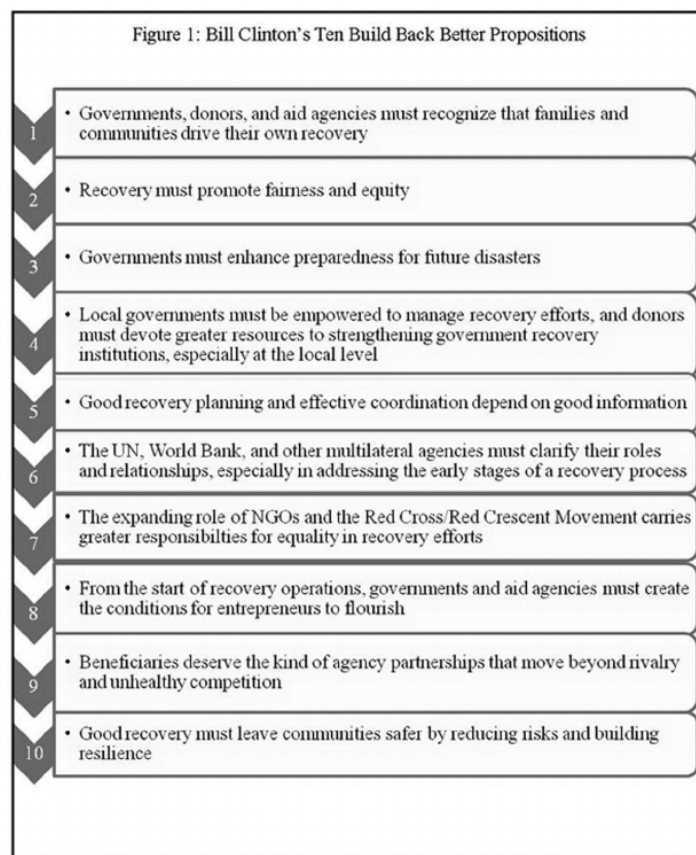
To see this agenda through, Joe Biden will make new, bold investments and speed up the timetable for many of the 10-year investments he has already announced. He will pay for the ongoing costs of the plan by **reversing some of Trump's tax cuts for corporations and imposing common-sense tax reforms that finally make sure the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share.**

Today's elevated unemployment will mean lower demand, which will mean lower growth for our economy (which relies on consumption). A robust jobs agenda will increase demand. That is why many economists agree that if we fail to make far-reaching, productive investments, it will undermine not only our long-term growth potential, but also our long-term fiscal situation. Additionally, for communities of color that are experiencing disproportionate rates of

unemployment, and for young people entering the workforce, getting to full employment as fast as possible is critical to their futures and all of America's future. Those who argue we can't afford these investments are the same people who doled out trillions in giveaways to the wealthy and corporations the past three years. Now they're saying there's no money left for working families? Joe Biden fundamentally rejects that notion.

Bill Clinton's Ten Build Back Better Propositions

Consideration of the above literature and other BBB-related documents have been used to form three categories required for BBB (Figure 2): (1) risk reduction, which looks at the improvement of structural resilience in the built environment through improved structural designs and land-use planning; (2) community recovery, which works on the social recovery of affected people and regeneration of the local economy; and (3) implementation, which is the means by which (1) and (2) can be put in place efficiently and effectively. Implementation is achieved through improved stakeholder management and legislation and regulation for enforcement and facilitation of recovery activities. Monitoring and evaluation is important through all principles to identify and address issues arising during the recovery process.



What is the Public Health Jobs Corps?

The Biden-Harris plan hopes to address the widespread unemployment caused by the pandemic and the need for skilled labor by mobilizing at least 100,000 people to support the public health response to COVID-19. This includes extending contact tracing to reach every community in America.

This new public health workforce will need to reflect the communities they serve to ensure that they create trust and are as effective as possible. So the plan will require close coordination with state, tribal, and local leaders to provide culturally competent approaches to contact tracing and protect at-risk populations.

How will it work?

The first members of the U.S. Public Health Job Corps would [come from volunteers](#) from AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, and others who have been laid off due to the crisis. They would be tapped to implement large scale testing programs and contact tracing.

