

## **Heinrich Roundtable on Trump's Cuts to the Public Lands Workforce & Media Availability**

**WHEN:** Press check-in at 10:15 a.m. MT

**WHO:** U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich

Laura McCarthy, New Mexico State Forester

Dennis Vasquez, retired National Park Service Superintendent

Nick Streit, President of the Friends of Rio Grande del Norte National Monument and owner of the Taos Fly Shop

Deb Caldwell, Executive Director of Friends of the Bosque del Apache

**WHERE:** Albuquerque. Location provided upon RSVP.

**RSVP:** RSVP [here](#).

### **BACKGROUND:**

Throughout his career, Heinrich has advocated for protecting public lands and keeping these lands in public hands.

As Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Heinrich has been fighting against Trump and Congressional Republicans' attacks on public lands and cuts to the federal workforce that keeps these public lands open, safe, and clean for all Americans to enjoy.

[Heinrich successfully fought Senate Republican provisions to sell off public lands in the Big Bad Bill, lead an amendment to prevent the privatization of our public lands, hosted a roundtable and sounded the alarm about New Mexico public lands that were at risk of being sold off by Republicans, continuously uplifted New Mexicans' voices who called his office to raise their concern with Republicans' plan to sell off these lands, and released a statement immediately criticizing Senate Republicans' plan to sell off public lands](#) following the release of the reconciliation text.

Heinrich also secured the resources to complete historic land acquisitions that opened up new public access to New Mexico's [Sabinoso Wilderness](#) and [secure the addition of the historic L Bar Ranch property](#) to western New Mexico's Marquez Wildlife Area — the greatest additions to protected public land in New Mexico in generations. Additionally, Heinrich played a leading role in [securing strong, bipartisan support for the John D.](#)

[Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act](#) in 2019 and the [Great American Outdoors Act](#) in 2020, two of the most significant pieces of conservation legislation to be signed into law in decades.

This year, Heinrich [introduced legislation](#) to prevent politically-motivated workforce reductions at the Department of the Interior (DOI), the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and the Department of Energy (DOE). Heinrich's bill will require an immediate moratorium on Reductions in Force (RIFs) at DOI, USFS, and DOE, so employees are protected while Congress conducts oversight and evaluates long-term workforce needs.

Last month, Heinrich [called](#) on U.S. Department of the Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to classify the Department's staff as essential during Trump's government shutdown to maintain the health and safety of Americans who visit public lands, wildlife refuges, and national park sites.

In September, Heinrich [sent a letter](#) to U.S. Forest Service Chief Tom Schultz demanding answers on how the Trump Administration is funding their workforce reduction programs that have already resulted in the termination of approximately 5,000 employees at the USFS, risking the safety of Americans who live on the frontlines of wildfires.

In May, Heinrich [sent a letter](#) slamming the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) for evasive responses on federal workforce cuts, funding freezes, and wildfire mitigation projects.

Additionally, Heinrich [sent a letter](#) demanding answers from Secretary Burgum on DOI's decision to elevate "Department of Government Efficiency" (DOGE) staffer Tyler Hassen's role in the agency. Heinrich also requested a number of records related to Mr. Hassen's authority, including a legal justification under the Vacancies Reform Act — of which Hassen's role appears in direct violation — employment classifications and service history, all DOI staffing changes (past, current, and planned), an analysis of how layoffs affect the DOI's mission, communications with DOGE and the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) about layoffs, as well as a list of all contracts and grants DOGE has targeted for termination or renegotiation.

In February, Heinrich [urged](#) newly confirmed Secretary Burgum to immediately take action to resolve looming staffing shortages at the National Park Service. The letter followed President Trump's hiring freeze, his cancellation of thousands of job offers for seasonal National Park Service employees, and his buyout offers made without clear legal authority. These actions paved the way for a damaging loss of staff at national parks across the nation.