



# MassLand Conservation Partners Meeting Federal Policy Update

○ Future discussion topic: fear of losing c3 status

March 7, 2025; 10:40 am EDT

Lori Faeth

# Agenda

- Update on actions by the Trump administration
- Review Congressional priorities
- Overview of how federal actions and priorities may impact land trusts specifically and land conservation more broadly
- What the Alliance is doing and how you can help
- Resources
- Discussion



# The New Federal Landscape

- Presidential Actions
- Executive Branch Actions
- Congressional Priorities
- Impacts to our members
- Impacts to conservation
- Moving forward





# President Trump

## Executive Orders and Directives that impact land trusts

- Federal funding freeze
- Expedite siting of energy infrastructure
- Reduce Regulations
- Shrink the federal workforce
- Eliminate all references to DEI, Environmental Justice and Climate
- Focus on nonprofits
- Disposition of federal property





# Federal Funding/Spending Actions

- EO 14222: Implementing the President's DOGE Cost Efficiency Initiative (2/26/2025)
- OMB Directive freezing federal funds (issued 1/27/2025; rescinded 1/28/2025)
- EO 14096: Unleashing American Energy (1/20/2025)



# Regulation and Energy EOs

- EO TBD: Immediate Expansion of American Timber Production (3/1/2025)
- EO 14219: Ensuring Lawful Governance and Implementing the President's DOGE Deregulatory Agenda (2/19/2025)
- EO 14213: Establishing the National Energy Dominance Council (2/14/2025)
- EO 14156: Declaring a National Energy Emergency (1/20/2025)
- EO 14096: Unleashing American Energy (1/20/2025)
- CEQ Interim Final Rule: Removes CEQ regulations implementing NEPA





# Federal Workforce Actions

- EO 14222: Implementing the President's DOGE Cost Efficiency Initiative (2/26/2025)
- EO 14217: Commencing the Reduction of the Federal Workforce (2/19/2025)
- EO 14215: Ensuring Accountability for all Federal Agencies
- EO 14210: Implementing the President's DOGE Workforce Optimism Initiative
- EO 14170: Reforming the Federal Hiring Process and Restoring Merit to Government Service (1/20/2025)



# Anti-DEI and Environmental Justice Actions

- EO 14173: Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-based Opportunity (1/20/2025)
- EO 14151: Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing (1/20/2025)





# Nonprofit Organizations

- Memorandum: Radical Transparency about Wasteful Spending (2/18/2025)
- Memorandum: Advancing U.S. Interests when Funding (2/6/2025)





# Congress

## Republican priorities

- Use budget reconciliation process to advance President Trump's priorities
- Fund the federal government
- Confirm President Trump's cabinet





# Reconciliation

Pass top Trump priorities:

- Extend provisions in Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
- Secure the border
- Bolster Defense
- Expand energy development





# Fund the Federal Government

Continuing Resolution expires March 14, 2025





# Confirm Trump Nominees

## Confirmed:

- Howard Lutnick, Commerce
- Brooke Rollins, Agriculture
- Doug Burgum, Interior
- Chris Wright, Energy
- Lee Zeldin EPA Administrator

## Nominated:

- Brian Nesvik, Director, FWS.
- Tom Schultz, Chief, USFS

NRCS Chief TBD



# What about the Farm Bill?





# Impacts land trusts



# Impacts to land trusts

- Risk to mission, values
- Loss of federal funding
  - Staffing
  - Projects
- Partner and landowner impacts
- Other funding volatility





# Impacts to Conservation





# Impacts to Conservation

- Loss of federal agency expertise
- Potential threats to foundational legal & regulatory framework
- Increased vulnerability and loss of farm, ranch and forest land
- Loss of scientific data for prioritization and planning





# Loss of Scientific Data for Prioritization and Planning

## *Farmers Sue Over Deletion of Climate Data From Government Websites*

The data, which disappeared from Agriculture Department sites in recent weeks, was useful to farmers for business planning, the lawsuit said.