The initiative would be modeled after the longstanding federal [Job Corps](#), coordinated by the U.S. Department of Labor, and the [U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps](#), which comprises 6,000 professionals dedicated to delivering the nation's public health promotion and disease prevention programs and advancing public health science.

After the pandemic, the corps would be retained but deployed to address other public health problems such as the opioid epidemic

[How Biden's new Civilian Climate Corps might work](#)

www.fastcompany.com > [how-bidens-new-civilian-climat...](#)

Jan 28, 2021 — Biden wants to pay people to help fight *climate change* by putting them to work on conservation projects. How Biden's new Civilian Climate ...

[Civilian Climate Corps: If You Build It, Will They Come ...](#)

groundworkusa.org > [News & Resources](#)

Feb 4, 2021 — To engage diverse youth, and to achieve the initiative's bold goals of bolstering community resilience and addressing *climate change*, the *corps* ...

Feb 10, 2021 — A national Climate *Corps* could be the answer to job creation and *climate change*. Tweet this. Emerging professionals are recruited by Climate ...

[What Science Forgot About Airborne Pandemics - The Atlantic](#)



nevadacurrent.com

[Measure to limit water ruling appeals gets icy reception | Nevada Current](#)
[Rural county officials, development investors, conservationists and Nevada tribes turned out in opposition Monday to state legislation critics say would make it harder for Nevadans' to access the courts and protect their water rights. The hearing in the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources Mond...](#)

[**Take Blockchains LLC seriously? You first, governor.**](#)

[**Sisolak: It's not a 'company town'!**](#)

[**Storey County passes resolution against Innovation Zones**](#)

Storey County Commissioners on Tuesday voted to "oppose separatist governing control" and the carving up of the county with an Innovation Zone.

Nevada Museum of Art Calendar:

Hands ON! Second Saturday March 13 from 10 am to 6 pm

Bring the family to explore the Museum in a safe and welcoming environment. Complement your experience by visiting nevadaart.org for engaging HandsON! at Home project ideas inspired by the Museum's collections and exhibitions.

FREE ADMISSION ALL DAY

While there, check out the exhibit: **Always Was Always Will Be**

Reko Rennie (Gamilaroi/Gamilaraay people) was born in 1974 in Melbourne, Australia, where he lives today. Rennie explores his Aboriginal identity through a broad array of media, including spray paint, prints, sculpture, paste-ups, light projections and site-specific installations. Through his art he provokes discussion surrounding Indigenous culture and identity in contemporary urban environments. Largely autobiographical, his commanding works combine the iconography of his heritage with stylistic elements of graffiti. [More information](#)

Scholarships with April 1-15 Deadlines

George A. Strait Minority Scholarship	Varies	04/01/2021
Georgia Association of Environmental Professionals 2020 Environmental Scholarship	\$1,000	04/01/2021
Gerald W. & Edith F. Wallace Scholarship	Varies	04/01/2021
GITA EnerGIS GIS Scholarship	\$2,000	04/01/2021
Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes	Varies	04/15/2021
Greater Kansas City Community Foundation 1,000 Dreams Scholarship	\$1,000	04/01/2021
Hawaii Education Association (HEA) High School Student Scholarship	\$2,000	04/01/2021
Hawaii Education Association (HEA) Undergraduate College Student Scholarship	\$1,000	04/01/2021
Hearing Impaired Scholarship	\$3,000	04/01/2021
Heinlein Society Scholarship	\$3,000	04/01/2021
Hellenic University Club of Philadelphia -Undergraduate Scholarship	\$5,000	04/01/2021
Herman and Katherine Peters Foundation Scholarship	\$5,000	04/01/2021
Hope For The Warriors Scholarships	\$2,500	04/02/2021
Hopson-Laurent Scholarship	\$1,000	04/01/2021
Horticulture & Tree Fruit Agriculture Scholarship	\$1,000	04/15/2021
IFDA Education Foundation Student Scholarships	\$3,000	04/15/2021
Illinois CPA Society Accounting Textbook Scholarship	\$500	04/01/2021
Illinois CPA Society Accounting Tuition Scholarship	\$4,000	04/01/2021
Illinois Restaurant Association Educational Foundation Scholarship	Varies	04/14/2021
Incight Scholarship	Varies	04/15/2021
Indiana University Annexstad Family Foundation Award	\$25,000	04/15/2021
ISPA Foundation Mary Tabacchi Scholarship	\$5,000	04/08/2021
IWSH Essay Scholarship Contest	\$1,000	04/30/2021

