

Public Lands Foundation

Comments

Confidential Government Information Nondisclosure Agreement

Notice with Request for Comment

OPM-2026-0100-0004

Submitted to www.regulations.gov

These comments are submitted by the Public Lands Foundation (PLF) in response to a request from OPM for review of a proposed Confidential Government Information Nondisclosure Agreement. The Request for Comment notice was published in the Federal Register on May 27, 2026 and comments were required to be submitted to the OPM no later than June 26, 2026.

The Public Lands Foundation is a national membership organization that advocates for the public lands managed by federal employees of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) within the Department of the Interior. Members of the PLF are predominately retired BLM employees, with years of dedicated federal service, and we have an interest in personnel issues related to current and future federal employees.

Comment

The PLF strongly opposes the use of a governmentwide nondisclosure agreement (NDA) form, as proposed by the OPM, for use by Federal agencies for both current and future federal employees. Current law already restricts federal employees against unauthorized disclosure of information to the public. A governmentwide nondisclosure agreement (NDA) threatens to chill protected speech, such as reporting corrupt dealings, waste, fraud, and abuse. The Federal government operates on behalf of the American people, not private owners or shareholders. The public has right to a degree of transparency into federal government operations, and federal employees should not be intimidated by the implicit threat of retaliation for legally and constitutionally protected disclosures. The use of a blanket NDA across all federal jobs will have a chilling effect on the current federal workforce and hinder federal recruitment efforts. Federal agencies already have the means to investigate and discipline unauthorized disclosure of non-public, confidential, or protected proprietary information.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the proposed Confidential Government Information Nondisclosure Agreement.

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