



## Environmental Data & Governance Initiative Website Monitoring Report

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### DOI Adds “Recreation” Priority and Web Resources

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## DOI's New "Recreation" Priority and Web Resources

### Overview

In March 2019, the Department of the Interior (DOI) updated the dropdown list of "Priorities" on its webpages to include a new priority of "Recreation." The landing page of the new priority included links to recreational resources at four of DOI's bureaus: National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation. The new priority reflected recent actions by DOI and lawmakers to highlight recreational uses of public lands.

### Description of Changes

In March 2019 (Between March 18 and March 27), DOI updated the dropdown list of "Priorities" in the banner across most of its sites to include a new priority of "Recreation," bringing back to six a list of priorities that was reduced to five after their removal of the "Climate Change" priority in 2018, [previously reported by EDGI](#). Clicking on the link to the newly-added priority takes the viewer to [a new webpage titled "Recreation"](#) for which the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine has records dating only to [April 4, 2019](#). The new webpage includes text encouraging the use of public lands for recreation and pointing users to [a similar new page titled "Where Can I Go"](#) and to the [Recreation.gov](#) website, which is a longstanding resource for finding recreational locations and activities and planning trips to those locations. Below the text are links to recreation webpages from four of DOI's bureaus: [Bureau of Land Management](#), [National Park Service](#), [Fish and Wildlife Service](#), and [Bureau of Reclamation](#). Of these webpages, those of both the National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service pages may be new: the Wayback Machine does not have a record for either webpage prior to April 4, 2019. Despite the new web resources created and the addition of Recreation to the priorities in the DOI header drop-down menu, the DOI has not modified its ["Our Priorities" webpage](#) since at least August 8, 2018. DOI also did not update the priorities listed in its footer to include Recreation, and later removed the list of priorities from its footer altogether.

The addition of "Recreation" as a stated Department priority on the DOI website is in accordance with the [DOI's 2018-2022 Strategic Plan](#) and reflects the DOI's implementation of [Senate Bill 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act \(Dingell Act\)](#) sponsored by Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and signed into law by President Trump on March 12, 2019 as Public Law 116-9. It also follows then-Acting Secretary David Bernhardt's signing of [Secretarial Order 3374](#) directing "timely implementation" of the Dingell Act, announced by the DOI in a [press release on March 28, 2019](#). Among many other provisions, Title IV of the Dingell Act, "Sportsmen's access and related matters," encourages sportsmen uses (defined as hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting) on public lands through an "open unless closed" policy (Sec. 4102), requires the DOI to "Identify opportunities for recreation, hunting, and fishing on Federal Land" (Sec. 4105), and requires consideration of sportsmen uses of public lands as part of all Federal plans for those lands

May 4, 2020

(Sec. 4001). Under the Trump Administration, [DOI has been “shattering” annual records for new oil and gas leases](#), and today more than 25 Million acres of DOI land in the United States are leased for oil and gas extraction. It is unclear whether this requirement for recreation consideration applies to those vast tracts of lands.

## Detailed Description of Changes

### 1. Addition of “Recreation” Priority

- URL: <https://www.doi.gov/>
- Content Change
- Screenshot 1.1 Changes occurred between [12:06 pm EDT March 18, 2019](#) and [9:59 pm EDT March 26, 2019](#)
- Screenshot 1.2 No change to priorities in footer by 10:12 pm EDT August 8, 2018
- Screenshot 1.3 Removal of footer information between [10:12 pm EDT August 8, 2019](#) and [6:59 pm EDT August 9, 2019](#).

#### **Screenshot 1.1**

This screenshot compares the DOI homepage between March 18, 2019 EDT (left) and March 26, 2019 EDT (right). The content modified on this page was also replicated in all of the subpages that share the same headers:

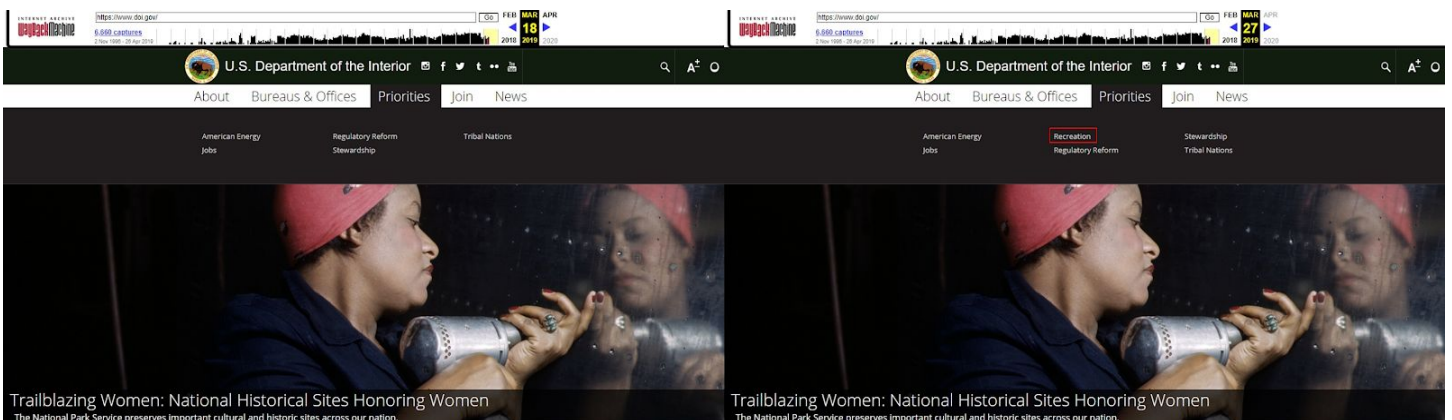
#### 1.1) Header:

The “Priorities” drop down list of links:

American Energy  
Jobs  
Regulatory Reform  
Stewardship  
Tribal Nations

was amended to include “Recreation” text and link between “Jobs” and “Regulatory Reform”