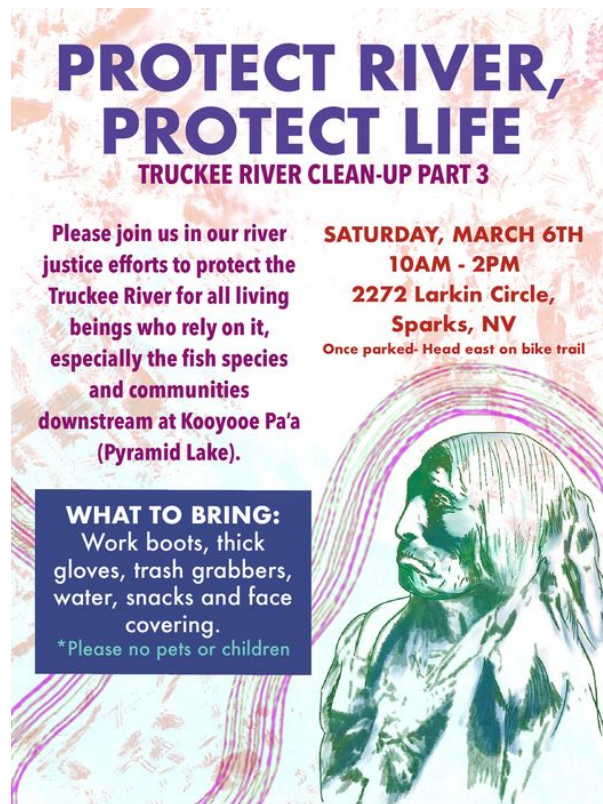
George Washington's Mount Vernon

Apply for Mount Vernon's free 2021 Digital Teacher Institutes. Sessions are virtual and participants receive a \$750 stipend.

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[Free Professional Development for Teachers](#)

[Apply now.](#)



Monday, March 8, 2021

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. EST / 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. CST

Target Audience: Community members, grassroots organizations, local and state governments, and volunteers

The National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) Worker Training Program (WTP) will host a **virtual disaster response training** as part of the Federal Interagency Working Group (IWG) on Environmental Justice (EJ) EJ and Natural Disasters Subcommittee [Town Hall Meetings](#).

The training will be conducted by WTP grantees and aims to provide a general awareness about how to safely respond to disasters. Participants will learn more about preparedness, mental health resilience, and response as it relates to hurricanes, floods, and other natural disasters or public health emergencies.

Space is limited for this event and is on a first-come, first-served basis. This is a free event; however, registration will close when capacity is reached. The Zoom link will be sent to you once we receive your registration, assuming space is available.

This event will be primarily in English; however, simultaneous interpretation will be available during the general session.

Training Registration: https://nih.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJIsfuGsrDloEui_vFwzanLHtFMwQO6K5As

[Read on »A Tea Party In The South](#)

