



A wise owl once asked...

"WHY ARE YOU STILL RUNNING
YOUR OWN WESTERNS?"

Auto-Western Services, GLP & ISO Certified

LEARN MORE

RayBiotech
Empowering your proteomics

TheScientist

EXPLORING LIFE, INSPIRING INNOVATION

News ▾ ▾

Magazine ▾ ▾

Multimedia ▾ ▾

Subjects ▾ ▾

Surveys ▾ ▾

Career ▾ ▾



Explore the frontiers of cancer
research with OncoLand

LEARN MORE



Explore the frontiers of cancer
research with OncoLand

LEARN MORE

[The Scientist](#) » [The Nutshell](#)

Interior Department's Screen of Meeting Abstracts Called Censorship

USGS scientists need approval from a political appointee before they can present research at two big geological conferences.

By Kerry Grens | June 16, 2018



4





Department of the Interior
FLICKR, [NCINDC](#)

Conference presentations at scientific meetings from the US Geological Survey will have to advance the priorities of the Interior Department in order to get approval, [The Washington Post](#) reported yesterday (June 14). Although presentation requests had been screened before, it was never by a political appointee, according to Marcia McNutt, who led the USGS under President Barack Obama.

"It's a form of censorship," Bruce Babbitt, interior secretary during former president Bill Clinton's administration, tells *The Post*.

The Interior Department explains that the process is a means of conserving the budget. "If taxpayer dollars are being spent to send someone to a conference, we'd like some degree of confidence that their attendance will advance the department's priorities," spokesperson Faith Vander Voort tells *The Post*. Those priorities include conservation, sustainable development of natural resources, and protecting the nation's borders.

The two meetings subject to this extra scrutiny are arranged by the American Geophysical Union and the Geological Society of America.

"See EPA Requires Political Approval of Grants"

Tags

[USGS](#), [science conferences](#), [policy](#), [nutshell](#), [News](#), [geology](#), [Department of the Interior](#) and [careers](#)



Add a Comment



You

[Sign In](#) with your LabX Media Group Passport to leave a comment

Not a member? [Register Now!](#)



Related Articles



World First: Human Case of Keystone Virus Identified

By Kerry Grens

A Florida teenager is the first person with a confirmed infection by the mosquito-borne virus.



Trump Admin Restricts Federal Scientists Talking with Reporters

By Ashley Yeager

USGS researchers must get approval from the Department of the Interior before speaking to the media.



US Scientists' Letter Calls for Transparency in Animal Research













By Ashley Yeager

Nearly 600 signatories, including four Nobel Prize winners, urge openness about animal experiments.





Stay
Scie

-  Th
-  Th
-  Ne
-  Ge
-  Bi
-  Bi
-  Be
-  Ce
-  Mi
-  Ca
-  St
-  Th



View

Sub

 All

 The

 Ne

 Ca

TheScientist

[Home](#) [News & Opinion](#) [The Nutshell](#) [Multimedia](#) [Magazine](#) [Advertise](#)
[About & Contact](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Job Listings](#) [Subscribe](#) [Archive](#)

Now Part of the LabX Media Group: [Lab Manager Magazine](#) | [LabX](#) | [LabWrench](#)