The New York Times

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▶ Listen to this article · 4:06 min [Learn more](#)

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Wes Gillingham works with the Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York, one of the plaintiffs, and raises livestock in Livingston Manor, N.Y. Bryan Anselm for The New York Times

By [Karen Zraick](#)

Feb. 24, 2025

Organic farmers and environmental groups sued the Agriculture Department on Monday over its scrubbing of references to climate change from its website.



# How You Can Help





# Share your story

The Land Trust Alliance wants to know how recent federal actions have impacted your land trust.

**Start**

press Enter ↵

🕒 Takes 3 minutes

# Education

**The work of land trusts helps families and communities – educate decisions makers at the local, state and national level**

- About the importance of the work you do
- About the impact of the funding freeze and reduction in workforce
- About the wise investment into the programs that support this work





## Contact your congressional delegation

Reach out to your members of Congress and urge them to stand up for the federal programs and funding that Congress has put into law to support private land conservation. Your phone calls and emails are an easy and effective way to influence elected officials.

**FIND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOUR MEMBERS OF CONGRESS** >



ADVOCACY • COMMUNICATIONS

### Email template and call script

FEBRUARY 27 • LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

Sample email template and a sample call script to use when reaching out to your members' offices.



**VIEW TEMPLATE**



ADVOCACY • COMMUNICATIONS

### Tips for writing op-eds and letters to the editor

FEBRUARY 27 • LAND TRUST ALLIANCE

You can advocate for an issue while you build — or strengthen — your land trust's relationship with local media by writing a letter to (or op-ed...



**VIEW DOCUMENT**

# Become an Advocacy Ambassador

While the Alliance has lobbyists and consultants to educate legislators and keep a watchful eye on what is going on in Washington, it is no substitute for local advocacy voices. Ambassadors are individuals affiliated with Land Trust Alliance member land trusts who have a strong desire to engage with public officials. They gain assistance and training on how to build enduring one-to-one relationships with their political representatives.



# Join us at Advocacy Days

**Washington, D.C., May 5-8**

Advocacy Days are an in-person opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and depth of the land trust community to decision makers on Capitol Hill. As we grapple to understand and address the implications of recent federal actions, it is especially important that we have a strong showing at this year's event.

For more information, contact Robert Schwartz, [rschwartz@lta.org](mailto:rschwartz@lta.org)

# Resources

[landtrustalliance.org/resources/new-federal-landscape/](https://landtrustalliance.org/resources/new-federal-landscape/)

- Overview of federal actions
- How you can help
- Resources to build resilience
- Upcoming events
- In the news
- Share your stories



## OVERVIEW

### What we know

A summary of executive orders and actions that may affect land trusts

*Updated Feb. 28, 2025*

### Federal funding < >

#### FEDERAL FUNDING

**Office of Management and Budget Memo: Temporary Pause of Agency Grant, Loan and Other Financial Assistance Programs**

*JAN. 27, 2025*



# Mark Your Calendars

1

National Webinar  
Financial Scenario  
Planning in  
Uncertain Times  
*March 11*  
*2-3:30 p.m. EDT*

2

National Webinar  
Fundraising in the  
New Federal  
Landscape  
*March 13*  
*1-2 p.m. EDT*

3

National Webinar  
Compassionate  
Leadership in Times  
of Financial Crisis  
*Date and time to be  
announced*

4

Regional Listening  
Sessions  
Mid-Atlantic: *March*  
*10, 1:30-2:30 EDT*  
Midwest: *March 18,*  
*10-11 a.m. EDT*  
New England:  
*March 6, 1-2 p.m.*  
*EDT*  
Southeast: *March 7,*  
*11-12 p.m. EDT*

5

Advocacy Days  
*Washington, D.C.*  
*May 5-8*



# Discussion





**Thank you!**