- This might come as a shock to inveterate coffee drinkers, but tea is the most consumed beverage on the planet, after water. Tea is expected to become an \$81.6 billion global industry by 2026. Surprisingly, [an endless supply of ready-to-be-picked, wild tea](#) just happens to exist across large swaths of the southeastern and southern United States.
- Yaupon (pronounced yō-pon), is a holly bush, and North America's only known native caffeinated plant. It naturally grows along the Atlantic Coast from Virginia to Florida, and along the Gulf of Mexico all the way to West Texas. It's widely found throughout rural and suburban America. It grows in plain sight and is ignored by most --- very few people even know it can be brewed. Yet it's deeply rooted in history and intrigue.
- The shrub is distinguishable by its dense, ovular green leaves and bright red berries, and was consumed by almost every Native American tribe who lived among it. When picked, roasted, and boiled, the leaves yield a yellow to dark-orange elixir with a fruity and earthy aroma, and a smooth flavor with malty tones. Spanish explorers called it "black drink" because of its dark hue; the native Timucua tribe in southern Georgia and northern Florida called it "cassina."
- The oldest-known evidence of yaupon consumption comes from the Cahokia Mounds in Illinois, where the holly's residue was identified inside ornately decorated ceramic vessels dating to 1050 AD. The most widely distributed descriptions of its use come from Europeans like Cabeza de Vaca, who identified yaupon while exploring the Texas coast in 1542, and English-Jamaican merchant Jonathan Dickinson, who observed several yaupon ceremonies in Florida after being shipwrecked in 1696. Although many Native American tribes consumed the tea as an everyday energizing drink, first-hand accounts by Europeans suggested yaupon was commonly associated with purification, and incorporated into male-only rituals that often involved fasting, drinking the tea to excess, then vomiting to cleanse the body and mind.
- Over time, yaupon tea became associated with poor, rural communities that couldn't afford to import traditional Chinese tea. Its popularity declined; by 1860 it was virtually forgotten. It continued to grow incognito for the next 150 years until being "rediscovered" in 2011 by a Texas woman, Abianne Falla, and a little later by a Floridian, Bryon White. Falla started Catspring Yaupon outside Austin in 2013, and White founded Yaupon Brothers in Edgewater in 2015. Yaupon continues to grow in popularity, and more startups have begun promoting and selling the historical beverage. (BBC)

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<https://www.motherearthgardener.com/plant-profiles/edible/yaupon-american-tea-zm0z17wzmul>



Photo by Adobe Stock/Janelle

Yaupon trees are drought tolerant, salt tolerant, and won't freeze as far north as Zone 7.

<https://www.motherearthgardener.com/plant-profiles/edible/yaupon-american-tea-zm0z17wzmul>

## Reversing Trump, Interior Department Moves Swiftly on Climate Change

Wed, March 3, 2021, 4:58 AM

WASHINGTON — As the Interior Department awaits its new secretary, the agency is already moving to lock in key parts of President Joe Biden’s environmental agenda, particularly on oil and gas restrictions, laying the groundwork to fulfill some of the administration’s most consequential climate change promises.

Rep. Deb Haaland of New Mexico, Biden’s nominee to lead the department, faces a showdown vote in the Senate likely later this month, amid vocal Republican concern for her past positions against oil and gas drilling. But even without her, an agency that spent much of the past four years opening vast swaths of land to commercial exploitation has pulled an abrupt about-face. The department has suspended lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico under an early executive order imposing a temporary freeze on new drilling leases on all public lands and waters and requiring a review of the leasing program. It has frozen drilling activity in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, delayed Trump-era rollbacks on protections of migratory birds and the northern spotted owl, and taken the first steps in restoring two national monuments in Utah and one off the Atlan.

As early as this week, one administration official said the Interior Department is poised to take the next steps in preparing a review of the federal oil and gas leasing program. Even critics of the administration’s agenda said they have been surprised by the pace of the agency’s actions.

“They’re obviously moving forward quickly and aggressively,” said Nicolas Loris, an economist who focuses on environment policy at the conservative Heritage Foundation. That aggressiveness, along with Haaland’s history of pushing to shut down fossil fuel drilling and pipelines, has put the agency in the line of fire from Republicans and the oil and gas industry.

“I almost feel like your nomination is sort of this proxy fight over the future of fossil fuels,” Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Wash., told Haaland during her confirmation hearing last week.

The Environmental Protection Agency will ultimately take center stage in the regulatory battles over climate change because it is the lead agency policing emissions from the electricity and transportation sectors — the two largest sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States.

But the Interior Department, which decides when and whether to sell publicly owned coal, oil and gas, is at the heart of the always contentious fight over keeping such resources “in the ground” — that is, whether the vast majority of America’s fossil fuels should remain untapped to avoid dangerous concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

Biden already has appointed nearly 50 top Interior officials across the vast agency, many of them veterans of the Obama administration, adept at pulling the levers of policy. They include Kate Kelly, who spent six years at the Interior Department before going to the liberal Center for American Progress, where she focused on public lands policy; and Laura Daniel Davis, who served as chief of staff to former secretaries Sally Jewell and Ken Salazar. This time around, she is a principal deputy assistant secretary over land and minerals management.

