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Interior Transfers Public Land to Navy to Support Border Security and National Defense

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WASHINGTON — The Department of the Interior will transfer jurisdiction of roughly 760 acres of public land in San Diego and Imperial Counties, California, to the Department of the Navy for a three-year period for the Navy to establish a National Defense Area to support ongoing border security operations.

“President Trump has made it clear that securing our border and restoring American sovereignty are top national priorities,” said **Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum**. “This action delivers on that commitment. By working with the Navy to close long-standing security gaps, we are strengthening national defense, protecting our public lands from unlawful use, and advancing the President’s agenda to put the safety and security of the American people first.”

The withdrawal area stretches from the western boundary of the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area to about one mile west of the California–Arizona state line. This corridor is one of the highest traffic regions for unlawful crossings along the southern border, creating significant national security challenges and contributing to environmental degradation.

The land, originally reserved in 1907 by President Theodore Roosevelt for border protection purposes, will be used by the Navy to strengthen operational capabilities while reducing

ecological harm associated with sustained illegal activity.

The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Navy coordinated closely to ensure the action is both lawful and targeted, reinforcing the historic role public lands have played in safeguarding national sovereignty.

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PRESS RELEASE



11/25/2025

Department of the Interior Announces Modernized, More Affordable National Park Access

The Department of the Interior today announced the most significant modernization of national park access in decades, delivering new digital America the Beautiful passes, updated annual pass artwork, expanded motorcycle access and a new resident-focused fee structure that puts American families first. These improvements, launching on Jan. 1, 2026, reflect President Donald J. Trump's commitment to making

PRESS RELEASE



11/19/2025

Administration Revises Endangered Species Act Regulations to Strengthen Certainty, Reduce Burdens...

The Department of the Interior's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service today announced four proposed rules to restore Endangered Species Act regulations to their proven 2019 and 2020 framework. The actions advance President Donald J. Trump's directives to strengthen American energy independence, improve regulatory

national parks more accessible, more affordable and more efficient for the American people.

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predictability and ensure federal actions align with the best reading of the law.

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PRESS RELEASE



11/17/2025

Interior Department Announces Major Fentanyl Seizure Following Joint Operation on Pueblo of Isleta...

The Department of the Interior today announced the successful seizure of more than 37,000 fentanyl pills during a coordinated drug interdiction operation on the Pueblo of Isleta Reservation in New Mexico, led by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Division of Drug Enforcement and Pueblo of Isleta Tribal Police.

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