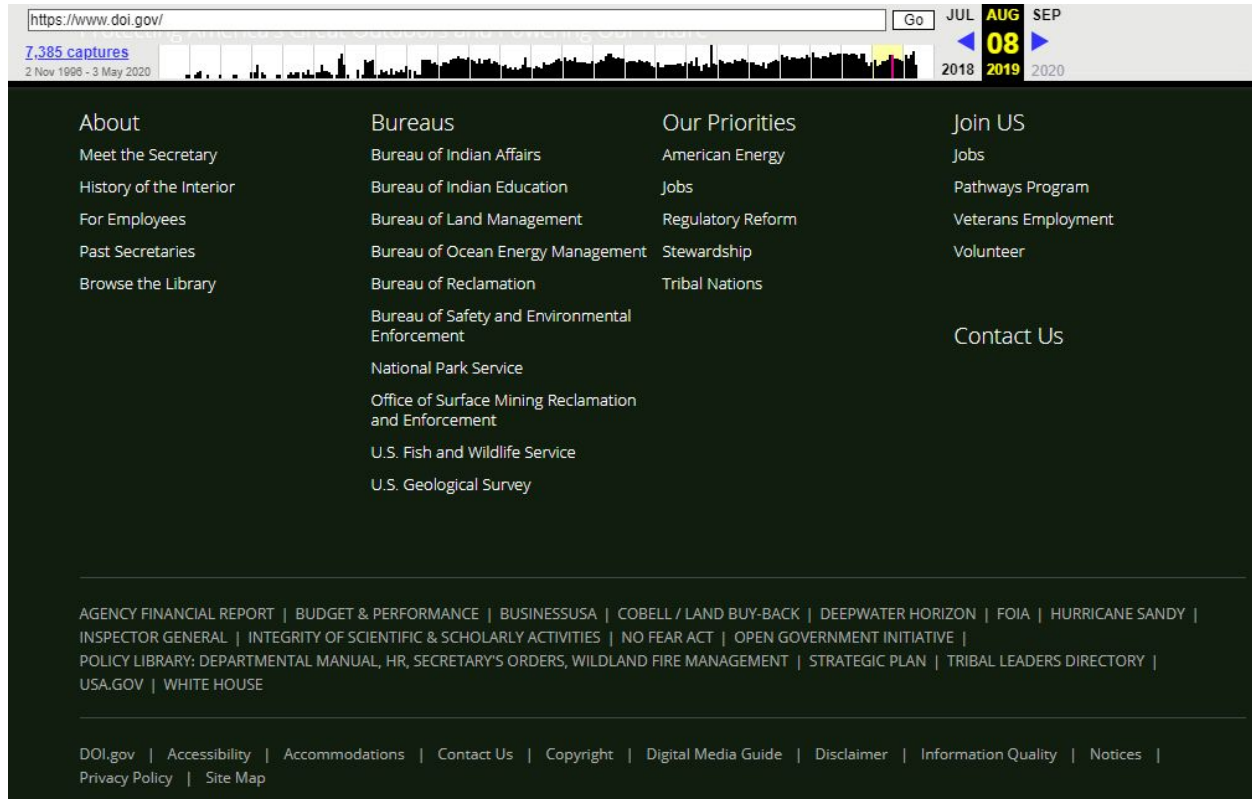
#### Screenshot 1.1



#### **Screenshot 1.2**

This screenshot shows the footer on all DOI webpages as of August 8, 2019, indicating that the DOI had yet to modify the “Our Priorities” list displayed there to reflect the new “Recreation” priority.

### Screenshot 1.2




### Screenshot 1.3

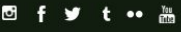
This screenshot shows the footer on all DOI webpages as of August 9, 2019. All information and links under the titles "About," "Bureaus," "Our Priorities," and "Join Us" have been removed.

### Screenshot 1.3

INTERNET ARCHIVE  
Wayback Machine  
https://www.doi.gov/ Go JUL AUG SEP  
6,881 captures  
2 Nov 1996 - 24 Aug 2019  
2018 2019 2020

This Week at Interior August 9, 2019

 **U.S. Department of the Interior**  
Protecting America's Great Outdoors and Powering Our Future



AGENCY FINANCIAL REPORT | BUDGET & PERFORMANCE | BUSINESSUSA | COBELL / LAND BUY-BACK | DEEPWATER HORIZON | FOIA | HURRICANE SANDY |  
INSPECTOR GENERAL | INTEGRITY OF SCIENTIFIC & SCHOLARLY ACTIVITIES | NO FEAR ACT | OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE |  
POLICY LIBRARY; DEPARTMENTAL MANUAL, HR, SECRETARY'S ORDERS, WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT | STRATEGIC PLAN | TRIBAL LEADERS DIRECTORY |  
USA.GOV | WHITE HOUSE

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Privacy Policy | Site Map

U.S. Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240. [feedback@ios.doi.gov](mailto:feedback@ios.doi.gov)

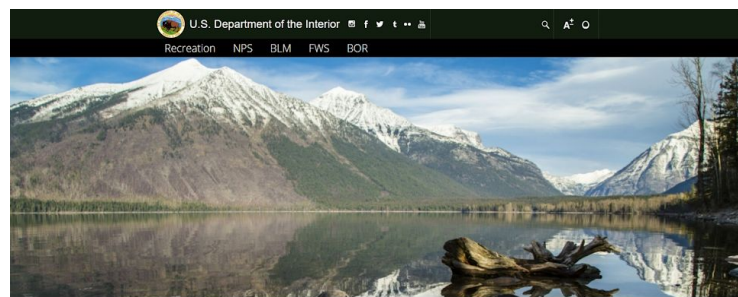
## 2. Creation of "Recreation" webpage

- URL: <https://www.doi.gov/recreation>
- Content addition
- Screenshot 2.1 "Recreation" webpage was added to the DOI website by [7:19 pm EDT April 3, 2019](#)

### Screenshot 2.1

This screenshot shows the added DOI "Recreation" webpage, with links to "Recreation" at each of four bureaus/divisions of DOI: NPS, BLM, FWS, and BOR

### Screenshot 2.1

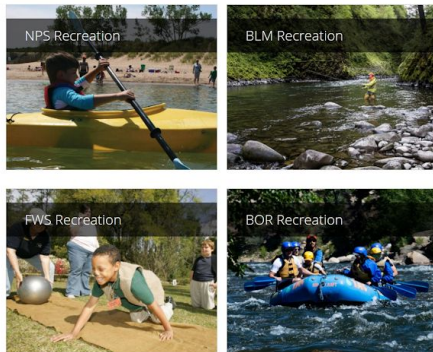


#### Recreation

Increasing access to outdoor recreation opportunities on our nation's public lands is a top priority for the Department of the Interior. Outdoor recreation opportunities provide physical and mental health benefits and allow Americans to more fully experience our beautiful public lands and waterways. Every year, more than 330 million people from across the country and around the world visit the national parks and millions more visit other public lands managed by DOI for an all-American outdoor experience.