Perhaps the most significant driver of the agency’s most aggressive early action, supporters of the administration said, has been David Hayes, who served in both the Obama and Clinton administrations as deputy secretary of Interior. Hayes worked on Biden’s transition and ahead

of Inauguration Day was tapped to be a special adviser to the president on climate change policy.

“These are people who know how to get things done,” said Sarah Greenberger, interim chief conservation officer at the National Audubon Society.

The appointments have had immediate effects. The day after Biden named a new offshore energy regulator at the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, for example, the office revived the review of an offshore wind farm near Martha’s Vineyard that the Trump administration had moved to cancel.

Greenberger noted that actions like suspending the Trump-era rule that gutted protections for migratory birds required particularly fast planning since the Biden administration had only a short window to act before the rule was set to take effect, on Feb. 8. Similarly when an Alaska Native group missed a deadline to conduct a seismic survey in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the department moved to effectively kill the survey.

“There was an enormous amount of thought put in during the transition, especially into understanding what needed to happen and what were the opportunities,” Greenberg said. Critics took a dimmer view.

“Makes you wonder if they’re treating the new secretary as a figurehead and the deputies are going forward with what they had planned regardless,” said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance, a Denver-based oil and natural gas association.

In a statement, Jennifer Van der Heide, chief of staff at Interior, said those already in place at the agency are working to implement Biden’s campaign promises until Haaland is confirmed.

“There are some actions we can or must move quickly on, but when we have a secretary, she will provide the leadership, experience and vision to restore morale within the department, build a clean energy economy, strengthen the nation-to-nation relationships with tribes, and inspire a movement to better conserve our nation’s lands, waters, and wildlife,” Van der Heide said.

The Interior Department manages about 500 million acres of public lands and vast coastal waters. Its agencies lease many of those acres for oil and gas drilling as well as wind and solar farms. It oversees the country’s national parks and wildlife refuges, protects threatened and endangered species, reclaims abandoned mine sites, oversees the government’s relationship with the nation’s 574 federally recognized tribes and provides scientific data about the effects of climate change.

That sprawling range of authorities has allowed Interior to move more quickly than smaller agencies that rely more on the slow churn of regulations, experts noted. Interior has initiated consultations with tribal leaders to hear their suggestions on federal policies and reversed restrictions that Trump’s Interior secretary, David Bernhardt, had imposed on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which prevented money from being used to buy public land.

But some major actions — such as an expected revision of the Endangered Species Act, which Trump’s administration curtailed through regulation — must await a Senate-confirmed secretary.

Biden’s Interior Department will ultimately be defined by its reversals on fossil fuels after four years in which the Trump administration aggressively pursued energy production on public lands.

At Haaland's confirmation hearing, Sen. John Barrasso, R-Wyo., noted that she has advocated for keeping fossil fuels "in the ground." He pressed her on where oil and gas workers in his state and others that depend on drilling will work if Biden's drilling pause becomes permanent. Haaland sought to reassure Republicans that she would enact Biden's policies of pausing future fracking, not banning it. In fact, Biden's position is not far from Haaland's. He campaigned on a promise of "banning new oil and gas permitting on public lands and waters," and it remains unclear for now whether the Biden administration will move forward with a permanent moratorium.

Sgamma, whose group has filed a lawsuit challenging Biden's executive order, said she believes that the administration's review of the leasing program is actually designed to drag on for the duration of Biden's term.

"In the meantime, we will expect no leasing and a slowdown in other permitted activity. That's why this is not a 'pause' on leasing," she said, adding, "Whether you call it a pause or a yearlong ban, it is unlawful and I like our chances in court."

Drew Caputo, vice president of litigation at EarthJustice, an environmental group, said he hopes the early pause will be a down payment on Biden's campaign pledge.

"The climate crisis and the biodiversity crisis isn't standing still," he said.

This article originally appeared in [The New York Times](#).