[Find hundreds of recreation opportunities](#) - from relaxing to adrenaline-pumping - on your public lands in all 50 states and U.S. territories. Then visit our partner website [Recreation.gov](#) to make reservations, buy passes and get permits you might need.

Can't get out to visit one of these diverse natural areas in person? We have a [collection of virtual tours and online resources](#) so you can experience our public lands no matter where you are.



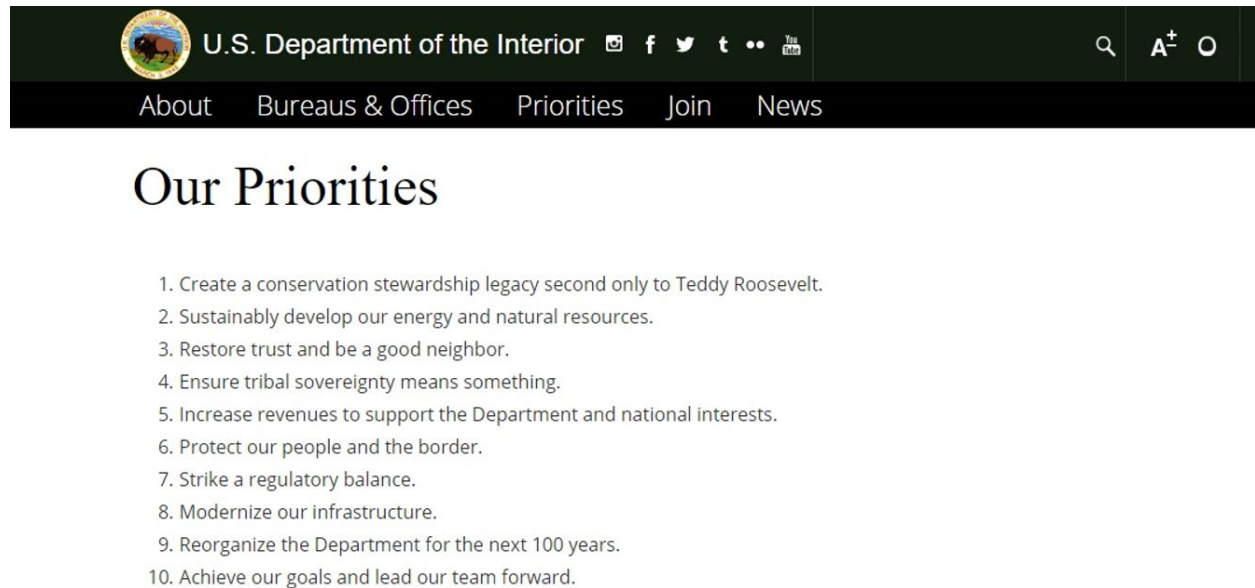
### 3. No change to “Our Priorities” webpage

- URL: <https://www.doi.gov/ourpriorities>
- No change since [August 12, 2018](#)
- Screenshot 3.1 “Our Priorities” webpage on April 20, 2020

#### **Screenshot 3.1**

This screenshot shows the “Our Priorities” webpage as of April 20, 2020, which has not changed since August 8, 2018 and does not include the new “recreation” priority.

#### Screenshot 3.1



The screenshot shows the top portion of the U.S. Department of the Interior website. At the top left is the department's logo, followed by the text "U.S. Department of the Interior" and social media icons for Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and YouTube. To the right are search, font size adjustment, and accessibility icons. Below this is a dark navigation bar with links for "About", "Bureaus & Offices", "Priorities", "Join", and "News". The main heading "Our Priorities" is displayed in a large, serif font. Below the heading is a numbered list of ten priorities:

1. Create a conservation stewardship legacy second only to Teddy Roosevelt.
2. Sustainably develop our energy and natural resources.
3. Restore trust and be a good neighbor.
4. Ensure tribal sovereignty means something.
5. Increase revenues to support the Department and national interests.
6. Protect our people and the border.
7. Strike a regulatory balance.
8. Modernize our infrastructure.
9. Reorganize the Department for the next 100 years.
10. Achieve our goals and lead our team forward.